

Warborough & Shillingford

Neighbourhood Plan

2016 to 2033

Sustainability Appraisal Report

(incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment)



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Non-technical summary

i. The Neighbourhood Plan process

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Report is to provide an assessment of any significant social, environmental and economic effects resulting from the policies and proposals of the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan (WSNP) and document how the principles of sustainable development have been considered throughout the plan-making process.

Warborough Parish council initiated the WSNP in 2015. A steering committee of residents and parish councillors was established. The Neighbourhood Plan area was designated by the Local Authority on 2 March 2016. The designated area is the whole of Warborough parish which includes the hamlet of Shillingford. The Steering committee was supported by Community First Oxfordshire (CFO), an independent planning consultant - Development Planning Advisory Services Ltd, and South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC). AECOM also provided a review of the emerging Sustainability Appraisal Report.

The District Council issued a screening opinion on 11 April 2017, requiring an SEA in the WSNP. The Steering committee has chosen to meet this obligation by preparing a Sustainability Appraisal under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004.

The steering committee (SC) reviewed the policy context, local evidence and sustainability issues in preparing the Plan. Based on this review, the steering committee defined a sustainability appraisal framework in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The Scoping Report went to local people and statutory consultees for comment in January 2017. The final version of the Scoping Report, incorporating changes made as a result of the consultation is available on the WSNP website.

The final sustainability appraisal framework was used to test the Plan objectives, reasonable alternatives for achieving the objectives and policies. This thorough process is documented in this Sustainability Appraisal Report. It ensures that the sustainability issues and challenges that Warborough and Shillingford face have been integral to the Plan process and that the policies contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

At each stage, the emerging WSNP has been refined in response to community input. Community engagement has underpinned the entire Plan process and included open meetings, newsletters, the website and a survey which assessed housing need and other key issues for the village. The totality of this community engagement process is comprehensively documented in the Consultation Statement.

The WSNP has been submitted to the District Council together with this Sustainability Appraisal Report and a Basic Conditions Statement and Consultation Statement.

ii. The content of the Plan

As set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, our vision is:

To preserve and enhance the look and feel of our villages, our community spirit and our countryside whilst supporting our identified housing and community needs.

Our objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan and the policies that will achieve these objectives are set out in Section 3 of this report, Table 3.2.

iii. Policy context

The WSNP Steering committee has 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 have been incorporated in the WSNP process.

South Oxfordshire District Council is preparing a new Local Plan 2033. At the time of drafting this Sustainability Appraisal Report, the development plan in South Oxfordshire consists of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (2012) and the saved policies of the Local Plan (2011).

The review of the policy context is documented in the final version of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (see Appendix 1), which outlines the relevant plans and programmes that provide the policy context for the WSNP. It also summarises key messages from the policy context. This review included EU Directives, national policy, policy documents by utilities and statutory bodies, and county and district level policies.

The WSNP is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area.

iv. Environmental baseline

The final version of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report incorporates all of the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It sets out the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution without implementation of the WSNP, the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected and existing environmental problems.

Local information showed evidence of environmental problems that have been incorporated into the sustainability objectives for the Plan (see Section 1, Table 1.1).

The report also reviewed the relevance of environmental protection objectives from international, national and local plans and programmes to WSNP. It also documents the baseline situation relating to SEA issues¹: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

South Oxfordshire District Council is the “competent authority” under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010, and needs to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans have been assessed through the Habitats Regulations process. This looks at the potential for significant impacts on

¹ The full Sustainability Scoping Report that was submitted for consultation in January 2017 is available on www.warboroughshillingford.org

nature conservation sites that are of European importance, also referred to as Natura 2000. SODC confirmed in the SEA screening opinion that the Warborough and Shillingford NDP would not have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment was not required.

v. Assessing and mitigating effects

The steering committee developed and refined alternatives to meet the vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. This assessment informed the draft policies for our Neighbourhood Plan.

A sub-group tested the suitability, availability and achievability of all available sites in Warborough and Shillingford, assessed the WSNP objectives against sustainability objectives, assessed all reasonable alternatives (including site options) against the same framework of sustainability objectives and assessed the draft Plan policies using the same framework.

Following each assessment, refinements were made to the WSNP. Whenever significant changes were made, for example an additional site coming forward and changes to the draft Plan policies, the sub-group re-tested these against the sustainability framework.

From the assessment of alternatives, the steering committee selected a preferred site as documented in Section 5.3.2. The site allocation (housing policy H2) is the main land-use policy in the Plan with sustainability implications.

The steering committee predicted significant sustainability effects, assessed effects, and considered ways to mitigate or maximise effects of the policies including the preferred options/sites. These assessments are documented in sections 5 and 6.

vi. Monitoring

The steering committee developed monitoring indicators for Warborough and Shillingford's sustainability objectives which are set out in table 7.1. These indicators will be discussed with the District Council before the Plan is 'made'. The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out the parish council's timeframe for reviewing the Plan over the period.

vii. Summary of Assessment Findings

Policy H8 of the South Oxfordshire District Council Emerging Local Plan 2033 states: "A minimum of 500 new homes will be delivered in the 'smaller villages'. This will be achieved through Neighbourhood Development Plans which allocate sites for at least a 5% increase in dwelling numbers above those recorded in the 2011 census. In 'smaller villages' where there is no Neighbourhood Development Plan a 5-10% increase in dwelling numbers, above those recorded in the 2011 census, will be achieved through the development of suitable sites and through infill development."

As Warborough and Shillingford is classed as a smaller village, the WSNP therefore considers two options for growth:

1. **Do not allocate a site – limited growth.** The limited growth option relies on positive policies (Policy H3, together with VC1) that enable some growth within the built-up area or on its edge through infill. This would achieve around 2% growth
2. **Infill development + site allocation.** This option would deliver balanced growth of at least 5% over the plan period, together with local benefits.

Option 1, limited growth is in fact an enabling strategy backed up by positive policies that provide for continued natural growth from infill or very small site development. These types of site cannot be foreseen, are within the built-up area of the village.

Six new dwellings have been approved in the last 20 years in the Parish (i.e. 1.5%, considerably less than 5% growth). Given the record of the parish in resisting new development it is reasonable to assume that this rate of infill growth will be of a similar percentage across the Local Plan period to 2033. However, with positive policies in place, the Steering Committee estimate that this could be enhanced to deliver an increase in successful infill applications of c. 10 dwellings overall, or around 2%.

That very few houses have achieved planning permission in the parish over the previous 20 years does not negate this approach. Policy H3 is positive in its intent and if an application came forward for a small site, this together with infill would easily exceed the past delivery rate. The sustainability assessment is mostly neutral with regard to Option 1.

However – it might be argued that the low levels of infill over the past 20 years suggests that the limited growth option is too open ended and therefore not deliverable. Adopting this strategy could be vulnerable to challenge. This gives more weight to considering the alternative strategy based on site selection.

Option 2 analyses the combination of infill development plus site allocation as a means of achieving at least a 5% increase in housing numbers.

Given that the NPPF is underpinned by a presumption in favour of development and that SODC does not have a five-year land supply the presumption in favour of development places a developer in a strong position. To challenge an unsuitable planning application on a site on the edge of the villages a comparative site assessment is invaluable and enables the community to lead rather than respond to the site appraisal debate. That a suitable site can be identified at a strategic level and subject to detailed evaluation shows that this strategy is an important one to evaluate.

The strategic site evaluation identified that a single site may be suitable subject to a more detailed evaluation either through master-planning work or a planning application. In all, six potential housing development sites were evaluated. Of these, the Six Acres site performed better than all others, comparatively, in sustainability testing. This is set out more fully in the report below and in an accompanying technical site assessment in Appendix 2.

In addition, the Six Acre site most closely meets local needs: 1 - the site is the only site that meets the spatial strategy preference i.e. it sits close to village amenities and, helped by the flanking buildings and strong perimeter landscaping, it is modestly visible and does not impact open vistas. It is not in the flood plain; there are no flooding concerns. It is not in the Green Belt. Existing

pedestrian links will allow residents to easily access community facilities on foot. There is willingness to mitigate traffic concerns; 2 - it provides an improvement to current school parking problem; 3 - consultation feedback gives confidence that the potential developer will commit to deliver the housing mix as well as affordable units in a style that reflects the best of village character.

In summary, given that the infill only option is highly unlikely to deliver a minimum of 5% growth set out in Emerging Local Plan Policy H8, the chosen spatial planning strategy of the WSNP is **Option 2 - infill + site allocation**, with Six Acres as the sole allocated site.

By allocating the single most sustainable development site, together with positive policies that provide for c.2% growth from infill, the minimum 5% growth set out in Policy H8 can be achieved.

1. Introduction

1.1 Report purpose

This document is the Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) for the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan (WSNP). The Neighbourhood Plan will be a development plan document once it has been 'made' (i.e. adopted) by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC).

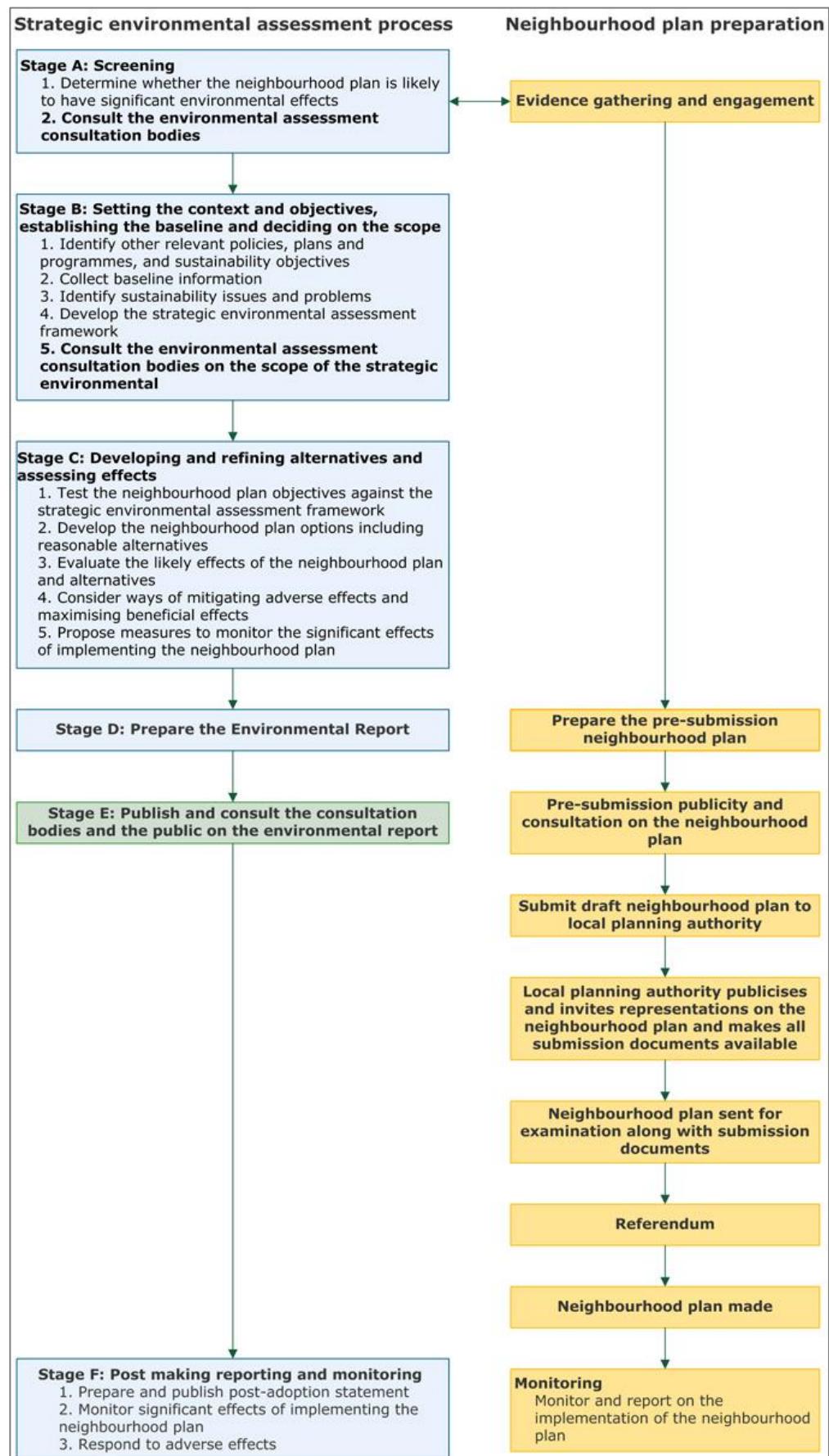
The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report is to document how the principles of sustainable development have been considered throughout the plan-making process and that the final WSNP has considered all aspects of economic, social and environmental sustainability in its production.

Strategic Environmental Assessment is a requirement of the EC Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC) known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. This is transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004 which applies to plans with significant environmental effects (SEA Regulations). Throughout this document where sustainability appraisal is referred to the requirements of SEA Directive have been incorporated.

The National Planning Practice Guidance suggests a five stage (A-E) approach that an NP 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 1.1 over the page.

This Sustainability Appraisal Report is Stage D of the SEA process and it documents stages A, B and C. The steps in stage A and B culminated with the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which is summarised in section 3 of the report (the final, post-consultation version is available on the Warborough & Shillingford Parish Council website). The Stage C assessment is summarised in Section 3.

Figure 1.1 Five Stages of Strategic Environmental Appraisal



1.2 Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan

In 2015, Warborough and Shillingford Parish Council initiated the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council held a public meeting on 2 September 2015 at which John Howell MP provided an overview to over fifty villagers.

Immediately following this meeting, the parish council confirmed that it would carry out a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Warborough, which includes the hamlet of Shillingford (minute ref. 2015/117). A steering committee (SC) was established with terms of reference agreed on 4 December 2015.

The Parish Council submitted an application to designate Warborough and Shillingford as a

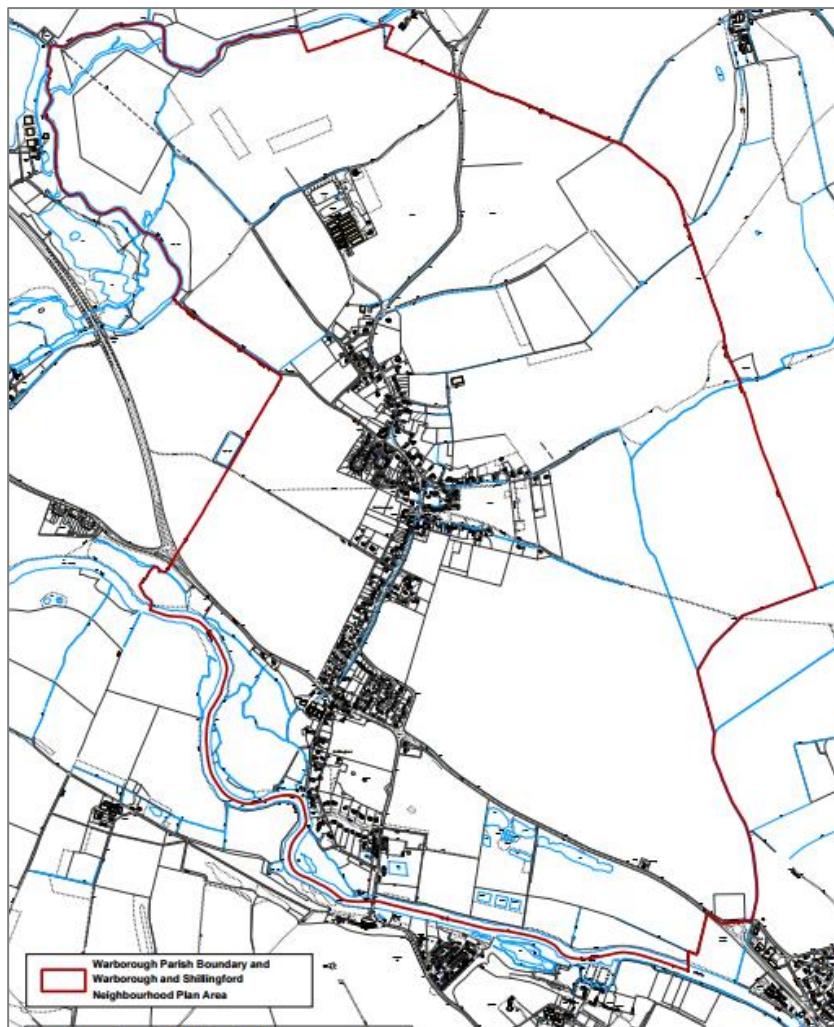


Figure 1.2 WSNP: Designated Area

Neighbourhood Development Plan Area on 13 November 2015. South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) publicised the Neighbourhood Plan application and advertised a 6-week consultation period ending on 18 January 2016. There were no comments in response to the consultation. The Head of Planning at South Oxfordshire District Council designated Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Area on 2 March 2016 (see Basic Conditions Statement).

A grant from Locality enabled the Steering committee to engage support from Community First Oxfordshire as advisors to the WSNP.

1.3 Problems encountered

Whilst, overall, the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan process has run relatively smoothly since the start and met projected milestones, a number of problems were identified and addressed by the steering committee.

Resources:

The ambitious timeline imposed by the Parish Council's desire to coincide the referendum with the local elections of May 2017, combined with the extraordinary level of focus on the quality of NPs

(which became increasingly evident e.g. with various legal rulings over the life cycle of the project) proved challenging to resource. Although we had a significant volunteer group that stepped forward, none envisaged the level of work that was required. The steering committee addressed this by using full time local volunteers, more planning consultant input and aiming for high levels of engagement from the village through multiple public events.

Resources have also been constrained at South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and this has impacted upon the process too. Despite our Area Designation approval being processed on March 2 2016, we did not receive our local authority grant until June 10 2016.

Community Engagement

Neighbourhood Planning, and particularly the ongoing challenges within the Planning systems, was a challenge to communicate to the community. Attempts were made to leverage existing community networks of clubs and societies.

The varied methods of communication already in place were utilised (Parish Council website, Parish Magazine, Community E-Mail and Facebook Page). These were supplemented by strategic mail drops to all houses in the Parish, most notably for the main community survey, which was followed up in person on the doorstep to ensure a good response rate.

The WSNP steering committee had a comprehensive communication campaign and 8 public meetings. All but two public meetings were held during the evening as this was felt most suitable for both the significant proportion of older residents (not too late), but also for the working population (not daytime).

Managing Volunteers

Efforts (including several calls for volunteers by the Parish Council and the newly formed Steering committee) were made at the beginning of the project to ensure that the members were representative of the whole Parish. The WSNP was fortunate to have a large number of volunteers step forward, with some members able to flexibly resource the core effort. This was particularly beneficial for the Site Assessment Process, where a large (7) panel of volunteers were able to stay with the process from inception to completion as per best practice.

Staffing volunteer projects is always challenging. In this case, as the nature of the challenge became clear, the group was fortunate to be joined by additional co-opted volunteers from the community, and only a very small number stepped down over the project's extended lifecycle.

Particular care was taken to ensure that all possible conflicts of interest by all WSNP steering committee members were declared and documented.

Timeline Challenges

For many months, there was uncertainty as to whether an SEA might be required on the WSNP, with a Screening Opinion finally issued on 14 April 2017. Given the uncertainty, the WSNP steering committee therefore undertook to begin the Sustainability Appraisal process (incorporating SEA requirements) in order to cover all eventualities.

We have also had key contacts at SODC changing and/or moving onto other projects which has impacted continuity and caused delays. Updates on ongoing legislative challenges on existing and emerging NPs and planning decisions have been discussed in general at steering committee meetings to help aid the decision-making process.

Managing the Process

The WSNP have benefitted from a Locality grant, which has allowed us to engage a planning consultant and Community First Oxfordshire, who have been essential in providing guidance and professional expertise at critical times. The Locality grant application process is not particularly flexible. One cannot apply for a grant to cover any costs to be incurred in the next month which neither helps groups such as ours with ambitious timescales nor provides much flexibility for a rapid response to an unforeseen problem. Dealing with the administrative side of multiple grant applications (as any grant must be spent in the financial year in which it is given) was still a drain on much needed resource.

Finally, the complexity of the process imposed on the community was challenging. With a relatively large number of public consultations happening in a short period of time, many residents - particularly those that were absent at earlier meetings – felt that they had missed crucial parts of the jigsaw, and for this reason, the committee asked the Parish Council to sponsor a Q&A meeting at the end of August 2016. This meeting followed a “Question Time” format, and the “panel of experts” was composed of all members of the steering committee, together with representatives from both Community First Oxfordshire (consultants) and SODC, and a member of a Neighbourhood Plan WSNP steering committee from a neighbouring parish. This gave any residents who wanted the opportunity to ask any question of the committee and was extremely successful at consolidating the information that had been provided to the community. This allowed us to move forward with confidence and comprehensive minutes were published on the Parish website.

1.4 Structure of the report

Following this introduction:

- Chapter 2 sets out the Vision and Objectives of the WSNP
- Chapter 3 sets out the process followed to document the environmental baseline and identify issues in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Chapter 4, 5 and 6 document the assessment of WSNP objectives, policies and alternatives against the sustainability framework
- Chapter 7 sets out appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the WSNP under the 16 sustainability objectives of the WSNP
- Chapter 8 identifies and highlights mitigation for predictable effects of policies
- Chapter 9 outlines the proposed monitoring arrangements for the WSNP.

2. Plan Content

2.1 Vision

As set out in the Neighbourhood Plan report, our vision for the Neighbourhood Plan is:

To preserve and enhance the look and feel of our villages, our community spirit and our countryside whilst supporting our identified housing and community needs.

2.2 Objectives

Our objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan and the policies in the Plan that will achieve these objectives are summarised here:

WSNP Objectives	Policies (See Neighbourhood Plan)
VILLAGE CHARACTER	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enhance our strong sense of place, community and local identity. 2. To ensure that new housing development is in character with the village, protects the greenbelt & offers a high quality of design within the village whilst minimising impact on views. 3. To protect the aesthetic beauty of the village and the income it generates. 	VC1- Village and Rural Character and Design
HOUSING	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home and providing a mix of housing to better meet local needs especially smaller & elderly homes. 5. To identify development sites to meet the housing numbers allocated in the Local Plan. 6. To ensure that new development does not cause new or exacerbate existing traffic, parking and road safety issues around the village and seeks to improve it. 7. To maximise integration of the new development with the existing community. 8. To ensure new development does not cause new or exacerbate existing risk of flooding and seek to reduce the existing risk. 	H1 – Housing Mix H2 – Site Allocation H3 – Infill development H4 – Pedestrian links H5 – Parking provision H6 – Safeguarding affordable housing
COMMUNITY ASSETS, SERVICES AND FACILITIES	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. To ensure that local services, recreational facilities and infrastructure are maintained and improved. 10. To ensure that heritage assets are protected. 11. To seek opportunities for landscape, recreational and ecological gain whilst minimising the environmental impact of new development. 	C1- Community Infrastructure C2 – Improvement to community assets C3- Local Green Space C4-Community Infrastructure Levy
ECONOMY AND TOURISM	
12. To enhance the prospects for local businesses by supporting plans for village amenity premises.	E1- Enhancement of employment facilities

3. Policy and environmental context

3.1 Approach

On the advice of the local planning authority the steering committee undertook a Sustainability Appraisal which incorporates the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment. While there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Development Plan to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) the steering committee chose to do so to ensure that the WSNP will contribute to achieving sustainable development while meeting the SEA required by the regulations.

The Sustainability Appraisal included a thorough review of the policy context, a compilation of the available evidence to provide both a baseline of what would happen in the absence of a Plan and to inform our work to identify key sustainability issues.

The WSNP submitted the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (SASR) for consultation with the statutory consultees as advised by SODC on 18 January 2017 (Environment Agency, Oxfordshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority, Historic England and Natural England.) Adjacent Parishes and the St Laurence Parochial Church Council and School were also consulted. Notices were placed on village notice boards and on the Parish Council website. The 5-week consultation ended on 22 February 2017.

The final, post-consultation version of the SASR, including comments received and any subsequent revisions are presented in the final (post consultation) version, available on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Warborough & Shillingford Parish website.

Key aspects of the report are extracted here to consolidate relevant information in one place.

3.2 Policy context

The SASR listed the relevant plans and programmes that provide the policy context for the WSNP and summarised key messages from the policy context in order to identify the relationship and relevance of each plan or programme to the WSNP.

Table 3.1 Summary of plans and programmes

Plan or programme	Key message
The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) & National Planning Practice Guidance (2014) (DCLG)	Presumption in favour of sustainable development
South Oxfordshire District Council Core Strategy (2012)	Sustainable development; provide homes
South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan 2011 (2006)	Sustainable development; provide homes
South Oxfordshire District Council Housing Strategy 2008-2011	Housing

Plan or programme	Key message
South Oxfordshire District Council Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026	Economic growth, social exclusion and climate change
South Oxfordshire District Council Refined Options Sustainability Appraisal (2015)	Sustainable development
South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Final Report (July 2013)	Flooding and drainage
South Oxfordshire District Council Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014)	Provide homes, mix of homes is needed, meet needs of specific groups within the population.
National Heritage Protection Plan Historic England 2012/13	Proactive and positive local heritage management. Enhance new development proposals so that they respond well to the historic area, local context and wider surroundings
National Environmental and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Established Natural England with responsibility for conserving, enhancing and managing England's natural environment by enhancing biodiversity and protecting landscape access and recreation.
Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015 – 2031 (2015)	Jobs, housing growth and economic vitality; reduce transport emissions; protect and enhance environment and improve quality of life; improve public health, air quality, safety and wellbeing
Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) & River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (Environment Agency)	Maintain the balance between supply and demand for water. Protect biodiversity and ecosystems. Adapting to climate change.
Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (Oxfordshire County Council)	Conserve biodiversity
Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (Environment Agency)	Seek to ensure that new development supports greater autonomy of water supply and can manage during periods of low flow.
Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership Strategic Economic Plan (2014)	Jobs, economic growth

Plan or programme	Key message
Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024 (2014) (Oxfordshire County Council)	Safeguarding Rights of Way and their management.
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners)	Protect AONB.
The emerging Science Vale Action Plan	Shape, coordinate and deliver sustainable growth across the area.

3.3 Environmental, Social and Economic Baseline

The SASR documents the baseline situation relating to SEA issues²: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

Following consultation, information was added to the evidence base including biodiversity, local heritage and archaeology.

The SASR documents the steering committee's assessment of the sustainability issues and challenges, for Warborough and Shillingford. From a review of the key messages from the policy context, extensive baseline evidence and a SWOT analysis, the steering committee identified the key sustainability issues and problems for the parish as:

3.3.1 Environmental

Biodiversity

Shillingford lies within the Thames Clifton to Shillingford Conservation Target Area, with its associated Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets. Priority habitats within the area include floodplain grassland and lowland meadow along the river, wet woodland that support populations of Loddon lily as well as areas of traditional orchard. These habitats need conserving and enhancing as habitats of principle importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

The Thames River Management plan stresses the importance of protecting waterways for their wildfire habitats, and this will apply to the two rivers that border our parish. Away from the rivers, the parish landscape is mainly lowland village farmlands. Mature copse and hedgerows

² The full Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, containing the detailed evidence base, was submitted for consultation in January 2017 and is available on www.warboroughshillingford.org

are therefore important strongholds for flora and fauna and need to be protected. Gardens and allotments also add to the biodiversity of the area.

Enhance open spaces and countryside

The village green and other open spaces are of great value to the local residents and any loss, or reduction of access, would be of significant concern to them (as demonstrated in both the scoping and community surveys). These spaces are important leisure facilities, promote wellbeing of residents, are part of the cultural heritage and improve the rural economy through their use for location shooting by film and television companies. This is entirely consistent with local Oxfordshire policies (maintain and promote use of rights of way - Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan -2014, maintain, increase Green Infrastructure - SODC Green Infrastructure Assessment -2011) in relation to protecting conservation areas maintaining and promoting use of rights of way and maintaining /enhancing green infrastructures.

The SODC landscape assessment seeks to conserve and enhance the character of the landscape and this is supported by the results of the community survey. Of particular significance (as documented in the designation of the Warborough conservation area) are the views across to the Chiltern Hills from the east side of the parish. There are similarly important views across to the Wittenham Clumps and along the valley of the Thames. In conjunction, consideration needs to be given to the conservation of the adjacent Chiltern and North Wessex Areas of Natural Beauty, and their respective settings, and to the Green Belt, which covers the western half of the Parish.

Much of the land within and around the parish is agricultural land and is classified as grade 1 or 2 (Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land). High quality agricultural land needs to be protected as documented in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Flooding

The parish is bordered by two rivers and lies partly in the River Thames flood plain. Residents are very sensitive to flooding concerns due to historic problems and this is only likely to increase with climate change. The local clay-rich soils slow down water infiltration, necessitating surface run-off to be carried from the (hillier) northern end of the Parish through a network of waterways through the village to the Thames. Evidence exists of flooding being caused by both bottlenecks (where drainage goes underground) and lack of maintenance. Hence, capacity and maintenance issues relating to these culverts needs to be addressed by any development.

Climate Change

As required by SODC core strategy, any development needs to address environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change. Predictions show that 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.

Pollution

Two main 'A' roads run through the parish, meeting at Shillingford roundabout. Although the parish is not included in the updated SODC Local Transport Plan (2015-31), there have been historic concerns about air quality due to traffic emissions, both as perceived by residents (village appraisal report; 1999) and in earlier versions of the Local Transport Plan (2012). Hence, the size of any development should be assessed for its impact on traffic flow and hence potential detrimental impact on air quality.

The village has no street lights and this is important to residents, as shown by the community survey and feedback to the SASR. Any new development should minimise light pollution.

The River Thames forms the southern boundary of the plan area, and the Thame forms part of the north-western boundary. Both these watercourses are currently failing to reach good ecological status/potential under the Water Framework Directive. The Thames is currently classified as having moderate ecological potential, and the Thame is currently classified as having poor status. Developments within or adjacent to these watercourses should not cause further deterioration and should seek to improve the water quality based on the recommendations of the Thames River Basin Management Plan.

Waste

The capacity of the sewers needs to be addressed in relation to any new development particularly as septic tanks may not be a suitable alternative option as areas of the parish have high ground water levels and/or lie within the River Thames flood plain.

3.3.2 Social

Community involvement

The village has a thriving local community as demonstrated by the large number of community organisations and activities. We want to encourage and support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable the community to provide local services and solutions.

Community safety

Crime statistics demonstrate that the area of South Oxfordshire is relatively safe, compared to both Oxfordshire and England as whole. We would like to ensure that this continues.

Housing need

We accept the need for an appropriate/proportionate increase in housing in accordance with the planning strategy and would like this to be of high environmental quality and in keeping with the parish character. We would expect any new housing to contribute to enhancing community

and leisure facilities and to meet local housing need. This has been identified as small starter homes, homes for the elderly and affordable housing.

Transport

The A4074 is one of two main 'A' roads running through the parish, which meet at Shillingford roundabout. Oxfordshire's Local Transport Plan (2015-31) raises concerns over the capacity of the A4074, citing the expectation of severe delays by 2031. With census data showing that the residents of the parish appear to rely on car (or van) ownership, new development must minimise on traffic flow and we are concerned to address any potential increase in traffic at peak times due to new developments both locally and cumulatively from other nearby developments.

Traffic and road safety

Community surveys have raised concerns about the speed of traffic through the village, particularly at the north end. There are also concerns about parking, especially outside the school. We would like to address traffic speed and volume and ensure that new development does not exacerbate these problems and also problems relating to parking.

Health and well-being

We would like to support the wide-range of local activities and to encourage additional opportunities for all age groups through the provision of new equipment and facilities. The lack of a continuous footpath through the village causes several dangerous hotspots for pedestrians at Wheeler's End, outside the shop and at the bends in Thame Road, north of Sinodun View. We would like to discourage non-essential car-use by maintaining and improving pedestrian links throughout the parish.

Access to services

We need to ensure that we have a demographic mix in the village appropriate to support all existing services, and must provide an appropriate mix of housing to achieve this. Census data shows that we have an ageing population and relatively little housing in the most affordable council-tax bands. Additional small starter homes would help redress this balance. Providing homes for elderly people to downsize will free up family-sized homes, which would help to rebalance the demographics. With, for example, the nearest health service 3.3 km away, any new development must also take into account the cumulative pressures on services, such as healthcare, provided from outside the parish, from other nearby developments.

Heritage assets and village character

The parish has a rich archaeological heritage, including 77 listed buildings and 2 Conservation Areas. There are numerous archaeological sites of national, regional and local importance within the Parish including both those designated as scheduled monuments and others revealed

through archaeological investigation and non-intrusive survey including from analysis of crop mark evidence. We want to conserve the parish's heritage, including green spaces and buildings, so as to retain the village character, and its positive contribution to the village economy.

3.3.3 Economic

Thriving local economy

We would like to ensure the viability of local businesses, with the community survey showing strong support in particular for ensuring the long-term viability of the shop/ PO and public house. We wish to ensure the local infrastructure is adequate to support the needs of the relatively high-level of home workers and to encourage new suitable local businesses

Tourism

With the Thames footpath running through the south of the Parish, and many walks starting from the Green and following historic routes to nearby settlements, access to 'walks' is valued by the community as demonstrated by the community survey. We would like to ensure local tourism by maintaining footpaths, bridleways, cycle tracks and providing safe places for cyclists and pedestrians. We acknowledge the benefits to tourism that the use of the Green and its surrounds by film and TV companies brings, and wish to support this by maintaining the character of the village (as above).

Taking this information into account, the steering committee reviewed the local planning authority sustainability objectives and used these as a basis for a list of WSNP sustainability objectives as shown in Table 3.2. These were amended following consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report by:

- Additional information relating to biodiversity inserted and incorporated into sustainability issues together with revision of objectives 1 and 2 based on the response of Natural England
- Additional information relating to heritage assets inserted based on the response of Historic England and a number of Parishioners
- Revision of objective 5 to include light pollution based on a number of responses from Parishioners
- Separation of objective 14 into two distinct objectives 14a and 14b to reflect the importance of heritage assets to the local community.

Table 3.2 Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability issues and challenges	Sustainability objectives
Environmental	
Biodiversity	1) To conserve and enhance biodiversity and ecological networks.
Enhance open spaces and countryside	2) To improve efficiency in land use and to conserve and or enhance open spaces, greenbelt and countryside in particular, those areas designated for their landscape importance, minerals, biodiversity and high soil quality.
Flooding	3) To reduce the risk of, and damage from, flooding.
Climate Change	4) To seek to address the causes and effects of climate change.
Pollution	5) To reduce harm to the environment by seeking to minimise pollution of all kinds, especially water, air, light, soil and noise pollution.
Waste	6) To seek to minimise waste generation and encourage the reuse of waste through recycling, compost, or energy recovery
Social	
Community involvement	7) To support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable the community to provide local services and solutions.
Community safety	8) To help create safe places for people to use and for businesses to operate, to reduce anti-social behaviour and reduce crime and the fear of crime.
Housing need	9) To help to provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home and in a decent environment supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure.
Transport	10) To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need to travel by car and shorten the length of journeys.
Traffic and road safety	11) To ensure development proposals do not exacerbate existing traffic and road safety and where possible, improves it.
Health and well-being	12) To maintain and improve people's health, well-being, and community cohesion and support voluntary, community and faith groups.
Access to services	13) To improve accessibility for everyone to health, education, recreation, cultural and community facilities and services.
Heritage assets and village character	14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To conserve and enhance the historic environment, including archaeological resources b) to ensure that new development is of high-quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness.
Economic	

Sustainability issues and challenges	Sustainability objectives
Thriving local economy	15) To assist in the development of small firms that maintain and enhance the rural economy.
Tourism	16) To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector.

These objectives were cross-checked against the SEA Directive issues, see Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 SEA Directive issues

SEA Directive issue	Warborough and Shillingford NP Sustainability Objectives
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	Objective 1
Human population	Objectives 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
Human health	Objectives 12 and 13
Soil	Objective 2
Water	Objectives 3 and 5
Air quality and climate	Objectives 4, 5 and 6
Material Assets	Objectives 15 and 16
Cultural heritage	Objective 14
Landscape	Objective 2

4. Sustainability Assessment

4.1 Assessment Framework

In the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, the steering committee set out a sustainability assessment framework which is reproduced in Table 4.1. This framework has been used throughout the Plan process to test the Neighbourhood Plan objectives, reasonable alternatives and policies.

Table 4.1 Sustainability Assessment Framework

	NP objectives, alternatives, policies			
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	1	2	3	4 etc.
1				
2				
3- 16				

KEY:

POS ++	POS+	NEUTRAL 0	NEGATIVE -	NEGATIVE --	N/A
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4.2 Sustainability Assessment of WSNP objectives

Once the Sustainability Appraisal framework and baseline information had been consulted on and refined in line with comments received, we used the framework to assess the Plan objectives. This took place at steering committee meetings on March 3 and March 17 2017. Further changes were agreed at steering committee meetings on October 13 and November 10 2017 in response to pre-submission consultation feedback.

The Plan policies are grouped under 4 broad themes that reflect the community priorities, planning strategy and the key policy areas needed to deliver these objectives: Village Character; Housing; Community Assets, Services and Facilities; and Economy and Tourism. For example, Village Character as a broad theme, covers the key aspects of design, setting and place. This does not mean that individual objectives such as rural character are subsumed within a broader objective as each objective is assessed individually.

Table 4.2 Assessment of WSNP objectives against sustainability objectives

	Village Character			Housing					Community Assets, Services and Facilities			Economy and Tourism
WSNP objectives	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
SA objectives												
1) biodiversity	Green	Light Blue	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	N/A
2) open space	Green	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	N/A
3) flooding			N/A					Light Blue				N/A
4) climate change	Light Blue	Light Blue	Yellow	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	N/A		N/A	N/A	Green	N/A
5) pollution	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Red	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	Green	N/A
6) waste	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Red	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	N/A	Light Blue	Light Blue	N/A
7) community involvement	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Green	N/A	Green	Green
8) community safety	Green	Light Blue	N/A	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green	Green	N/A	N/A	
9) decent home	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	N/A	Green	Green
10) travel choice	Green		N/A	N/A	Light Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	N/A	Green	Green
11) traffic & road safety	Green	Light Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Light Blue	N/A	Light Blue	N/A	Light Blue	Yellow
12) health & wellbeing	Green		Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	N/A	Green	Green
13) access to services	Green		N/A	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green
14a) heritage	Green	Light Blue	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
14 b) character	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Green	N/A	Green	Green	Green	Light Blue
15) economy	Light Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green
16) tourism	Light Green	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Green					

KEY:

POS ++	POS+	NEUTRAL 0	NEGATIVE -	NEGATIVE --	N/A
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5. Assessment of Policies

5.1 Policy development and testing

The WSNP steering committee drew up initial ideas for WSNP policies to meet the draft objectives in ‘plain English’. A planning expert was commissioned to draft the policies in language appropriate for WSNP in order to ensure that they would be likely to deliver the results that were intended by the community.

At meetings on March 3 and March 17 2017, the Steering committee tested WSNP policies and alternatives using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. Updates were agreed at meetings on October 13 and November 10 subsequent to policy changes made in response to pre-submission consultation feedback.

The Neighbourhood Plan has 12 policies, summarised in Table 5.1, below, segmented by the 4 broad themes that reflect the community priorities, planning strategy and the key policy areas needed to deliver these objectives: Village Character; Housing; Community Assets, Services and Facilities; and Economy and Tourism.

The assessment of each policy against the sustainability objectives presented in Table 5.2 to Table 5.5 and has been used to inform the narrative assessment of the draft plan and its significant effects on environmental, social and economic matters, which is presented in Chapter **Error! Reference source not found. - Error! Reference source not found..**

Table 5.1 Summary of WSNP policies

VC1- Village and Rural Character and Design	New development proposals will be supported where: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. The proposals preserve or enhance local character, taking full account of the character areas described in the Warborough and Shillingford Character AssessmentB. Materials that are appropriate to the surrounding environment are used, with reference paid to the Character Assessment and Warborough Conservation Area Appraisal 2011;C. The parish's designated historic heritage assets and their settings, both above and below ground, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and their conservation areas will be conserved or enhanced for their historic significance and their important contribution to local distinctiveness, character and sense of place;D. Impacts on non-designated historic assets take account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset;E. New development should not result in harm to tourism, particularly in relation to the Neighbourhood Area's importance as a filming location;F. Development that requires the establishment of a new boundary should incorporate, where possible, boundary
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	<p>features consisting of native or biodiversity-enhancing hedgerow species and schemes. The use of fencing and walls, where required, should reflect the traditional, rural context of the village and be of a height that preserves open views within the village;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. Development should minimise noise, odour, air pollution and light pollution and should provide sufficient outdoor storage space for refuse, recycling and parking of cars and bicycles; H. Innovative design that enhances local character will be supported; I. Residential development, except for Rural Exception Sites, should be located within the built-up area of Warborough and Shillingford. Proposals for development outside the built-up area will be supported if they are appropriate to a countryside location and they are consistent with local development plan policies
H1 – Housing Mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Proposals for more than ten dwellings should deliver an appropriate mix of housing types and sizes, having regard to the local community needs, identified in the Housing Needs Survey. In order to meet the aim of ensuring that the proposed housing mix meets identified local housing need, pre-application discussions with the Parish Council are strongly encouraged; B. 20% of all new affordable housing in Warborough and Shillingford will, on first letting only, be subject to a local connection – people with a strong local connection to the parish as set out in SODC's Housing Allocations Policy and whose needs are not met by the open market will be the first to be offered the tenancy or shared ownership of the home.
H2 – Site Allocation	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan allocates the site known as the 'Six Acre Field,' outlined in red on the map (Figure 5), for the development of at around 29 dwellings. The development of the site must respond to and be in keeping with local character. Development will therefore be required to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; to protect, and where possible, enhance, existing tree and hedge boundaries to the site; and to preserve, and where possible enhance, the key community views recognised in the Warborough and Shillingford Character Assessment. This should be demonstrated through a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Development of the site must also include the following:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The creation and safeguarding of safe pedestrian routes, connecting with routes to the village school and other amenities; b. A net gain in biodiversity, including a minimum of 50% greenspace; c. A minimum of 40% affordable housing; d. A range of housing types, including two- and three-bedroom open market dwellings <p>Provision of the following will be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Associated on-site and off-site traffic calming measures ii. Accessible, managed community amenity space of at least 25%; iii. A development without street lights (to preserve local character and protect heritage assets); iv. Development of streets that follow the 'lane' character found elsewhere in the village, with few pavements or raised kerbs v. Protection or enhancement of existing hedge and tree boundaries to the site <p>The Parish Council will support the creation of a management agreement that provides for the long-term maintenance of all public aspects of the proposal.</p>
H3 – Infill development	<p>A. Infill development within the existing built up form of the villages will be supported where it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. not cause an unacceptable impact on the amenities of adjacent residential properties; ii. provide safe and secure access, parking and turning arrangements; iii. not severely impact on highway safety; iv. not fill a small gap in an otherwise continuous built-up frontage, where public benefit would not outweigh harm to the rural character or appearance through loss of glimpsed views to greenery beyond the building line; v. where possible, retain existing natural features such as a hill, hedge, trees or small streams.
H4 – Pedestrian links	<p>A. Permission for new development will be supported provided that it is linked to the main community facilities including walks, the Green, shop, church, school, post office, pub and public transport, by pedestrian routes that allow sustainable, safe, easy and convenient access and which, where practical to do so, incorporates high quality green infrastructure.</p>

	<p>B. When assessing impacts under this policy, reference should be made to Community Issues Project 3 Pedestrian Links, Footways and WSNP Community Issues Project 5 - Traffic Calming. Any deficiencies identified here should be assessed where new development will add new requirements.</p>
H5 – Parking provision	<p>A. Proposals for new residential development will be supported where it can be demonstrated that off-street parking provision is adequate to meet the assessed future needs of the development being proposed.</p> <p>B. The provision of additional short-term off-street parking will be welcomed.</p>
H6 – Safeguarding Affordable housing	<p>A. Proposals for the redevelopment or reuse of existing social or affordable housing sites must seek to avoid the loss of social affordable housing in the Parish and will be supported when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. It would lead to the significant improvement of existing affordable housing or the replacement of existing affordable housing within in the Parish. <p>The Parish Council will support the provision of an independent assessment if local affordable housing is deemed to be no longer required.</p>

C1- Community Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The provision of new community facilities will be supported. B. Applicants will be expected to consult with the Parish Council, appropriate local authorities and utility providers to assess the additional load that the development may cause and identify suitable mitigation. C. Development proposals that will result in either the loss of or significant harm to a Community Facility as defined in <i>Table 2: Community Facilities</i> will be resisted, unless it can clearly be demonstrated that the operation of the asset, or the ongoing delivery of the community value of the asset, is no longer financially viable
C2- Improvements to Community Assets	Proposals to improve the viability of a Community Facility as defined in WSNP <i>Table 2: Community Facilities</i> by way of the extension or partial redevelopment of buildings or land will be supported, provided the design of the scheme and the resulting increase in use are appropriate in design terms and will not harm the amenities of adjoining residential properties.
C3- Local Green Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The four areas below (as defined in the supporting plans) are designated as Local Green Space, where development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Green; ii. The Allotments; iii. Rod Eyot; iv. The Wharf.
C4- Community Infrastructure Levy Contribution	Community Infrastructure Levy contributions from development will be used for the benefit of the community, including the priority projects listed in Appendix G.
E1 – Enhancement of employment facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The development of new employment facilities within the built-up area of the village will be supported subject to the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the proposal respects the character and appearance of the immediate locality in terms of its height, scale, design and massing; ii. the proposal does not cause an unacceptable impact on the amenities of nearby residential properties; iii. the proposal provides adequate parking, servicing and access arrangements in accordance with the most recently published standards of South Oxfordshire District Council. B. Proposals located outside the built-up form of the village will be supported where they meet the three criteria in this policy

	and where they respect the character of the countryside in which they are located. Proposals for tourism, rural business and craft-related developments will also be supported where they meet other development plan policies.
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Table 5.2 Sustainability assessment of WSNP village character policies

WSNP Policies	VC1
SA objectives	
1) biodiversity	Green
2) open space	Green
3) flooding	Light Blue
4) climate change	Light Blue
5) pollution	Light Blue
6) waste	Light Blue
7) community involvement	Green
8) community safety	Green
9) decent home	Green
10) travel choice	Green
11) traffic & road safety	Light Blue
12) health & wellbeing	Green
13) access to services	Green
14a) heritage	Dark Green
14b) character	Dark Green
15) economy	Yellow-Green
16) tourism	Green

KEY:

POS ++	POS+	NEUTRAL 0	NEGATIVE -	NEGATIVE --	N/A
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Table 5.3 Sustainability assessment of WSNP housing policies

WSNP Policies	H1	H2	H3		H4	H5	H6
SA objectives							
1) biodiversity	N/A				N/A		N/A
2) open space	N/A				N/A		N/A
3) flooding	N/A		Location dependent		N/A		N/A
4) climate change	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5) pollution	N/A					N/A	N/A
6) waste	N/A				N/A	N/A	N/A
7) community involvement							
8) community safety	N/A						N/A
9) decent home							
10) travel choice	N/A						N/A
11) traffic & road safety	N/A						N/A
12) health & wellbeing							
13) access to services	N/A					N/A	N/A
14a) heritage	N/A		Location dependent		N/A		N/A
14b) character	N/A				N/A		N/A
15) economy	N/A		N/A				N/A
16) tourism	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A

KEY:

POS ++	POS+	NEUTRAL 0	NEGATIVE -	NEGATIVE --	N/A
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Table 5.4 Sustainability assessment of WSNP community assets, services and facilities policies

WSNP Policies	C1	C2	C3	C4
SA objectives				
1) biodiversity	N/A	N/A	POS ++	
2) open space	N/A	N/A	POS ++	
3) flooding	POS ++	N/A	POS ++	
4) climate change	POS ++	N/A		
5) pollution	POS ++	N/A		POS ++
6) waste	NEUTRAL 0	N/A		
7) community involvement	POS ++	POS ++	POS ++	POS ++
8) community safety	POS ++	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0	
9) decent home	POS ++	POS ++	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0
10) travel choice	POS ++	POS ++	N/A	POS ++
11) traffic & road safety	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0	POS ++	POS ++
12) health & wellbeing	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0
13) access to services	POS ++	POS ++	POS ++	POS ++
14a) heritage	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0
14b) character	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0
15) economy	POS ++	POS ++	POS ++	POS ++
16) tourism	POS ++	NEUTRAL 0	POS ++	POS ++

KEY:

POS ++	POS+	NEUTRAL 0	NEGATIVE -	NEGATIVE --	N/A
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Table 5.5 Sustainability assessment of WSNP economy and tourism policy

WSNP Policies	E1
SA objectives	
1) biodiversity	N/A
2) open space	
3) flooding	N/A
4) climate change	N/A
5) pollution	
6) waste	N/A
7) community involvement	
8) community safety	
9) decent home	
10) travel choice	
11) traffic & road safety	
12) health & wellbeing	
13) access to services	
14a) heritage	
14b) character	
15) economy	
16) tourism	

KEY:

POS ++	POS+	NEUTRAL 0	NEGATIVE -	NEGATIVE --	N/A
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6. Assessment of Reasonable Policy Alternatives

The assessment is obliged to consider any reasonable alternatives to the proposed policies.

In practice, the only alternative to all but one of the policies – Policy H2 – is that of having no policy and relying upon other development plan policies or national policy. In this respect, the assessment is neutral. In no case is it possible to discern any clear positive or negative effect of not having the policy. It may be possible that a reliance on other development plans policy or the National Planning Policy Framework may lead to decisions that do not achieve as high a quality of outcome, but this cannot be said with any certainty.

However, there are alternatives to delivering Policy H2, based on different growth scenarios and potential development sites. What follows is summary of options considered and an explanation of the rationale for selecting the single development site in Policy H2.

6.1 Background and Growth context

The WSNP Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in the context of the South Oxfordshire District Council planning strategy for the Parish of Warborough. The village is classified as a smaller village where large- scale development is not normally considered appropriate. This does not preclude limited growth being encouraged through positive policies for infill and small-scale development within the built-up area. Policies VC1 and particularly H3 of the Neighbourhood Plan achieve this.

Despite the fact that the village is a thriving and active community, it struggles to support the local shop, post office and public houses (two have shut in recent times, leaving one remaining). It suffers from traffic congestion due to high flow and little off- road parking, especially around the school. There has been no substantial development in the Parish for 35+ years and there is a shortage of affordable, smaller and housing for the elderly.

The emerging Local Plan identifies that smaller villages should be capable of 5-10% growth across the district depending on local circumstances to be determined within a Neighbourhood Plan. Despite Warborough and Shillingford being identified as unsuitable for an allocation of development the emerging local plan does allow the Neighbourhood Plan to explore the potential for further development including a site allocation. This Neighbourhood Plan has approached this task carefully and always within the overall planning strategy.

6. 2 Identification of Alternative Policies

Policy H8 of the South Oxfordshire District Council Emerging Local Plan 2033 states: “A minimum of 500 new homes will be delivered in the ‘smaller villages’. This will be achieved through Neighbourhood Development Plans which allocate sites for at least a 5% increase in dwelling numbers above those recorded in the 2011 census. In ‘smaller villages’ where there is no Neighbourhood Development Plan a 5-10% increase in dwelling numbers, above those recorded in the 2011 census, will be achieved through the development of suitable sites and through infill development.”

As Warborough and Shillingford is classed as a smaller village, the WSNP therefore considers two options for growth:

1. **Do not allocate a site – limited growth.** The limited growth option relies on positive policies (Policy H3, together with VC1) that enable some growth within the built-up area or on its edge through infill. This would achieve around 2% growth.
2. **Infill development + site allocation.** This option would deliver balanced growth of at least 5% over the plan period, together with local benefits.

6.2.1 Option 1 – Limited Growth (do not allocate a housing development site)

This option relies on positive policies that enable some growth within the built-up area or on its edge. The Steering Committee identified the level of growth that would likely be the result of a “do not allocate a housing development site” policy.

The call for infill sites yielded fewer than 15 dwellings on 8 plots initially (4 plots were from WSNP steering committee members, yielding 8 dwellings). Subsequently, 9 more infill sites emerged with a total potential yield of up to 30 dwellings.

All infill sites submitted were offered with less than 5 houses and therefore could not be allocated as part of a NP: developments on these plots would be need to satisfy non-site-specific policies, e.g. design, proximity, accessibility, and would be subject to the normal SODC planning process.

However, SODC emphasise the importance of deliverability on any housing provision identified within NPs. Under these criteria and based on past performance within the Parish, 5% growth may not be deliverable. The Parish has a strong tradition of inhibiting any development: 6new dwellings have been provided in the last 20 years (i.e. 1.5%); all of those have required significant effort, some with multiple applications; others have failed altogether – some repeatedly – or been withdrawn.

However, with positive policies in place, the Steering Committee estimate that this could be enhanced to deliver an increase in successful infill applications over the plan period, resulting in housing contribution c. 10 dwellings, or 2%.

6.2.2 Option 2- Site Allocation + infill

This option has required an evaluation of potential sites to determine if a site allocation could deliver balanced growth and is based on delivering at least 5% growth, in line with Policy H8 of the Emerging Local Plan

The precise figure is not a hard and fast target as much depends on the village and a suitable site. However, growth in excess of this is likely to lead to an imbalance between growth and service capacity and/or could change the nature and character of Warborough and Shillingford as a place. The site assessment is therefore undertaken in the context of seeking to explore if this level of growth is achievable without placing a burden on local services.

Given that the NPPF is underpinned by a presumption in favour of development and that SODC currently does not have a 5-year land supply the presumption in favour of development places a developer in a strong position. To challenge an unsuitable planning application on a site on the edge of the villages a comparative site assessment is invaluable and enables the community to lead rather



Figure 6.1 Potential development sites

than respond to the site appraisal debate. That a suitable site can be identified at a strategic level and subject to detailed evaluation, shows that this strategy is an important one to evaluate.

The site assessment process took into account the District Council's planning strategy, the NPPF, our WSNP objectives and village priorities. The selection of a potential site is difficult. The Neighbourhood Plan must complement the existing planning strategy that recognises the villages' role as a smaller village but also the emerging strategy that could endorse a site agreed within the Neighbourhood Plan. The approach adopted here is very much a 'bottom up' approach of identifying a site that meets our local objectives, complements the village as a place and does not create an imbalance between growth and service capacity

The analysis is at a high level looking at strategic matters. It does not provide a detailed evaluation of each site such as a planning application would do but rather identifies the potential of a site for development to a reasonable degree of confidence to enable its allocation.

Development of the site inventory and details of the assessment process are provided in the Technical Site Assessment in Appendix 2.

The community were also given the opportunity to put development sites forward as part of the April 2016 NP survey. No sites were forthcoming. All fields around the village have not been assessed, but key findings with regard to assessed sites, as part of the NP, will be helpful in future assessments of new sites that may become available. Figure

6.1 shows the sites that were considered as part of the site assessment process:

Key:

- Upper Farm (UF) – 2 on map
- Cuckoo Penn 2 (CP2) – 3b on map
- Cuckoo Penn 3 (CP3) – 3a & 3b on map
- Six Acres (6A) - 4 on map
- Plough Field (PF) – 5 on map
- Redwood Barn (RW) – 6 on map

1 on Map – This Upper Farm site was withdrawn by the land owner during the assessment process

6.3 Sustainability Testing of Growth Alternatives

Following consultation (February 2017), the steering committee produced a final version of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which is available on the Warborough & Shillingford Parish Council website.

The steering committee then met on 3 and 17 March 2017 to test the sustainability effects of sites (i.e. the different options for growth). There were 6 possible sites and to give a complete picture of the sustainability implications of each site, all of these were assessed against the sustainability criteria despite the fact that some were technically more feasible than others. The option to not allocate (2% growth) was also tested at the Steering Committee meeting on 5 May 2017.

Table 6.3 summarises the results of the sustainability assessment testing carried out by the Steering Committee in March and May 2017, which assessed the growth options against each of the sustainability objectives set out in table 3.2

Table 6.3 Sustainability Assessment of NP Alternatives (No allocation- infill only and site allocation (site + infill))

	Option 1: Limited growth No allocation (infill only)	Option 2: 5-10% growth					
		Site allocation (site + infill)					
		UF1	CP2	CP3	6A	PF	RW
1) biodiversity							
2) open space							
3) flooding							
4) climate change							
5) pollution							
6) waste							
7) community involvement							
8) community safety							
9) decent home							
10) travel choice							
11) traffic & road safety							
12) health & wellbeing							
13) access to services							
14a) heritage							
14b) character							
15) economy							
16) tourism							

KEY:

POS ++	POS +	NEUTRAL 0	NEGATIVE -	NEGATIVE --	N/A
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The assessments above were made without consideration of any mitigation offered by landowners/developers. The steering committee also considered ways in which positive aspects of the sites might be strengthened or opportunities for negative aspects to be mitigated existed, noting that some aspects such as location (for example, in greenbelt or in flood plain) are not able to be mitigated. The key findings, detailing possible mitigation strategies, are summarised below:

Table 6.1 Significant effects and mitigation of WSNP sites

Site	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
UF1	Flooding	There is evidence of flooding due to problems with surface run-off from the northern end of the village.	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include mechanism to ensure surface flooding is not worsened, and ideally, improved.
	Biodiversity	Ecological impact on existing habitats and species	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include an ecological appraisal. Further studies and mitigation work should then be conducted as needed to ensure a net gain in biodiversity. Strengthen: Use the opportunity of the provision of new pedestrian routes to enhance biodiversity by incorporating green infrastructure where possible.
	Open Space	Landscape impact	Mitigation: development proposals must contain a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
	Decent home	Appropriate housing mix and infrastructure.	Strengthen: Seek commitment from developer to meet identified housing mix, and ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to support it.
	Travel choice	Lack of continuous footpath from centre of village to site will encourage additional car use.	Mitigation: Provision of public footpath from site to centre of village.
	Traffic and road safety	Safety of site access due to evidence of speeding at northern end of village.	Mitigation: Provision of traffic calming measures.
	Heritage	Impact on adjacent Warborough Conservation Area.	Mitigation: Incorporation of sympathetic design, suitable landscaping and buffer zones.

Site	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
	Character	Impact on rural character of extreme edge of Warborough	Mitigation: Incorporation of sympathetic design and suitable landscaping
CP2	Flooding	There is evidence of flooding due to problems with surface run-off from the northern end of the village.	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include mechanism to ensure surface flooding is not worsened, and ideally, improved. [because of site layout, ensure cohesion with mitigation strategies for character, heritage and traffic]
	Biodiversity	Ecological impact on existing habitats and species	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include an ecological appraisal. Further studies and mitigation work should then be conducted as needed to ensure a net gain in biodiversity. Strengthen: Use the opportunity of the provision of new pedestrian routes to enhance biodiversity by incorporating green infrastructure where possible.
	Open Space	Landscape impact	Mitigation: development proposals must contain a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
	Decent home	Appropriate housing mix and infrastructure.	Strengthen: Seek commitment from developer to meet identified housing mix, and ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to support it.
	Travel choice	Lack of continuous footpath from centre of village to site will encourage additional car use.	Mitigation: Provision of public footpath from site to centre of village, including safe crossing point of A329 if proposed footpath is on west side.
	Traffic and road safety	Safety of site access due to evidence of speeding at northern end of village.	Mitigation: Provision of traffic calming measures and/or modify site access to improve visibility. [because of site layout, ensure cohesion with mitigation strategies for flooding, heritage and character]
	Heritage	Impact on adjacent Warborough Conservation Area.	Mitigation: Incorporation of sympathetic design, suitable landscaping and buffer zones. [because of site layout, ensure cohesion with mitigation strategies for flooding, character and traffic]
	Character	Impact on view into settlement.	Mitigation: Strategic use of sloping nature of site to reduce visual impact [because of site layout, ensure cohesion with mitigation]

Site	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
			strategies for flooding, heritage and traffic]
CP3	Flooding	There is evidence of flooding due to problems with surface run-off from the northern end of the village.	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include mechanism to ensure surface flooding is not worsened, and ideally, improved. [because of site layout, ensure cohesion with mitigation strategies for traffic, heritage and character]
	Biodiversity	Ecological impact on existing habitats and species	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include an ecological appraisal. Further studies and mitigation work should then be conducted as needed to ensure a net gain in biodiversity. Strengthen: Use the opportunity of the provision of new pedestrian routes to enhance biodiversity by incorporating green infrastructure where possible.
	Open Space	Landscape impact	Mitigation: development proposals must contain a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
	Decent home	Appropriate housing mix and infrastructure.	Strengthen: Seek commitment from developer to meet identified housing mix, and ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to support it.
	Travel choice	Lack of continuous footpath from centre of village to site will encourage additional car use.	Mitigation: Provision of public footpath from site to centre of village, including safe crossing point of A329 if proposed footpath is on west side.
	Traffic and road safety	Safety of site access due to evidence of speeding at northern end of village.	Mitigation: Provision of traffic calming measures and/or modify site access to improve visibility. [because of site layout, ensure cohesion with mitigation strategies for flooding, heritage and character]
	Heritage	Impact on adjacent Warborough Conservation Area.	Mitigation: Incorporation of sympathetic design, suitable landscaping and buffer zones. [because of site layout, ensure cohesion with mitigation strategies for flooding, character and traffic]
	Character	Impact on view into settlement.	Mitigation: Strategic use of sloping nature of site to reduce visual impact. [because of site layout, ensure cohesion with mitigation

Site	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
			strategies for flooding, heritage and traffic]
6A	Decent home	Appropriate housing mix and infrastructure.	<p>Strengthen: Seek commitment from developer to meet identified housing mix, and ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to support it.</p> <p>Offer agreed management plan for ongoing maintenance of public spaces and community facilities as per NP Table 2 in Section 5.3</p>
	Travel choice	The site has good pedestrian access to the centre of the village.	<p>Strengthen: Formally incorporate historic public right of way (FP7) at north end of site into plans.</p> <p>Safe and attractive pedestrian routes will be put into place to enable residents of the new development to sustainably access the school and village amenities</p>
	Traffic and road safety	Safety of site access due to impact on visibility of parked cars at school pick-up/drop-off.	<p>Mitigation: Provision of off-site car park with integrated footpath.</p> <p>Offer agreed construction method statement prior to construction</p> <p>Strengthen: Investigate, propose and where possible implement traffic calming measures for the area of Thame Road outside the school and the site, in conjunction with highways authority</p>
	Heritage	Impact on adjacent Warborough Conservation Area.	<p>Mitigation: As detailed in Bidwell Heritage Impact Assessment (see TSA 6A):</p> <p>Maintain, protect and if possible enhance existing hedges and trees along site boundary</p> <p>Submit LVIA to ensure rooflines are subservient as discussed in TSA 6.5</p> <p>Create a buffer zone at the north corner as discussed in TSA 6.5,</p> <p>Ensure new development conforms to nearby patterns of development and uses materials and designs appropriate for adjacent buildings as discussed in TSA 6.5 and in general to reflect the best of the rural village character, including avoidance of street lighting and consistency with the traditional 'lane' type found elsewhere in the village with few pavements or raised kerbs.</p>

Site	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
	Biodiversity	Ecological impact on existing habitats and species	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include an ecological appraisal. Further studies and mitigation work should then be conducted as needed to ensure a net gain in biodiversity. Strengthen: Use the opportunity of the provision of new pedestrian routes to enhance biodiversity by incorporating green infrastructure where possible. Accommodate 50% greenspace
	Open Space	Landscape impact	Mitigation: development proposals must contain a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
PF	Decent home	Appropriate housing mix and infrastructure	Strengthen: Seek commitment from developer to meet identified housing mix, and ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to support it.
	Biodiversity	Ecological impact on existing habitats and species	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include an ecological appraisal. Further studies and mitigation work should then be conducted as needed to ensure a net gain in biodiversity. Strengthen: Use the opportunity of the provision of new pedestrian routes to enhance biodiversity by incorporating green infrastructure where possible.
	Open Space	Landscape impact	Mitigation: development proposals must contain a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
	Open Space	Loss of Grade 1 agricultural land	Mitigation: soil surveys must be undertaken to provide current assessment of grade of land. Where development on Grade 1 land is proposed, there should be demonstrable benefits from the development that outweigh its loss.
	Flooding	Site is partially in flood plain 2	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include mechanisms to ensure surface flooding is not worsened, and give careful consideration to location of flood plain during design.
	Pollution	Site is partially in flood plain	Mitigation: Developers should take water table levels into consideration during design.

Site	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
	Traffic and road safety	Safety of site access due to dangerous bends on A329.	Mitigation: Provision of traffic calming measures.
	Access to services	Capacity of local school likely to be exceeded	Mitigation: incorporate plans to address shortfall of school places
	Heritage	High likelihood of archaeological remains due to site of old Roman road	Mitigation: Developer to undertake archaeological investigation to assess suitability of site.
	Character	This open flat farmland provides a gap defining the separation of Warborough from Shillingford	Mitigation: Seek commitment from developer to soften visual impact via a sympathetic design and maintain important views across to Chiltern AONB.
	Travel choice	Lack of continuous footpath to bus stops	Strengthen: Seek commitment from developer to provide safe crossing point of A329.
RB	Travel choice	Lack of continuous footpath from centre of village to site will encourage additional car use.	Mitigation: Seek commitment from developer to provide safe crossing point of A329.
	Community involvement	Site isolated from village pub/shop/PO	Mitigation: Seek commitment from developer to incorporate plans to improve services.
	Decent home	Appropriate housing mix and infrastructure	Strengthen: Seek commitment from developer to meet identified housing mix, and ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to support it.
	Flooding	Site is in Flood Plain 3	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include mechanisms to ensure flooding is not worsened, and give careful consideration to location of flood plain during design.
	Heritage	Likelihood of archaeological remains	Mitigation: Developer to undertake archaeological investigation to assess suitability of site.
	Character	This part of Shillingford has a semi-rural character and marks the edge of built up area	Mitigation: Incorporation of sympathetic design, suitable landscaping and buffer zones.
	Biodiversity	Ecological impact on existing habitats and species	Mitigation: Any proposed development should include an ecological appraisal. Further studies and mitigation work should

Site	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
			then be conducted as needed to ensure a net gain in biodiversity. Strengthen: Use the opportunity of the provision of new pedestrian routes to enhance biodiversity by incorporating green infrastructure where possible.
	Open Space	Landscape impact	Mitigation: development proposals must contain a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
	Access to services	Capacity of local school likely to be exceeded	Mitigation: incorporate plans to address shortfall of school places

As detailed in the Technical Site Assessment in Appendix 2, landowners were offered opportunities to provide detailed mitigation plans which were incorporated into informing the selection of allocated site(s).

6.4 Selection of the preferred growth alternative

6.4.1 Comparison of the Two Options for Growth

Both Option 1 and Option 2 deliver growth. Therefore, a comparison between the two is useful.

Option 1 ‘Do not allocate a housing development site- limited growth’ is an enabling strategy backed up by positive policies that provide for continued natural growth from infill or very small site development. These types of site cannot be foreseen, are within the built-up area of the village and have historically come forward at low levels (1.5% over the past 20 years). With positive policies, it is estimated that this could be increased to achieve around 2% growth within the Plan period.

The sustainability testing of Option 1 is problematic, given that it is impossible to know, for example, the location and number of homes that may emerge in this way. Therefore, it is felt that a neutral analysis offers a fair summation of the impact on the sustainability objectives of this type of unplanned growth. It is clear from the assessment in Table 6.3 that Option 1 performs on-the-whole better in the sustainability analysis against all sites in Option 2. In particular, its environmental impact is less, but it does not offer any of the possible positive benefits that allocating a site could bring.

As detailed in section 6.2.1 above, it is considered unlikely that, taking deliverability into account, Option 1 will contribute more than 2% growth over the plan period. Option 2, on the other hand, achieves at least 5% growth.

6.4.2 Preferred Growth Strategy and Site Allocation

This section focuses on the potential of a site allocation to deliver a level of growth that does not compromise village character, as expressed in the objectives arising from consultation.

The site selection priorities expressed by the village were to:

- keep development inside the village envelope
- minimise impact on flooding
- low landscape impact
- use of brownfield
- avoidance of greenfield sites.

These are all consistent with identifying a potential site.

Clearly the need to address existing school parking issues (experienced bi-weekly by 62% of respondents) and significant traffic concerns were key priorities. This suggested that a central location adjacent to existing facilities and capable of delivering most benefits to the village community should be a meaningful consideration in the site selection process. Whilst this was a community desire, locating any new development centrally to reduce journeys and village parking burdens and to improve access to facilities is also a sound planning objective.

The steering committee had to balance this with a similarly clear message to keep housing numbers low whilst ensuring quality of design, minimising impact on open views and prioritising the desired accommodation mix (that is, starter & elderly).

Site Allocation

Notwithstanding the better ‘sustainability performance’ of Option 1 against Option 2, the WSNP supports the delivery of a single site (6 Acres) as the sole allocated development site

Although the Six Acres site is not as large as some sites put forward, it is acknowledged that none the less it has the potential to deliver more dwellings than the village wanted (30 or 7% of current housing stock).³ However, these figures are entirely consistent with SODC’s aspiration to achieve at least 5% more dwelling in smaller villages. In Warborough and Shillingford this would c. 22 homes.

Consultation feedback shows that the potential developer is prepared to provide the school parking contribution, modest density and high design and landscaping specifications within this scale of scheme which indicates that a potential allocation can deliver what we both want and need as a community and that appropriate policies can be developed to manage these aspirations. However, much will depend on the detailed site requirements including community infrastructure, design and

³ The results of the WSNP Community Questionnaire showed a preference for no more than 20 new dwellings.

access. The consultation feedback gives confidence that the site can be delivered with many of the prerequisite studies, demonstrating no ‘show stoppers’.

. Therefore, by proactively planning for a site that delivers clear benefits now, together with a more organic infill approach which will grow more slowly, the community can achieve SODC’s minimum 5% increase in dwellings and better support and improve local infrastructure whilst continuing to protect Warborough and Shillingford’s essential character.

In summary, the Six Acre site is the most suitable site for the following reasons:

- 1- The site performs better than all others, comparatively, in sustainability testing (table 6.3)
- 2- The site performed better than all others, comparatively, in the Technical Site Assessment (appendix 2)
- 3 - The site is the only site that meets the high level spatial strategy preference (i.e. it sits close to village amenities) and, helped by the flanking buildings and strong perimeter landscaping, is modestly visible and does not impact open vistas;
- 4- It is not in the flood plain, there are no flooding concerns;
- 5 - It is not in the Green Belt;
- 6 - Existing pedestrian links will allow residents to easily access community facilities on foot;
- 7 - There is willingness to mitigate traffic concerns;
- 8 - It will alleviate the current school parking problem;
- 9 - Consultation feedback gives confidence that the potential developer will commit to deliver the housing mix as well as affordable units in a style that reflects the best of village character.

The steering committee has engaged positively and consistently with all land owners who have potential sites to enable it to have a better understanding of site deliverability. In the case of Six Acres, the potential developer has shared a clear development plan to complete development within a 2-year period and also has a history of successfully delivering similar local projects. Disruption is inevitable but they have shared plans to minimize potential disruption including prioritising of on-site parking for work vehicles and scheduling construction traffic to avoid school rush hours and minimise village impact.

Anticipated development will take up the spare capacity of the local infrastructure (roads and school).

To allocate an additional site is not appropriate for the following reasons:

- 1- Points 1-9 above
- 2- Given that Six Acres, alongside projected levels of infill development, will deliver the homes required to achieve at least 5% growth there is no need to allocate another site.
- 3- The next best site performed well below the preferred site in both sustainability testing and with regard to ‘non-SEA’ site assessment presented at Appendix 2.

- 4- All sites apart from Six Acres perform poorly in terms of their location and impact on the Plan's key objectives (particularly setting and place) to the extent that these should be excluded as potential sites.

In summary, the favoured site, alongside performing well in the analysis, can deliver benefits without overwhelming services (subject to a more detailed evaluation either through master-planning work or a planning application). However, this is only possible provided that it is developed sensitively. It is possible that it may not deliver the number of houses required to achieve a balanced growth and/or the planned community benefits. If so, then Option 1 must be reconsidered.

7. Current Appraisal Findings

The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the WSNP.

The appraisal is structured under the 16 sustainability objectives of the WSNP. For each theme ‘significant effects’ of the draft plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

These effect ‘characteristics’ are described within the assessment as appropriate. Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances, it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

Biodiversity

- Ensuring development is within the built area (Policy VC1) will protect biodiversity and landscape, and maintain the rural character of the village.
- Local surveys identified valuable hedgerows and trees on the boundary of the allocated Six Acre site in Policy H2. It is recommended that these be retained to minimise impact on biodiversity and to maintain green infrastructure. The buffer zone required to reduce the impact on the Warborough conservation area will provide an opportunity to improve biodiversity on the allocated site.
- Independent ecological surveys have identified no significant ecology on the allocated site. These have been subsequently challenged by nearby residents in responses received to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation. Further detailed investigation is required to clarify the existence of, and impact on, habitats and to ensure sufficient mitigation measures can be put in place if required.
- It is assumed that, given the location of the allocated site in Policy H2 it will have no impact on the obligations imposed on the Shillingford Conservation Target Area.
- Policy H4 seeks to find opportunities to increase green infrastructure as part of the creation of any new pedestrian links, improving biodiversity.
- Opportunities to improve biodiversity have been considered and incorporated into all suitable projects.
- Infill development supported by Policy H3 may have impacts on biodiversity. However, due to the policy requirement to prioritise brownfield sites over greenfield and the historically low levels of infill development in the parish, these are likely to be minimal.
- Protecting existing green spaces (Policy C3) will help safeguard biodiversity.

- Ensuring additional off-road car parking provision will potentially impact negatively on biodiversity.

Enhance open spaces and countryside

- The WSNP seeks to protect open spaces valued by the community through its proposal to designate new “Local Green Space” in Policy C3.
- Unlike the adjacent Warborough Conservation Area, the allocated Six Acre site in Policy H2 has no public views across to the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Beauty. Furthermore, the developer has proposed an open green area within the development to reduce the impact that development would have on inward looking views onto the site.
- Independent assessments show the allocated site is Grade 2 agricultural land. This potential farm land would be irreversibly lost following development. However, it is currently not maintained, and has not been farmed for over forty years, which significantly minimises the impact of this loss.
- Ensuring development protects views and enhance existing patterns of development which are partly characterised by open spaces will have a positive effect.
- Protecting existing green spaces (Policy C3) will help safeguard open spaces. It should be explored how proposals for development might create additional local green space and contribute positively to green infrastructure.

Flooding

- The allocated site in Policy H2 is flat, with no currently known problems relating to surface and ground run-off. It is not in the flood plan and lies downstream of the underground culvert in the centre of Warborough so will not worsen the problems that exist in relation to it.
- Development of the allocated site, especially the large surfaces of hard-standing required to ensure sufficient parking, both for residents and the proposed new car park, will likely impact negatively on surface run-off. It is therefore recommended that mitigation measures are put in place to use porous surfaces where possible. The ditch should continue to be regularly maintained by the Parish Council to reduce the possibility of capacity problems causing flooding between the allocated site and the Thames. There is no evidence to suggest that the open ditch currently has capacity issues when regularly maintained; this should be re-assessed taking into account any predicted increases.
- Seeking to reduce flooding will have a positive effect on environmental objectives and the health & wellbeing of members of the community. Ensuring that any drainage scheme is resilient and well-maintained will not worsen and potentially improve the frequent flooding of roads within the Parish. Concern should be given to identifying and protecting any habitats that might be dependent on regular flooding. Ensuring additional off-road car parking provision (Policy H5) will potentially impact negatively on flooding by changing the

permeability of the surface. Commitment will be sought from developers to provide a porous surfacing solution.

- Infill development's effects will be often location dependent. The village is very sensitive to changes that, in particular, might impact on flooding and/or heritage assets.

Climate Change

- The main issue for this Parish in respect to climate change relates to flooding and this is dealt with above. It is not expected that allocating the Six Acre site in Policy H2 will cause any significant additional concerns in relation to climate change other than those relating to the overall negative impact from the construction itself. These are a side-effect of construction in any location and therefore must be assumed to be an acceptable consequence.
- Any development should be of high quality and fit in with the village character, as per Policy VC1. This gives opportunity for energy efficient measures to be incorporated but might also be partly restrictive in order to ensure the design of new buildings, particularly those within or near to, the two conservation areas are sympathetic to the surrounding character.
- There is a potential for a negative effect on these environmental objectives from policies H2 and H3 as modern environmentally efficient homes are not in keeping with the rural character of the village.

Pollution

- The allocated site in Policy H2 is not adjacent to either of the two rivers that run through the Parish, so does not fall under the obligations of the Thames River Basin Management Plan.
- An increase in the number of houses as envisioned through Policies H2 and H3 will naturally lead to an increase in vehicles and therefore a negative impact on air pollution. However, the spatial strategy used for site allocation means that the allocated site is within walking distance, with good pedestrian links (Policy H4), of all key village amenities, so is likely to have a 'less worse' impact than any other site.
- Pollution from traffic is not just related to speed; higher emissions have also been linked to aggressive accelerating and braking by drivers. The provision of off-street parking (Policy H5) will significantly change this type of behaviour which is commonly seen outside school due to driver frustration with parent on-street parking, perhaps having a small positive impact on air pollution.
- The WSNP addresses resident's concerns over possible light pollution from any new development by specifying no street lighting and requiring 'dark sky' guidelines be adhered to for exterior lighting.

Waste

- Additional development as envisaged through Policies H2 and H3 will increase waste production. Concerns still exist over the level of ground water and the capacity of the

existing sewage systems. Further investigations are required and mitigation strategies put in place, if necessary, to ensure there is not a detrimental impact on this sustainability objective.

Community Involvement

- The whole essence of a Neighbourhood Plan is community involvement: this plan delivers sustainable development in line with the preferred strategy whilst providing identifiable community benefits.
- Allocating a site (Policy H2) with a housing mix (Policy H1) designed to rebalance the current demographic skew towards the elderly will provide a younger generation to maintain and contribute towards the varied community organisations and activities that exist in the Parish.
- Policies C1 and C2 protect and support the improvement of assets identified as being of community value, safeguarding the future of the thriving community organisation and the local services that are highly valued by residents.

Community Safety

- Allocating a location for development which has the potential to integrate well into the community, via easy pedestrian flow-through and a central location, reduces the risk of any negative impact on community safety. Policy H4 – Pedestrian Links will also contribute positively to community safety.

Housing need

- The proposed housing mix in Policy H1 regarding Local Affordable Housing will help meet the housing needs established through the community survey, namely providing an increase in affordable, elderly and new starter homes. Local affordable housing is protected by policy H6. Policy VC1 will help ensure that homes will be of high quality and fit in with the village character. The allocated site will provide community benefits through the provision of off-road parking adjacent to the school.

Transport

- The parish of Warborough is a rural community with limited bus links, so it is unavoidable that an increase in housing will lead to an increase in cars/vans. However, the location of housing will affect how frequently those vehicles are used for short journeys. By allocating a centrally-located site in Policy H2, we will offer residents alternative transport choices by having local facilities within easy walking distance for residents of all ages.

Traffic and road safety

- Policy H5 ensures all new developments have sufficient parking spaces and will not worsen the current parking issues in relation to on-street parking in the village. The location of the allocated site in Policy H2 should not add to parking problems outside village facilities, such as the shop and halls.

- The absence of sufficient off-road car parking will exacerbate road safety issues as well as potentially impacting negatively on heritage/character and consequently economy/tourism (depending on location).
- The Neighbourhood Plan attempts to improve the current situation by:
 - Incorporating a car park on the allocated site adjacent to the school;
 - Setting out how CIL funds (Policy C4) might be used to improve parking on the Green.
- The allocated site is on a straight stretch of road so sight lines are in excess of guidelines; careful consideration to site design/layout needs to be given to ensure that the number of cars accessing the site at the start and end of the school day will not present any road safety concerns.
- Similarly, an increase in traffic turning across the footpath along Thame Road means that consideration must be given to pedestrian safety at the design stage, especially given the likelihood of young school children being present during periods of higher traffic flow. An alternative pedestrian route which will avoid this would be beneficial and is being investigated.
- Speeding issues are recognised within the plan, and traffic calming has been included as a possible use for CIL funds. There is a risk that removing all parked cars outside the school might further encourage speeding through the Parish. This will need careful monitoring and liaison between the school and the Parish Council to establish best guidelines (for example, it may be helpful to request that parents dropping children off – but not parking - continue to use the main road).
- One potential negative impact is the potential for an increase in traffic if businesses attract customers from outside the village.

Health and well-being

- Enhancing local facilities such as road safety, pedestrian facilities, local shop provision and amenities (Policies H4, C1 and C2) will help improve life for villagers. Ensuring new development has adequate pedestrian links (Policy H4) to community facilities will reduce car use, contribute to health & wellbeing and support the local economy whilst easing the inclusion of newcomers into the community. Commitment should be sought from developers to improve footpaths and/or provide safe road crossings.
- Re-balancing the demographic within the village by providing a mix of new starter and elderly homes (Policy H1) will maintain a strong community.
- The Neighbourhood Plan attempts to have a positive impact on the health and well-being of parishioners by setting out in Policy C4 how CIL funds might be used to:
 - Improve leisure facilities through the provision of outdoor fitness equipment and/or upgrading the existing children's playgrounds;
 - Improving the condition of footpaths in the village to improve equality of access for the young, disabled and infirm.

Access to services

- As discussed above, providing a better demographic mix via policies such as H1 within the village will likely lead to a more balanced user-base for all existing facilities, helping to maintain their future viability.
- There is sufficient infrastructure in place – in particular the school – to support the proposed size of development on the allocated site. Any further development, beyond infill, is predicted to strain the capacity of the current school to cope.
- The Neighbourhood Plan has identified possible expenditure of CIL money on enhancing the facilities of St Laurence Church and Hall to provide enhanced facilities to potentially re-house additional community facilities.
- There are general concerns about the ability of the district infrastructure to cope with the large number of proposed new homes. However, in the context of the nine thousand new homes planned within a five-mile radius, the number proposed within this plan is insignificant in comparison. The WSNP also supports the provision of new community assets, services, facilities and the support of local employment assets through Policies C1, C2 and E1.

Heritage assets and village character

- Regarding Policy H2, an independent assessment of the Six Acre site by Thames Valley Archaeological Services reported: “There are no designated heritage assets on the proposal site.... The proposal site lies in an area of considerable archaeological potential within an extensive prehistoric and Roman landscape that includes trackways, enclosures, burial monuments and settlement features. It is considered that further information from field observation will be required to establish the archaeological potential of the site”. Historic England archaeological mapping supports this (as detailed in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report). A field evaluation was undertaken in summer 2017 (30 trenches, 20m long; report provided to SODC Planning) and confirmed the site has no archaeological significance.
- The site is adjacent to several listed buildings and the Warborough conservation area. Any development proposal will need to be sympathetic to the character of the area or enhance the settings of these listed buildings. Detailed mitigation will need to be considered. If suitable in principle, to minimise the impact on this sustainability criteria, any scheme should:
 - further mitigate visual and landscape impact on adjacent Conservation areas and listed buildings by providing buffer zones (north eastern and western boundaries) with additional landscaping, and a design appropriate for adjacent listed cottage-type buildings;
 - use materials and designs to reflect the best of the rural village character across the site with particular reference to the Character Assessment and design policies.
- Policy H3 sets out an infill policy supports development that relates well to the character of the immediate surroundings. Gaps between houses are an integral part of the character of the older parts of the villages. There is a cumulative risk from infill that these open spaces might be lost.

- Ensuring development reinforce the distinctiveness of the area (Policy VC1) and use appropriate materials will protect the character of the village and the income that it generates.

Thriving local economy

- Policy C1 sets out a policy designed to resist the change of an existing business or asset, valued by the community, into non-business use. Safeguarding the future of the village pub and shop/PO, for example, will have a positive benefit on all social objectives as it will help safeguard the strong sense of community as well as reducing unnecessary car journeys. Given the historic nature of the pub, its location in the Warborough conservation area and the income it generates from filming, this policy will also contribute positively to helping ensure a thriving local economy.
- Protecting and supporting local businesses, through expansion or redevelopment in order to improve viability as set out in policy C2, will naturally impact positively on economic objectives. Social objectives will also be positively impacted as Parishioners continue to be able to access services locally, via foot, helping to maintain a strong, vibrant, village community.
- Policy E1 supports the generation of new employment opportunities thus having a beneficial economic impact. As with policy C2, an increase in local services will have a positive impact on social objectives. The local infrastructure should be assessed to ensure it can cope with the expected customer volume of any new businesses, in particular the provision/availability of any car parking spaces. Careful consideration needs to be made of the impact on the rural setting of the village due to the potential of a detrimental impact on open space, heritage and character objectives.
- The spatial strategy of allocating a centrally-located site takes into account the local services and facilities available (particularly shop/PO and pub) in the centre of Warborough. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the community's desire to maintain these by providing a recommendation of CIL expenditure (Policy C4) on:
 - Providing a long-term solution to shop/PO premises, which currently are located in part of a private house;
 - Registering the Six Bells pub as a community asset;
 - Improving parking on the Green which will benefit all local businesses based around this area.

Tourism

- There are glimpses of the allocated site in Policy H2 from the Green South through the gardens of properties lying between them. We do not adjudge these to be significant enough to impact upon the Green's attraction to those tourists who visit it due to its association with film and TV programmes (particularly 'Midsomer Murders').

Summary of the Assessment

The assessment indicates that the preferred policies of the WSNP have avoided leading to any significant, negative environmental, social, or economic effects and will contribute, overall, to achieving a sustainable pattern of growth and consolidation in the village.

Some of the policies will have positive effects, particularly in terms sustainability objectives which encompass meeting local housing needs, supporting infrastructure and contributing to a thriving community and local economy. Notwithstanding some negative effects which may accrue from new development with regard to biodiversity, waste and climate change, other policies will collectively ensure that the distinctive character of the village will remain unharmed.

8. Monitoring

8.1 Introduction

Under the SEA Directive, there is a statutory requirement to monitor the environmental impacts of the implementation of the plan. The purpose of monitoring is to measure the environmental effects of a plan, as well as to measure success against the plan's objectives.

8.2 Monitoring indicators for the Neighbourhood Plan

WSNP steering committee developed a full range of sustainability objectives which include environmental, social and economic issues which are the SEA objectives that have been used to assess this Plan for sustainability. These objectives have been derived from the Interim Sustainability Objectives of the 2033 South Oxfordshire DC Local Plan.

The steering committee developed a series of indicative monitoring indicators for these sustainability objectives which are set out in table 9.1 below. These indicators will need to be discussed with the District Council and will likely be informed by the monitoring indicators on the SODC Local Plan which are 'currently under consideration and will be included within the next stage of the SA and Plan making process'. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out further information about timing and responsibilities for monitoring over the Plan period.

Table 8.1 Monitoring indicators for the Neighbourhood Plan

SEA/SA objectives	Guiding questions	Proposed monitoring indicators
1 To conserve and enhance biodiversity and ecological networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it conserve and increase the amount of tree cover • Will it protect any statutory designated sites? • Will it protect non-statutory sites of local importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the condition of local habitats
2 To improve efficiency in land use and to conserve and or enhance open spaces, greenbelt and countryside in particular, those areas designated for their landscape importance, minerals, biodiversity and high soil quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve efficiency in land use? • Will it conserve or enhance open spaces? • Will it conserve or enhance soils and minerals? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total hectares of agricultural land • Any mineral sterilisation
3 To reduce the risk of, and damage from, flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it avoid increasing flood risk? • Will it help mitigate existing level of flood risk? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments incorporating SUDS • Number of developments reducing risk of surface run-off • Number of properties at risk from flooding
4 To seek to address the causes and effects of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments including energy efficiency measures or renewables
5 To reduce harm to the environment by seeking to minimise pollution of all kinds, especially water, air, light, soil and noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it conserve and enhance the quality of rivers? • Will it impact on groundwater quality? • Will it increase light pollution? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River quality • Air quality and noise monitoring • Number of schemes to reduce soil and water pollution • Number of schemes adhering to Dark Sky guidelines

SEA/SA objectives		Guiding questions	Proposed monitoring indicators
6	To seek to minimise waste generation and encourage the reuse of waste through recycling, compost, or energy recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce waste production? • Will it increase re-use? • Will it increase the use of recycled / reclaimed materials in construction? • Will it encourage recycling, reuse and the use of renewable resources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments incorporating adequate onsite storage for waste and recycling bins • Number of developments which include energy efficiency measures
7	Support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable the community to provide local services and solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it develop and sustain community identity? • Will it increase local volunteering and involvement/ membership of local groups and organisations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new volunteers and increase in membership of local groups and organisations
8	To help create safe places for people to use and for businesses to operate, to reduce anti-social behaviour and reduce crime and the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce social isolation and crime? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime statistics following implementation of the plan
9	To help to provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home and in a decent environment supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide the type of homes that local people need? • Will the local infrastructure be able to support it? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of households rented from the Council or in Housing Association / Registered Social Landlords properties • Percentage of new housing which is affordable • Average house price compared with average earnings • Quality of Life survey • Indices of Multiple Deprivation • Ability of new schemes to connect to main utilities
10	To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need to travel by car and shorten the length of journeys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce trip generation by car? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to employment, key services and facilities by means other than car

SEA/SA objectives		Guiding questions	Proposed monitoring indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage use of alternative transport modes such as walking and cycling? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of schemes to improve footpath access • Number of schemes that provide safe crossing points.
11	To ensure development proposals do not exacerbate existing traffic and road safety and where possible, improves it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the incidence of accidents, including measures to promote road safety and casualty reduction? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people injured in accidents • Number of schemes that incorporate traffic calming measures • Availability of off-road car parking spaces
12	To maintain and improve people's health, well-being, and community cohesion and support voluntary, community and faith groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it develop and sustain community identity? • Will it add to opportunities for exercise., fresh air etc.? • Will local infrastructure be sufficient to support it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new volunteers and increase in membership of local groups and organisations
13	To improve accessibility for everyone to health, education, recreation, cultural and community facilities and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve access to services? • Will it increase local volunteering and involvement/ membership of local groups and organisations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new volunteers and increase in membership of local groups and organisations • Availability of local school spaces • Distance to nearest health care provision • Number of schemes providing new opportunities for recreation. • Number of local sports groups
14	<p>To conserve and enhance the historic environment, including archaeological resources</p> <p>To ensure that new development is of high-quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it conserve local heritage and buildings? • Will it retain/ enhance landscape character including historic landscape character? • Will it develop a stronger sense of place and local distinctiveness? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of buildings at risk • Number of archaeological sites at risk • Conservation Area Appraisal updates and Local Heritage Area Appraisal

SEA/SA objectives		Guiding questions	Proposed monitoring indicators
15	To assist in the development of small firms that maintain and enhance the rural economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it support a thriving rural economy? • Will it generate new employment? • Will it affect 'out-commuting'? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments that support a thriving, low-impact local economy (e.g. new facilities) • Number of new businesses • Number of new homeworkers
16	To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote sustainable tourism? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of visitor numbers related to tourism • Number of new tourism initiatives

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report- final version

[Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report](#) on the Parish website with revisions and additions that were made in response to comments received.

Appendix 2: Technical Site Assessment Report

[Technical Site Assessment](#)

Appendix 3: Policy context

Relevant Policies and Programmes

Documents assessed in the review of the policy context for key messages were:

Policy, Plan or Programme	Description
European/International	
Kyoto Climate Change Protocol, 1997 and subsequent 2015 Paris agreement on climate change	Aims to keep global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius and aim to keep it below 1.5 degrees Celsius by reducing emissions, and to mitigate impacts of climate change.
The European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (The Habitats Directive) 1992	Relevant objectives of the Directive are: a. to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna. There are no Special Areas of Conservation or Special Protection Areas in Warborough and Shillingford
European Sustainable Development Strategy, May 2001	Objectives and priorities focus on: a. limiting climate change and increasing the use of clean energy; b. addressing threats to public health; c. combating poverty and social exclusion;

	<p>d. dealing with the economic and social implications of an ageing population;</p> <p>e. managing natural resources more responsibly;</p> <p>f. improving the transport system and land use.</p>
The European Directive on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management (The Air Quality Framework Directive)	Relevant objectives are to maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases.
1996, and subsequent Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) June 2008	
European Commission Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, 2006	<p>The main objectives of this strategy are:</p> <p>a. preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions: • When soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on soil use, • Management patterns, and • When soil acts as a sink/receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source.</p> <p>b. restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil.</p>
The European Water Framework Directive, 2000	The overarching objective is ensuring sustainable water use, including both surface and ground water resources. River Basin Management Plans' summarise the actions required in order to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992	Objectives are: a. conservation of biological diversity b. sustainable use of its components c. fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.
National	
The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) & National Planning Practice Guidance (2014) (DCLG)	'presumption in favour of sustainable development', which 'should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking'
National Heritage Protection Plan Historic England 2012/13	Includes info on local planning processes for proactive and positive local heritage management. Info on connecting

	<p>communities producing Neighbourhood Plans with local museums and Record Offices.</p> <hr/> <p>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.</p>
National Environmental and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Established Natural England with responsibility for conserving, enhancing and managing England's natural environment by enhancing biodiversity and protecting landscape access and recreation.
County	
Oxfordshire County Council Corporate Plan (2016/17)	Key objectives and priorities for action until 2019/20.
Oxfordshire County Council Children, Education & Families Business Strategy 2015-16 to 2017-18	<p>Key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Keeping children safe from harm and especially those at risk of exploitation 2) Establishing the right balance of universal and targeted services to be able to manage demand for services 3) Embedding the most effective way to provide early help to children, young people and families 4) Supporting schools, academies, early years settings and other agencies to continue to raise achievement 5) Ensuring good access to the right support at the right time 6) Encouraging a positive experience of the transition from childhood to adulthood. 7) Developing a balance of services provided by public, private and voluntary sector organisations.
Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015 – 2031 (2015)	<p>Connecting Oxfordshire is our new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) setting out our proposed transport solutions for the county up to 2031, ...we have a huge challenge to enable people to make the journeys they need to as the population grows, and avoid damage to the economy caused by severe congestion, as well as to protect the environment.</p> <p>Over-arching transport goals: To support jobs and housing growth and economic vitality; To reduce transport emissions and meet our obligations to Government; To protect, and where possible enhance Oxfordshire's environment and improve quality of life; and To improve public health, air quality, safety and individual wellbeing.</p>

Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) & River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (Environment Agency)	Sets outs Thames Water plan to maintain the balance between supply and demand for water over a 25-year period. EA's Thames River Basin Management Plan aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystems and show how it is adapting to climate change.
Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (Oxfordshire County Council)	Conserving biodiversity for Oxfordshire's wildlife and people. The need for biodiversity action planning and protection of the main biodiversity hotspots in the county.
Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (Environment Agency)	Strategies to ensure water availability within the Thames Corridor, especially at low flows. Seek to ensure that new development supports greater autonomy of water supply and can manage during periods of low flow.
Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership Strategic Economic Plan (March 2014)	Oxfordshire has Europe's largest concentration of multi-million pound science research facilities, underpinning its leading position in advanced engineering, manufacturing and life sciences.
Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024 (2014) (Oxfordshire County Council)	Safeguarding Rights of Way and their management.
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners)	Emphasis on AONB Partnerships to protect precious environments. Local communities at the heart of delivery.
District	
South Oxfordshire District Council Core Strategy (2012)	Key policy document in the SODC Local Plan 2027 (which will eventually be replaced by the emerging SODC Local Plan 2031).
South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 (2006)	District-wide policies on planning.
South Oxfordshire Housing Strategy 2008-2011 (SODC)	Housing is one of SODCs main priorities, with support of homes for local residents.

South Oxfordshire District Council Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009-2026	Overarching vision for the District including the economic future of South Oxfordshire, social exclusion and climate change.
South Oxfordshire District Council Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Local Plan 2031 Refined Options (2015) and South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (June 2014)	Sets out sustainability objectives for the emerging Local Plan 2031.
South Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment (2003)	Landscape assessment is a tool for describing the character of our landscapes is increasingly recognised as an important first step in conserving and enhancing them, and for planning for sustainable development in rural areas. The aim of the SOLA was to provide a breakdown of the district into areas of distinctive landscape character; • to analyse and describe the components of the landscape that contribute to local distinctiveness; • to identify variations in landscape quality and condition across the District and its sensitivity to change; • to identify key landscape management and enhancement priorities, and to advise the council on the appropriateness of new development within different parts of the district.
SODC Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014	The SHMA is concerned principally with issues related to housing development, and considers in particular questions relating to: how many homes might need to be developed in the future; what mix of homes is needed; and the housing needs of specific groups within the population.
SODC The Strategic Housing and Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2013	Establishes realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability and the likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the plan period”.
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.
Local Green Belt Study for South Oxfordshire District Council (2015)	Warborough and Shillingford is in the South Oxfordshire Green Belt. Report recommends that it continue to be ‘washed over’ by the green belt.
SODC Employment Land Review (2015)	The overall purpose of the ELR is to assess the quantity, quality and viability of the District’s employment land

	supply and forecast the future demand for employment land over the next planning period.
SODC Green Infrastructure Assessment (March 2011)	This strategy identified where there are deficits in the provision of green infrastructure for the main towns and larger villages as a result of proposed new developments. Warborough and Shillingford is classed as a smaller village.
Current Supplementary Planning Documents: Design Guide (2008); Landscape Assessment (2003); affordable housing (2004)	SDPs provide guidance to planners, developers, architects and facilities managers. They also help the council achieve policies set out in its adopted Local Plan.
South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Final Report (July 2013) (SODC & VWH)	The FRA provides general advice for planners and developers on flood risk and other issues that need to be considered when carrying out development close to watercourses. Built up areas of Warborough and Shillingford are highlighted in the assessment.
	General guidance is given for planners and developers to cover all types of development, including: Permitted development within the Flood Zones and requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) and applying the Sequential and Exception Tests; Taking into account other sources of flooding; Surface water runoff and drainage; Making development safe; River restoration and enhancement; Existing watercourses, defences and assets; Developer contributions to flood risk improvements; The WFD and water quality.
	General advice: If a site within Flood Zone 1 site has been identified by the SFRA as having a known drainage problem, or has experienced flooding from other sources, then a detailed FRA is required... the proposed development should include the appropriate application of sustainable drainage techniques so as to maintain, or preferably reduce the existing runoff and flood risk in the area

Appendix 4: Acronyms, technical terms

AONB.....Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: an outstanding landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so precious that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them.
Regulated by Natural England

CIL.....Community Infrastructure Levy: The Community Infrastructure Levy is a planning charge introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010.

ECEuropean Commission: The European Commission is the executive of the European Union
WSNP Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Plan

SASustainability Appraisal: In United Kingdom planning law, a sustainability appraisal is an appraisal of the economic, environmental, and social effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.

SC.....Steering committee

SACSpecial Area of Conservation: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive.

SEAStrategic Environmental Assessment: the European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA Directive.

SODCSouth Oxfordshire District Council, the local planning authority

SWOT An assessment of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to identify significant issues in a structured framework.