

**Dorchester Proposed
Neighbourhood Plan Area
Consultation Report**



Contents page

INTRODUCTION	3
REGULATIONS AND GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE	3
PREVIOUS AND CURRENT CONSULTATION	4
PUBLICATION RESPONSES.....	7
APPENDIX ONE DORCHESTER APPLICATION	8
APPENDIX TWO NOTICE OF PUBLICATION	10
APPENDIX THREE SCHEDULE OF RESPONSES	11

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document

1. This document provides a record of the publication that took place on the Dorchester-on-Thames Neighbourhood Plan Area Publication. The main publication methods used to promote the publication, along with the main findings from the publication are also documented. This publication process is not expected to return a high consultation response rate, as it is merely looking at the suitability of the neighbourhood plan area. A higher response rate is expected with consultation on the main neighbourhood plan.
2. This publication allows us to consult with affected bodies regarding the suitability of the proposed neighbourhood planning area. This process must take place before the district council as the local planning authority can ratify the neighbourhood planning area for a settlement.
3. This document builds upon the previous consultation plan that was prepared for this stage. The consultation plan set out how we intended to consult on the neighbourhood plan area application.
4. A neighbourhood development plan is a way that a local community can come together and plan effectively for their local area. It provides real planning powers to local communities, allowing them to develop and shape their local area, using planning powers. Once passed through a successful referendum (a count of 50% or more), the document carries planning weight.

REGULATIONS AND GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

5. The regulations for this process provide clarity on what must be provided in order to make this a legally compliant publication process. As the local planning authority we must publicise on our website and in manner that brings the information to the attention of those that live, work or carry out business in the effected area, the following:
 - A copy of the area application (essentially a statement and a map of the proposed neighbourhood plan area)
 - Details of how to make representations; and ensure

- The deadline for the receipt of those responses and representations is not less than six weeks following the date on when the application is first publicised¹.
6. A full copy of the area application submitted by Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council is available to view in appendix one.
 7. There are a number of different guidance documents that the government has produced in order to assist local communities producing a neighbourhood plan. The council has also produced a guidance document to help local communities navigate their way through the suite of documents that are available under the neighbourhood planning and community led planning process. This is available to view by visiting our website www.southoxon.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans

PREVIOUS AND CURRENT CONSULTATION

Previous consultation stages

8. This matter has not been the subject of previous consultation. The parish council are at the earliest stages of their neighbourhood plan development process.

Current publication period

9. The publication period for this stage of the neighbourhood development plan process must cover a minimum period of six weeks². The publication period ran from the 20 February to the 3 April 2013. This met the six week publication period required. The publication period was officially triggered by a formal press notice submitted in the Oxford Herald Series. A copy of this press notice is available to view in appendix two.

The proposed publication period is broken down as follows:

Publication period	20 February to 3 April 2013
Processing of responses	8 April to 29 April 2013
Head of Service delegated sign off	TBC

This consultation does run over the Easter holiday period. However, we have not chosen to extend the consultation period, as our production schedules have not allowed this³. Although there has been no previous consultation on this subject, the parish council has been active in promoting the neighbourhood planning process locally. We therefore feel that a six week consultation period will be sufficient.

¹ Regulation 6, Town and Country Planning, England – The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, April 2012

² Regulation Six Town and Country Planning, England – The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, April 2012

³ Statement of Community Involvement, South Oxfordshire District Council, July 2006

Publication activities

10. We have used the following publication activities, as we feel that they are suitable for this exercise. We liaised with the clerk for Dorchester-on-Thames, when designing these proposals. The local knowledge of the clerk/neighbourhood planning group was important in ensuring that this publication process utilises the most appropriate mechanisms with the limited resources available to us. This approach has also allowed us to make use of any local contacts or groups/networks that they have identified. The identified methods take into account recommendations from our Statement of Community Involvement and minimum standards set out by regulations. The method of promotion used along with any additional information is displayed in the following table. The shaded areas are what could be considered as regulatory minimums and the none-shaded areas are those considered over and above this approach.

Proposed method of publicity	Aim	Date
Hard copies of publication material available in the district council offices	To provide an opportunity for local communities to access hard copy version of the proposed publication area and neighbourhood planning organisation.	19.02.13
Information sent out to adjacent parishes	To maximise communication between adjoining parish councils and the identified neighbourhood planning area. Identified parishes are Warborough, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham, Clifton Hampden and Berinsfield	19.02.13
Correspondence sent out to targeted stakeholders from the planning policy consultation database.	To improve the notification process associated with the Dorchester Neighbourhood Plan Area publication process. The stakeholders that were targeted were all statutory stakeholders, all planning agents and landowners and all those with a Dorchester on Thames reference within their address details.	19-20.02.13
Press notice released to Wallingford Herald	To help widen the notification process and pick up local community representatives un aware of the neighbourhood plan process.	Press advert running on Wednesday 20.02.13 submitted by 15.02.13
Information held on the council's website.	To provide a quick and easy method of obtaining publication data. We have also taken the opportunity of setting up a general neighbourhood planning section to again increase the ease of which information can be accessed from the web. The consultation will be conducted through the council's new consultation portal.	20.02.13
Information on the Dorchester on Thames Parish website	To help widen the notification process and improve information being disseminated to the local community. A specific neighbourhood planning section is in development and will be utilised when available.	20.02.13
Information/posters displayed on notice-boards around the parish	To help widen promotion of the neighbourhood planning area publication at a local level.	Throughout consultation period
Article sent to Dorchester News	To help widen the notification process and improve information being disseminated to the local community	Article submitted 08.02.13

PUBLICATION RESPONSES

11. In total we received five responses to this publication process. There were no formal objections that were received on the application. As stated previously the low response rate was expected. The breakdown of responses is as follows:

Email comments	5
Letters	0
Total	5

Key issues generated

12. The Environment Agency requested that they are kept involved with the development of the neighbourhood plan, as there are some potential significant flood risks and ecological constraints associated with the neighbourhood plan area. Both Natural England and English Heritage identified supporting material to assist with the development of a neighbourhood plan. A summary schedule of the consultation responses received is available to view in appendix three.

Outcomes

13. The results of this publication will be used by the council to decide whether or not to approve the Dorchester-on-Thames Neighbourhood Planning Area and Dorchester-on-Thames as the relevant neighbourhood planning body. The decision will be taken through delegated powers by the Head of Service for planning.

APPENDIX ONE DORCHESTER APPLICATION

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

(a) a map which identifies the area to which the area application relates;

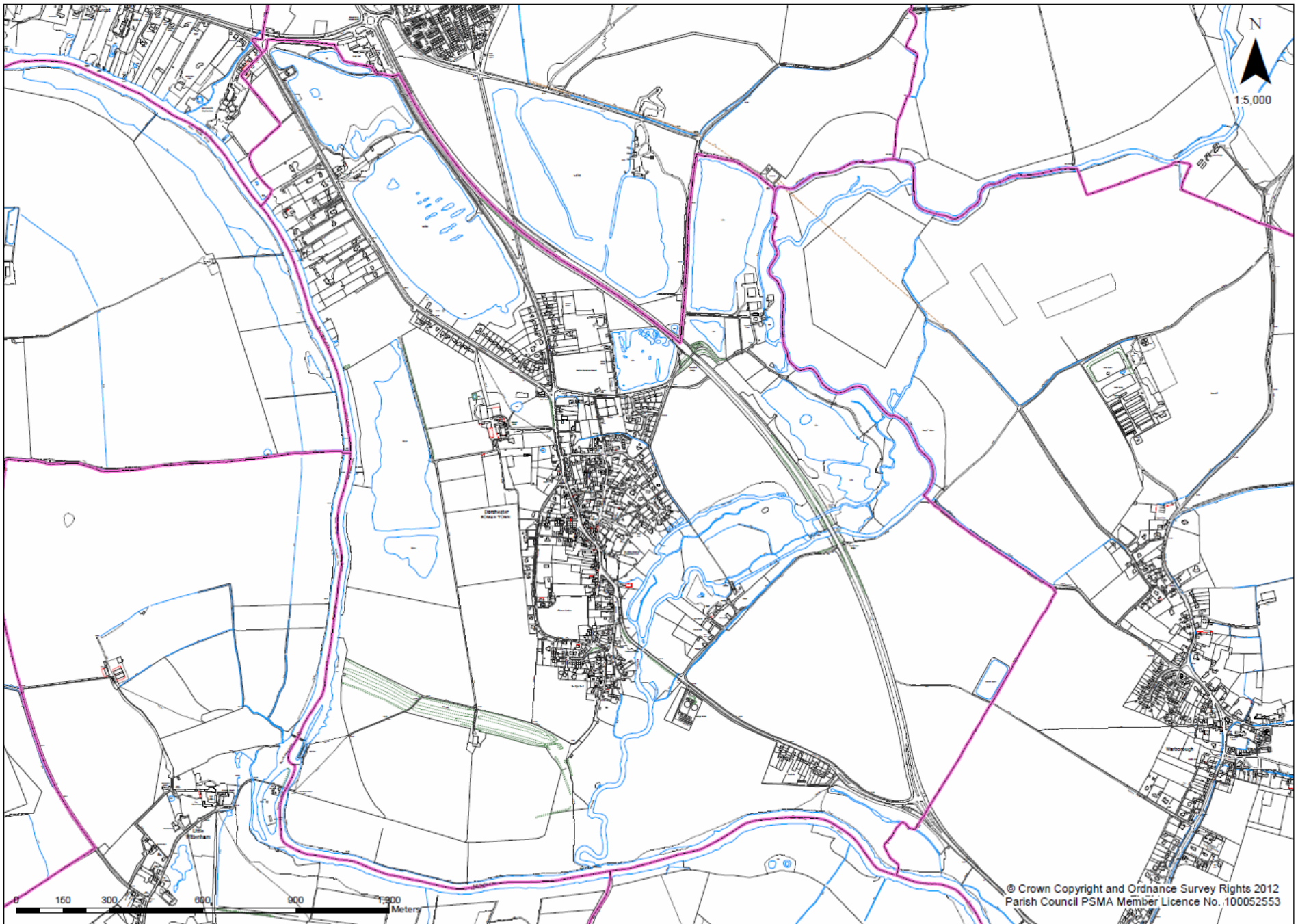
Attached

(b) a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and .

The area indicated on the map follows the lines of the Parish boundary and therefore appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area. Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council wish to make policies and proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan to cover the area indicated.

(c) a statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act. .

Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council is a fully elected Council and the relevant body designated with the responsibility for the future development within this area.



N
1:5,000

© Crown Copyright and Ordnance Survey Rights 2012
Parish Council PSMA Member Licence No. 100052553

APPENDIX TWO NOTICE OF PUBLICATION



SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of publication of proposed Neighbourhood Plan Areas for the
Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Plan
Town and Country Planning (General) Neighbourhood Planning Regulations
2012 and Localism Act 2011

Name of proposed Neighbourhood Areas:

Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Plan

The subject matter

Dorchester on Thames Parish Council as a relevant body has submitted proposals to conduct a Dorchester on Thames Neighbourhood Plan. The proposed area follows the parish boundary of Dorchester on Thames, but you can view the details of the area proposed and supporting statement/application by visiting www.southoxon.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans. The neighbourhood plan is a way for the parish council to help shape how their community develops over the coming years

This is not formal consultation on the neighbourhood plan, merely the identification of the potential neighbourhood plan area for the settlement.

How to respond

We are opening a six week consultation period. This starts from Wednesday 20 February to 3 April 2013. This is an opportunity for comment on the suitability of the proposed area.

You can comment using our online consultation system, which is available at consult.southandvale.gov.uk. If you have not already done so, you will need to register to use the system.

Please be aware that all comments that we receive will be publicly available and may be included on our website.

APPENDIX THREE SCHEDULE OF RESPONSES

14. Summary of responses received as part of the Dorchester-on-Thames area publication process. A full copy of the responses is available to view online, using our online consultation system southandvale-consult.objective.co.uk

Dorchester-on-Thames

Consultees	Response	SODC response
Aylesbury Vale District Council	No comments to make at this time.	Noted.
Environment Agency	Whilst having no formal comments to make on the suitability of the plan area, the agency would like further involvement as the plan develops. This is because there are some potential significant flood risks and ecological constraints associated with this area.	Noted. South Oxfordshire District Council will encourage the parish council to work closely with the Environment Agency.
English Heritage	Had no formal objections to the proposals, but encourages the parish council to engage with English Heritage via the district council in developing its neighbourhood plan. This is particularly true when trying to harness community interest in the historic environment.	Noted.
Natural England	Had no formal objections to the proposals and referred to some guidance that they have produced.	Noted.
Mr Bakesef	Apart from requiring further clarification on which area is identified specifically for the neighbourhood plan area, the submitted is suitable to undertake a neighbourhood plan.	Noted.