
GORING ON THAMES - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Sustainability Scoping Report

Version 1.0 - 14th March 2016

In Preparation for Sustainability Appraisal

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Section 1 - Introduction and Purpose

1.1 Introduction to Sustainable Development

The commitment to the achievement of sustainable development has been set out in legislation introduced at both European and National level. In 2004 the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was implemented in the UK. This sets out the requirement for SEA, which has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process. Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Development Documents such as the Goring Neighbourhood Plan (GNP) to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. An SA has a wider context, is more comprehensive than an SEA and covers the economic and social effects as well as the natural environment.

On the recommendation of SODC, Goring will prepare a full SA. The purpose of the SA will be to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are embodied into the GNP. To this end, it must demonstrate how the GNP will contribute to achieving sustainable development in its wider context.

1.2 Purpose of this SA Scoping Report

This document is this draft Scoping Report for a Sustainability Appraisal of the GNP. It sets out baseline information on a wide range of topics, highlighting key trends and issues for the Goring area.

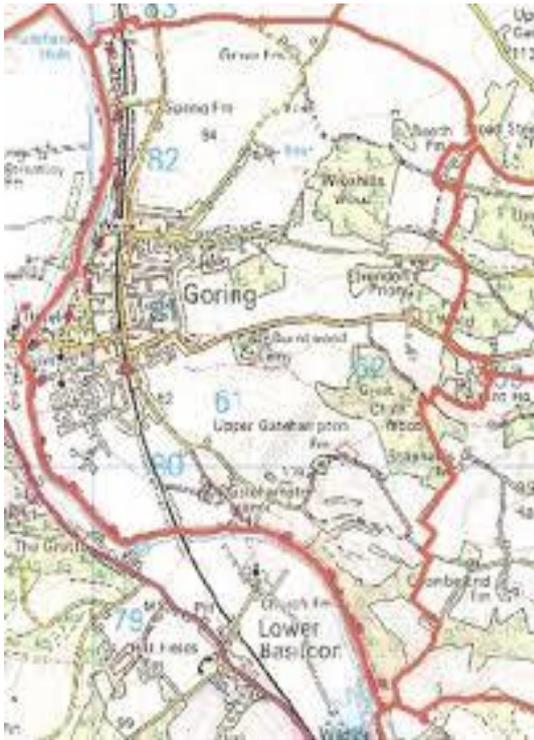
The purpose of this Scoping Report is to identify the key sustainability issues within the Goring Parish and to set the objectives and methodology for the Sustainability Appraisal. The SA will then be used to demonstrate how the GNP addresses some or all of these issues.

A key output of the Scoping Report will be the Sustainability Framework which will be used to guide and inform the GNP as it is produced and ensure that sustainability is a key influence in the choices made in the Plan.

This Scoping Report will be sent to key identified bodies for consultation over a 5 week period.

1.3 Introduction to Goring on Thames

Goring is on the north bank of the River Thames, in the Goring Gap which separates the Berkshire Downs and the Chiltern Hills. The village is about 8 miles (13 km) northwest of Reading and 16 miles (26 km) south of Oxford. Immediately across the river is the Berkshire village of Streatley, and the two are often considered as twin villages, linked by Goring and Streatley Bridge and its adjacent lock and weir. The Thames Path, Icknield Way and the Ridgeway cross the Thames at Goring. The Great Western Main Line railway passes through Goring, and Goring & Streatley railway station in the village is served by local First Great Western trains running between Reading and Oxford.



Goring is a relatively large village and civil parish with approximately 3,100 inhabitants occupying about 1,400 dwellings in Goring, Gatehampton and Cleeve. As a civil parish, most of the land is farmland and woodland on the Goring Gap outcrop of the Chiltern Hills (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – AONB). Its riverside plain is made up of the residential area of the village including its high street (B 4009) which has shops, public houses and restaurants. Goring village faces the village of Streatley (which has a lower population) on the west bank of the Thames and connected by the Goring and Streatley Bridge

Figure 1 – Map of Goring Parish

1.4 Goring’s approach to producing its NP

The Localism Act introduced Neighbourhood Planning into the hierarchy of spatial plan making in England, giving communities a new right to shape their local areas.

The GNP will take account the local circumstances and needs of the Parish of Goring and will be produced in consultation with the community. However, a principal requirement is that it is also in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area. The development plan in South Oxfordshire consists of:

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

It is also necessary for the GNP to demonstrate that it complies with other relevant legislation and policies and that it has been prepared in consultation with other professional bodies identified as relevant and necessary by SODC and listed in Section 2.2 of this Scoping Report.

The boundary of the GNP was officially confirmed by SODC as the Parish Boundary and the GNP process formally commenced in January 2016. The costs of the NP are being met by the Parish Council and available grants from governmental sources.

The GNP is being produced by a team of over 40 volunteers from the Goring community including a small Steering Group appointed by the Parish Council, with support provided by South Oxfordshire District Council. The volunteers are assigned to a number of different Work Groups to consult with the village and to progress different aspects of the GNP.

The Work Groups are structured as follows:

- Living in the Village – what the residents see as important now and in the future
- Housing Needs – what type of dwellings does the village require in the future
- Housing Design – the key design principles such as size, amenities, environment
- Land identification – establishing what areas of land are available and when
- Sustainability – identifying relevant policies and protecting the future
- Priorities – consulting with the community to prioritise local criteria for selecting development location(s)

Once in place the GNP will set out where future development should take place in Goring, the type and quality of that development and ensure that it meets local objectives and needs. It will help to achieve sustainability by ensuring that development meets the needs of people living and working in the Parish, whilst at the same time ensuring that adverse environmental impact is minimised. Particular attention will be paid to environmental and landscape issues because of Goring’s unique and beautiful position in an AONB on the banks of the River Thames between the Wessex Hills and the Chilterns.

Our published Roadmap is shown below in Figure 2. As can be seen, sustainability is an inherent component of our structure and methodology:



Figure 2 – Goring Neighbourhood Plan Roadmap

1.5 Structure of this GNP Sustainability Scoping Report

This GNP Sustainability Scoping Report is structured as follows:

- Section 1 – Introduction and Purpose
- Section 2 - the methodology for ensuring the sustainability of the GNP and production of the SA
- Section 3 - the sustainability policy context , identifying the existing policies that must be complied with and the key external bodies that must be consulted
- Section 4 - an overview of Goring from a sustainability context, showing the sustainability challenges, considering:
 - nature conservation and wildlife
 - townscape
 - landscape and geology
 - air quality including traffic
 - heritage and character
 - soils
 - water and flooding
 - human population trends
 - human health
 - material assets of the Parish
 - employment and skills
 - education
- Section 5 – outlines the Sustainability Framework which will be used to help evaluate different development options and inform the site selection process
- Section 6 – outlines the next steps to producing the full Sustainability Appraisal

Section 2 – Methodology for the Sustainability of the GNP

2.1 Introduction

The production of the SA of the GNP will follow the process advocated in the published government guidance “Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents,” issued in November 2005 and “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” issued in September 2005. This guidance suggests the five stage (A-E) approach shown in Figure 3 below. The tasks in Stage A have produced this Scoping Report.

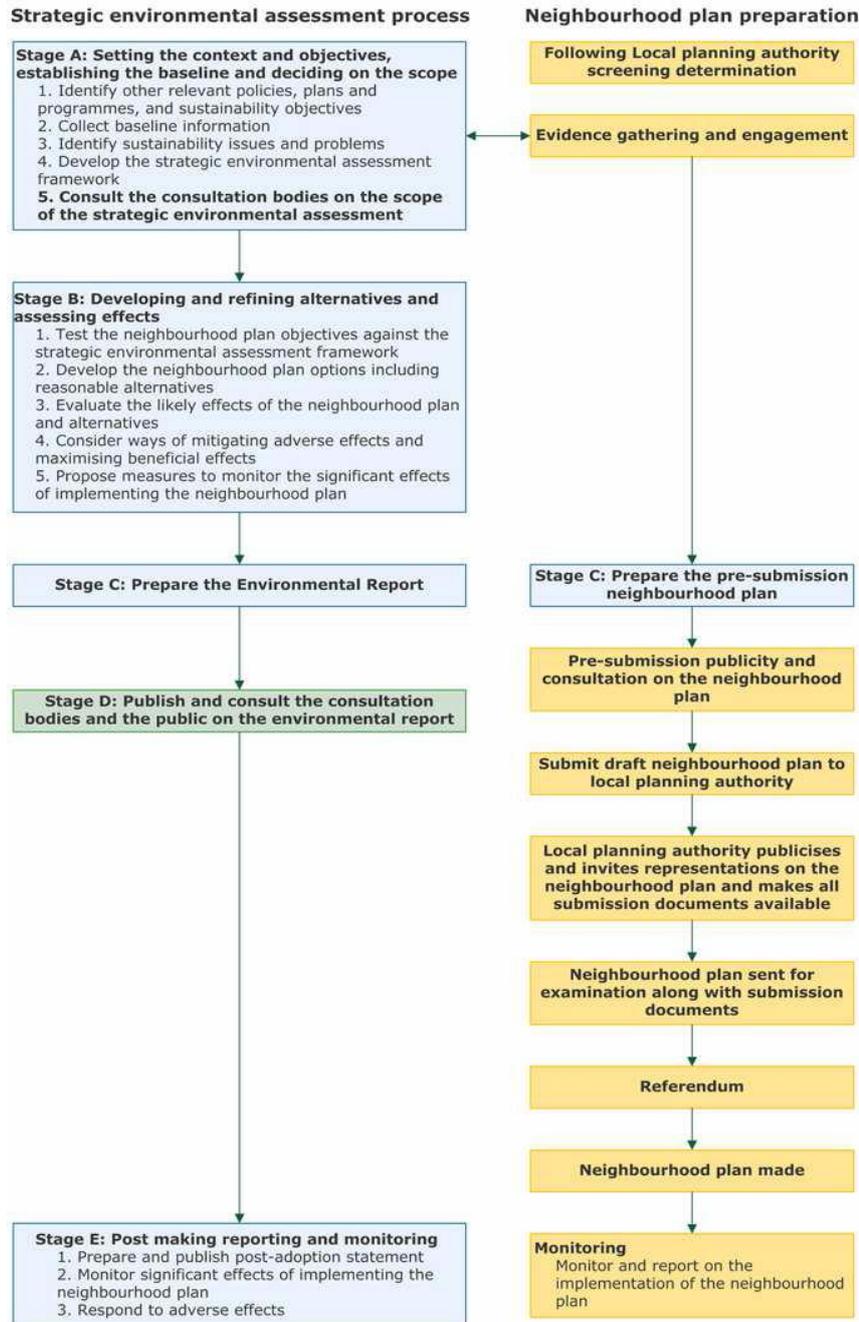


Figure 3 – Process for Producing the Scoping Report and SA

2.2 Stage A – Production of the Scoping Report

The five tasks in Stage A of the above process produce the Scoping Report which sets out the findings of Stage A and explains what happens next:

- Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and Sustainable development objectives.

The sustainability objectives of other plans, policies or programmes (PPPs) may influence those of the GNP. As such, Section 3 of this document presents a review of the policy context and the sustainability objectives, targets or specific requirements they contain.

SODC carried out a context review for its Scoping Report supporting the SODC Core Strategy. Goring's NP is a local part of the implementation of the Core Strategy and thus makes extensive use of the SODC context review.

- Stage A2: Collecting baseline information

The collection of baseline information is required under the SEA Directive. This information provides a starting point for assessing the likely effects of the GNP and identifying sustainability issues. The SEA Directive suggests that the SA should describe the baseline environment of the neighbourhood in terms of:

- Nature conservation (biodiversity, flora & fauna)
- landscape and townscape
- heritage and archaeology
- material assets
- human population
- human health
- soils and geology
- water
- air quality
- climate factors

The early stages of the GNP process included a review of the evidence in the two Village Plans 2006 and July 2013, information from the SODC Core Strategy and the community profiles for Goring (produced by ARCE and ONS)

Data will be collected for all of these considerations to support the Sustainability Framework by providing, where possible:

- information on the current situation and trends
- details of any established targets and how the current situation relates to these
- information on particularly sensitive or important features of locations impacted by the GNP. Where detailed information is not available, projections from district or national data will be used if appropriate.

- Stage A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

Analysis of the data from the sources mentioned in Stage A2 shows that within Goring certain sustainability issues are more significant than in other places, for example housing and the protection of the AONB. Such issues are highlighted in Section 4 (Sustainability Context for Goring) and will get specific focus in the Framework and SA.

Residents will be encouraged to voice their particular concerns and priorities and will be widely consulted to ensure that their views are taken into account.

- Stage A4: Developing the SA framework

A Sustainability Framework has been developed for use during Stage B to test the emerging GNP and options.

The objectives for this Framework are derived by tailoring those developed for the SODC Sustainability Appraisal to reflect the particular situation of Goring based on initial research and consultation (see Section 5).

Residents will be encouraged to voice their views on all matters at open meetings, through questionnaires and through the already active website (www.Goringplan.co.uk). This may lead to modifications of the sustainability objectives in the Framework. Any modifications will be tested against the SODC objectives to ensure consistency.

- Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

The draft scoping report will be sent to:

- (a) SODC
- (b) the 3 statutory consultees:
 - The Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Natural England
- (c) 3 additional bodies recommended by SODC
 - The Chiltern Conservation Board
 - Oxfordshire CC Highways
 - Thames Water

Observations and suggestions received from these consultations will be evaluated and, if appropriate, used to amend the SA process and focus.

Importantly, because of Goring's unique attributes, Sustainability has been a key consideration from the outset. Early activity has included:

- (a) using the SODC Core Strategy SA objectives as a framework to ensure compliance with higher level policy (see Section 5)
- (b) checking the GNP initial Sustainability objectives against the SODC Core Strategy SA objectives (Table 5.2 (b))

Section 3 – Policy Context

3.1 Introduction to Policy Context

The SODC Review and Core Strategy examines the international, national, regional (South East England), and local (County and District) plans and policies.

This Scoping Report (Section 3) focuses on summarising the relevant regional and local plans and policies which could influence the GNP. It is assumed that relevant international and national sustainability objectives are contained within the regional and local plans and policies and are integrated in the SODC Core Strategy.

The results of this review have been used to identify key issues for Goring, to inform the baseline data and have been incorporated into the Sustainability Framework (Section 5). In so doing we note SODC's recognition that:

- no list of plans or policies can ever be exhaustive and that SODC has selected those considered to be of particular relevance to the planning system
- new or revised plans and policies may emerge. The regulatory context will therefore be periodically confirmed with SODC and, should it be necessary, changes incorporated within the Sustainability Appraisal

3.2 Local Policy Context

The following strategies and plans have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SA Framework objectives:

1. **South Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Appendix 9: Goring July 2013** - assessment of twelve sites identified as possible locations for dwellings in Goring
2. **South Oxfordshire District Council Landscape Capacity Assessment for Sites on the Edge of the Larger Villages in South Oxfordshire: Main Report May 2014** - brief summary of SODC Local Plan 2011 and Core Strategy (adopted 2012) policy in relation to the landscape aspects of settlement expansion in South Oxfordshire and including examination of sites in Goring for their landscape issues and suitability for development (also known as the **Kirkham/Terra Firma Report**)
3. **Goring, Oxfordshire Grassland Survey, GOR04 June 2015** - http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ecoconsult%20ecology%20report_GOR4.pdf
4. **Goring-on-Thames Village Plan 2006** - provides detailed, quantitative data on what the residents see as important for Goring and their views on how they would like the village to develop
5. **SODC Local Plan 2031 Issues & Scope Consultation Report February 2015** and **South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 Refined Options Consultation Report July 2015** - sets out a strategy for delivering sustainable growth in South Oxfordshire's identified and appropriate areas and sites for development
6. **Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment Final Report April 2014** -

SODC's Housing Services priorities and includes appropriate strategic mix of housing

7. **Our place, Our future: South Oxfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026** - part of the Oxfordshire Partnerships 2030 strategy and delivery plan. The Partnership's vision is that 'South Oxfordshire should be an attractive, successful, vibrant and safe place where people choose to live, work and visit. It should be a place where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and a strong sense of community'
8. **The South and Vale Community Safety Plan 2011/12** - addresses crime priorities of the South and Vale and sets out the way that the districts will engage with communities. It represents a group of organisations that, in addition to South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils, include the Thames Valley Police, the Probation Service, the Fire & Rescue Service and others
9. **Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2030** - sets out objectives that reflect the transport related aspirations in 'Oxfordshire 2030'
10. **Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2014** - contains strategies for various habitats in Oxfordshire
11. **Economic Development Strategy for Oxfordshire (EDSO) 2006- 2016** - produced for the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership, which is a network of private, public and voluntary sector partners. The Strategy deals with the international and business environment, skills development and infrastructure
12. **South Oxfordshire Scoping of Guidance and Resources March 2011-** summarises relevant policy guidance documents, studies and strategies produced at national, regional and local levels. It also identifies the key issues for both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework (LDF)

3.3 Regional Policy Context

The following strategies and plans will be reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the Goring SA Framework objectives:

1. **Chilterns AONB Management Plan and Framework for Action (Chilterns Conservation Board, 2005)** - the Chilterns AONB flows through and all around Goring. The Chilterns AONB Management Plan contains a comprehensive summary of the key issues facing the AONB and the management actions needed to conserve "this special place"
2. **North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-014(North Wessex Downs Council of Partners)** - there are views into the Goring Parish from the North Wessex Downs AONB. The Management Plan describes how best to conserve and enhance the landscape, to increase everyone's understanding and enjoyment of it, and to encourage the social and economic well-being of those who live within it
3. **Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (DEFRA 2011)** - a strategy to guide UK conservation efforts in England over the next decade, including the ambition to halt overall loss of England's biodiversity by 2020.
4. **The South East Biodiversity Strategy (SEBS) (South East England Biodiversity Forum) 2009** - provides a coherent vision and framework for action to safeguard and enhance the regions biodiversity and wildlife

5. **The Environment Agency Corporate Plan 2011-15** - sets out the EA's priorities for the period and describes how the Agency will, in its words, protect and improve the environment and make it a better place for people and wildlife
6. **South East England Councils 2015-2016 (SEEC)** – data derived from the work of the SEEC and relevant to the GNP
7. **Regional Housing Strategy 2008 -2011 (South East Regional Assembly)** – review of the Regional Housing Strategy carried out by the Southeast England Regional Assembly 2008. It updates the region's housing evidence base and includes feedback from consultation responses. The Assembly's highest priority is to increase the supply of affordable homes, particularly social rented housing
8. **Water Resources for the Future – A Strategy for the Thames Region, Environment Agency (2009)** - the key vision for this strategy is 'enough water for all human uses with an improved water environment.' It sets out a series of actions relating to water abstraction, development of water resources, and efficient water usage
9. **The Thame and South Chilterns and Vale of White Horse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies, Environment Agency (2004)** - the Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) contain an assessment of available water resources and governs the granting of abstraction licenses issued by the Environment Agency in these areas. The CAMS indicate that water resources are under pressure in both areas and as a result abstractions will be strictly controlled
10. **The South East Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of England (2009)** - the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East of England (known as the South East Plan) sets out the long term spatial planning framework for the region over the years 2006-2026. Targets within the Plan have been revoked by Central Government but the core objectives set out within the Plan remain relevant and have been taken into account in developing the GNP SA Framework
11. **The Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016** - the Structure Plan's aim is to protect and enhance the environment and character of the county, to support a better quality of life for all Oxfordshire people, and to support sustainable and appropriate economic development

3.4 Sustainability Context Messages for Goring – Summary

As a result of a review of the local and regional sustainability context in Sections 3.2 and 3.3, our initial summary of the implications for Goring are identified in Figure 4 as 'Key Sustainability Parameters for Goring'. It should be noted that the table is not necessarily exhaustive nor does its ordering imply any priority. Also, there are several public consultations, surveys and questionnaires planned or in process which will further inform these Key Messages. Thus they should be seen as an initial snapshot for this Sustainability Scoping Report.

GNP Element	No.	Key Sustainability Parameters for Goring
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Goring on Thames Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Scoping Report

Housing	1	Ensure that housing development contributes to meeting the social and economic needs of Goring, sustains the vitality of the village and that new housing helps Goring better meet the demand for affordable housing in the village
	2	Ensure that new housing development meets the numbers of additional dwellings required in Goring by the Core Strategy
Site Allocation	3	Adopt a sequential approach to identifying housing sites for allocation, with priority being given to re-using previously-developed land within urban areas. Re-use existing buildings.
	4	Adopt a sequential approach to the location of developments with respect to the additional traffic or transport needs generated
	5	Ensure that new dwellings are developed in appropriate concentrations as identified by community consultation
	6	Separate noise generating from noise sensitive land uses
	7	Create developments which are safe and where crime, disorder and fear of crime are reduced
	8	Consider the impacts of potentially polluting development and where appropriate apply the precautionary principle in assessing those impacts
	9	Ensure that dwellings are not subject to unacceptable flood risk and that any remaining risk can be managed by Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
	10	Protect open spaces, and sports and recreation facilities of high value to the community
Services	11	Ensure the needs of those living and working in new developments within the village can be met from existing, or easily enlarged, local services such as shops, transport, utilities, health, leisure facilities and community meeting places
Building Design	12	Promote good and locally appropriate design for developments
	13	Adopt measures for the reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste in new developments. Adopt sustainable drainage systems, where possible
	14	Incorporate renewable energy technologies in new developments
	15	Ensure that development is designed with the needs of disabled people and an ageing population in mind
	16	Protect the quality and character of the countryside and conserve and enhance the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's)
Conservation	17	Conserve and enhance biodiversity on designated sites and elsewhere in the parish and consider the provision of new habitats in planning new developments
	18	Ensure that new developments protect and enhance the water environment
	19	Protect the historic environment: buildings, places and sites of archaeological interest
Movement	20	Reduce car dependence in households by facilitating home working, more walking and cycling and by providing good public transport links to new developments
	21	Ensure that jobs, shopping, health, leisure facilities, meeting places and services are accessible by sustainable modes of travel: walking, cycling and public transport.
Local Economy	22	Ensuring new development enhances the viability of Goring parish and local centres

Figure 4 - Snapshot of Key Sustainability Parameters for Goring NP

Section 4 – Sustainability Context for Goring

4.1 Introduction to SEA Criteria

This Section provides a summary of the natural environment, social and economic baseline information for Goring. It draws upon the village-level data collected in a Parish Plan (2006) and from various district and national databases. The baseline information is as comprehensive and current as possible, but there are gaps in data coverage especially at Parish level.

The baseline data has been assembled for the criteria required by the Directive and the UK SEA Regulations. These criteria are:

- A. nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)
- B. townscape, landscape, and geology
- C. air quality and climate factors
- D. heritage and archaeology
- E. soils
- F. water
- G. human population
- H. human health
- I. material assets
- J. employment and jobs
- K. education and skills

4.2 (A) Nature Conservation and Wildlife Habitats

4.2.1 Introduction

Throughout the UK there are a number of priority habitats and wildlife habitats. These are particular habitats which are deemed to be of national/international importance. Their conservation is therefore regarded as a priority within the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) of the UK (referred to as UK BAP priority habitats).

4.2.2 Priority Habitats

Oxfordshire supports several of these priority habitats including calcareous (chalk or limestone) and neutral grassland:

- Acid grassland
- Ancient and/or species rich hedgerow
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Lowland heathland
- Lowland meadow (neutral grassland)
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Reed bed and fen
- Wood pasture, parkland and veteran trees

The majority of priority habitats are associated with designated sites such as county wildlife sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

4.2.3 Wildlife Habitats within the Goring Parish

- 67E04 Combe Fields (east)
- 67E07 Combe Fields (west)
- 68A03 Combe Fields (north)
- 68F03 Old Elvendon, Park and Griggs Woods (extends into Goring Heath and Woodcote)
- 68A09 Wroxhill Wood
- 68A10 Fiddle Hill

4.2.2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Goring Parish

- **Hartslock Wood & Nature Reserve (near Gatehampton) - Grid ref SU616 796, Site code 67E01**

- This chalk land site (42.2 ha) is one of only three in the UK where the rare monkey orchid grows alongside other orchids and flora, and several unique butterflies are also found on these slopes (Source: www.bbwt.org.uk and www.wildlifetrusts.org and Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study www.owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

- **Little Meadow Reserve 61 (next to the Brunel Railway Bridge)**

- Planting of flora native to the UK is undertaken and currently managed by volunteers

- **Withymead Nature Reserve (near south Stoke) - Grid Ref: SU601828**

- This is a 23 acre nature reserve: main habitats – reed fen and wet woodland, with significant population of Loddon Lily It is managed by the Anne Carpmael Charitable Trust, and aims to provide a haven for wildlife and inspiration to visitors and it incorporates the former, historic Saunders's boatyard

- **Thames Island (River Meadowlands) Site Code: 58V02**

- This island (area: 0.8ha) in the River Thames is covered by wet willow woodland along with poplars, ash, sycamore and field maple. There is a good variety of wetland and woodland wildflowers including Twayblade (which is a green flowered Orchid), Bugle, Creeping Jenny and Enchanter's Nightshade. Wet woodland is a national priority for nature conservation and is rare in Oxfordshire.

Most importantly the site has a very large population of the rare Loddon Lily estimated to be in the region of 800,000 in number. This wildflower is found mainly along the Thames in Oxfordshire and Berkshire and along the River Loddon which gives the plant its name.

4.3 (B) Townscape, Landscape and Geology

4.3.1 Townscape

Goring on Thames is part of a string of riverside towns and settlements. Many originated on terrace gravels from Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon settlement. Goring was strategic as a river crossing, a main west-east route and in the past, trading up and down the river. It is perhaps unique for two villages situated in different counties to operate largely as one interdependent community. But this is one of the features that make Goring and Streatley (in lower portion of the photo) a special place. Goring & Streatley have always been special in the geographical sense, as they were the only intersection of three ancient trade routes across southern England (the Ridgeway, the Icknield Way and the River Thames). They are still the only intersection of two present-day National Trails - The Ridgeway and Thames Path.



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Figure 5 – View of Goring from the Wessex Downs

Development of road and rail communications led to the growth of Goring as a commuter village. The village has pleasant green open sites such as the Sheepcot Field for football and tennis, Bourdillon Field and the Gardiner Recreation Ground which provide sports facilities for clubs focused on bowls,

football, and cricket. The Rectory Garden, in the centre of the village, is often used for community events and recreation. Historic buildings such as the Parish Church add to the beauty of the village, and large Edwardian houses (some converted into flats), set in spacious grounds, still remain throughout the village and contribute to Goring's unique atmosphere; an ambience to preserve and to maintain.

4.3.2 Landscape and Geology

This map highlights the landscape types within the parish, and its associated local character areas.

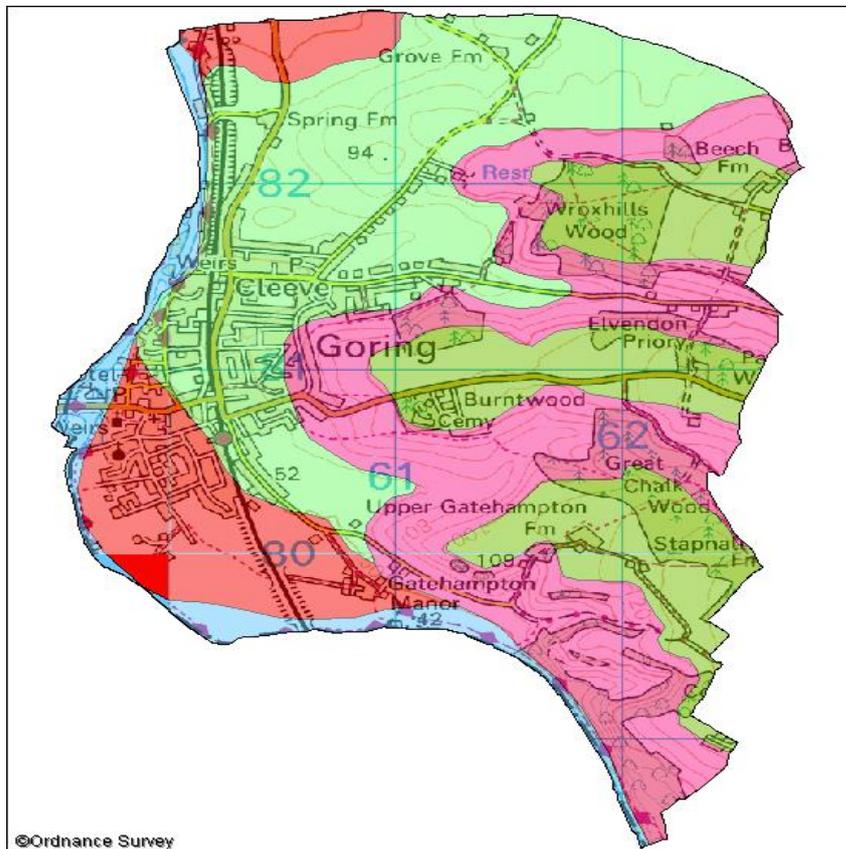


Figure 6 – Landscape Types Within Goring Parish

At the western end of the area the River Thames has carved a distinct valley, known as the Goring Gap, through the chalk uplands, dividing the Chiltern Hills from the North Wessex Downs. This marks the transition from the more open floodplain of the River Thames Corridor and the more constricted sections of the river downstream.

The flat floodplain is underlain by alluvium but with frequent deposits of river terrace gravels. The heavier soils generally support extensive cattle grazed pastures but the gravel areas support some arable cultivation.

The Parish landscape includes flat floodplain pastures and the different types of Chiltern landscapes including both escarpment and dipslope landscapes. These are both open and enclosed escarpments. There are chalk escarpments which form steep valley sides east of Goring and are mostly wooded with only small pockets of open land (Source: SODC Landscape Assessment Character Area 11 Thames Valley and Fringes).

The rocks under the Ridgeway are Cretaceous deposits: Gault clay and Greensand on lower ground, Chalk on the Chilterns north of the Goring Gap. The mass of Chalk was shaped by rain that washed away overlying soft sandstones and sediments. Insoluble flint mixed with Chalky clay forms the topsoil. Sarsen stones are the hard remains of the quartz sandstone cap. They were used as building stone both for grand prehistoric monuments and for cottage foundations.

(Source: www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk/the-trail/geology)

The landscape and visual character within the Goring Parish and surrounding area is of significant importance as there are only 33 Areas of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB's) wholly in England and Goring and Streatley are situated in 2 of them.

[The Chilterns](#) and The [North Wessex Downs AONBs](#) are of such distinctive character and natural beauty and considered so precious that they are designated and protected by law (1949 National Parks and Access to Countryside Act and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000).

[AONBs](#) are designated in recognition of their national importance and to ensure that their character and qualities are protected for all to enjoy.

The AONB landscape of this section of the Thames valley and its fringes is generally of high scenic quality, with its ribbon of tranquil floodplain pastures, wooded hillsides and picturesque parklands. Management to conserve and enhance these characteristics and qualities is the most appropriate strategy within this area.

Large-scale development of any kind will be inappropriate within open countryside areas and along the river corridors. The ability of the landscape to accommodate small-scale development will depend upon:

- potential impacts on distinctive landscape and settlement character
- potential impacts on intrinsic landscape quality and valued features and the overall sensitivity of the landscape to change
- visual sensitivity of the receiving landscape

In addition:

- development is generally inappropriate within the unspoilt floodplain pastures, wetlands and parkland/estate landscapes
- development within visually exposed landscapes (e.g. along the valley sides) will be highly prominent and is also generally undesirable
- landscapes on the fringes of settlements are particularly vulnerable to change and special attention should be paid to creating strong landscape 'edges' to reduce the urbanising influences of development on adjacent countryside and to prevent the coalescence of settlements

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Part%202%20character%20area%2011a.pdf>

4.4 (C) Air Quality and Climate Factors

Carbon dioxide emissions are improving in South Oxfordshire. The per capita emissions have decreased by 15% (between 2005 and 2011) in line with the average for the county, but have still remained higher than the Oxfordshire average (www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates). All local plans should contain planning policies aimed at strictly controlling developments and transport infrastructure which are likely to generate polluting emissions having a detrimental impact on the high quality living and working environment of the district. (SA Scoping Report 2031 <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/sites>)

4.4.1 Traffic Flows - Goring Centre, Comparison - March 2009 to March 2015

- Overview

Traffic growth in Oxfordshire has matched national levels over the last decade. Some 62% of journeys to work are by car and the average length of journey is increasing - in 2001 12% of people living in Oxfordshire travel more than 18 miles (30 km) to work, compared to 9% in 1991. The Government has acknowledged that this trend is not environmentally acceptable. (Source: Economic Development Strategy Oxfordshire 2006-2016)

Concern about housing expansion in Goring and perceived speeding traffic issues are consistent concerns in the Goring community. So, in March 2009, to quantify traffic flows throughout the village, the Futures Forum of the Goring and Streatley Amenity Association (GSAA) in conjunction with the Goring Parish Council (GPC), with the support of 26 volunteers, performed a traffic census at six key junctions in Goring, from Monday to Friday (07:30 to 21:00) inclusive.

At the behest of the GPC, another census was performed by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) over seven days (24x7) in March 2015, concentrating on traffic flows passing the Social Club. Fortunately it is possible to perform an exact comparison, both east and west, between the two surveys separated by those six years, as the raw hourly data is available.

The previous surveys were completed a few years before the closure of Whitchurch Bridge and approximately a year after the closure so this does not distort the figures.

- Summary

- Westbound

Averaging the traffic flows between 07:30 and 21:00 over the five working days, in March 2009, 2379 vehicles passed the Social Club westbound each day compared to 2262 in March 2015 – a decrease of 5%.

Busiest hours westbound in March 2015 were between 08:00-09:00 Tuesday and Thursday with 300 vehicles, and 301 vehicles between 17:00 and 18:00 on the Tuesday.

In March 2015, over 24 hours the daily average was 2806 vehicles with the busiest day being Wednesday at 2887.

- Eastbound

Within the same parameters, 2139 vehicles travelled eastbound in March 2009, compared to 2018 six years later – a decrease of 5.6%.

Busiest hours eastbound were 274 vehicles between 08:00-09:00 on Wednesday and 263 vehicles 17:00-18:00 on Thursday. In March 2015, over 24 hours the daily average was 2519 with the busiest day being Thursday with 2707 vehicles.

4.4.2 Road Traffic Issues

Over the ten-year period the greatest increase in traffic was for B Roads. This is particularly relevant to a rural authority like South Oxfordshire that has many B Roads. Vehicle traffic has been growing steadily in Oxfordshire and at a greater rate than in the region as a whole with 66% of the resident population of South Oxfordshire travelling to work by car (either as passenger or driver) which is significantly higher than the national average. However, the rate of growth has slowed since 2003 but the reason for this is unclear.

Wallingford Road (B4009), Reading Road and the High Street are the main through routes in Goring. Congestion takes place outside Goring Primary School, the Goring and Stratley rail station and the High Street at peak times. Concerns have recently been made over the potential development of a convenience store on the old Queens Arms pub site, as this may increase congestion at the junction of Reading Road and the start of Gatehampton Road. Pedestrian safety walking to and from the station and proposed store has also been raised.

Potential options which could help reduce traffic include:

- Walking and cycling
- Car schemes
- Car sharing and car clubs
- Shared taxis
- Taxi buses
- Community minibuses
- Dial-a-Ride
- Scheduled bus services

(Oxfordshire Community Transport Directory 2012/ORCC Oxfordshire Rural Community Council)

4.4.3 Community Transport availability in Goring

- The Goring and District Volunteer Transport Scheme - to help elderly and the disabled to get to medical appointments

- Oxfordshire Dial-a-Ride (countywide service) - this service operates across the county and is available for individual bookings made by members (members pay an annual fee of £5). The service is operated by Oxfordshire County Council Integrated Transport Unit (ITU)
- Readibus Dial-a-Ride - this service operates in and around the Reading area. Some journeys in Oxfordshire are financially supported by the County Council and Goring Parish Council subsidises the service between Goring and Reading on Thursdays.

4.4.4 Public Buses through Goring

- Goride run an hourly service (bus no.134) Monday to Saturday, between Wallingford market Place and Goring Train Station via the Stokes
- Oxfordshire County Council provide a service (No.135) between Goring – Streatley – Moulsoford – Wallingford on Tuesday and Thursdays
- Thames Travel provides a service on school days only from Reading – Pangbourne – Streatley – Goring – Woodcote (correct at July 2015)

4.4.5 Car parking

- Goring & Streatley Station has a 97 space car park managed by APCOA Parking. This overflows into neighbouring roads.
- Public parking for 57 is centrally available between The Catherine Wheel Pub and the GPO site. This is free for 1 hour with a ticket.
- On the opposite side of the High Street there is a large gated car park for owners and employees of the Old Brewery site
- There is time limited free parking in roads close to the High Street.

4.5 (D) Heritage and Archaeology

About 400,000 years ago Goring was subjected to the most extreme ice age in the past 2 million years. This invasion of ice is called the Anglian Stage. It was the melting of this ice which caused the Goring Gap to be formed with the hills and valleys surrounding it. Important sites in Goring Parish include:

- Most significant is the Gatehampton Roman villa (GIS608 799) of the 2nd and 3rd century with its adjacent field which is thought to contain Roman field systems, yet to be confirmed. Partial excavation close to the existing poly-tunnels took place 2013-15 conducted by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG).
- The Norman church with its typical late Norman tower (1086) with a stone cone roof.
- In Manor Road, the house on the corner of Ferry Lane is where Oscar Wilde wrote 'The Importance of being Earnest'.
- Other houses of importance are the medieval barn on the corner of Station Road, the Catherine Wheel pub, Hazel Cottage and the house with Elizabethan tiles hung on the front elevation next to the church entrance.
- Glebe Cottage next to the Miller of Mansfield is dated to 1796 with pointy windows in the Strawberry Hill Gothic style.
- The red brick church on the corner of High Street and Manor Road is historically important as are two shops further up the High Street, Virgo (formerly Nappers) and the carpet shop occupy early Victorian buildings.

4.6 (E) Soils

4.6.1 Agricultural land quality

The developed area of Goring is enclosed by both woodlands and fields which are used for a variety of agricultural purposes. Agricultural land is classified on a scale from 1 to 5 with grades 1, 2 and 3a being classed as the 'best and most versatile' (BMV) land for the purposes of agriculture. The level of significance attributed to BMV land has reduced in the last decade and recent surveys (see Kirkham/Terra Firma assessment Section 3.2) indicate that there are a number of Grade 2 agricultural areas in Goring that may be considered for development.

4.6.2 Allotments and food production

There are no public allotments located within Goring, however residents may apply for one of the Streatley allotment through the Parish Council. These agricultural endeavours provide both recreational activities and locally grown food. The SODC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facility Assessment Consultation document of April 2008 suggests that smaller settlements should provide 0.20 hectares of allotments per 1,000 people within the recommended 10-15 minutes walking distance

4.7 (F) Water

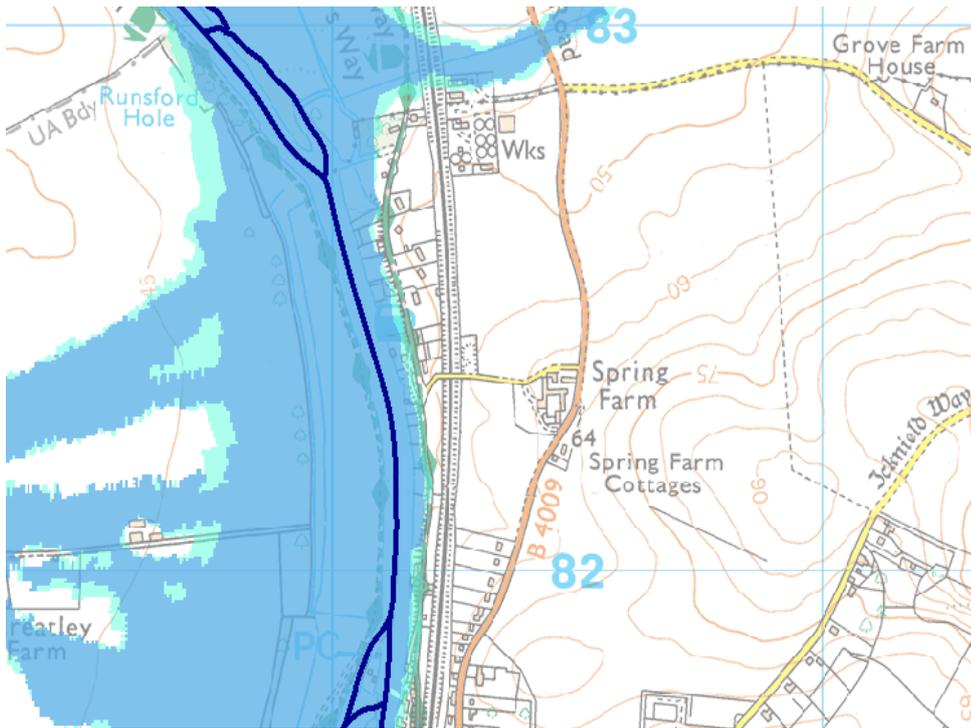
Goring lies above the one of the largest, if not the largest, underground well in the UK, known as the Gatehampton Well.

4.7.1 Floodplain and Floodplain Maps

The following maps (1-4) show the Environment Agency's assessment of the likelihood of flooding from rivers and the sea at any location. It is based on the presence and effect of all flood defences, predicted flood levels and ground levels.

The chance of flooding in Goring with these categories is described by the Environment Agency (see <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk>) as:

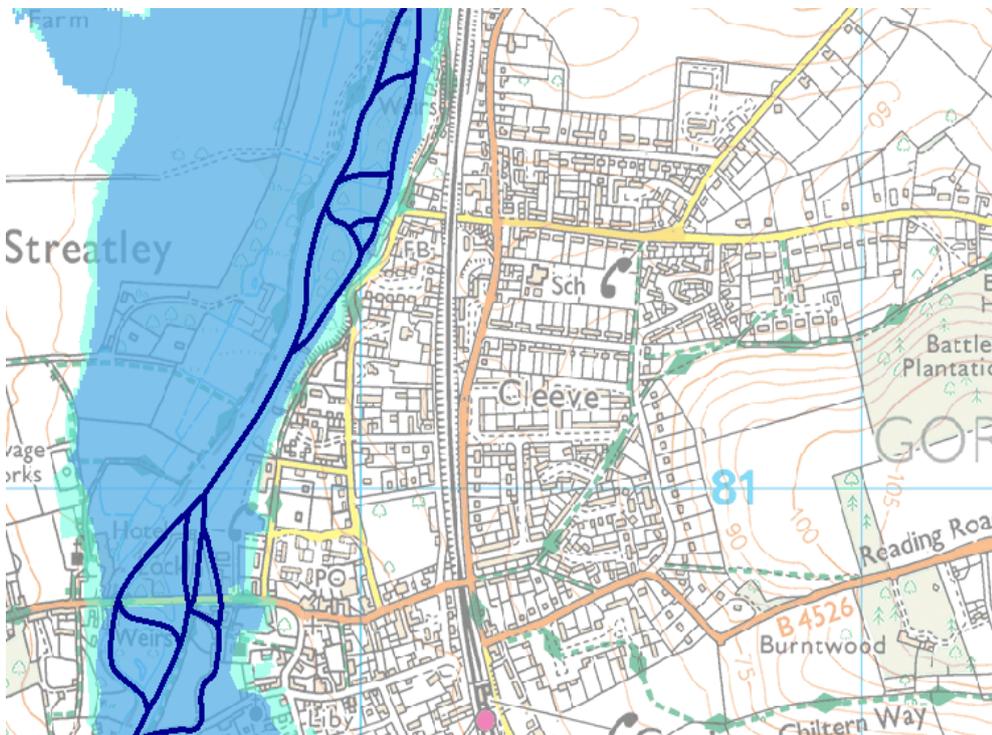
- Dark blue ■ shows the area that could be affected by flooding, either from rivers or the sea, if there were no flood defences. This area could be flooded from a river by a flood that has a 1 per cent (1 in 100) or greater chance of happening each year. For planning and development purposes, this is the same as Flood Zone 3 in England only
- Light blue □ shows the additional extent of an extreme flood from rivers or the sea. These outlying areas are likely to be affected by a flood, with up to a 0.1 per cent (1 in 1000) chance of occurring each year. (For planning and development purposes, this is the same as Flood Zone 2, in England only.)



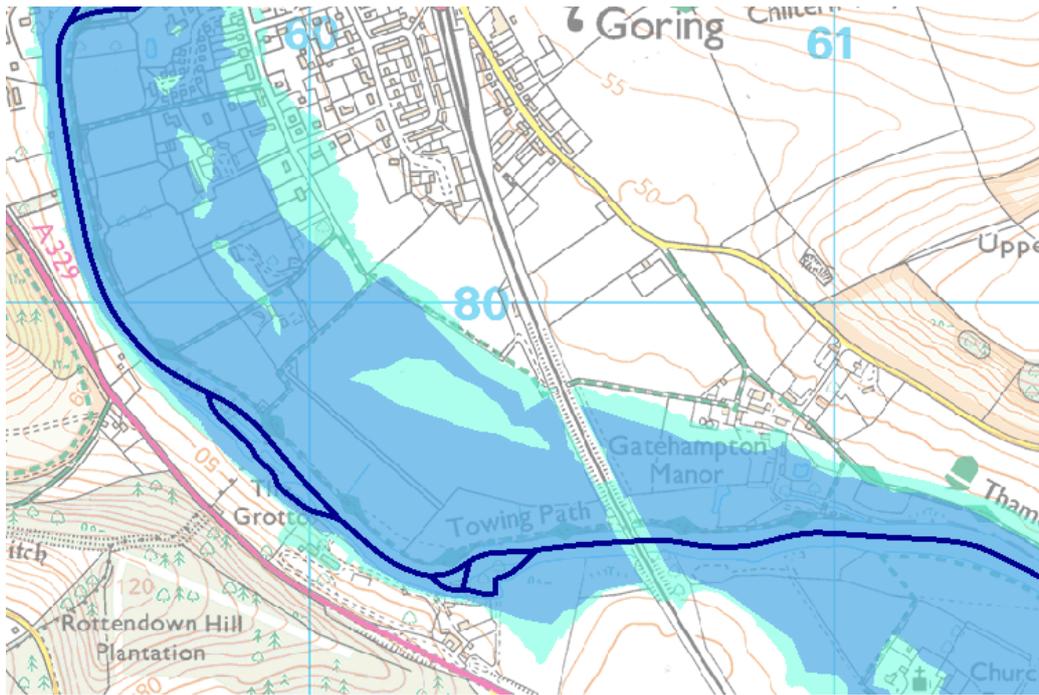
Flood Zone 3

Flood Zone 2

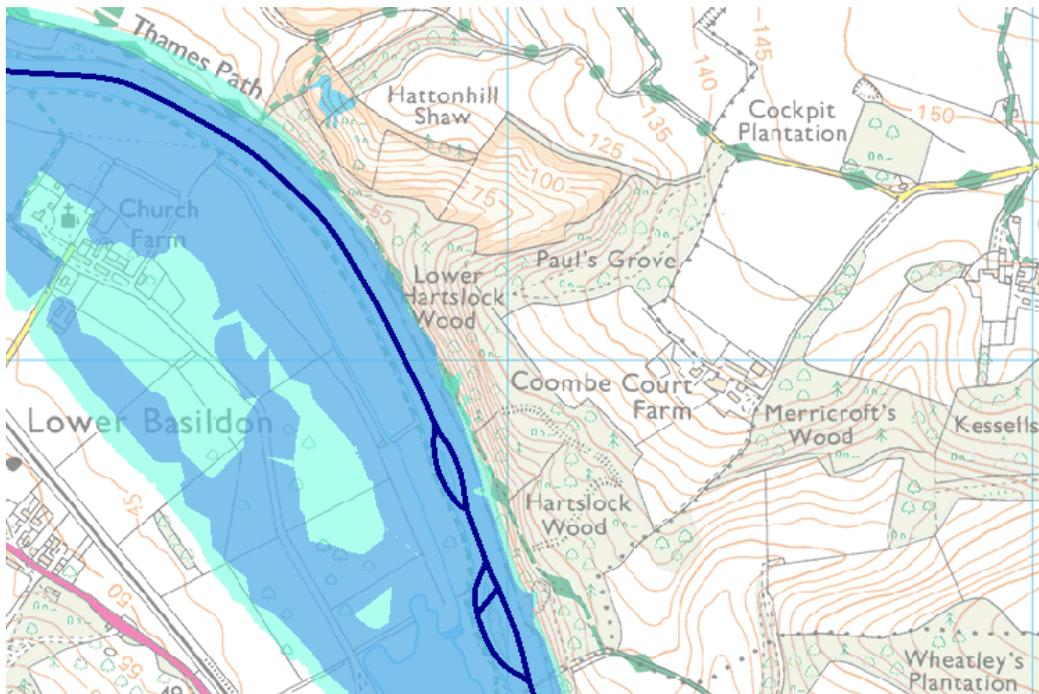
<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk> (1)



<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk> (2)



<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk> (3)



<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk> (4)

Figure 7 (1-4) – Environmental Agency Maps of Goring Parish Flood Risk

4.7.2 Surface Water and Risk of Flooding

Surface water flooding happens when rainwater does not drain away through the normal drainage systems or soak into the ground, but lies on or flows over the ground instead.

There are significant “channels”, man-made and natural flows described in the following sources:

- Surface water flows map see <http://watermaps.environment-agency.gov.uk>
- Summary of risks review JBA Consulting Report 2013 at: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk>
- www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/sustainable-drainage-systems-suds

a. Surface water

The Flood Map to Surface Water (FMfSW) shows some small areas of potential ponding and a flow path through the Cleeve area of the town east to west. However there is no small watercourse associated with this flow path, and there is no local evidence of surface water flooding

b. Groundwater

The Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding (AStGWF) map suggests that majority of Goring falls in the medium to highest risk categories for groundwater emergence.

c. Effects of Increased Extreme Weather Events

Changes in the climate will increase the extent of flooding on the River Thames, putting more properties at risk in the 100 year event. The severity and frequency of flooding will also increase. Increased rainfall intensity in the future may exacerbate surface water flooding. Wetter winters may result in more groundwater flooding problems.

Within the context of extreme weather and at the other end of the weather spectrum is drought. This region already has 25% less precipitation than the UK average and is likely to experience droughts within the predicted “extreme weather” scenarios that include hotter summers with frequent dry periods.

d. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Urbanisation reduces the amount of rainfall that can soak away into the ground and means that it has to be managed to prevent flooding. The main purpose of sustainable drainage systems is to mimic the natural drainage of a site before development so to reduce flood risk in new developments and the surrounding areas.

This is achieved by capturing rainfall and allowing as much as possible to evaporate or soak into the ground close to where it fell. The rest is directed through a SuDS management process which improves water quality to the nearest watercourse to be released at the same rate and volumes as before development.

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are the preferred approach to managing rainfall from hard surfaces and should be used on all sites.

There are many different sustainable drainage system features available to suit the constraints of a site. These include green roofs, more natural features such as ponds, wetlands and shallow ditches called swales.

Hard engineered elements are often used in high density, commercial and industrial developments. These include permeable paving, canals, treatment channels, attenuation storage and soakaways.

Traditionally this surface water has been combined with the foul sewerage system. More recent developments have used separate surface water sewers that discharge direct to local watercourses. Whilst this has advantages to combined sewers, there are environmental risks if misconnections occur between the two systems.

As the population density and the number of dwellings in Goring will increase so too will the volume of surface water that these piped systems must cope with. Looking forward, the pressure on the drainage systems will increase due to further development to meet the needs of our growing population and also as a result of extreme events brought on by the changing climate.

4.8 (G) Human Population

4.8.1 South Oxfordshire Population

As of March 2011, there were 134,300 people living in South Oxfordshire district. This was up from the total of 128,200 residents at the time of the last Census survey in 2001, an increase of just over 6,000 (+5%). (source: www.southoxon.gov.uk Census summary leaflet)

The largest settlement is Didcot with over 25,000 residents, having grown by almost 1,700 people since 2001. The size of the group aged 65 and over has increased significantly. From 1981 to 2011, the total population in South Oxfordshire increased by 15% (+17,900) whilst the population aged 65+ increased by 59% (+9,100).

In 2011, 3,375 people in South Oxfordshire were aged 85 and over representing 2.5% of the total population. This was above the national average of 2.2%. Mean age in South Oxfordshire is 42 years.

4.8.2 Goring on Thames Population

The rate of population growth and change is a key factor in planning for the future development of the village and hence the sustainability which must be built into the GNP. It impacts on most elements of the Plan including housing, employment, recreation, transport, health, education and retail services.

Figure 8 below indicates the recent change in Goring age profile.

Aged band (years)	2001	2011	% change
0 - 15	446	534	+20
16 - 24	203	175	-13.7
25 - 44	646	589	-8.8
45 – 64	943	879	-6.7
65 – 74	392	464	+18.3
75+	473	546	+15.4
Total	3103	3187	+2.7%

Figure 8 – Change in Goring Age Profile (Source: ONS)

These numbers show that overall the population of Goring has remained relatively flat. However there is a large increase in people aged over 65 and under 15's. There is a large decrease in young people aged 16–24 and an even larger decrease in the 25-64 year olds. These trends perhaps indicate attendance at higher education, jobs away from home or problems of access to affordable property. It raises the key issues of younger people being able to afford to get onto the housing ladder and remain in Goring and also of older people being able to down size. It seems to indicate the need for more affordable housing and cheaper 1 or 2 bedroom properties.

4.8.3 Housing

Figures 9 below show the different property ownership profile in Goring vs the rest of Oxfordshire and England at large.

Variable	Goring	S Oxfordshire	South East	England
All Usual Residents in Households (Persons) ^{1 2}	3,111	131,483	8,446,500	52,059,931
Owned; Total (Persons) ^{1 2}	2,560	97,190	5,787,815	33,740,906
Owned; Owned Outright (Persons) ^{1 2}	1,357	40,403	2,230,360	13,260,548
Owned; Owned with a Mortgage or Loan (Persons) ^{1 2}	1,203	56,787	3,557,455	20,480,358
Shared Ownership (Part Owned and Part Rented) (Persons) ^{1 2}	5	1,016	86,293	369,442
Social Rented; Total (Persons) ^{1 2}	179	14,349	1,104,161	8,570,417
Social Rented; Rented from Council (Local Authority) (Persons) ^{1 2}	17	1,871	467,019	4,628,071
Social Rented; Other Social Rented (Persons) ^{1 2}	162	12,478	637,142	3,942,346
Private Rented; Total (Persons) ^{1 2}	310	17,262	1,381,425	8,818,651
Private Rented; Private Landlord or Letting Agency (Persons) ^{1 2}	272	13,996	1,238,368	8,071,527
Private Rented; Employer of a Household Member (Persons) ^{1 2}	4	1,607	44,277	152,287
Private Rented; Relative or Friend of Household Member (Persons) ^{1 2}	33	781	68,564	448,845
Private Rented; Other (Persons) ^{1 2}	1	878	30,216	145,992
Living Rent Free (Persons) ^{1 2}	57	1,666	86,806	560,515

Figure 9 - Goring Parish Housing Tenure vs Oxfordshire and England (2001 – 2011)

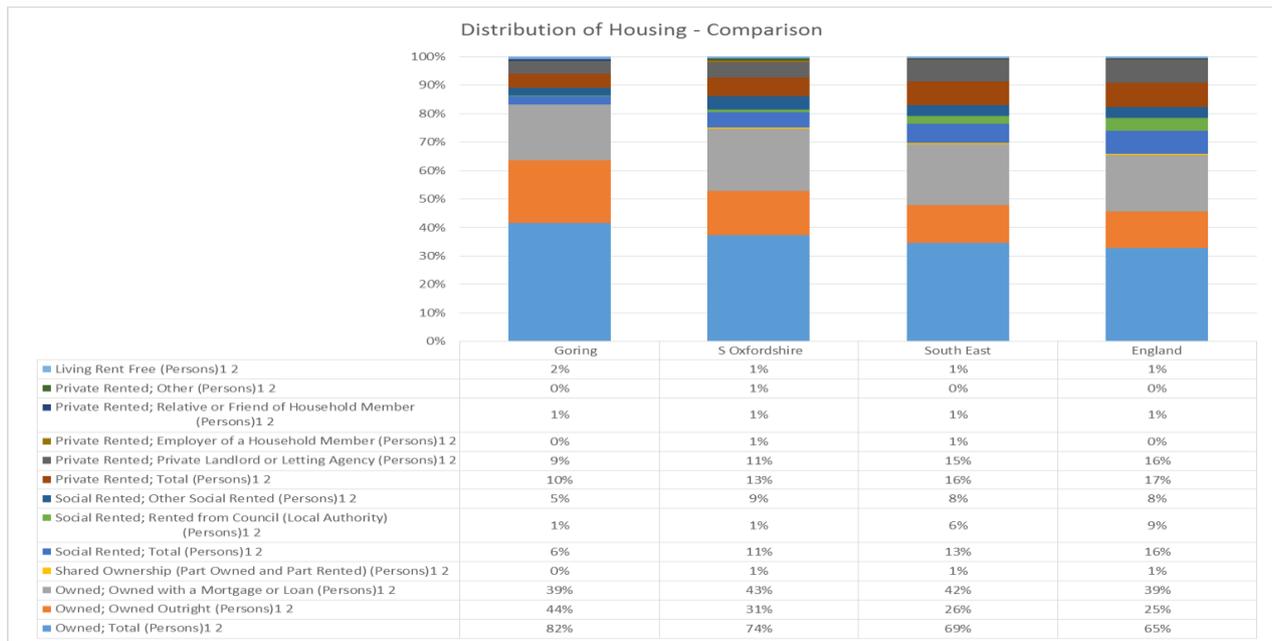


Figure 10 – Housing Tenure (2001–2011) (www.southoxon.gov.uk Census Summary)

Figure 10 above shows a significantly higher proportion of owned properties in Goring (82%) versus Oxfordshire (75%) and England (65%) indicating a relatively affluent and stable population. It also shows a significantly lower percentage of social or privately rented accommodation comparing Goring (16%), Oxfordshire (24%) and England (33%).

Goring Houses with at least one resident	Goring 2011
No Bedrooms	3
1 Bedroom	69
2 Bedrooms	261
3 Bedrooms	495
4 Bedrooms	397
5 + Bedrooms	150
Total Households	1,375

Figure 11 – Profile of House Sizes in Goring, 2011

Since these figures were collected in 2011, there have been several small developments of larger houses in the village, often 2 on each site. Also many owners are extending their properties rather than moving. This again highlights the increase in number of larger properties where in fact the future needs may be for smaller/ medium/ affordable properties for both the younger and older people in the village.

4.8.4 Crime and Public Safety in Goring

During the period of January 2015 through December 2015, 77 crimes were reported to the Thames Valley Police. In the period of January 2014 through December 2014, 79 crimes (approximately 2.2% of South Oxfordshire total) were reported.

In both years the majority of crimes consisted of anti-social behavior, burglary, criminal damage, and theft from vehicles (<https://www.police.uk/thames-valley/N379/crime/2015-01>)

4.9 (H) Health

The table on the next page compares health in Goring, Oxfordshire and England as a whole. There are few significant differences apart from in Goring there is a higher percentage of people with limiting long term illness or disability. This perhaps reflects the aging profile of the village community.

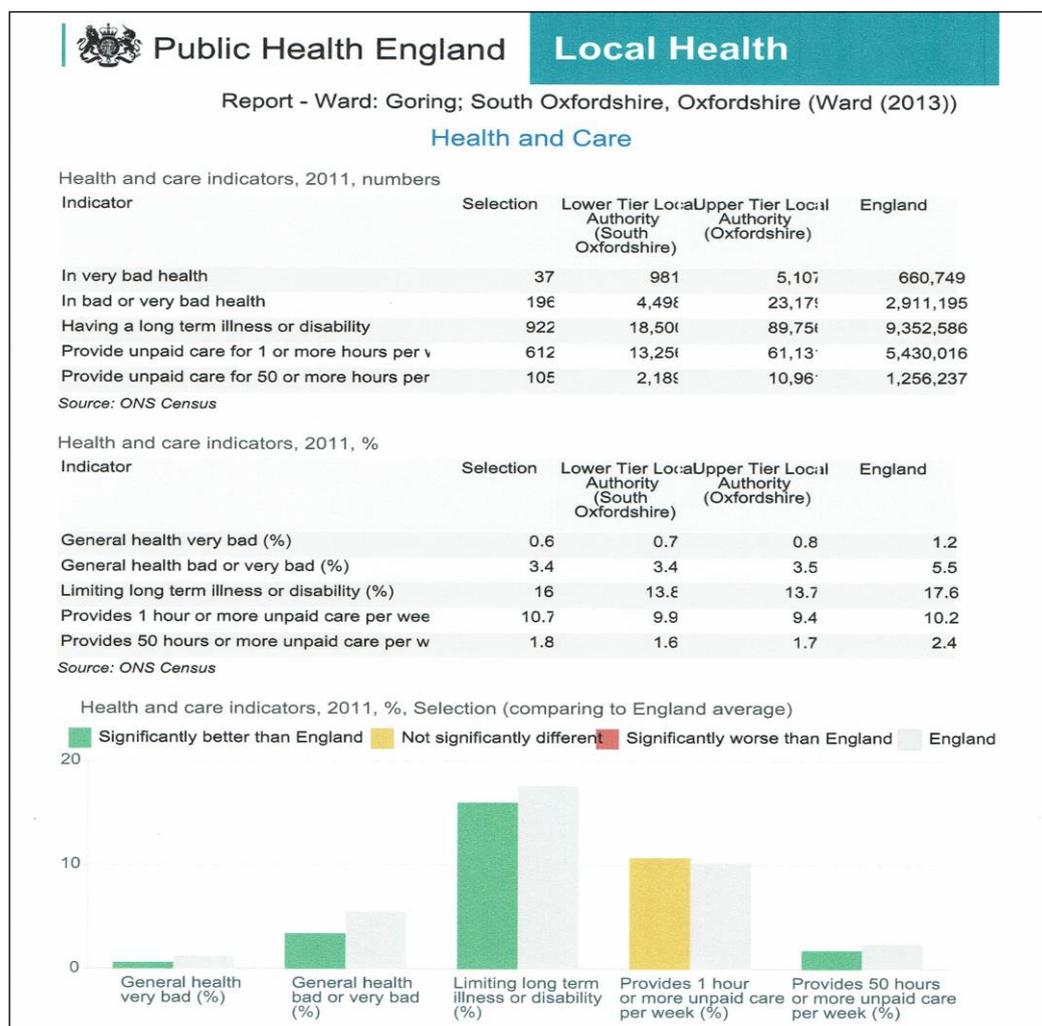


Figure 12 – Health in Goring vs Regional and England (ONS Census www.localhealth.org)

4.10 (I) Material Assets of the Parish

The **Village Hall** is situated close to Goring lock and the River Thames and is not only an architecturally distinctive building with a clock tower that is a village landmark, but it also occupies a central role in the community. Among other things, it is equipped with halls, a stage, public address system with hearing loop, kitchen and toilet facilities. It is frequently used as a venue for social evenings and meetings of societies and clubs.

The **Goring Community Centre**, centrally located in what was originally the old village school, conducts luncheon clubs for the elderly and the Youth Club and houses the **Goring Information Office** staffed by volunteers. As well as catering for the needs of residents and visitors, the Centre provides secure office space for the village archive and for the **Goring Gap News**, a much appreciated local news magazine also produced by volunteers.

The **Social Club** in the High Street is another well-established facility for all ages to meet and play snooker, darts or table tennis.

Storton Lodge is in Icknield Road near the junction with Springhill Road. It was built primarily as a Scout and Guide Hut and is used also for the Cubs and Brownies. It can be hired for village functions.

The **Library** is an essential part of village life with support of staff and residents. Situated centrally, it has an active membership of 2,500 readers, each using the Library on average twice a month. 6,000 to 7,000 books and audiovisual items are issued every month. It provides computers for Internet access, photocopying and scanning facilities are also available.

The **local doctors' practice**, serves Goring, Streatley, and South Stoke, and is teamed with the Woodcote practice.

Goring is still in the position of having **three active churches**: the Parish Church now united with the Parish Church of South Stoke and the Parish Church of Streatley, the Catholic Church and the Free Church. The Free Church also offers its hall for use when available, as a service to the community.

The three churches occupy attractive buildings of historic interest, conduct regular services and minister to those in need in the community, thus playing an important role in village life.

The village also has a **Sports Pavilion** in the centre of the village at the Gardner Recreation Ground which also has a **children's play area**. **Football team changing rooms** and a **tennis club** are located at the Sheepcote Recreation Ground.

4.11 (J) Economic Activity in the Goring Parish - March 2011

The Figures below give a picture of the economically active people in Goring and their professions. As can be seen, the ratio of managerial and professional people is significantly higher than in the District and Country at large.

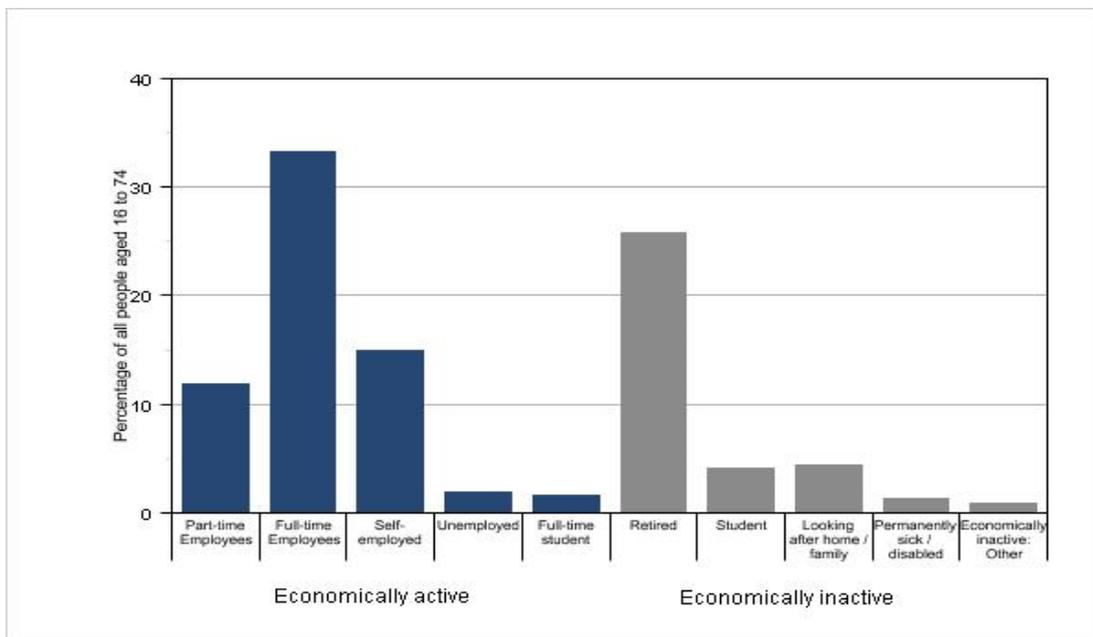


Figure 13 – Goring Economically Active/Inactive Profile

Variable	Measure	Goring	South Oxfordshire	England
Managers, directors and senior officials	%	19.9	14.4	10.9
Professional occupations	%	30.0	21.4	17.5
Associate professional and technical occupations	%	15.9	14.6	12.8
Administrative and secretarial occupations	%	9.9	10.6	11.5
Skilled trades occupations	%	7.7	11.4	11.4
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	%	5.6	8.1	9.3
Sales and customer service occupations	%	4.7	6.0	8.4
Process, plant and machine operatives	%	1.0	4.8	7.2
Elementary occupations	%	5.4	8.7	11.1

Figure 14 – Employed Goring People by Job Function (source: ONS)

4.12 (K) Education and Skills

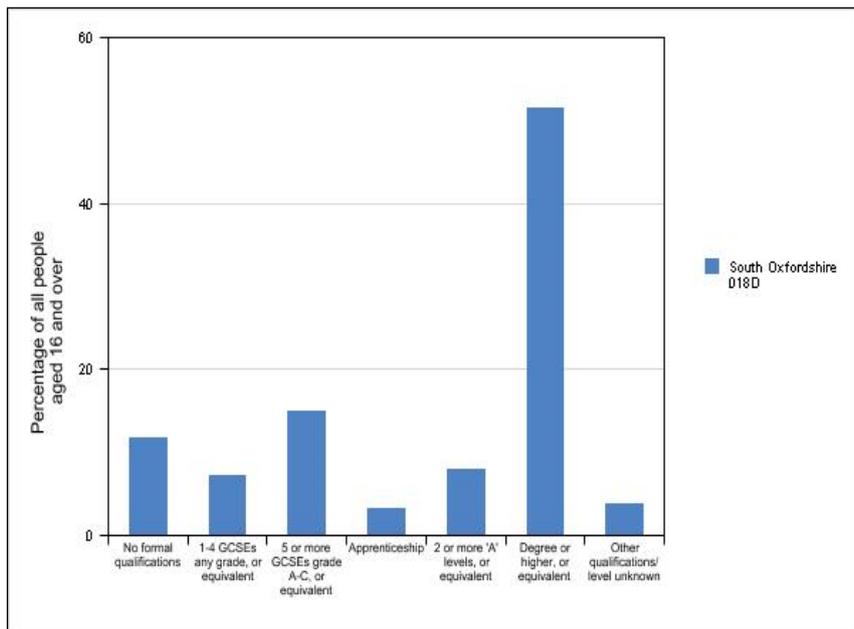


Figure 15 – South Oxfordshire Education Qualification Profile

Goring Parish has a pre-school and a primary school but no secondary school:

Goring and Cleeve Pre-School

- Located within the grounds of Goring Primary School offers a variety of resources and environments from the age of 2 until the child starts school. The qualified staff delivers the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework

Goring Church of England Aided Primary School

- Although a Church of England (Aided) Primary School founded by the National Society in 1855, this school is for the whole community. The school, with 236 students, welcomes families of other denominations and beliefs, and in the school's involvement in the local community including the use of the school for Community Education.

Section 5 – Sustainability Framework and Appraisal

5.1 Introduction to the Sustainability Framework

The GNP Sustainability Framework defines the key sustainability guidelines that will matrix across all other objectives, policies and priorities emerging from the GNP. The Sustainability Framework will incorporate local (Goring), district (SODC) and national sustainability policies and priorities. It will be used to guide and inform the choices being made during the production of the GNP.

The Sustainability Framework will be used to help evaluate different options for development in Goring and inform the selection process and criteria used to evaluate potential development sites. In so doing, and in order to accord with the SEA regulations, the environmental effects of options and alternatives will also be tested. Unless already available from previous SODC evaluations, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments will be conducted for all potential building locations. In particular, consideration will be given to:

- A - the extent to which the plan:
 - establishes a framework for developments and other activities with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions of these developments
 - complies with the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy
 - includes environmental considerations and promotes sustainable development
 - considers environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme
 - considers specific local environmental challenges such as waste-management and water protection

- B - the impact on those areas within Goring likely to be affected, in terms of:
 - effects on the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs AONB's which flows through and surrounds Goring
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)
 - value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to any special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, use of the land for farming or other uses
 - probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects
 - cumulative nature of the effects
 - impact on adjacent communities
 - risks to human health or the environment

5.2 GNP Sustainability Framework

Figure 16 below shows the GNP Sustainability Framework based on consultation with the Goring community in January 2016. Over 320 people attended this consultation and the Table shows the response from the community in priority order. By its nature, this is a snapshot albeit based on a significant sample of local opinion. The Framework will be updated if necessary from further community feedback in March and April 2016 and from feedback from the 6 consultation bodies mentioned in Section 2.2 of this Scoping Report during the statutory 6 week consultation period.

GNP Sustainability Framework – Objectives and Considerations		
Priority	Goring Sustainability Objectives	Resulting Checklist for the GNP

Goring on Thames Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Scoping Report

Response		
1	to ensure provision of affordable housing and a good mix of housing types	does the GNP contribute to and meet Goring's identified housing needs including affordable housing & social inclusion?
2	to prioritise any brown field sites	does the GNP promote redevelopment on Brownfield sites as a priority?
3	to keep the village character in design of new buildings	will the GNP ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the village's built heritage, including the Conservation area?
4	to ensure drainage is suitable to mitigate flooding and suitable sewage treatment capacity	will the GNP reduce the risk of flooding and avoid areas at risk of flooding?
5	to protect the AONB and enhancement of wildlife areas and measures to support bio-diversity	will the GNP protect, manage, and enhance the appearance and character of the landscape (AONB) and townscape and maintain a "sense of place" and local distinctiveness
6	to encourage the reuse and refurbishment of existing buildings	will the GNP optimise the re-use of previously developed land and buildings?
7	to ensure adequate automobile parking	will the GNP optimise the space required for adequate automobile parking?
8	to ensure open green spaces and allotments	will the GNP protect open green space and increase the number of allotments?
9	to ensure new development enhances the viability of Goring Parish and local centres	will the GNP provide opportunities for the creation of new businesses?
12	good urban design, creating safe, attractive, well-connected streets and spaces	will the GNP improve road safety? Will the developments produce designs that will minimise fear of crime?
13	to ensure development builds in facilities to encourage recycling, water collection, local energy generation, etc	will the GNP result in dwellings that integrate new methods to encourage recycling, water collection, local energy generation
14	to provide a good mix of community facilities in walking distance where possible	will the GNP ensure that the new developments are in accessible areas to reduce the need for car-borne travel and to encourage sustainable forms of transport?
15	to provide accessibility to central shops	will the GNP ensure that the new dwellings are in accessible areas to shops and services?
16	to contribute to the provision of varied local employment opportunities at a sustainable wage	will the GNP contribute to meeting the employment needs of Goring Parish?
17	to ensure improvement of traditional buildings are compatible with the original building	will the GNP protect, manage, and enhance the conservation of historic buildings and environments?
18	to provide facilities to support and encourage home working	will the GNP provide opportunities for the creation of new business in Goring Parish
19	to provide mixed-use areas, thereby reducing the need for travel	will the GNP ensure new developments are accessible to mixed use areas to reduce car-borne travel
20	to reduce the consumption of natural resources	will the GNP promote the use of re-cycled materials in the development of roads and dwellings?
21	to help or develop the visitor economy / tourism	does the GNP promote or develop tourism and visitor economy?

Figure 16 - Sustainability Framework for Goring

Figure 17 below shows how the Goring Sustainability Objectives relate to the overall SODC Sustainability Objectives from the Core Strategy. As can be seen, each SODC Objective is captured by one or more of the Goring objectives.

SODC Sustainability Framework - Objectives		Goring Sustainability Objectives
1	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	1, 7
2	To help to 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	10, 12
3	To improve accessibility for everyone to health, education, recreation, cultural, and community facilities and services	8, 14, 15
4	To maintain and improve people's health, well-being, and community cohesion and support voluntary, community, and faith groups	8
5	To reduce harm to the environment by seeking to minimise pollution of all kinds especially water, air, soil and noise pollution	10, 13
6	To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need to travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	19
7	To conserve and enhance biodiversity	5
8	To improve efficiency in land use and to conserve and enhance the district's open spaces and countryside in particular, those areas designated for their landscape importance, minerals, biodiversity and soil quality	5, 20
9	To conserve and enhance the district's historic environment including archaeological resources and to ensure that new development is of a high quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness	3, 6, 9, 11
10	To seek to address the causes and effects of climate change by:	13, 17
	a) securing sustainable building practices which conserve energy, water resources and materials	
	b) protecting, enhancing and improving our water supply where possible	
	c) maximising the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	
	d) ensuring that design and location of new development is resilient to effects of climate change	
11	To reduce the risk of, and damage from, flooding.	4
12	To seek to minimise waste generation and encourage the reuse of waste through recycling, compost, or energy recovery.	13
13	To assist in the development of:	16, 18
	a) high and stable levels of employment and facilitating inward investment;	
	b) a strong, innovative and knowledge-based economy that deliver high-value-added, sustainable, low-impact activities;	
	c) small firms, particularly those that maintain and enhance the rural economy; and	
	d) thriving economies in market towns and villages.	
14	To support the development of Science Vale as an internationally recognised innovation and enterprise zone by:	Not Applicable for Goring
	a) attracting new high value businesses;	
	b) supporting innovation and enterprise;	
	c) delivering new jobs;	
	d) supporting and accelerating the delivery of new homes; and	
e) developing and improving infrastructure across the Science Vale area		

15	To assist in the development of a skilled workforce to support the long term competitiveness of the district by raising education achievement levels and encouraging the development of the skills needed for everyone to find and remain in work.	Not Applicable for Goring
16	To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector.	16, 18, 21
17	Support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable communities to provide local services and solutions	Ongoing GNP Consultation

Figure 17 – Comparison of Goring and SODC Framework Objectives (source South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 – Sustainability Scoping Report (June 2014))

5.3 GNP Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

5.3.1 Introduction to the Sustainability Appraisal

The Sustainability Appraisal will ensure that social, economic and environmental considerations are suitably considered within the GNP and will be key evidence to support the Neighbourhood Plan and its choices. It will include a set of site parameters or a “screening” process for ranking available sites based on the final Framework objectives derived from the various public consultations and local, district and national policies described elsewhere in this Scoping Report.

The SA will demonstrate that the GNP adequately considers the issues that are raised in this Scoping Report. These are shown in the sections below.

5.3.2 Landscape and Biodiversity

- the historic and bio-diverse landscapes around Goring and how these contribute greatly to the character of the local area
- the sight lines and natural environment that must be taken into account when preparing the Goring Neighbourhood Plan (GNP)
- a Landscape and Visual Assessment of all sites
- a Concept Master Plan for each selected site to mitigate the Landscape and Visual Assessment
- protection and promotion of Goring’s sites of ecological and nature conservation
- resilience to climate change
- opportunities for local habitat and species
- conservation enhancement

5.3.3 Townscape

- the protection, enhancement and management of the character and appearance of the Goring townscape, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place
- ensuring the continued protection and enhancement of Goring's build heritage, including its conservation area and historic buildings
- protection and enhancement of the current provision of green infrastructure and its wider multifunctional benefits
- protecting and increasing the provision of open space

5.3.4 Community Services

- meeting the health and education needs as Goring expands its population
- improving access to other public services in Goring such as transport

5.3.5 Water and Sewage

- the potential use of water saving measures, including water harvesting, grey water use and low use appliances
- reviewing existing flood risk maps and identify those areas where development will be hazardous because of expected changes in flood frequency in the next 50 years
- the cost of retrofitting flood protection measures (should be borne by the developer(s))
- provision for the continuing maintenance of existing and planned systems
- Goring Sewage Treatment works managed by Thames water is shared with Woodcote. Investigative work will be needed to assess the impact of growth between the two villages and the extent of any upgrading required (source: SODC Local Plan Consultation)

5.3.6 Road Safety

- current traffic congestion points and pedestrian safety in Goring

5.3.7 Housing

- the provision of sufficient housing to meet identified needs including affordable housing and specialist groups

5.3.8 Economic Stability and Growth

- the support of sustainable economic growth
- contribute to meeting the employment needs of Goring
- promoting tourism and the visitor economy in Goring
- safeguarding and improving Goring's shops, services and recreation facilities

Section 6 - Next Steps and Production of the GNP SA

This GNP SA Scoping Report will now be the subject of a five week consultation with SODC, Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, Chiltern Conservation Board, Thames Water, Oxfordshire County Council and National Rail. It will also be passed to other concerned bodies – Berkshire Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), Chiltern Society, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Goring Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council. It will also be available on the Goring Neighbourhood Plan web site www.GoringPlan.co.uk

The report will then be finalised in line with any comments received during this process. The resulting Goring SA Framework will be used to appraise the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan.

An interim Sustainability Appraisal will be prepared to assess the social, economic and environmental effects of the emerging proposals for the Parish. The completed version of the SA will then be included in the widespread consultation of the draft GNP. This is planned for summer 2016.