

Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base

1. Evidence Base Review



Prepared by the Bluestone Planning LLP in conjunction with the
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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ASHBURY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Evidence Base Review

Ashbury
OXFORDSHIRE

Including Ashbury Village, Idstone,
Kingstone Winslow, Odstone and
Ashdown

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BLUESTONE PLANNING
 SUITE 5 ENTERPRISE CENTRE,
 BDGS 41/42 SHRIVENHAM 100 BUSINESS PARK,
 MAJORS ROAD, WATCHFIELD, SN6 8TZ
 T: 01793 782635
 E: jeremy@bluestoneplanning.co.uk

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1 BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

CONTEXT

- 1.1 Ashbury Parish is located towards the western end of the Vale of the White Horse. On 24th June 2016 Ashbury Parish lodged an application with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) – the Vale of White Horse District Council - to designate a Neighbourhood Plan Area incorporating the entire parish area.
- 1.2 During the publicity period six bodies responded (Natural England, Highways England, Historic England, National Grid, Network Rail and the Health and Safety Executive), none raised issues that required to be addressed prior to the designation of the Plan area.
- 1.3 The LPA wrote to the Parish Council on the 19th September 2016 confirming the designation of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 1.4 This report was commissioned by the Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as one of the initial information gathering exercises (alongside a household questionnaire).

PURPOSE

- 1.5 This report presents the findings of a review of data covering a range of aspects that contribute to the ‘characteristics’ of Ashbury Parish and which are thus important in providing a firm foundation to support the subsequent production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish area.

SCOPE

- 1.6 This report is not intended to be the only source of evidence to underpin the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, indeed the process of gathering evidence will continue throughout the neighbourhood planning process.
- 1.7 This report brings together a range of data and information from publicly available sources to provide background to the environmental, physical, social, commercial, historic and transportational characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

SOURCES

- 1.8 This report has drawn on a range of sources include local and national planning policy documents, Environment Agency on-line mapping resources, Government on-line mapping resources, data held by other agencies and establishments including Thames Valley Police, Natural England, The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust and commercial organisations such as www.crashmap.co.uk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 1.9 This report has been prepared jointly by Bluestone Planning and by members of the Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who have contributed several sections of the report.
- 1.10 The report's authors are grateful to the Vale of White Horse District Council's Housing team for assisting in providing Housing Register waiting list anonymised data.

2 THE LOCALITY

GEOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan area encompasses approximately 22.47km² or 2247 hectares of land across the Parish of Ashbury (see Figure 1). The Parish is centred on the Vale of White Horse, a topographical area which is partly within the catchment of the Rivers Kennet and Lambourn comprising chalks streams which flow through the Marlborough Downs. The Parish is defined by the scarp slope of the Berkshire Downs to the south, the Western Clay Vale to the north and beyond the North Vale Corallian Ridge.

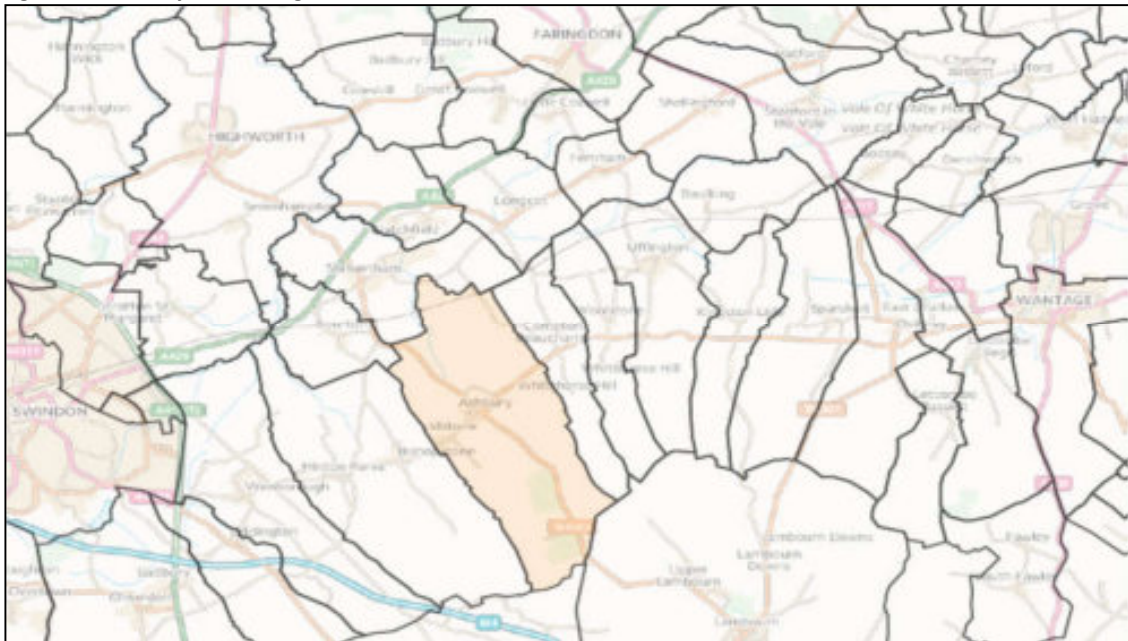
Figure 1 – Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area



(Source: Reproduced from Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area Application. © Crown copyright 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

2.2 Today the area known as the Vale of White Horse is located within the administrative area of the District Council of the same name, in Oxfordshire.

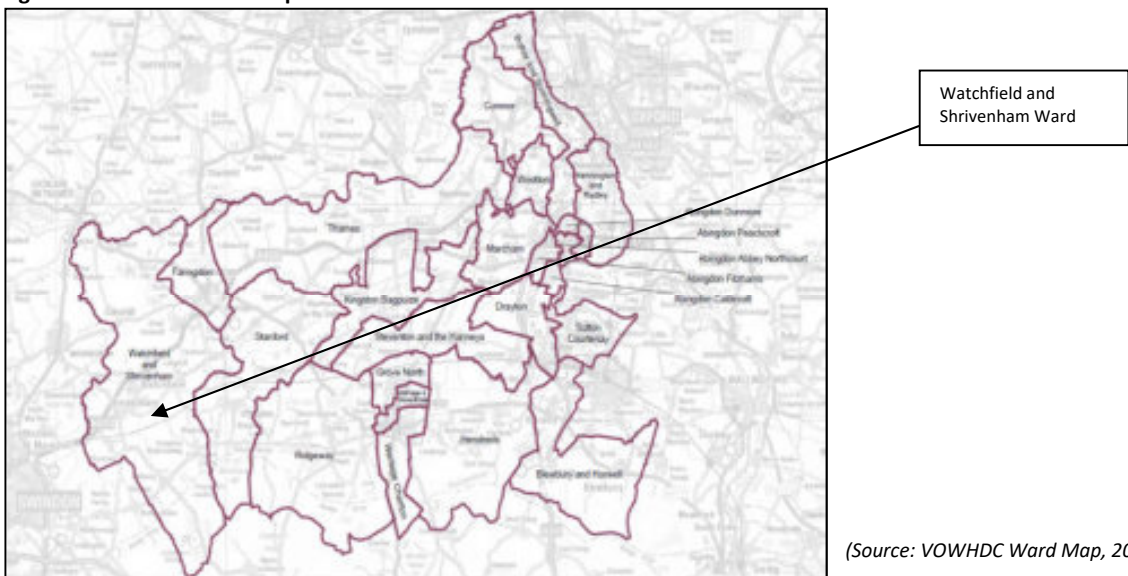
Figure 2 – Ashbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area in Context



(Source: Ordnance Survey Election Maps Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2017)

2.3 The Parish is located in the southern part of the Western Vale, an area that formed part of the county of Berkshire until 1974 boundary changes when the area was incorporated into Oxfordshire. Ashbury Parish is administered by a Parish Council, and forms part of the Shrivenham and Watchfield electoral ward within the Vale of White Horse District’s administrative area, as depicted in Figure 3.

Figure 3 –Electoral Ward Map

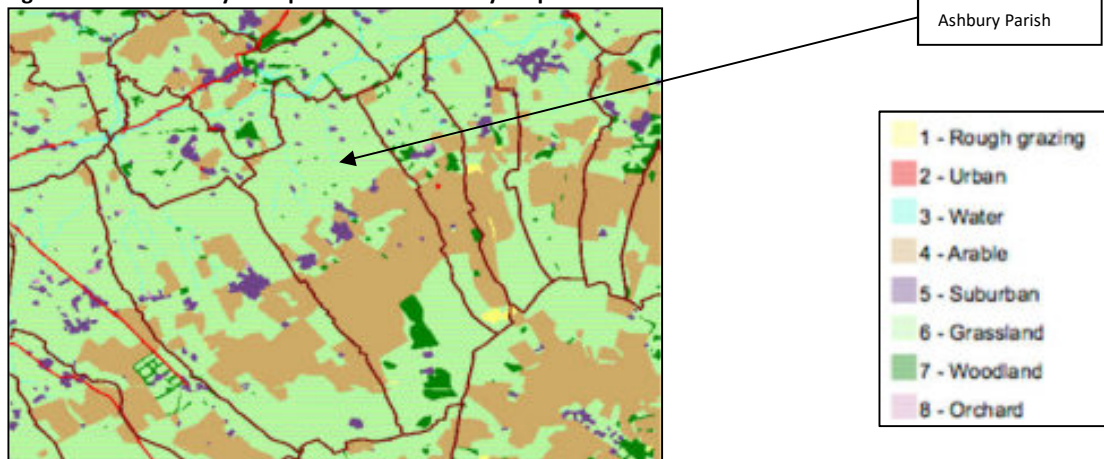


(Source: VOWHDC Ward Map, 2017)

LAND USE

- 2.4 The land uses in the Neighbourhood Plan Area vary from the base of the Vale to the top of the Berkshire Downs. However the area is largely rural in nature and characterised by large spaces between settlements. The 1933 Dudley Stamp Land Use Inventory classified the various land uses as depicted in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4 – 1933 Dudley Stamp Land Use Inventory Map



(Source: *The Land Utilisation Survey of Britain, 1933-1949*, mapping copyright Audrey N. Clark; www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

- 2.5 From a review of recent aerial photography, the most significant changes to have taken place since 1933 are increases to the areas of arable land under cultivation, increased wooded areas, reduced grassland and increased built up areas within the Parish.
- 2.6 More recent land use change from the Neighbourhood Statistics Unit (Land Use Statistics (Generalised Land Use Database) 2005) reveal the following land uses:

- Domestic Buildings: 0.18%
- Non-domestic Buildings: 0.15%
- Roads: 0.63%
- Paths: 0.0003%
- Rail: 0.12%
- Domestic Gardens: 0.65%
- Greenspace: 97.9%
- Water: 0.16%
- Other Land Uses: 0.21%

WATER RESOURCES

- 2.7 The Neighbourhood Plan Area is within the Thames River Basin District. The main river sub-catchment is Gloucestershire and the Vale, which comprises the Rivers Ock and Upper Thames which extends through the middle and northern parts of the Parish (Tuckmill Brook and Tributaries) and also the Kennet and Tributaries which includes the Lambourn covering the southern part of the Parish.
- 2.8 The watercourses forming the boundaries of, and partly running through the Neighbourhood Plan Area are prone to flooding in various locations. The 2013 South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) report provides further details (see figures 5 & 6 and 7 below). Additional up to date information is also available on the Environment Agency's flood mapping website: <http://tinyurl.com/EA-Flood-Maps>.

Figure 5 – Flood Zones

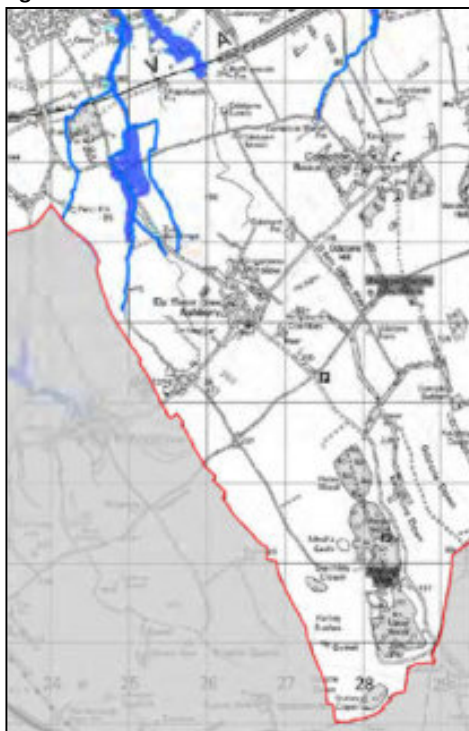
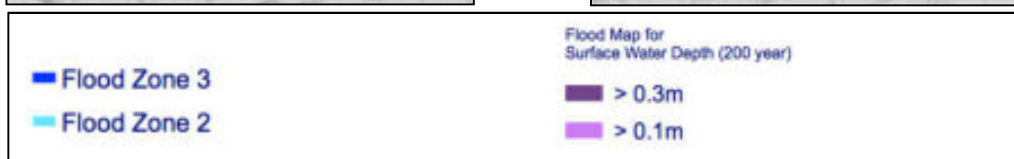
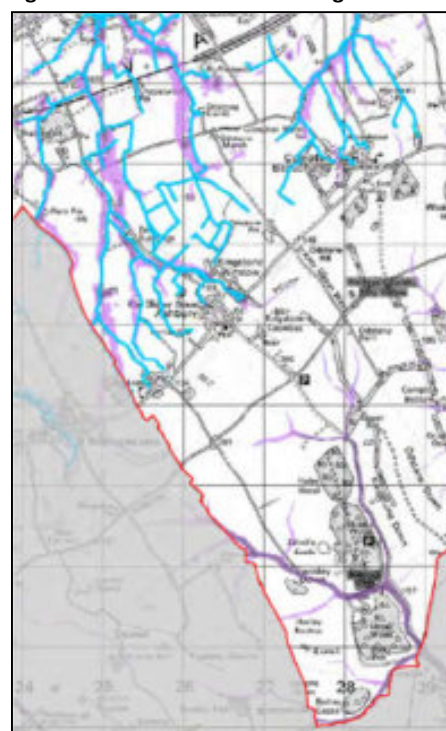


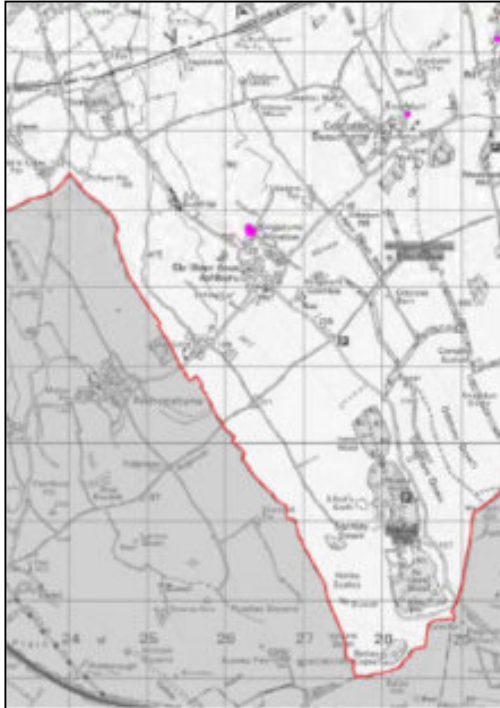
Figure 6 – Surface Water Flooding



(Source: Extracts from VOWH & SODC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Maps 2.2 and 5.2; © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

2.9 There is also evidence of historical flooding in the area as depicted on map 8A.2 of the SFRA, as shown on the extract reproduced below in Figure 7:

Figure 7 – Historical Flooding

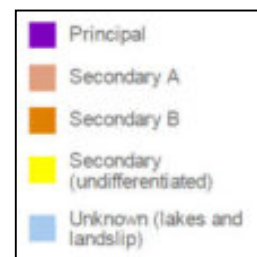


(Source: VOWH & SODC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Map 8A.2 © Crown copyright and database rights 2016 OS Licence No 100051806)

2.10 There are no Groundwater Protection Zones (GPZs) underlying the Neighbourhood Plan Area according to the EA mapping resource for GPZs: <http://tinyurl.com/Groundwater-Zones>.

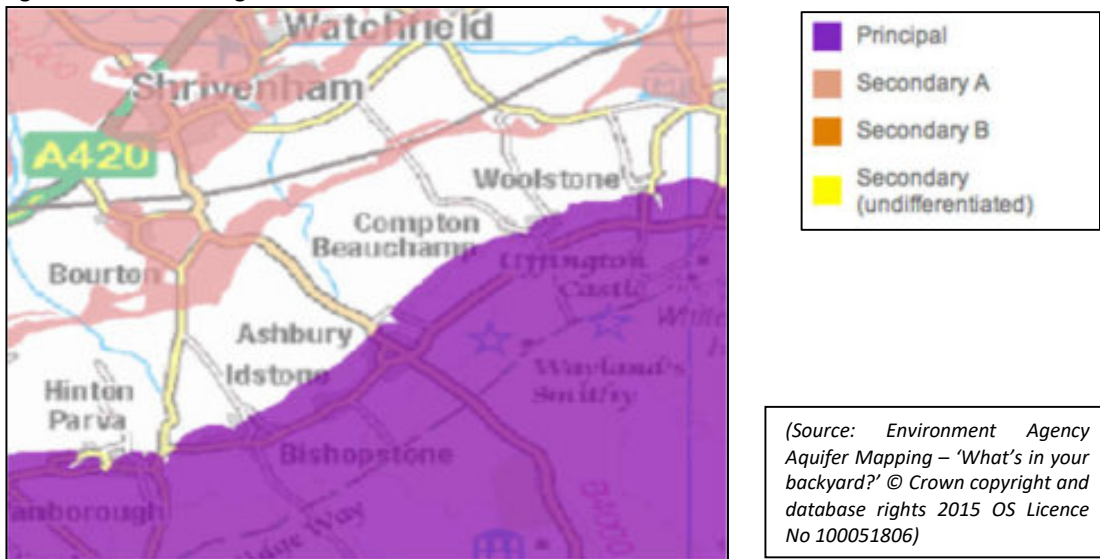
2.11 However, the Neighbourhood Plan Area is underlain by aquifers:

Figure 8 – Superficial Deposits



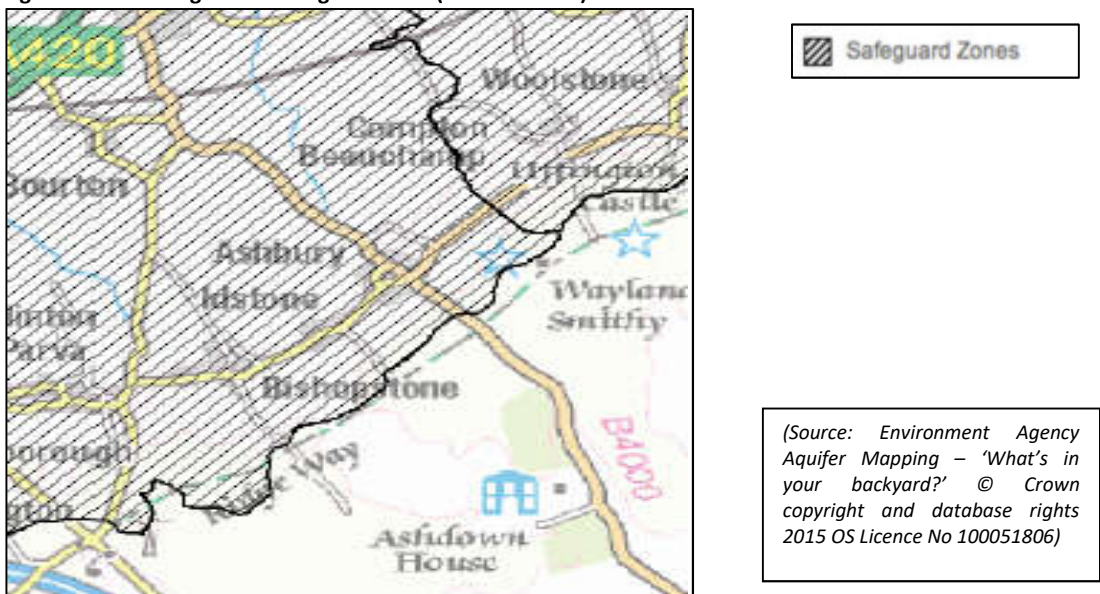
(Source: Environment Agency Aquifer Mapping – ‘What’s in your backyard?’ © Crown copyright and database rights 2015 OS Licence No 100051806)

Figure 9 – Bedrock Designation



2.12 The central and northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area also lies within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone:

Figure 10 – Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (surface water)



2.13 These zones are areas where the land use causes pollution of the water. Action is targeted in these zones to address pollution so that extra treatment of water can be avoided.

GEOLOGY / MINERALS / WASTE

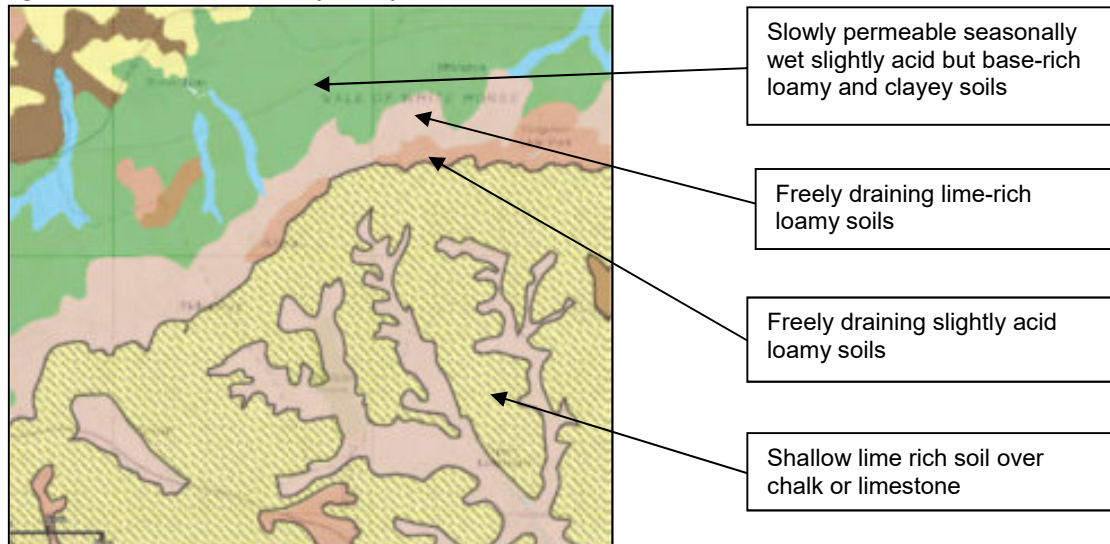
- 2.14 Much of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is underlain by Upper Cretaceous strata, which dip gently to the south-east. The Chalk group, which forms the Berkshire Downs, is the most distinctive geological unit and comprises the Lower Chalk, at the foot of the Downs, passing through the Middle Chalk, to exposures of the Upper Chalk at Whitehorse Hill and other prominent topographical high features on the Downs.
- 2.15 To the north of the foot of the Chalk Downs is a narrow band of Upper Greensand, the approximate boundary of which runs along the line of the B4507 Wantage to Ashbury road. The Upper Greensand gives way to the Gault Clay just to the south of Ashbury and forms the dominant underlying geology in the Clay Vale in which much of the Neighbourhood Plan area lies.
- 2.16 The Gault Clay is a heavy, blue grey clay and is known to have severe shrink-swell problems due to its mineralogical composition. The characteristics of the Gault Clay has implications for built development; if foundations are too shallow, seasonal moisture variations that give rise to shrinking and swelling may result in damage to the foundations. For the Gault Clay, seasonal moisture content variations can extend to depths of 5-6m where trees, shrubs or hedges are present. Removal of such vegetation can result in significant ground heave as moisture contents increase.
- 2.17 The Gault Clay and Lower Greensand underlies parts of the Parish.
- 2.18 There are no minerals or waste issues affecting the Parish.

SOILS

- 2.19 The soils found in the Neighbourhood Plan Area are equally as diverse as the underlying geology. In the northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area the Soilscales website (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>) confirms that the main soil type is a slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soil – see figure 11 below.
- 2.20 To the south of the Parish there is a narrow section of loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater. To the south of Ashbury, rising up the scarp slope, the soils are characterised as being freely draining lime-rich loamy soils, which adjoin an area of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils just to the south. The main soil type over the Berkshire Downs is shallow lime-rich soil over chalk or limestone,

divided in the far south of the Neighbourhood Plan Area by a narrow valley feature containing freely draining lime-rich loamy soils in the direction of the Lambourn Valley.

Figure 11 – Extract from Soilsmap Map



(Source: Soils Data © Cranfield University (NSRI) and for the Controller of HMSO 2017)

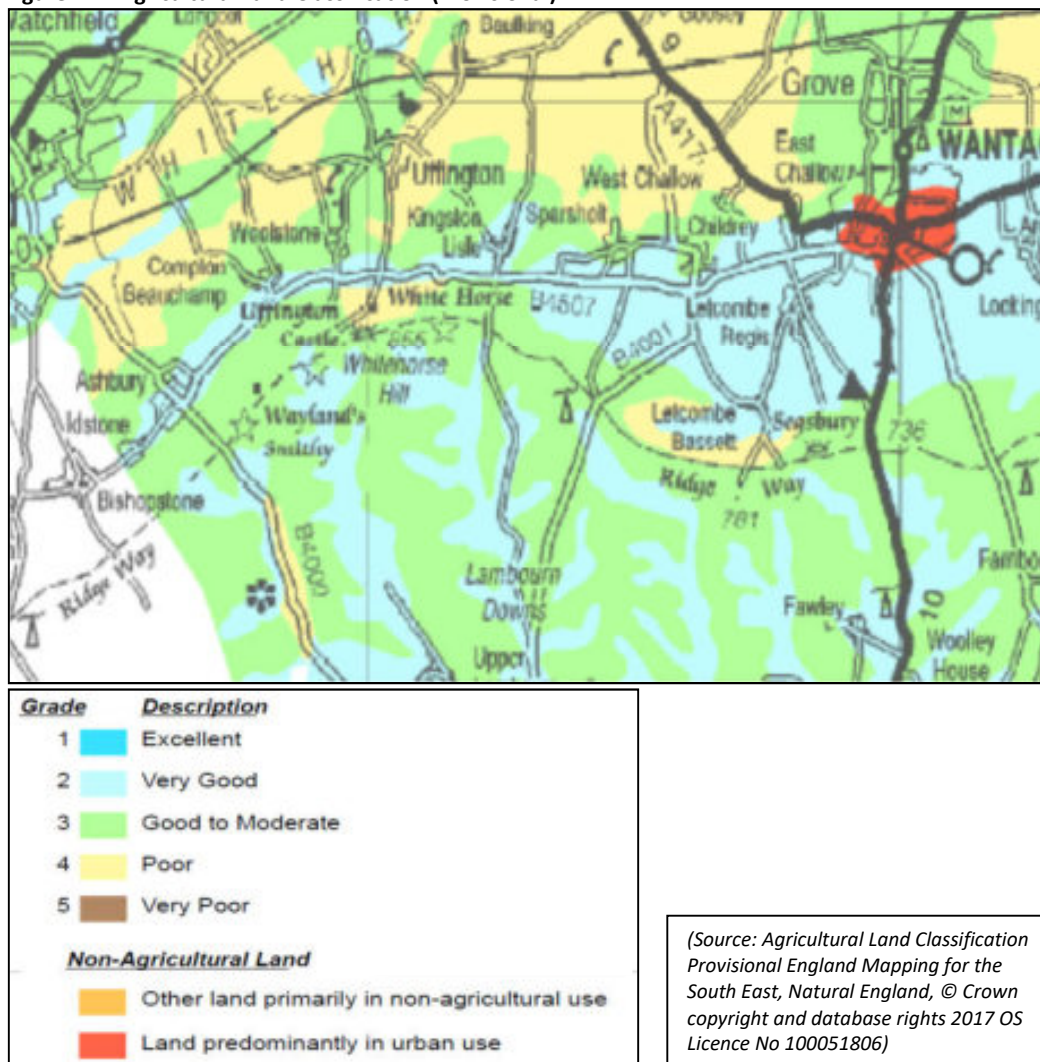
AGRICULTURAL LAND

2.21 Pages 93 to 94 of the Vale of White Horse Core Strategy Scoping Report (Sept 2012)¹ states:

“The Vale is predominantly rural with a significant part of its land under cultivation for farming. The quality of the farmland ranges from Grade 4 up to Grade 2 in a number of locations. The NPPF states that planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality. The Agricultural Census from DEFRA indicates that in 2007 there were 565 holdings covering 47,162 ha in the Vale. Of these 399 holdings or 10,477 ha is permanent grass. There are then 137 holdings covering 11,984 ha which produce wheat, 74 holdings covering 3,496 ha producing oilseed rape and 50 holdings covering 1,753 ha producing spring barley. Agriculture in the Vale is therefore very varied. In terms of employment only 1,069 residents gave their employment in the 2001 Census as being in the agriculture, hunting and forestry category which amounted to 1.8% of the resident workforce.”
(p.93-4) Vale of White Horse Core Strategy Scoping Report (Sept 2012)).

¹ VOWHDC (2012) Core Strategy SA Scoping Report, [Online]. Available: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SA%20Scoping%20Report%20FINAL.pdf> [31/03/17]

Figure 12 – Agricultural Land Classification (Provisional)



2.22 The provisional grading of agricultural land in the Neighbourhood Plan Area shows (Figure 12) largely Grade 3 within the north and south of the Parish with a small pocket of Grade 4 land. There are several areas of Grade 2 land adjoining Ashbury itself and on top of the Berkshire Downs and closer to Ashdown House.

CLIMATE

2.23 The Met Office records² provide data for average weather conditions at Brize Norton, the nearest climate station to the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The data is an average of the individual years' data for the period 1981 to 2010.

² Met Office (2017) *Average Records for Brize Norton*, [Online]. Available: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/gcnvd2bqt> [30/03/17]

- 2.24 The average annual maximum temperature is 14.2 degrees centigrade, and the average annual minimum temperature 6.2 degrees centigrade (ranging from an average of 22.2 degrees in July to 1.1 degrees in February).
- 2.25 There is an average of 48.3 days of air frost per year. This is to be contrasted with the total number of sunshine hours on average across the year of 1632.
- 2.26 Average annual rainfall is 685 mm. There are 119 days of rainfall where more than or at least 1mm rain falls.
- 2.27 Annual average windspeeds measured at 10m above ground level is 6.9 knots.

INFORMATION GAPS

- 2.28 Data for this aspect of the characterisation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is good. No gaps have been identified.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 2.29 The quality of both sub-surface and surface water resources is critically important and key to ensuring that drinking water and watercourse status can be maintained at a high level.
- 2.30 The presence of the Gault Clay present challenges for construction and may affect development and building costs due to the need for more substantial foundations. Removal (or planting) of vegetation has the potential to induce significant ground heave (swelling) or shrinkage, which can disrupt levels and damage structures. The effects of the local geology on development will be of consideration in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

3 SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

POPULATION

3.1 The population of the three parishes was recorded in the 2011 Census as being:

- 506 persons (50% male; 50% female) - up from 495 in 2001
- Vale of White Horse District - 120,988 persons (49.6% male; 50.4% female)

(Source: ONS Population Density Dataset, 2011 (QS102EW))

3.2 The ONS 2015 mid-year estimates (published October 2016 and which does not go lower than District level) estimate the Vale's population to be 126,665 or an increase of just over 3% in the five years since the 2011 census.

3.3 Pro rata, it could be assumed that the population for the Parish has therefore increased by a similar amount - in this case 3% which would equate to 15 people in average. Clearly where housing developments have taken place they would need to be factored into any future assessments. In that respect, the most notable scheme was for the proposal for 18 dwellings at Wixes Piece in Ashbury that was approved in 2012, and which has since been constructed.

3.4 The age structure of the Parish populations is revealing in the differences between them. The percentage of residents within various age brackets is reproduced in the table below.

Age Bracket	Ashbury Parish	South-East	England
0 – 9	12.8%	11.8%	11.9%
10 – 19	8.3%	12.1%	12.1%
20 – 29	7.8%	12.3%	13.7%
30 – 44	21.5%	20.4%	20.6%
45 – 59	24.3%	19.9%	19.4%
60 – 74	18.2%	15%	14.6%
75 – 84	4.7%	5.8%	5.5%
85 – 89	2.4%	1.6%	1.5%
90+	0%	0.9%	0.8%
Median Age	No data	40	39

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table KS102EW, Age Structure)

3.5 This reveals that within the Neighbourhood Plan Area age profiles for children between 0 - 9 years is higher than the equivalent Regional and England figures, but conversely, they are lower when compared against the 10 - 19 age groups.

3.6 In addition, the proportion of young adults between the ages of 20 - 29 is lower when compared to the South-East and equivalent England figures.

3.7 Notwithstanding this, for the age groups between 30 - 44, 45 - 59 and 60 - 74, there are significantly higher numbers of people living in the Parish, than compared to the equivalent England and South East figures.

3.8 Approximate social grade within the Neighbourhood Plan Area is derived from ONS data table QS611EW which is part of the 2011 census.

Table 2 - Approximate Social Grade (All Household Reference persons aged 16 - 64)		
Social Grade	Ashbury Parish	Vale of White Horse
AB	62 (39.5%)	12,818 (36.07%)
C1	39 (24.8%)	10,380 (29.21%)
C2	38 (24.2%)	6,780 (19.08%)
DE	18 (11.5%)	5,562 (15.65%)
Approximated Social Grade (total)	157 (100%)	35,540 (100%)

(Source: 2011. Census Table QS611EW)

3.9 The grading is taken from the occupation of the head of the household and is categorised as follows:

- AB - upper middle / middle class, higher / intermediate managerial, administrative or professional
- C1 - lower middle class, supervisory or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional
- C2 - skilled working class, skilled manual workers
- D - working class, semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers
- E - non-working, casual or lowest grade workers, pensioners, and others who depend on the welfare state for their income

3.10 The key characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan Area are a slightly higher than average proportion of AB households compared to the wider Vale of White Horse District. This may reflect the higher cost of property as well as the status of the area as a 'desirable' location to move to.

3.11 The proportion of CDE households in the Parish is lower than the District level %. This may well reflect the lack of suitable housing in the Parish for this social grade.

HOUSING

3.12 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains 217 dwellings according to the 2011 census. The following table comprises a breakdown of the Council Tax banding.

Council Tax Band	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
A	4	324,866	5,701,030
B	12	613,843	4,494,194
C	62	952,893	4,992,524
D	23	740,275	3,513,171
E	30	487,403	2,166,533
F	35	294,448	1,144,117
G	44	235,384	805,748
H	7	33,542	130,183
TOTAL	217	3,682,754	22,947,500

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics)

3.13 Banding is based on the open market capital value of the relevant property on the 1 April 1991. In the Vale of White Horse District the bands divide as follows:

- A - up to and including £40,000
- B - £40,001 - £52,000
- C - £52,001 - £68,000
- D - £68,001 - £88,000
- E - £88,001 - £120,000
- F - £120,001 - £160,000
- G - £160,001 - £320,000
- H - more than £320,000

3.14 The banding points to a higher proportion of the most expensive properties (band H) in the Neighbourhood Plan Area compared to the figures for the South East and England.

3.15 The range of house types is described in detailed in ONS table KS401EW below:

	Ashbury Parish	VOWHDC	S E Region	England
Whole House or Bungalow; Detached	103	18581	1037388	5128552
Whole House or Bungalow; Semi-Detached	84	15467	1022394	7076395
Whole House or Bungalow; Terraced (Including End-Terrace)	45	9612	829923	5642969
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; Purpose-Built Block of Flats or Tenement	3	5536	598222	3854451
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; Part of a Converted or Shared House (Including Bed-Sits)	1	903	149158	984284
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; In Commercial Building	1	396	41190	257218
Caravan or Other Mobile or Temporary Structure	0	541	25898	100228

(Source: 2011 Census Table KS401EW)

3.16 The table demonstrates that there is a limited number of flats (five in total) in the Plan area, which represents only 2%, whereas detached dwellings represent 43%, semi-detached dwellings 35% and terraced dwellings 19%.

3.17 Household sizes are at variance with other geographical areas, with a higher proportion of two person households in the Plan area than at a District, regional or national level (39.63% compared to 34.19% for England). The number of three and four people households are lower than the District average, while the number of five people households are higher than the District average.

	Ashbury Parish	VOWHDC	South East	England
All Household Spaces	217	49407	3555463	22063368
1 Person in Household	60	13065	1023154	6666493
2 People in Household	86	18258	1247950	7544404
3 People in Household	29	7933	551773	3437917
4 People in Household	27	7177	492843	2866800
5 People in Household	12	2157	167581	1028477
6 People in Household	2	629	53824	369186
7 People in Household	1	134	11742	88823
8 or More People in Household	0	54	6596	61268

(Source: 2011 Census Table QS406EW)

	Ashbury Parish	VOWHDC	South East	England
All Household Spaces	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1 Person in Household	27.65	26.44	28.78	30.22
2 People in Household	39.63	36.95	35.10	34.19
3 People in Household	13.36	16.06	15.52	15.58
4 People in Household	12.44	14.53	13.86	12.99
5 People in Household	5.53	4.37	4.71	4.66
6 People in Household	0.92	1.27	1.51	1.67
7 People in Household	0.46	0.27	0.33	0.40
8 or More People in Household	0.00	0.11	0.19	0.28

(Source: 2011 Census Table QS406EW)

3.18 The tenure of the different households in the Neighbourhood Plan Area is as follows:

Tenure	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
Owned outright	80	1,156,081	6,745,584
Owned with mortgage	67	1,248,436	7,229,440
Shared ownership	0	39,280	173,760
Social rented	30	487,473	3,903,550
Private rented	31	578,592	3,715,924
Rent free	9	45,601	295,110
Totals	217	3,555,463	22,063,368

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS405EW)

Tenure	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
Owned outright	36.9	32.5	30.6
Owned with mortgage	30.9	35.1	32.8
Shared ownership	0	1.1	0.8
Social rented	13.8	13.7	17.7
Private rented	14.3	16.3	16.8
Rent free	4.1	1.3	1.3
Totals	100	100	100

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS405EW)

- 3.19 The data reveals a number of interesting points; owned outright properties are higher in the Parish compared to levels in the South East or England, but owned with a mortgage are lower. Shared ownership levels are also low, as it does not reflect the recent development at Wixes Piece which was completed after the 2011 Census.
- 3.20 The level of private rented properties in the Neighbourhood Plan Area is below that of the South East and England. However, there is a higher proportion of households living rent-free than in the region or England. This may reflect accommodation being provided in service or dependent relatives living with their families in ancillary accommodation.
- 3.21 The number of people residing in the Neighbourhood Plan Area with second homes elsewhere in the UK or outside of the UK is as follows:
- Second address elsewhere in the UK - 17 people
 - Second address outside the UK - 16 people
- (Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS106EW)
- 3.22 Sale prices in the SN6 postcode which includes the Parish have been reviewed on the <http://www.Home.co.uk> website. The data covering the period from November 2015 to November 2016 reveals that over this period, average house prices have risen for detached properties (by 13% from £367,872 to £416,722), fallen for semi-detached properties (by 35% from £420,429 to £274,929), risen for terraced properties (by 10% from £226,514 to £250,250).

- 3.23 Affordability is a key consideration. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council Community Housing Survey Report for Ashbury (June 2013) considered median house prices for the Parish against median gross annual pay for those living in the Vale of White Horse District (£26,356) and calculated a multiple of 12.1 times annual earnings to purchase a property in the SN6 area.
- 3.24 The Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Final Report (April 2014)³ examined the market and affordable housing need in Oxfordshire and the constituent districts. It confirmed that whilst mean income in the Vale of White Horse District was second highest in the county (£48,558), the estimated number of newly arising households in housing need per annum was 523. This was in addition to an existing backlog of approximately 28 units.
- 3.25 In contrast, the supply of affordable housing units per annum in the Vale was found to be only 278 indicating a significant shortfall every year, by in the region of 273 units.
- 3.26 The Study went on to conclude that only 20.7% of households in the Vale could afford 80%+ market rents (second best of all the Districts in Oxfordshire), 17.7% could afford a figure between social rents and 80% market rents (second worst), and 61.6% could only afford social rents or less (second worst, and much higher than the County average of 54.3%).
- 3.27 Finally, the Study concluded that in order to meet affordable needs in full the Vale would need to provide an additional 683 dwellings per year over the period 2011-31.
- 3.28 In order to meet overall housing need (market and affordable) the Study concluded that the Vale would need to make provision for 1028 additional dwellings to be built in the Vale each year over the same period.
- 3.29 The District Council is responsible for maintaining a housing register for all those in housing need and manages this register in accordance with its Housing Allocations Policy. Data supplied by the Development and Housing team at the District Council in March 2017 indicated that there are 10 persons on the housing register, predominantly with a requirement for three bedroom dwellings (i.e. family accommodation). Several of those individuals are categorized as being in the greatest need (bands 1-3: 'exceptional', 'urgent' and 'significant').

³ GL Hearn (2014) *Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment Final Report* [Online]

- 3.30 The Vale's Local Plan 2031: Part 2 Preferred Options Consultation⁴ refers to the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)⁵. The Parish is identified as a smaller village in the settlement hierarchy. A site has been put forward by a landowner in the HELAA with capacity for 127 dwellings on land off Station Road, Ashbury however, it is currently not allocated in the emerging Plan to meet the District's residual housing requirement for the period to 2031.
- 3.31 In accordance with the Oxfordshire SHMA, the adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (December 2016) identifies a need to deliver 20,560 dwellings over the period 2011-31 (1028 per year, as recommended by the SHMA). However, if the Part 2 plan is not adopted within two years of the adoption of the Local Plan 2031: Part 1, then from the time until the adoption of the Part 2 plan, the Council's housing requirement will be 20,560 plus the agreed quantum of Oxford's unmet housing need to be addressed within the Vale of White Horse District.
- 3.32 On this basis, Part 2 of the Local Plan will need to provide for at least 22,760 dwellings for the period to 2031. This requirement is to be partially addressed by Part 1 allocations for 12,495 dwellings across the District, of which 1,650 dwellings are in the Western Vale (which includes the Neighbourhood Plan Area). A further 3,850 dwellings will be allocated in Part 2, however there are no proposed allocations in the Western Vale, but a windfall allowance of 240 dwellings is identified.

HEALTH

- 3.33 The health of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is generally better than the average for the Region or England. For example, the percentage of individuals in the Neighbourhood Plan Area reporting that their health is 'bad' is only 2.8% compared to the Regional figure of 3.4% and the England figure of 4.2% (see tables 6 and 7).

Health Status	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
Very Good	288	4,232,707	25,005,712
Good	150	2,989,920	18,141,457
Fair	49	1,037,592	6,954,092
Bad	14	291,456	2,250,446
Very Bad	5	83,075	660,749
Totals	506	8,634,750	53,012,456

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS302EW)

⁴ VWHDC Local Plan 2031: Part 2 Preferred Consultation, March 2017

⁵ VWHDC, HELAA, March 2017

Health Status %	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
Very Good	56.9	49.0	47.2
Good	29.6	34.6	34.2
Fair	9.7	12.0	13.1
Bad	2.8	3.4	4.2
Very Bad	1	1.0	1.2
Totals	506	100.0	100.0

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS302EW)

- 3.34 The availability of health services in the locality is reasonably good for a rural area. Data held on the NHS website (<http://www.nhs.uk/service-search>) provides details of the nearest facilities as well as general information about each facility.
- 3.35 The data indicates that there are 20 GP practices within 10 miles of the Parish of Ashbury. The nearest is Elm Tree Surgery (2.9 miles) which also contains a dispensary that provides deliveries to Ashbury Shop.
- 3.36 There are 52 pharmacies within 10 miles of Ashbury. The nearest is in Shrivenham (2.9 miles). Prescriptions from Elm Tree Surgery in Shrivenham may be collected from Ashbury Shop.
- 3.37 The nearest accident and emergency services are located at the Great Western Hospital Swindon (5.7 miles).
- 3.38 The nearest hospital for general treatment (including maternity units) is Great Western Hospital (5.7 miles).
- 3.39 There are 31 dental practices within 10 miles of Ashbury; the nearest is Smile Dental Care in Swindon (5.1 miles). Of those 31 practices, 2 are recorded as accepting new adult patients that are exempt from paying for care.

DEPRIVATION

- 3.40 The Neighbourhood Area statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics (2011) assess households by deprivation 'dimensions'. Whilst these are not the full multiple deprivation indices, they are nevertheless useful as general indicators. The indicators are:

- Employment
- Education
- Health and disability
- Housing

3.41 Table QS119EW (from the 2011 Census) records these four dimensions of deprivation:

Deprivation	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
Not deprived in any dimension	125	1,695,912	9,385,648
Deprived in 1 dimension	63	1,145,825	7,204,181
Deprived in 2 dimensions	28	569,744	4,223,982
Deprived in 3 dimensions	1	129,939	1,133,622
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0	14,043	115,935
Totals	217	3,555,463	22,063,368

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS119E)

Deprivation (%)	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
Not deprived in any dimension	57.6	47.7	42.5
Deprived in 1 dimension	29.0	32.2	32.7
Deprived in 2 dimensions	12.9	16.0	19.1
Deprived in 3 dimensions	0.5	3.7	5.1
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0	0.4	0.5
Totals	100.0	100.0	100.0

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS119E)

3.42 This data shows that the Neighbourhood Plan Area has a significantly higher proportion of households not deprived in any of the four dimensions when compared with the England and SE Regional figures.

3.43 In all of the four dimensions the Neighbourhood Plan Area has a lower percentage of households in deprivation compared to the Region and England as a whole.

EDUCATION

3.44 The 2011 Census data reveals the following statistics in relation to educational attainment within the Neighbourhood Plan Area:

Educational Attainment	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
No Qualifications	82	1,333,955	9,656,810
1 – 4 O-Levels/CSEs/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma	142	2,471,595	14,476,106
NVQ Lvl 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic Skills	19	492,083	3,549,205
5+ O-Levels (passes)/CSE (Grade 1)/GCSE. Diploma. Welsh Baccaalaureate, Int, Diploma	209	2,727,031	14,770,857
NVQ Lvl2, intermediate GNVQ, City & Guilds Craft, BTEC first/general diploma, RSA diploma	45	984,776	6,471,092
Apprenticeship	33	455,870	2,723,419
2+ A-ivs/VCEs, 4+ As Lvs Higher School Diploma, Welsh Baccaleareate Advanced Diploma	135	1,501,322	7,989,853
NVQ Lvl3, Advanced GNVQ, City & Guilds ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma	42	741,971	4,701,028
Degree, Higher Degree	96	1,305,654	7,472,181

NVQ Lvl4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level	25	317,850	1,878,697
Professional Qualifications	93	1,119,717	6,072,830
Other Vocational / Work Related Qualifications	88	1,258,611	7,315,650
Foreign Qualifications	14	429,796	2,776,829
Residents aged 16 and over	412	6,992,666	42,989,620

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS502EW)

Table 14 - Qualifications Gained (%)			
Educational Attainment	Ashbury Parish	SE Region	England
No Qualifications	19.9	19	22
1 – 4 O-Levels/CSEs/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma	34.5	35	34
NVQ Lvl 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic Skills	4.6	7	8
5+ O-Levels (passes)/CSE (Grade 1)/GCSE. Diploma. Welsh BaccaLaureate, Int, Diploma	50.7	39	34
NVQ Lvl2, intermediate GNVQ, City & Guilds Craft, BTEC first/general diploma, RSA diploma	10.9	14	15
Apprenticeship	8.0	7	6
2+ A-Levels/VCEs, 4+ As Lvl Higher School Diploma, Welsh BaccaLeareate Advanced Diploma	32.8	21	19
NVQ Lvl3, Advanced GNVQ, City & Guilds ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma	10.1	11	11
Degree, Higher Degree	23.3	19	17
NVQ Lvl4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level	6.0	5	4
Professional Qualifications	22.6	16	14
Other Vocational / Work Related Qualifications	21.4	18	17
Foreign Qualifications	3.3	6	6
Residents aged 16 and over	412	6,992,666	42,989,620

(N.B. numbers do not total 100% as respondents were able to indicate more than one answer)

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS502EW)

- 3.45 The percentage of those surveyed achieving a degree or higher degree, or professional qualifications, is above that for the Region and England. Those with no qualifications are slightly above the regional figure but below the national average.
- 3.46 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains one school - Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE (A) Primary School. The school provides education for pupils aged 4 to 11, with numbers on roll (as recorded in the 2016-2020 Pupil Place Plan for Oxfordshire) of 73 in May 2016, and a capacity of 90 at May 2016. The latest Inspection Report from Ofsted (conducted in 2016) records the roll as being 71 pupils.
- 3.47 The 2016-20 Pupil Place Plan⁶ remarks in respect of Ashbury School that “*Ashbury Pre-school relocated to an adjacent site in September 2015 to provide additional space for the primary school.*”

⁶ Oxfordshire County Council (November 2016) 2016 – 2020 Pupil Place Plan [Online]

- 3.48 The 2016 Pupil Place Plan has made an assumption (based in part on past rates of growth) that 43 dwellings will be built in the Craven ward (including Uffington and Ashbury) in the period 2011 to 2020. This, it notes, is exclusive of 'live' planning applications for dwellings at Uffington which have since been approved.
- 3.49 The assumptions do not, however, allow for additional non-strategic Local Plan Part 2 allocation sites or Neighbourhood Plan housing allocations, or significant windfalls, or indeed any additional allocations required to help meet Oxford City's unmet housing need, which may suggest that the intake of the school will grow modestly in line with Ashbury's role within the settlement hierarchy as a smaller village in the District. The relocation of the pre-school to another site in the village has allowed for this.
- 3.50 The 2016 Ofsted inspection report⁷ rated Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE (A) School as 'Good' in all areas of assessment, giving it a Grade 2. An assessment of Good / Grade 2 means that "*These are very positive features of a school. A school that is good is serving its pupils well.*"
- 3.51 Younger children in the Neighbourhood Plan Area tend to go to school in Ashbury.
- 3.52 The primary school feeds into Faringdon Community College (part of the Faringdon Academy of Schools). Whilst Ashbury Primary is not part of the Faringdon Academy of Schools it is recognised as an associate school or feeder school to the Community College.
- 3.53 Higher education may be accessed locally at Oxford University, Oxford Brookes University (in Oxford and Swindon) and Cranfield (at Shrivenham).
- 3.54 Ashbury Pre-School is also located on an adjacent site to Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE (A) Primary School and occupies space within the Free Church building.

RELIGION

- 3.55 The diversity of different religions followed within the Neighbourhood Plan Area (including figures for Compton Beauchamp) is limited, but not significantly different to the South East Region and England figures:

⁷ Ofsted (2016) *Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp Primary School Inspection Report* [Online]

- Christian - 72.8%
- Buddhist - 0.4%
- Hindu - 0%
- Jewish - 0%
- Muslim - 0%
- Sikh – 0%
- Other religions - 0%
- No religion - 21.1%
- Not stated - 5.7%

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS208EW)

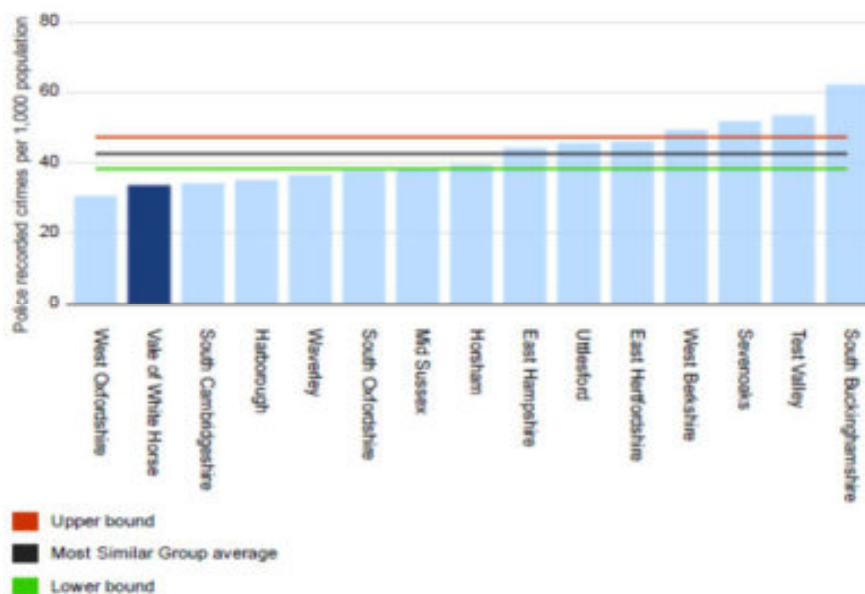
3.56 This reflects the rural nature of the area and the limited influence of the larger conurbations in the surrounding areas on the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

3.57 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains two churches: St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Ashbury, and Ashbury Evangelical Free Church. The Parish Church forms part of the Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice and is part of the Oxford Diocese. There are regular Sunday services at both of the churches.

CRIME

3.58 The latest data for the year ending September 2016, confirms that the crime rate in Vale of White Horse was lower than average for the Thames Valley force area.

Figure 13 - Vale of White Horse Crime Rate



3.59 This again appears to reflect the predominantly rural nature of the District. The data for the Faringdon Neighbourhood Policing Area (within which the Neighbourhood Plan Area is located) for the year to December 2016 reveals the following crimes:

Crime Type	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	158	17.97%
Bicycle theft	5	0.57%
Burglary	95	10.81%
Criminal damage and arson	108	12.29%
Drugs	22	2.50%
Other crime	10	1.14%
Other theft	119	13.54%
Possession of weapons	2	0.23%
Public order	18	2.05%
Robbery	2	0.23%
Shoplifting	46	5.23%
Theft from the person	10	1.14%
Vehicle crime	89	10.13%
Violence and sexual offences	195	22.18%
Totals	879	

(Source: Neighbourhood Policing Data = <http://www.police.uk/thames-valley/N378/crime/>)

3.60 Of the 854 crimes in the Faringdon neighbourhood policing area, approximately 17 (1.9% of the total) were recorded in the Neighbourhood Plan Area⁸.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

3.61 The Vale of White Horse publication 'Town and Village Facilities Study (Update February 2014)⁹ assesses the range of facilities in each of the Vale's villages. For the NP the assessment records the following score:

- Ashbury - 9.5 (for having a primary school, local shop, places of worship, foods/drink outlet, post office (sub-branch), mobile library (*N.B. service ceased in 2016*), village hall, bus service)
- Idstone - 1 (for having a bus service, although the signage has since been removed)
- Kingstone Winslow – 0

3.62 Although not specifically scored, Ashbury also has a village allotment and is served by the West Berkshire Council Bus Service No. 47 which provides a local service to Swindon and Lambourn calling at Ashbury, on a Monday through to Saturday. There is no bus service to Shrivenham which is the closest local service centre.

⁸ Police UK (2016) *Crime in the Vale of White Horse Compared with Crime in Other Similar Areas* [online]

⁹ VOWHDC (2014) *Town and Village Facilities Study (Update February 2014)* [online]

- 3.63 There is a bi-monthly farmer's market held at the Village Hall in Ashbury which is organized by the Ashbury Pre-School as a fundraiser. Finally there are various clubs and music lessons run from Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE (A) Primary School for children.
- 3.64 These facilities are well used by residents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area as well as visitors from outside. There is a strong relationship between the settlements in the Parish with both Idstone and Kingstone Winslow using the facilities available within Ashbury.

CLUBS

- 3.65 There are various clubs and activities available to residents in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Ashbury offers a weekly exercise class, a community club, a baby and toddler group, a gardener's question time event/s, regular art and craft sessions, a book club and a knitting group. There is also a nearby W.I. group in Bishopstone and Hinton Parva.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.66 The settlements within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are served by telephone services. The Parish is also served by fibre broadband coverage which provides superfast access to the internet for many residents.
<http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/cms/content/coverage-map>
- 3.67 Local magazines and information guides (the Advertiser / What's On) are distributed in the area as well as a monthly Parish newsletter. There is also a village website www.ashbury.org.uk and a Community News and Events Page for Ashbury on Facebook which is a closed group, both of which carry some information.

INFORMATION GAPS

- 3.68 The majority data is based on information provided by the Census 2011, Neighbourhood Statistics, and therefore doesn't necessarily reflect the more up-to-date profile of the Parish which has grown since this time by a further 18 households (approximately) through the development at Wixes Piece.

ISSUES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

3.69 There are several issues that may be relevant to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan including:

- A slightly lower proportion of children living in the Plan area, suggesting a risk of an ageing population emerging later in the Plan period.
- A lack of affordable housing - in terms of actual numbers and general affordability.

4 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 This section sets out the evidence that supports the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan policies relating to economic activity within the Neighbourhood Plan area. It calls on data sourced at national, regional & district level that, given the modest number of businesses within the Parish, is of only limited relevance, and hence where possible & necessary will be supplemented with locally sourced data in an endeavor to fill any gaps.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

- 4.2 In respect of a rural Parish such as Ashbury the relevant section of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework¹⁰ states the following:

“Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- *support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well designed new buildings*
- *promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses*
- *support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centres*
- *promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.”*

- 4.3 These policies resonate with the issues in the local area, not least because they are very much targeted at rural communities such as our own. By contrast, the economic policies at County & District level are all embracing and slanted toward the delivery of high quality jobs, and with a particular bias toward the larger urban areas, as is highlighted in the following sections.

COUNTY APPROACH

- 4.4 In his introduction to the latest revision of Oxfordshire County Council' Corporate Plan 2016-2020¹¹, the Leader states that it:

¹⁰ DCLG (2012) *National Planning Policy Framework* - Chapter 3, para 28 [online]

“ . . . will work to support Oxfordshire's thriving economy. That means helping the private sector create high quality new jobs and securing government and developer funding for key infrastructure”.

4.5 Page 3, para 3 refers. It goes on to say [page 6, section 1 refers]:

“We will support a strong and thriving economy by working with the local enterprise partnership, local universities, businesses, and the five district councils in Oxfordshire, to:

Help the private sector create new high quality jobs, particularly those which make the most of the county's world-famous expertise in science, technology, and innovation”.

4.6 The inference of this and subsequent paragraphs is that the county's economic efforts are targeted toward 'high quality jobs' concentrated within the central area of the county, and the 'Science Vale' & 'Knowledge Spine' areas in particular, while there is little focus on rural areas. Being a rural community, the potential for generating 'high quality new jobs' is limited, but the draft policies of the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan are consistent with the key objective of supporting a thriving economy.

DISTRICT APPROACH

4.7 Chapter 3 of the recently adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan¹² headed 'Spatial Vision & Strategic Objectives' sets out four key thematic areas, the second of which is **Supporting Economic Prosperity** the relevant policies being:

- *SO5 Support a strong and sustainable economy within the district, including the visitor economy.*
- *SO6 Support the continued development of Science Vale as an internationally significant centre for innovation and science based research and business.*
- *SO7 Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Vale's town centres and local shopping centres in order to strengthen their service centre roles.*

4.8 The Plan further reveals the three strands of its Spatial Strategy (Chapter 4) which seeks to:

- *focus sustainable growth within the Science Vale area;*
- *reinforce the service centre roles of the main settlements across the district, and;*
- *promote thriving villages and rural communities whilst safeguarding the countryside and village character.*

¹¹ Oxfordshire County Council (2016) *Corporate Plan 2016/17-2019/20* – Page 3, para 3 [online]

¹² The Vale of White Horse District Council (2016) *Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 part 1* – Chapter 3 [online]

4.9 Again, the greater emphasis is on non-rural areas, which only serves to strengthen the need for local objectives targeted on strengthening the existing businesses, and encouraging new businesses appropriate to the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area.

4.10 This 'need' is further underscored by informal soundings of the larger businesses in the Neighbourhood Plan Area where none had benefitted from enterprise funding of any description. The reasons for this are not known, and will be explored as part of a more detailed consultation – see 'Evidence Gaps' below.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

4.11 Being a rural community, the businesses located within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are limited in number, and fall mainly into one of a small number of categories:

- **Agriculture Based:** Farming contributes a major part to the local economy, there being eleven farms either wholly or partially contained within the Parish boundary. These farms cover the spectrum of arable, mixed, and pastoral farming, with some diversifying into country pursuits such as game-shooting & horse livery, while others have specialised in particular types of land use such as forestry or rape-seed oil production.
- **Rural Tourism:** Tourism also plays it's part in contributing to the local economy, whether that be from visitors to the National Trust property at Ashdown or the local/nearby historical sites of Uffington White Horse & Fort, and of course the AONB & Ridgeway that are a major feature of the southern end of the Parish and which contains not only Ashdown but the 'Wayland's Smithy' a Neolithic long barrow.

The needs of visitors are served principally by the Rose & Crown, providing a bar with dining and accommodation, two bed & breakfast businesses, and Ashbury Shop & Café, although there are many more pubs and B&B businesses in the villages just beyond the Parish boundary.

- **Non-agricultural Based:** These are limited in number & size, and the larger ones, Bunce [Ashbury] Ltd & R & P Engineering Ltd, are based in a small estate off the Idstone Road in Ashbury. Their premises are not purpose built, but rather have evolved over the years from former farm buildings.

- **Home working:** As with many rural communities, home-working is increasing in the Parish with at least 20-home based businesses, ranging from garden design to ironing provision, decorating to educational consultancy.

4.12 A further key employer in the Neighbourhood Plan area is Ashbury Primary School, while other, smaller businesses located in the Parish include: Ashbury Electrical; Electrical Technolo-G; Touchwood Crafts; and two architectural practices.

Table 16: Economic Activity by Employment Group				
	Ashbury Parish	VOWHDC	S E Region	England
All Usual Residents Aged 16 to 74	376	87,477	6,274,341	38,881,374
Economically Active; Employee; Part-Time	15.2%	14.3%	13.8%	13.7%
Economically Active; Employee; Full-Time	41.5%	44.8%	40.4%	38.6%
Economically Active; Self-Employed	17.0%	10.8%	11.0%	9.8%
Economically Active; Unemployed	1.9%	2.5%	3.4%	4.4%
Economically Active; Full-Time Student	1.6%	2.7%	3.3%	3.4%
Economically Inactive; Retired	15.4%	13.9%	13.7%	13.7%
Economically Inactive; Student (Including Full-Time Students)	1.9%	3.9%	5.2%	5.8%
Economically Inactive; Looking After Home or Family	4.5%	3.9%	4.4%	4.4%
Economically Inactive; Long-Term Sick or Disabled	0.8%	1.9%	2.9%	4.0%
Economically Inactive; Other	~	1.3%	1.6%	2.2%
Unemployed; Age 16 to 24	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	1.2%
Unemployed; Age 50 to 74	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%
Unemployed; Never Worked	~	0.2%	0.4%	0.7%
Long-Term Unemployed	~	0.9%	1.3%	1.7%

(Source: Economic Activity, 2011 Census (KS601EW))

4.13 The popular Ashbury website [www.ashbury.org.uk] provides a directory of local businesses and services, and a full list of the known business/enterprises located within the Parish is given in Appendix A to this report.

- 4.14 Table 16 above, provides a comparison of economic activity by work-group within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area against that for the district, region & country as a whole.
- 4.15 Those economically active and in work in the Neighbourhood Plan area represent some 73.7% of the working population aged 17-74. This compares with 69.9% for the district, 65.2% for the region, and 62.1% for the country as a whole. Perhaps not surprisingly, the reverse is the case when comparing the economically inactive and/or unemployed categories the exceptions being those that have retired, 1.5% higher than the best of the extended areas, and home-carers.
- 4.16 What cannot be determined from this table is how many of those economically active are employed by businesses based within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area, and how many by those based elsewhere. Given the proximity of Shrivenham & Watchfield, it is highly likely that a proportion of residents work there, while others may commute further afield to Faringdon, Swindon, Wantage, Abingdon or Oxford.
- 4.17 A better illustration of this may be obtained by examining the first three categories of table 17 below – i.e. Managerial, Professional & Technical. These account for 50.14% of those in employment, some 140 residents, a number which is totally disproportionate to the number of businesses within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Table 17 – Economic Activity by Occupation				
	Ashbury Parish	VOWHDC	South East	England
All Usual Residents Aged 16 to 74 in Employment	282	63,181	4,260,723	25,162,721
1. Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	14.5%	12.8%	12.3%	10.9%
2. Professional Occupations	21.3%	23.2%	18.7%	17.5%
3. Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	15.6%	14.2%	13.8%	12.8%
4. Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	8.5%	10.9%	11.5%	11.5%
5. Skilled Trades Occupations	17.0%	11.0%	11.1%	11.4%
6. Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	7.1%	8.0%	9.3%	9.3%
7. Sales and Customer Service Occupations	3.9%	6.2%	7.9%	8.4%
8. Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	3.2%	5.3%	5.7%	7.2%
9. Elementary Occupations	8.9%	8.5%	9.7%	11.1%

(Source: Industry, 2011 Census (KS605EW) Percentages)

- 4.18 It will also be seen that the combined percentage for the Managerial, Professional & Technical categories within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area is marginally

higher than that for the district, and significantly higher than those for the region & country as a whole.

- 4.19 One other significant employer in the Parish not already mentioned is the Ashbury Primary School. While this cannot be described as a business in the commercial sense, it nevertheless does bring a number of jobs to the area, and may well impact on statistics given in Table 14.

IN SUMMARY

- 4.20 It will be evident from the above that the economy in the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area is sound and contributes positively toward achieving the stated aims of both the County & District Councils. The evidence suggests this is due in part to local residents being employed outside the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area, and suggests also that it is the rural nature of the area that makes it an attractive place to live.

- 4.21 The policies of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will need to take full account of this so that while the economic policies are structured to encourage growth within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area. Growth that does occur will need to be consistent with the overall objectives of the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it does not detract from the very attractiveness of the area as a place to live.

EVIDENCE GAPS

- 4.22 A better understanding of the seeming lack of benefit from, or awareness of, enterprise funding by businesses within the Neighbourhood Plan could prove of assistance when finalising the Plan policies, as could an understanding of the make-up of the workforce employed within the Neighbourhood Plan area, and the nature & location of the employment of residents as a whole. These are issues that should be addressed by conducting an appropriate survey of current employers, while also seeking supplementary feedback from all residents as part of the intended wider consultation.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 4.23 Thought should be given to the means by which the above-identified issues might be addressed through land use based policies in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

5 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

5.1 This section of the report describes the natural resources in the area of the Neighbourhood Plan and its surroundings.

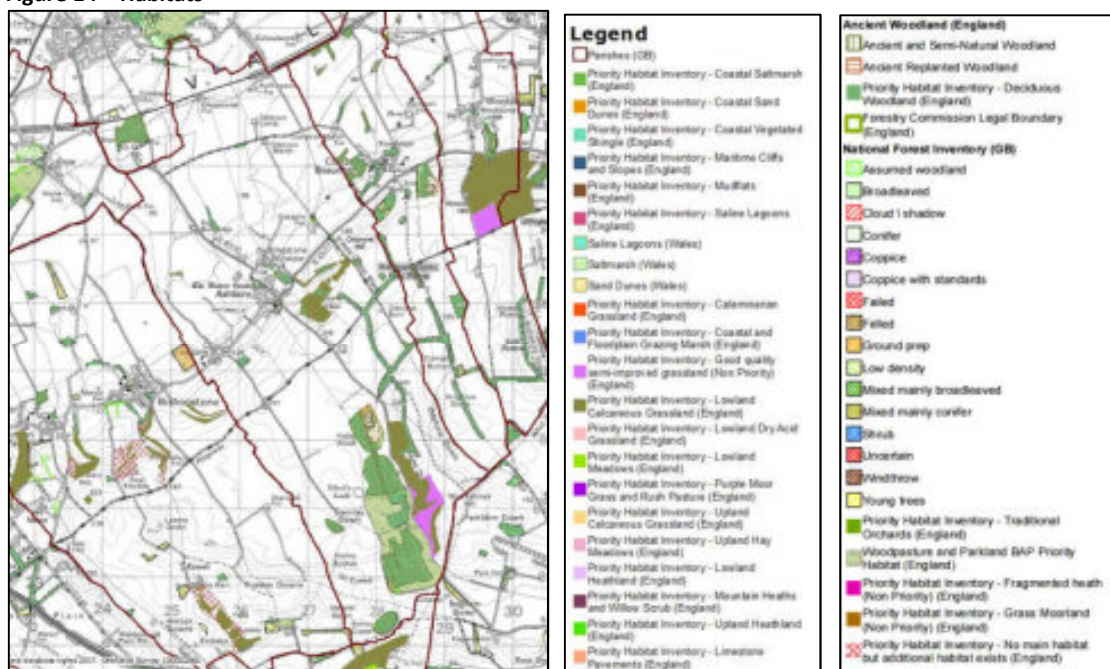
HABITATS

5.2 Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area contains a range of habitats including a number of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 'priority habitats'. These are regarded as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action.

5.3 Ashbury Parish contains a variety of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland and Ancient Replanted Woodland around the Ashdown Park estate. Parts of this Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland is also deciduous woodland priority habitat, as are various other woodlands in the north and south of the Parish.

5.4 Beyond the wooded areas there are also areas of BAP semi-improved and lowland calcareous grassland, to the south east of Ashbury village / Kingstone Winslow and to the east of Ashdown Park.

Figure 14 – Habitats



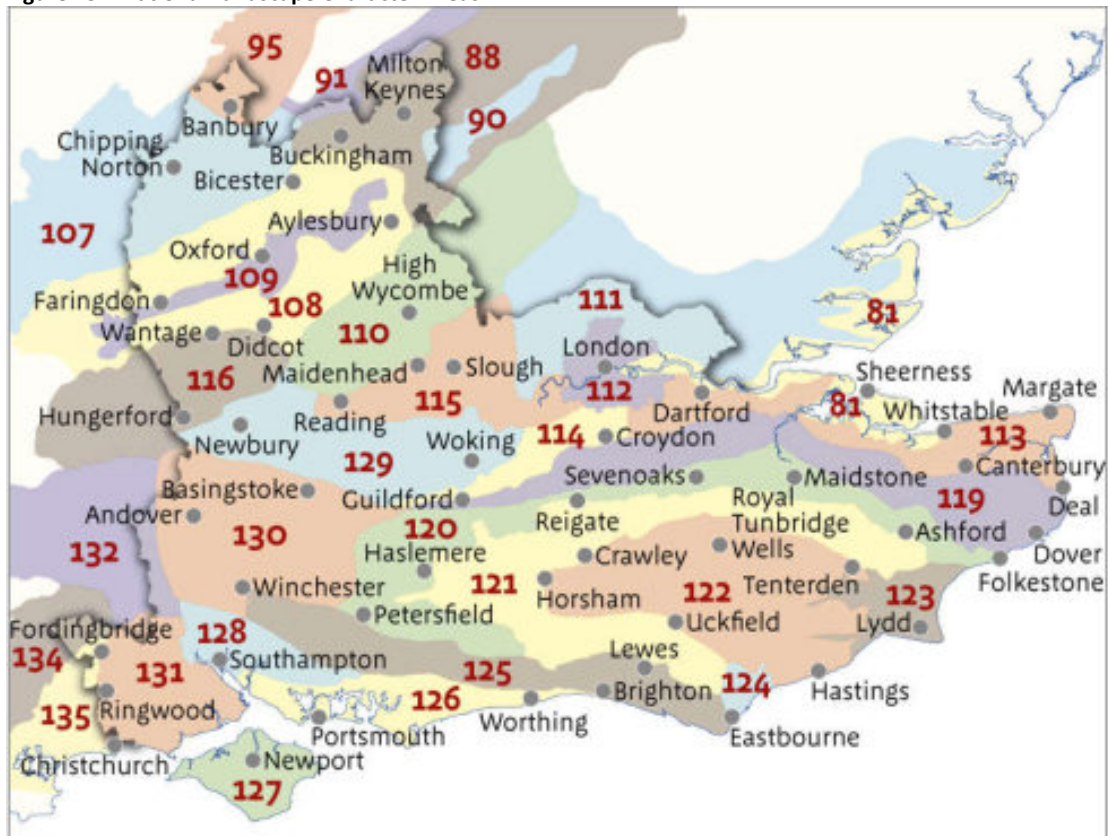
(Source: Priority Habitat Mapping www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

5.5 The Neighbourhood Plan Area falls across two National Landscape Character

Areas¹³: The Upper Thames Clay Vale (area 108) and the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs (area 116).

Figure 15 – National Landscape Character Areas



(Source: Natural England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-east-england-and-london>)

5.6 The Natural England Character Area Profile for area 108 states that the area is characterised by “*The Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area (NCA) is a broad belt of open, gently undulating lowland farmland on predominantly Jurassic and Cretaceous clays.....There are contrasting landscapes, including enclosed pastures of the claylands with wet valleys, mixed farming, hedges, hedge trees and field trees and more settled, open, arable lands. Mature field oaks give a parkland feel in many places.*”

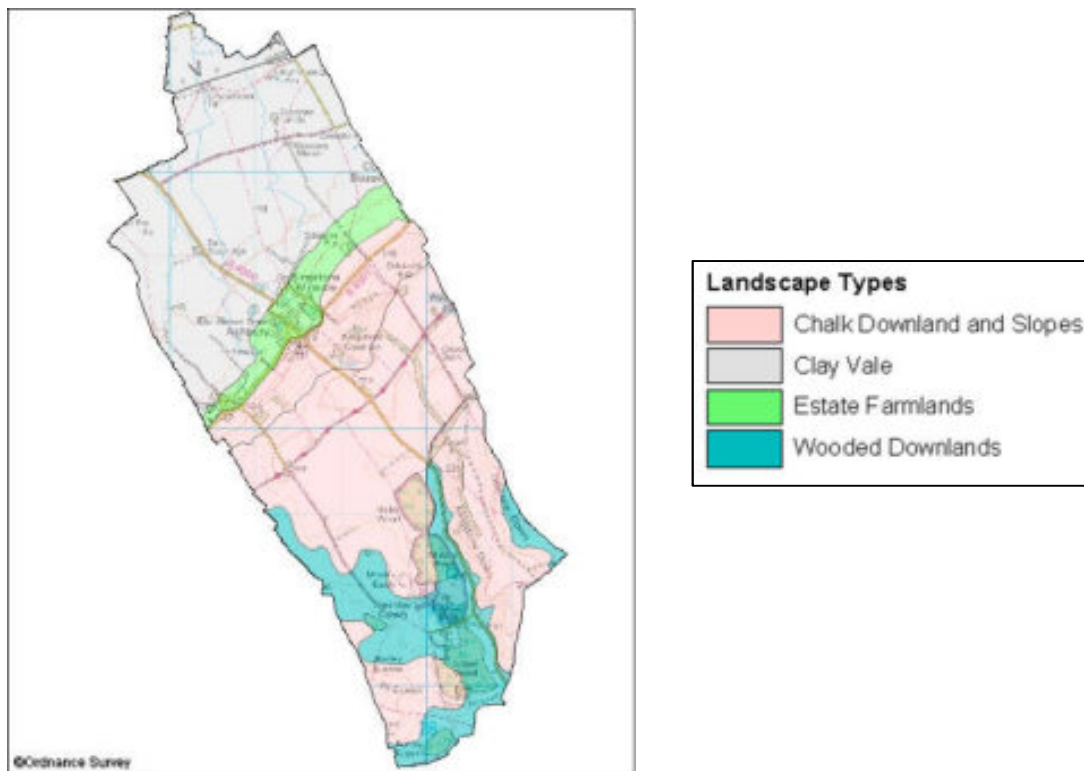
5.7 The profile for area 116 states that the area is characterised by “*Vast arable fields stretch across the sparsely settled, rolling Chalk hills of the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs National Character Area (NCA). There are extensive views from the escarpment in particular, punctuated by landmarks including chalk-cut horse figures, beech clumps and ancient monuments. Historic routeways, including the*

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-east-england-and-london>

Ridgeway National Trail, provide public access across this landscape.”

- 5.8 At a regional level, there are two Regional Joint Character Areas affecting the Neighbourhood Plan Area – the Vale of White Horse and the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs. The boundaries of these broadly follow the boundaries of the national character areas.
- 5.9 Locally there are four different landscape types within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Further description of the local strategy for managing these landscapes is in the VOWH publication: Planning Advisory Notes¹⁴. The key Note is the Landscape Strategy.

Figure 16 – Local Landscape Types



(Source: Oxfordshire Wildlife & Landscape Study:
<http://owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/OWLS/Home/Oxfordshire+Districts/Oxfordshire+Districts+-+Parishes/Vale+of+White+Horse+Parishes/Ashbury/> © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

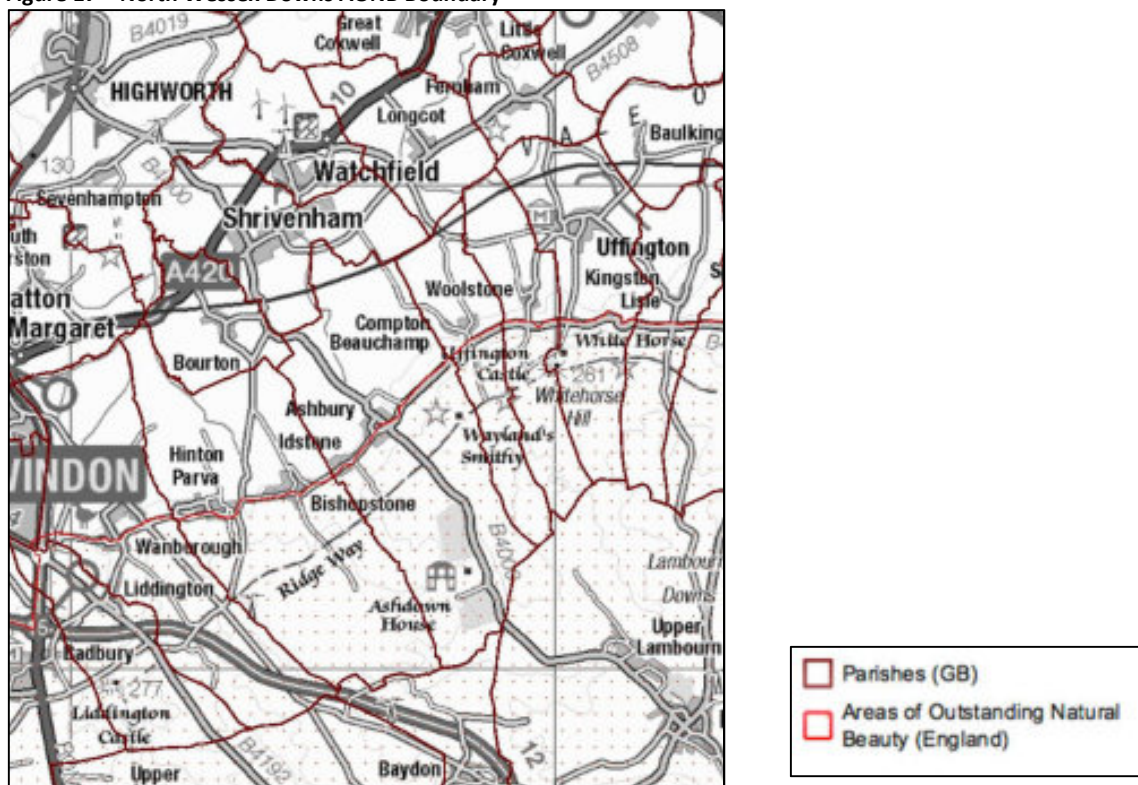
NORTH WESSEX DOWNS AONB

- 5.10 The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundary bisects the Neighbourhood Plan Area roughly half way between the northern and southern boundary of the area, along the line of the B4507 road that passes through Ashbury.

¹⁴ VOWHDC (2006) *Planning Advisory Notes*, [Online]. Available: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan/supplementary-planning-guidance> [25/05/17]

- 5.11 The AONB covers 1730 sq km. It was designated in 1972 and is the third largest AONB in the country. That part of the AONB within the Neighbourhood Plan Area is approximately 8.1 sq.km. or 810 hectares in area. This is approximately 31% of the total land area within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 5.12 AONBs are nationally important designated landscapes where “*Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty*” (para. 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

Figure 17 – North Wessex Downs AONB Boundary



(Source: AONB Mapping www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

- 5.13 The 2014-2019 North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan¹⁵ describes the northern part of the AONB (and the Parish area) as forming what is referred to as the ‘Downs Plain and Scarp’ (referred to in earlier documents as the ‘Liddington to Letcombe Open Scarp’) where the landscape is characterised by arable fields, lack of surface water and limited built development. The scarp slope, intersected by springs, creates a boundary feature that weaves across the countryside, in some places

¹⁵ North Wessex Downs AONB Board (2014) *AONB Management Plan 2014-19*, [Online]. Available: <http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/About-Us/aonb-management-plan.html> [31/03/17].

wooded and in others open. It contains significant areas of remnant chalk grassland (see Management Plan p.22).

5.14 The area of landscape immediately to the south of the scarp is known as 'Open Downland' (previously known as the 'Lambourn Downs' in earlier documents).

5.15 The Management Plan describes this area as open, smoothly rounded downland with dry valleys intersecting the downs and with steep scarps and again a lack of surface water. Vegetation is very limited although occasional Beech woods may be seen high up on the slopes as well as long shelter belts, often orientated north / south (see Management Plan p.23).

5.16 It states "*This is a remote, tranquil landscape of panoramic views where the sky forms a key part of the landscape, including the effect of cloud shadows on the ground and the wind creating swells through the crops. The dominant land use is of vast sweeping arable fields with small remnant patches of chalk grassland on steeper slopes. Settlement is extremely sparse and limited to scattered farmsteads and racing stables*" (Management Plan p.23).

NATURE RESERVES

5.17 There are several protected areas within or near the Neighbourhood Plan Area. These include internationally, nationally and locally important designated areas.

5.18 At the international level are the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar Sites and Biosphere reserves. Only two protected locations are within ten kilometres of the Neighbourhood Plan Area: The River Lambourn SAC (3.4km at its nearest point on the Parish boundary, 7.6km to the south east of Ashbury) and the Hackpen Hill SAC (5.6km at its nearest point on the Parish boundary to the east; 8km to the east of Kingstone Winslow).

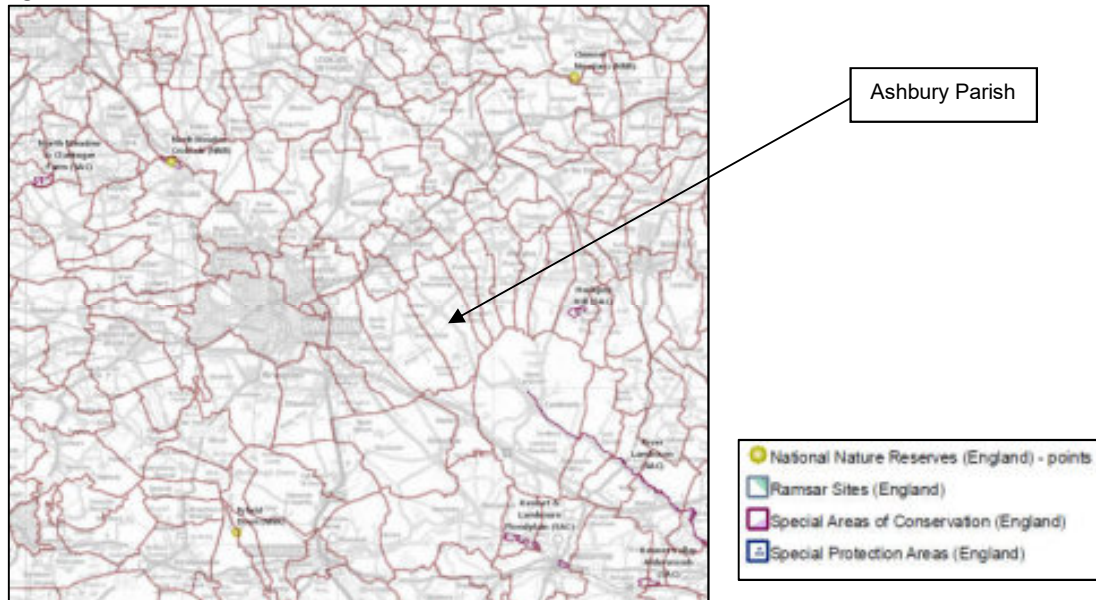
5.19 Paragraph 3.2.5 of the West Berkshire Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment¹⁶, commenting on the River Lambourn SAC, concludes by saying that:

"The overall outcome of the Appropriate Assessment on the River Lambourn SAC is that, provided the Core Strategy is implemented effectively, there is no adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site from this plan."

¹⁶ West Berkshire Council (2010) *Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment*. [Online]. Available: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=36470&p=0> [25/05/17].

- 5.20 This conclusion was reached in light of the consideration of ‘in combination’ effects from development in adjoining areas including the Vale of White Horse District’s emerging Local Plan.

Figure 18 – SACs / SPAs / Ramsar sites / NNRs



(Source: SAC / SPA / NNR / Ramsar site Mapping www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

- 5.21 Paragraph 6.6 of the February 2015 URS Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Vale’s Submission Local Plan Part 1 reviewed the impact of the additional development planned for the Vale on the Hackpen Hill SAC. It states:

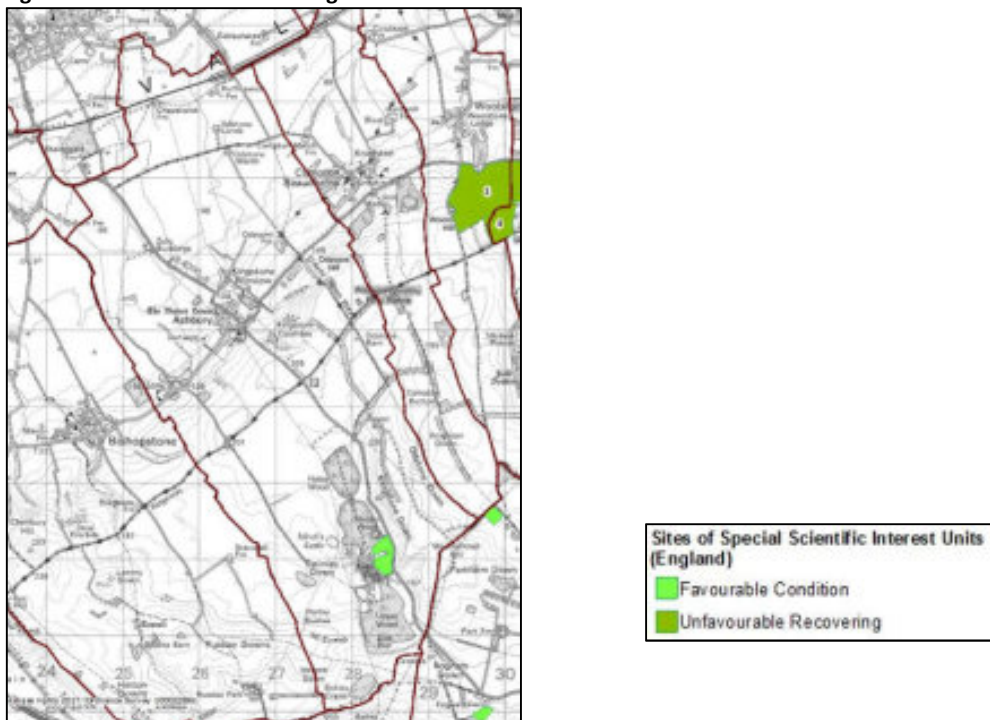
“Issues of recreational pressure and air quality have been considered in relation to impacts of the Additional Consultation document on the Hackpen Hill SAC. It is possible to conclude that likely significant effects will not arise from air quality issues on the Hackpen Hill SAC as a result of development within the Vale of White Horse District under the Additional Consultation document policy amendments. There is however a small risk of increased recreational pressure on Hackpen Hill SAC which may trigger the need for enhanced access management to the site. The local authority should be prepared to contribute to any enhanced access management that might be identified by Natural England in future as stemming from increased local population. The Council has advised that this issue can be addressed through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).”

- 5.22 Section 2.4 of the West Berkshire Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment (July 2010) commented, in relation to the impact of development in West Berkshire on the Hackpen Hill SAC, that *“There is expected to be minimal disturbance from*

increased population due to remoteness of the site from settlements [in West Berkshire].”

- 5.23 Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA lies over 30km from the nearest part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area and 36km from the nearest part of Uffington. Other more local SACs (the Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC and the Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC) are approximately 10 and 17km respectively from the nearest boundary of the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 5.24 The nearest nationally protected areas are Chimney Meadows National Nature Reserve, 14.4km away from the nearest part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which is located within the Neighbourhood Plan Area: Ashdown Park SSSI (9.2ha). The SSSI is confirmed as being in ‘favourable condition’.
- 5.25 This area of land is protected for the lichen flora associated with a large number of naturally situated sarsen stones within the SSSI. The citation advises that twenty species of lichen have been recorded, many of which are uncommon in the area. It confirms that Ashdown Park is considered to be the best site for sarsen lichens surviving outside Wiltshire and Dorset.

Figure 19 – National Nature Designations



(Source: SSSI Mapping www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

5.26 There are several Local Wildlife Sites in the Neighbourhood Plan Area according to the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. There comprise:

- 28S04/1 Odstone Coombes
- 28S04/2 Kingstone Coombes
- 28S05 Odstone Hill Lane
- 28V01/3 Middle and Hailey
- 28V01/4 Upper Wood
- 28V02 Kingston Down

5.27 There are no Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) sites within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

5.28 Other locations where wildlife may be observed within the Neighbourhood Plan area include the far northern end of the area where the route of the former Wilts & Berks Canal can be found between Savernake Brake and Forty Acre Plantation (both outside but adjacent to the Plan area).

5.29 A number of protected species have been recorded within the Neighbourhood Plan area and indeed further details may be obtained from the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. The Magic Map database identifies records within the Neighbourhood Plan area of the following species (NB this list is not exclusive):

- Lapwing
- Grey Partridge
- Corn Bunting
- Curlew
- Yellow Wagtail
- Stone Curlew
- Various bat species

INFORMATION GAPS

5.30 Data for this aspect of the characterisation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is good, but there is a notable gap in local level data on landscape and visual characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This could be critical in determining the capacity of the Plan area to absorb development in the future and to determine the areas where new development could lead to greater or lesser degree of impacts on the landscape character of the Plan area and the integrity of the local and nationally important

landscapes within the Plan area. Work has just begun to produce an updated landscape assessment for the Vale of White Horse District, but at the time of writing it is unclear at what level this will assess landscape character and whether it will provide a greater degree of fine detail that would be of assistance at a Parish level.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 5.31 There are several areas or locations within or close to the Neighbourhood Plan Area which are of great landscape or ecological importance, including the North Wessex Downs AONB, the SSSI and the nearby SACs.
- 5.32 Further consideration will need to be given to the effect of future development within the Neighbourhood Plan Area on these designated areas and the means by which impacts associated with any future development can be mitigated.

6 BUILT ENVIRONMENT, DESIGN & HERITAGE

6.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a wide range of heritage assets which reflects the diversity of this historic landscape.

6.2 The National Planning Policy (NPPF) defines a heritage asset as:

“A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).”

6.3 Historic England maintains the official list of protected buildings or sites, which is known as The Heritage List for England (NHLE). It contains a current register of all nationally protected historic buildings or sites in England. The defined Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a large number of designated heritage assets which are described in further detail below.

LISTED BUILDINGS

6.4 With regard to listed buildings the Neighbourhood Plan Area contains the following (see also Appendix B for details of the listed buildings within the Plan area)

- Listed building: Grade I (4)
- Listed building: Grade II* (1)
- Listed building: Grade II (35)

6.5 Grade I buildings are determined to be of ‘exceptional interest’ and represent only 2.5% of all listed buildings. Within the Area, the Grade I buildings are: Ashdown House; the Pavilions to Ashdown House; and St. Mary’s Church.

6.6 There is only one Grade II* listed building - Ashbury Manor - which is considered to be a building of ‘more than special interest’.

6.7 There is a wide range of Grade II listed buildings within the Plan area, which represent the diverse range of buildings across the area. These largely comprise cottages, farmhouses, agricultural buildings and mills.

6.8 Geographically, the Listed Buildings can be subdivided into:

- Ashdown House & Park (7)
- Odstone Farm (3)
- Ildstone (6)
- Ashbury (24)

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

6.9 Historic England also maintains the record of Registered Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England.

6.10 The Plan Area contains Ashdown House, which is a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden comprising the mid C17 hunting lodge (Grade I Listed Buildings) with formal woodland hunting rides (partly covering the site of an earlier medieval deer park), a C19 landscape park, and formal parterre garden which were recreated in the 1950s from the original C19 gardens.

6.11 Situated adjacent to but outside the Plan Area is Compton Beauchamp Park & Garden, a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden. It contains a C16 and early C18 country house (a Grade I Listed Building) on a moated site, with the remains of an early C18 formal garden which also incorporates later features.

CONSERVATION AREAS

6.12 Ashbury and Ildstone both have conservation areas defining the historic core of each settlement (see Appendix C for maps).

6.13 The designation records and protects the features that contribute towards the special character or appearance of the conservation area, which not only includes the built form, but important landscape features and views.

6.14 Ashbury Conservation Area covers 10.04 hectares and was designated on 2nd February 1970. It encompasses St. Mary's Church to the southeast up to Manor Farm, the Watercress beds and Lodge in the northwest.

6.15 Ildstone Conservation Area covers 7.15 hectares and was designated on 3rd February 1970. It encompasses Lower Ildstone Farm in the west to a dwelling known as 'Trip the Daisy' (formerly Lertwell Cottage) to the east.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

6.16 A number of scheduled monuments are situated within the Plan Area. In particular, these include:

- Wayland's Smithy - Neolithic chambered long barrow known as Wayland's Smithy which was built over an earlier wooden and earthen funerary chamber, as well as two field boundary ditches dating from the Iron Age and the Romano-British periods. The monument is situated 50m north of the Ridgeway ancient track, c.1km west of Whitehorse Hill. National Grid Reference: SU 28093 85394.
- Idstone Down Round Barrows – Bronze Age burial round barrow cemetery - a dispersed linear barrow cemetery situated on the crest of Idstone Down - National Grid Reference: SU 27499 81018.
- Alfred's Castle univallate hillfort - situated c.500m north west of Ashdown House - National Grid Reference: SU 27734 82236.
- Small bowl barrow 350 metres south-west of Harley Bushes – small round barrow funerary monument dating from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age - National Grid Reference: SU 27265 81117.

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

6.17 There are numerous non-designated assets which include a wide array of buildings, structures and remains. It also includes the 87-mile-long Ridgeway, which passes through the Neighbourhood Plan Area. As a National Trail is considered to be an exceptional example of the prehistoric environment, having been in use for at least 5,000 years. The route links scheduled monuments within the Plan Area such as Wayland Smithy to Uffington White Horse which lies in close proximity to the northeast, with the route extending for a total distance of approximately 87 miles.

6.18 Other assets have been identified through local studies and are contained with the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (formerly the 'Sites and Monuments Record'). This contains data of all historical and archaeological sites in the county. The details of which are included as Appendix D

LOCAL BUILT CHARACTER

6.19 The Vale of White Horse has a diverse landscape character which is in part based on its varied geology. The character of the Vale's settlements is also shaped by a number of other factors such as landscape, historical use and more recently through modern technology. These have been categorised into separate character zones as set out in the Vale of White Horse's (VoWH) Design Guide 2015.

6.20 The villages within the Plan area are defined as falling into Zone 4: Chalk Villages which follow the chalk spring lines. The VoWH Design Guide describes the villages within this landscape zone as small, distinctly rural settlements *'typically comprising informal cottages and farmsteads, although some villages include large Manor Houses'*.

6.21 The Vale of White Horse's June 2009 Design Guide¹⁷ set out the palette of materials commonly found within character zone 4 as follows (see pages 30-31 – also reproduced in the 2015 VOWH Design Guide¹⁸ at Appendix E to that document (pages 239-240)):

"The most prominent material is local chalk blocks set on a foundation of sarsen stones. Sometimes sarsen stones along make up the walls. As these are extremely difficult to cut, they are always laid as whole stones in a random, uncoursed fashion. Small 1.5-2 storey, wide frontage cottages often with thatched roofs predominate.

Walls:

- *Chalk block either regular sized and laid in courses or random sized and uncoursed*
- *Sarsen stone mixed with other materials such as chalk or brick.*
- *Timber framing.*
- *Berkshire orange brick usually used for brick quoins and detailing around windows and doors and repairs to chalk.*
- *Colour washed lime render*
- *Weatherboard on outbuildings*

Roofs:

- *Thatch with a plain, flush ridge.*
- *Red/orange clay tiles*
- *Stone slates*
- *Blue slate*

Fenestration and Doors:

- *Timber sash and casement, iron leaded casement windows*
- *Timber doors*

¹⁷ VOWHDC (2010) *Residential Design Guide*, [Online]. Available: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale/residential-design-guide-june10webtcm4-7616.pdf [05/04/17].

¹⁸ VOWHDC (2015) *Design Guide SPD*, [Online]. Available: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/VWH005SFS.pdf> [05/04/17].

- *Timber Finishes:*
- *The paint colour palette in rural area is narrow, with white or pale colours such as greens and greys often with black contrasts.*
- *Tar and pitch on barns and timber frame.*
- *Untreated oak.”*

6.22 The southern part of the Parish lies within Zone 5 – the Upper Chalk Downs (see pages 32-33 of the 2009 Guide / 241-242 of the 2015 Guide). The Guide states that *“Zone 5 is sparsely settled, with only one settlement of any size, Letcombe Bassett. The remaining built environment comprises a mix of farmsteads and the notable Ashdown House. Ashdown House is constructed of chalk blocks with stone quoins. The building has Dutch and French influences and its hipped roof is topped by two large chimneys and an octagonal cupola. The house is unusually tall and narrow, which is emphasised by the openness of the landscape within which it is set, and includes a detached pavilion on each side.”*

6.23 It goes on to describe the palette of materials as follows:

“The most prominent material is timber framing infilled with either chalk, stone or render.

Walls:

- *Timber framing with chalk, stone or render infill;*
- *Chalk block random sized and uncoursed;*
- *Sarsen stone mixed with other materials such as chalk or brick;*
- *Weatherboard on outbuildings and extensions to cottages;*
- *North Wessex orange brick as a sole facing material usually on outbuildings or used in repairs; and*
- *Colour washed lime render*

Roofs:

- *Thatch with a plain, flush ridge; and*
- *Red/orange clay tiles*

Fenestration and Doors:

- *Timber sash and casement, iron leaded casement windows;*
- *Timber doors;*

- *Timber Finishes;*
- *The paint colour palette in rural areas is narrow, with white or pale colours such as greens and greys often with black contrasts;*
- *Tar and pitch on barns and timber frame; and*
- *Untreated oak*

INFORMATION GAPS

6.24 There is no conservation area appraisal or character appraisal currently available or being undertaken at the time of writing in relation to the designated Conservation Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The lack of such information may be significant and further work to address this omission may be required.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

6.25 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a substantial number of heritage assets including grade I and II* listed buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens and Scheduled Monuments of exceptional importance. Such a range of assets is considered to be rare and their sensitivity to the pressure of development requires an approach which will recognise both the conservation and enhancement of the asset itself, in addition to issues relating to tourism resulting from public access to these assets.

6.26 In a similar vein the designated historic assets which are located adjacent or within close proximity to the Plan Area will also need careful consideration.

6.27 The local character and appearance of the settlements within the Plan Area is also significant and not solely limited to those parts of the villages that lie within designated Conservation Areas.

6.28 All of the above considerations are matters which are likely to be material to future plan-making and planning decisions within the Plan Area and require further consideration.

7 SPORTS, RECREATION AND LEISURE

7.1 This section sets out the evidence that supports the intended Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan policies relating to open space within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Given the nature of the topic, much of the evidence is derived from local sources.

LEISURE FACILITIES

7.2 Being a rural community there are currently no publicly owned leisure facilities within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area. A potential site for outdoor sports such as soccer or cricket does exist, namely, the newly established open space adjacent to the newly developed (2014) Wixes Piece, Ashbury provided through S106 conditions, but as yet no decision has been made as to actual usage. Improvements to and better use of, the open space at Wixes Piece were topics that many residents felt strongly about in our initial survey, and their views on how to address same should be sought as part of the next phase of the community engagement process.

7.3 However, the one facility provided as part of the Wixes Piece development that is used extensively is the children's play area, a facility that is popular with families and school groups alike, and is deemed a real benefit to the community.

7.4 Despite this lack of facilities there are a number of organised activities open to residents. Outdoors, there is 'beating the bounds' and other organised walks making use of the many public rights of way that cross the Parish (see below). A list of such activities is given in Appendix E and further details can be found on the Parish website www.ashbury.org.uk. The Ashbury Village Hall offers a myriad of indoor activities ranging from keep fit to art classes, toddlers clubs to wood carving. These too are listed in Appendix E with further details available from the Parish website.

7.5 In addition, there are any number of sports and leisure facilities in close proximity, the nearest being at Shrivenham (c. 3 miles) and Uffington [circa 4-miles] that has outdoor facilities providing soccer, cricket, bowls, tennis and golf, while also offering a wide range of indoor sports and leisure activities. A little further afield at Faringdon, Highworth, Swindon and Wantage in addition to the sports mentioned above and most other outdoor sports, there are leisure centres providing swimming pools and indoor sports such as badminton and squash.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- 7.6 The Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-14¹⁹ officially covers the period ending 2014. It is still of relevance however, in describing a clear set of aims and outcomes for the County. It states (paragraph 13) as its Vision:

“To improve the existing public rights of way network for all users and would-be users, and improve the extent, use and understanding of the network, so that public rights of way fulfil their role as a vital part of life in the County.”

- 7.7 It continues by stating its aims & desired outcomes as follows:

1. *Public rights of way are protected and well maintained*

Outcome 1: All public rights of way to be recorded, available and unobstructed.

Outcome 2: All public rights of way to be well maintained and well marked.

2. *A better joined-up network that meets the needs and demands of users whilst accommodating the interests of land managers, the natural environment and our cultural heritage.*

Outcome 3: Detailed knowledge of the extent and adequacy of the public rights of way network for each type of user in relation to settlements, facilities and attractions.

Outcome 4: Increased understanding of the needs, demands and satisfaction with the current and future public rights of way network.

Outcome 5: Additions that complete disjointed networks, provide access to and from settlements and attractions, and provide alternatives to road use.

3. *A public rights of way network which enables access for all.*

Outcome 6: Local rights of way are made as accessible as possible whilst balancing the needs of current and future land and livestock management.

Outcome 7: Farmers and land managers support making the countryside more accessible.

4. *A thriving countryside where residents and visitors are able to understand and enjoy their rights, in a responsible way.*

Outcome 8: Promoted routes, on and off-site information, websites and activities provide comprehensive information and guidance for increased and sustainable access to the countryside.

Outcome 9: Public rights of way and countryside access contribute directly to a thriving local community.

- 7.8 The 2015 Oxfordshire Rights of Way Management Plan²⁰ takes the Improvement Plan forward, and suggests that these ‘outcomes’ have largely been achieved, but

¹⁹ Oxfordshire County Council (2015) *Oxfordshire Rights of Way Management Plan 2015-2025* [Online]. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/mk4oauy>

²⁰ Oxfordshire County Council (2015) *Oxfordshire Rights of Way Management Plan 2015-2025* [Online]. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/mk4oauy>

there are known instances within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area where this is not actually the case. Therefore, as part of the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan there is a need to ensure that, as far as possible, Rights of Way within the Parish meet the stated aims quoted above in order to be consistent with the current Management Plan.

7.9 There are any number of public rights of way within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area, whether footpaths, byways or bridleways, the most notable of these being the Ridgeway that features the Waylands Smithy - see below. The Ridgeway is a 'National Trail' that crosses the Parish 1km south / south-east of, and running approximately parallel to, the settlements of Kingstone Winslow, Ashbury & Idstone, and is popular with walkers, cyclists & horse-riders alike. The D'Arcy Dalton Way also crosses the Plan area in the central part of the parish.

7.10 Rights of Way are recorded on the Oxfordshire Definitive Map²¹, although it only covers the period to 2006; more recent data can be sourced from the Countryside Access Map²². Figure 20 below contains an extract from the Countryside Access Map depicting rights of way within and adjacent to the Plan area.

Figure 20 – Rights of Way



Source: Oxfordshire Countryside Access Map © Crown Copyright; Access Land Data © Natural England

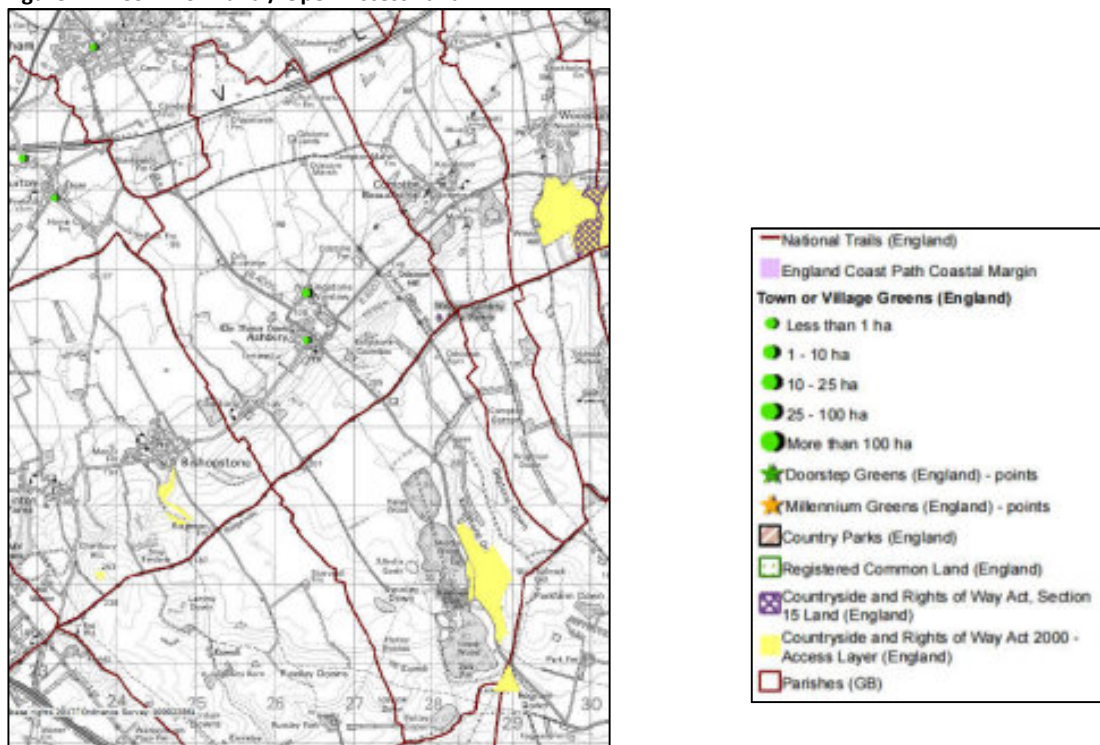
²¹ Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Service Definitive Map & Statement 2006 [online] available at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/definitive-map-and-statement-online>

²² Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Service Countryside Access Map [online] available at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysidemap/>

COMMON LAND & PUBLIC ACCESS LAND

- 7.11 Other than roadside verges and the small ‘greens’ in Kingstone Winslow (‘Cross Trees Green’ – 1.6ha - adjacent to the lane off Station Road) and Ashbury (‘Kingstone Winslow Green’ – 0.1ha - outside the Rose & Crown & around the war memorial), the main area of public land within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area is that at Wixes Piece, Ashbury already referred to above. The Ashbury allotments, a well-used amenity situated to the south of the B4507 toward Wantage, are on land privately owned by, and let by permission of, Compton Beauchamp Estates.
- 7.12 More extensive areas of public access land are to be found in that part of the North Wessex Downs ANOB towards the southern end of the Parish south of the B4507 and east of the B4000 – see figure 21 below.

Figure 21 – Common Land / Open Access Land



(Source: Access Mapping www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

- 7.13 There is no general ‘right to roam’ as such but there are many rights of way that cross the area including The Ridgeway, the National Trail referred to above. The other key feature of this part of the Parish is Ashdown House, a 17th century former hunting lodge now managed by the National Trust (see previous section for further details). There is a limited area of Access Land as defined by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 (see Figure 21 above) adjacent to the house itself, but with the

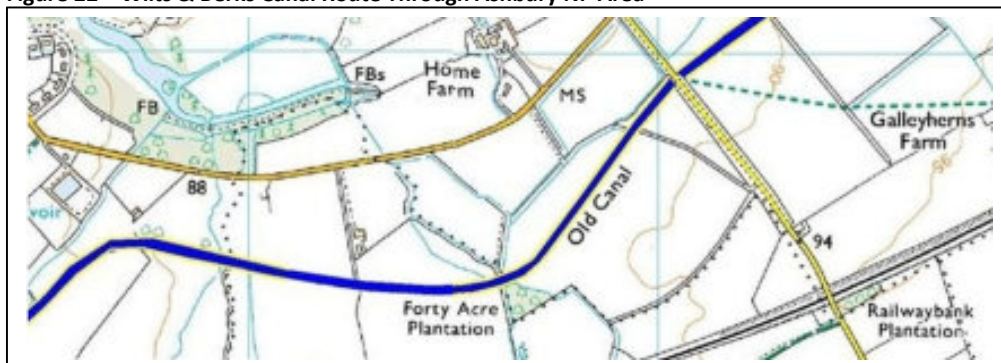
exception of Friday's the adjacent woodland is also open to the public and is a favourite spot for dog-walkers.

- 7.14 Just outside the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area to the east, but still within the AONB, are Uffington White Horse dating back to the Bronze-Age and Uffington Castle, an Iron-Age hill-fort dominating the highest point in Oxfordshire. The entire site, that also includes a number of other notable geological features such as The Manger & Dragons Hill and Neolithic burial grounds, comprises a conservation area controlled by The National Trust that is also registered Access Land.
- 7.15 This northern part of the North Wessex Downs ANOB is a magnet for tourists and related benefits already feed into the local economy

THE WILTS & BERKS CANAL

- 7.16 The route of the Wilts & Berks Canal passes through the Neighbourhood Plan Area in the far north of the Plan area. The canal was opened in 1810 and was eventually abandoned by an Act of Parliament in 1914 after operating for approximately 100 years.
- 7.17 As will be seen from figure 22 below the Canal makes only a brief appearance within the Parish boundary, part of which is tunnelled and barely accessible having fallen into disrepair. Thanks to the volunteers of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, however, it is hoped that restoration of this part of the canal can be achieved within the next 10-years, thereby providing not only another recreational facility, but it is hoped a further boost to tourism within the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area.

Figure 22 – Wilts & Berks Canal Route Through Ashbury NP Area



(Source: Wilts & Berks Canal Trust © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

IN SUMMARY

- 7.18 The Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan area offers excellent opportunities for outdoor pursuits such as walking, off-road cycling, and horse riding as a result of the many footpaths and bridleways that can be found throughout the area, but particularly within the AONB. The AONB as a whole also contains many sites of historic interest and far-reaching views, with sites such as The Waylands Smithy & Alfred's Castle falling within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

INFORMATION GAPS

- 7.19 There is a need to consult residents on the preferred usage of open spaces, and particularly that at Wixes Piece.
- 7.20 There is also a need to verify that all Rights of Way are recorded & accessible, while determining the standard of maintenance of same in order that relevant parties may be made aware of where improvements are necessary.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 7.21 The availability and demand for sports, leisure and recreational facilities can be regarded as a land use planning matter.
- 7.22 The Neighbourhood Plan could develop policies to address related issues such as the location of additional facilities, the need for additional facilities and the mechanism for delivery.

8 TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

- 8.1 The Neighbourhood Plan area is bisected by the B4507 that connects the spring line villages at the foot of the scarp slope of the downs, and the B4000 between Shrivenham and Lambourn.
- 8.2 Despite their B class, these roads carry significant amounts of traffic. By way of an example, the FMW Consultancy Transport Statement (2012) produced in support of the Wixes Piece planning application at Walnut Tree Hill in Ashbury recorded 5 day average two-way 24hr traffic flows on the B4507 of 946 vehicles (454 northbound and 492 southbound) and with 7 day average 85th percentile speeds (two way) of 42.7mph, higher than the 30mph speed limit at the point the survey was carried out.
- 8.3 The far north of the Plan area contains a largely at grade section of the Cardiff / Bristol to Paddington main railway line.
- 8.4 The Plan area is also crossed by long distance rights of way as noted above (the Ridgeway and D'Arcy Dalton Way) and the route of the former Wilts & Berks Canal.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- 8.5 The villages of Ashbury and Idstone are (at the time of writing) served by the No 47 bus service connecting Swindon with Lambourn and settlements beyond. This is an unusual situation given the location of the Plan area within Oxfordshire where rural bus services were cut in the summer of 2016. The service is operated by West Berkshire Council Transport Services, under the Connect brand.
- 8.6 Five services a day (Monday to Saturday) operate from Lambourn to Swindon, stopping first at Ashbury at 08:09, with the last service stopping at Ashbury at 17:13. The return services (5 on a Monday; six Tuesday to Saturday) stop at Ashbury first at 09:07 and the last service stops in Ashbury at 18:22.
- 8.7 The Swindon Dial-a-ride service provides a bookable bus service visiting Ashbury and surrounding villages on Fridays and dropping off in Swindon town centre. It provides a door-to-door service and is for people of any age who cannot use existing public transport due to mobility impairment or disability, whether temporary or permanent (see website for details: <http://www.dialarideswindon.org.uk/shopperbus.html>)

8.8 The nearest train stations are Swindon (15km) and Didcot Parkway (30km). Oxford station is 44km away and Oxford Parkway 50km. All stations provide excellent services into London and onward to the rest of the UK, as well as serving the south west, Wales and the Midlands direct from these stations.

MODE OF TRAVEL TO WORK

8.9 Table 18 below sets out the travel to work data from the ONS 2011 census. It reveals interesting data in many respects:

	Ashbury Parish	VOWHDC	South East	England
All Usual Residents Aged 16 to 74	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Work Mainly at or From Home	10.37	5.11	4.46	3.47
Underground, Metro, Light Rail, Tram	0.00	0.12	0.24	2.64
Train	1.33	1.66	4.97	3.46
Bus, Minibus or Coach	1.86	4.22	3.03	4.85
Taxi	0.00	0.13	0.27	0.34
Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped	0.27	0.73	0.58	0.53
Driving a Car or Van	48.14	45.46	41.29	36.90
Passenger in a Car or Van	2.66	3.04	3.19	3.25
Bicycle	1.06	4.59	2.03	1.91
On Foot	8.78	6.75	7.39	6.95
Other Method of Travel to Work	0.53	0.40	0.45	0.42
Not in Employment	25.00	27.77	32.09	35.28

(Source: Method of Travel to Work, 2011 Census (QS701EW) Percentage)

8.10 Over 10% of all residents in the parish work mainly from home, compared to the District average of just over 5% and the England average of nearly 3.5%.

8.11 An understandably lower percentage of residents travel to work by bus / minibus / coach (1.86%) compared to 4.22% on average in the District. This reflects the rural location of the Plan area and the relative paucity of public transport options locally.

8.12 As would be expected, this leads to a higher than usual percentage of residents travelling to work in private cars / vans (over 48% compared to a District average of 45.5% and an England average of 36.9%).

8.13 Of considerable interest is the high proportion of residents travelling to work by foot (8.78% compared to 6.75% for the District and 6.95% for England). The reason for this is unclear but may represent those who work locally in the agricultural industry, or

in local employment at the public house or village shop. However the actual number of people in this category within the Plan area is 33, so the figure is significant.

ACCIDENT DATA

- 8.14 Data supplied by Crashmap.co.uk identifies 21 vehicle accidents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area between 2005 and 2016: <http://www.crashmap.com/Search> Of those 21 accidents, two were recorded as 'serious' – defined as where at least one person is seriously injured but no person (other than a confirmed suicide) is killed. 18 were recorded as 'slight', i.e. accidents in which at least one person is slightly injured but no person is killed or seriously injured. One accident resulted in a fatality.

INFORMATION GAPS

- 8.15 It has not been possible to locate any traffic counts for the B4000 passing through the Plan area. This would be useful data to obtain in order to gain a better understanding of the traffic flows between Shrivenham / A420 and Lambourn as this is the other main cross-country route bisecting the Plan area. With the recent significant planning permissions for additional residential development at Watchfield and Shrivenham, and major growth planned on the eastern edge of Swindon, there may be direct and indirect impacts on traffic flows through the Plan area and such data would help to better understand the implications for the Plan area of such growth.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 8.16 The data on transport and traffic has revealed issues which could be addressed through the development of land use based policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, in particular where road safety and traffic flows are concerned.

9 NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 This study has established a baseline for the Neighbourhood Plan Area against which to assess future progress (or otherwise) in the local planning of the area.
- 9.2 It has also begun to identify issues which may be of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan process, and where Neighbourhood Plan policies could be developed if the community feel it appropriate and/or necessary to do so.
- 9.3 The next step in the process will be to take this study forward as part of the evidence base supporting the emerging Neighbourhood Plan when it is published for consultation. The evidence set out in this report may be used to inform the scope and content of policies to be included in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A EMPLOYERS IN THE PARISH OF ASHBURY

Amenities & Tourism

Ashbury Primary School
Village Shop

The Rose & Crown Inn
National Trust, Ashdown

Farming 'Industry'

Ball H G
Chapelwick Farm
Fern Farm
Peploe K & Son
Ruffinwick Farm
West Mill Forestry

Berrycroft Farm
Compton Beauchamp Estates
Green R W & Partners
Reade F G & Sons
Stainswick Farm

Other Employers

Ashbury Electricals
Bunce [Ashbury] Ltd
D-lite Design
NMW Architects
R S Home & Garden

Roger Baker Architects
Clare's Organics
Electrical Technolo-G Ltd
R & P Engineering
Touchwood Crafts

Sole-Traders

Julie Carr
Alistair Kemp
Fiona Jury Planning
New A
Pain D
Online Simplicity
Ruggiero James

Education Consultant
Master Thatcher
Planning Consultants
Carpenter / Joiner
Garden Design
Web Design
Independent Financial Advisor

APPENDIX B LISTED BUILDING DETAILS

Ashdown House/Park (7 listed buildings)

Name	Reference	Grade
Ashdown House, urn approximately 10 metres north west of door	1048768	II
Ashdown House, pavilion approximately 20 metres north east	1048766	I
Ashdown House	1048765	I
Ashdown House, urn approximately 10 metres south west of door	1368373	II
Ashdown House, pavilion and attached wall approximately 20 metres south east	1048767	I
Ashdown Park Farmhouse	1048769	II
Ashdown Park Farmhouse, granary approximately 6 metres south east	1368374	II

Oddstone Farm (3 listed buildings)

Name	Reference	Grade
Oddstone Farmhouse	1048771	II
Oddstone Farmhouse, oxen stable approximately 40 metres south west	1368376	II
Oddstone Farmhouse, barn approximately metres south west	1284208	II

Idstone (6 listed buildings)

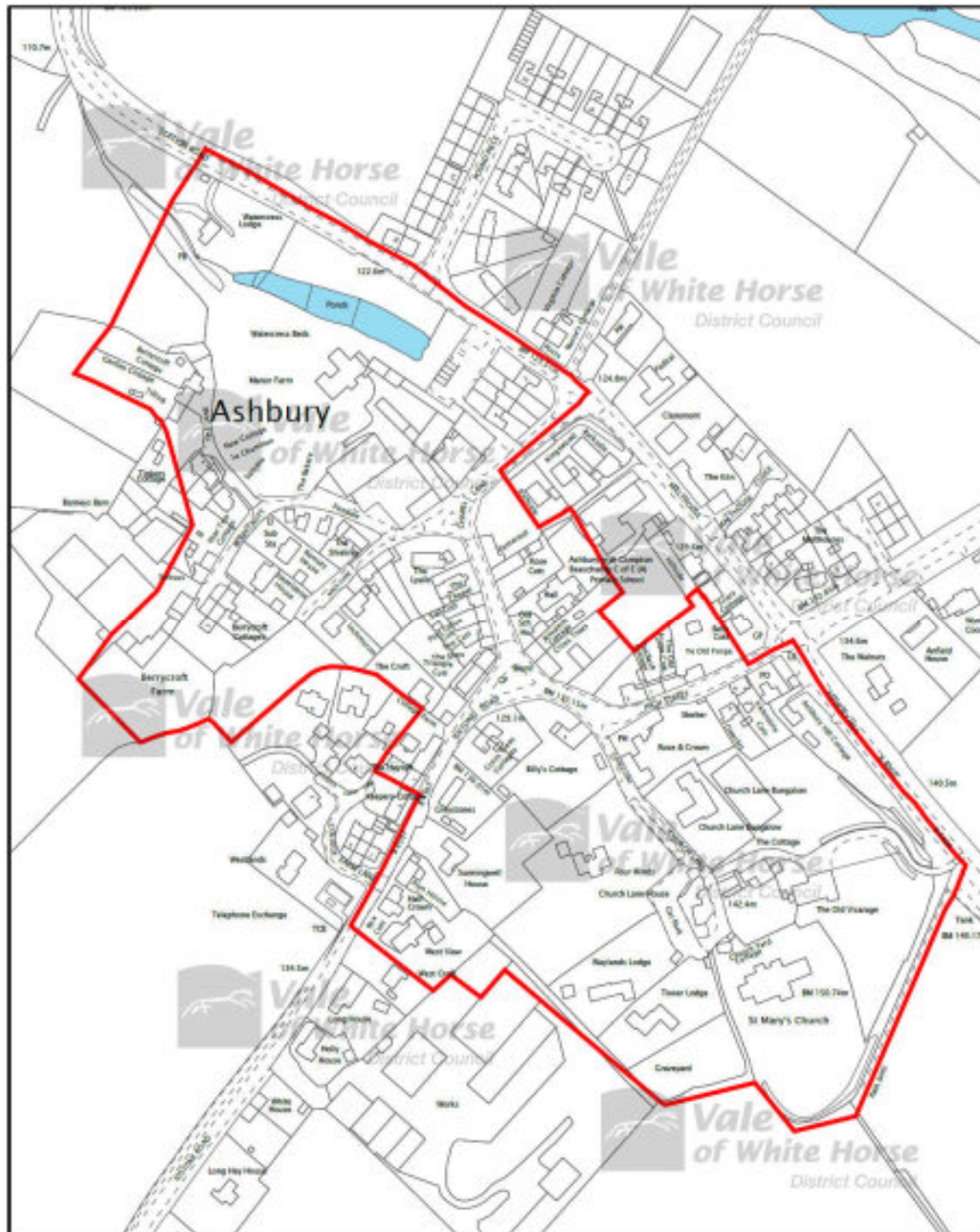
Name	Reference	Grade
Lower Idstone Farmhouse and Rose Cottage adjoining	1048777	II
Double Cottage	1183337	II
Cob Cottage and adjoining cottage	1284120	II
Idstone Farmhouse	1368339	II
Trip the Daisy	1183366	II
Rectory Farmhouse	1284111	II




Ashbury (24 listed buildings)

Name	Reference	Grade
The Haven	1368340	II
Lower Mill Cottages	1048736	II
Lower Millhouse	1368360	II
Lower Mill Old Mill, 2 metres south west of house	1048735	II
Kingstone Farmhouse	1048734	II
Upper Mill	1368361	II
Watercress Lodge	1048737	II
1-3, Berrycroft	1048773	II
The Manor House	1368375	II*
Great Barn, Attached Two-Bay Agricultural Building and Southern and	1393394	II

Eastern Boundary Walls at Ashbury Manor		
Berrycroft Farmhouse	1183184	II
Merry Madcap and Two Adjoining Cottages	1183203	II
Pear Tree Cottage and Suitsus Cottage	1183211	II
The Shieling	1368337	II
Eastwood and Rose Cottage	1048774	II
The Village Hall	1183245	II
Cross Trees Cottage and Jessamin Cottage	1048775	II
The Elms and Triangle Cottage	1048776	II
College Farmhouse	1368338	II
Billy's Cottage	1284164	II
Craven Cottage and Cottage Adjoining, Old Forge Cottage And Teallach Cottage	1284141	II
Post Office with Two Adjoining Cottages	1183310	II
The Old Vicarage	1048772	II
Church Of St Mary	1048770	I

APPENDIX C CONSERVATION AREA MAPS



<p>Conservation Area</p>	 
<p>Ashbury</p>	<p>Data supplied by Vale of White Horse District Council www.whitehorse.dtc.gov.uk</p> <p>May 2009 1:2500 @ A4</p>
<p>Map Number: 6 Date of Designation: 03.02.70 Date of Amendment: Area: 10.04 ha</p>	 <p>Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Office © Crown Copyright Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Issued by the Vale of White Horse District Council Licence No. 100019625</p>

APPENDIX D HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Museums and Archaeology - Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record

An index of all known archaeological and historical sites in the county.

Search for [Advanced search](#)

Show: most relevant matches (max 500) all matches unsorted

Images only



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Displaying records 1 - 10 of 93 results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

- [PRN 13169 Monument, Post Medieval Watercress Beds.](#)
Post Medieval watercress beds, located at Lertwell, **Ashbury**. Shown on OS map
- [PRN 10334 Building, Former Methodist Chapel](#)
Ashbury Partridge Memorial Methodist Chapel. Typical 1920's style domestic looking building. Converted to a house in 1996-7
- [PRN 9500 Monument, Post-Medieval Watercress Beds & Fishpond](#)
Flight of 5-6 beds fed by spring at head. Site immediately adjacent to **Ashbury** Manor
- [PRN 11001 Monument, Undated Cropmarked Linear Features](#)
Linear and pit-like marks of unknown date situated north of **Ashbury** Folly. Visible on AP 1933. Not visible on later AP's of 1963 or 1969
- [PRN 10270 Monument, Milestone](#)
Type T1. Inscribed: To Wantage IX Miles
- [PRN 7176 Monument, Undated Boundary Stone](#)
Shown on OS map
- [PRN 7177 Monument, Undated Boundary Stone](#)
Shown on OS map
- [PRN 7175 Monument, Undated Boundary Stone](#)
Shown on OS map

9 [PRN 11021 Monument, ? Bronze Age Ring Ditch](#)
Identified from AP

10 [PRN 7348 Building, St Hubert's Chapel \(site of\)](#)
Shown on OS map

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Displaying records **11 - 20** of **93** results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

11 [PRN 22088 Building, ASHDOWN PARK FARMHOUSE, GRANARY APPROXIMATELY 6 METRES SOUTH EAST](#)
Granary. Late C18

12 [PRN 22107 Building, LETWELL COTTAGE, IDSTONE](#)
House. Late C17

13 [PRN 11015 Monument, ? Undated Enclosure \(South of the Longmead Plantation\)](#)
Rectangular enclosure containing large pit-like mark. Identified from 1963 AP

14 [PRN 22085 Building, ASHDOWN HOUSE, URN APPROXIMATELY 10 METRES SOUTH WEST OF DOOR](#)
Urn, one of a pair at Ashdown House (q.v.). Mid C19

15 [PRN 12047 Monument, 2 Possible Bronze Age Barrows.](#)
Adjoining circular features visible on AP's. Perhaps they are ploughed out barrows

16 [PRN 12050 Monument, Prehistoric ? Field Systems](#)
Field systems, visible as soil marks on vertical AP's 1978

17 [PRN 22086 Building, ASHDOWN HOUSE, URN APPROXIMATELY 10 METRES SOUTH WEST OF DOOR](#)
Urn, one of a pair at Ashdown House (q.v.) Mid C19

18 [PRN 7341 Monument, Bronze Age Barrow](#)
Barrow opened in 1878, interment found. No trace of barrow, although under pasture. Dated c.1600-1200 BC

19 [PRN 13168 Monument, Post Medieval Watercress Beds](#)
Post Medieval water cress beds located at the northern limits of Idstone. Shown on OS map

20 [PRN 11000 Monument, Undated Ring Ditch \(Idstone Down\)](#)
Small ring ditch, SW of PRN 7341, in corner of 'Celtic ' field. Visible in aerial photo 1969

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Displaying records **21 - 30** of **93** results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

- | | |
|----|---|
| 21 | PRN 7339 Monument, Undated Earthwork, Harley Bushes
Insignificant earthwork. Unknown date |
| 22 | PRN 22105 Building, DOUBLE COTTAGE, IDSTONE
Cottages, now house. C18 |
| 23 | PRN 11003 Monument, ? Bronze Age Barrow
Possible Bronze Age barrow, visible, but very badly ploughed on AP of 1963. Very faint on AP 1969 |
| 24 | PRN 10580 Monument, ? Bronze Age Circular Enclosure (SE of Idstone)
Possibly Bronze Age. Seen as single ring ditch on AP 1960. Not visible on 1963 AP |
| 25 | PRN 22100 Building, CROSS TREES COTTAGE AND JASMINE COTTAGE, HIGH STREET
2 cottages. Late C16 /early C17 |
| 26 | PRN 12055 Monument, ? Romano-British Ditched Enclosure
A small ditched square enclosure with an entrance to the NW, is visible as a soil mark on APs. It could possibly represent a farmstead |
| 27 | PRN 11004 Monument, ? Bronze Age Barrow Circle
Located SE of PRN 7341. Ring ditch with white centre, therefore a barrow circle visible on AP 1969 |
| 28 | PRN 11006 Monument, ? Bronze Age Barrow
Visible on RAF AP of 1967 as a dark ring with internal dark blob - either plundered barrow or ploughed. Faintly visible on 1969 AP |
| 29 | PRN 9734 Monument, Bronze Age Barrow
North of Hailey wood, immediately south of barrow found by Passmore (PRN 7517) |
| 30 | PRN 15862 Monument, ? Medieval/Post Medieval ? Pillow Mound (Upper Wood, Ashdown Park)
Earthworks seen in SE comprised a series of rectangular mounds in an L-shape, provisionally interpreted as a pillow mound complex |

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Displaying records **31 - 40** of **93** results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

- 31 [PRN 26404 Monument, Iron Age/Roman Aggregate Field System and Enclosures](#)
Evidence from Wessex Downs cropmarks could be a continuation of the fields to the east but may be a separate block
- 32 [PRN 9570 Monument, Bronze Age Ranch Boundary Ditch](#)
Late Bronze Age ranch boundary identified by Crawford 1931. Follows Wilts/Berks county boundary in part. No evidence exists for this now
- 33 [PRN 7869 Monument, Undated ? Barrow](#)
Low circular ditchless mound, 4.5m across, 2 large sarsens on top and some smaller ones, with a number of broken bricks, may be site of a shepherds hut, or the remains of a bowl barrow
- 34 [PRN 11002 Monument, Undated Mound \(west of St. Hubert's chapel\)](#)
Possible barrow shows up on 1963 AP's as having different vegetation to surrounding field, therefore plough avoided. Also dark ring round it. No trace of it on ground in 1977
- 35 [PRN 7346 Monument, ? Bronze Age Barrow \(East fringe of Botley Copse\)](#)
Vague bowl shaped mound 22.8m - 27.4m diameter, 0.7m high. May not be a barrow. Almost certainly a small natural spur, only resembling a barrow from the south. Lies on chalk
- 36 [PRN 22087 Building, ASHDOWN PARK FARMHOUSE](#)
Farmhouse. Datestone noted as 1617, probable earlier core
- 37 [PRN 22096 Building, THE SHIELING, BERRYCROFT](#)
House. Mid C18
- 38 [PRN 7905 Monument, Roman Oven and Coins \(Near Ashdown Park House\)](#)
T-shaped, Roman corn drying oven, about 0.9m high found near house at Ashdown Park
- 39 [PRN 11014 Monument, Undated Stone Scatter & Slight Earthwork \(North of Harley Bushes\)](#)
Linear scatter of large stones within ploughed field
- 40 [PRN 22093 Building, BERRYCROFT FARMHOUSE, BERRYCROFT](#)
Farmhouse. 1593 datestone in wall but is late C18

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Displaying records 41 - 50 of 93 results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

- 41 [PRN 22114 Building, WATERCRESS LODGE, STATION ROAD](#)
House. Late C16
- 42 [PRN 7342 Monument, Iron Age/Romano-British Field System](#)
Virtually ploughed out in 1964
- 43 [PRN 7338 Monument, Bronze Age Barrow \(south of Swinley Copse\)](#)
Tree-covered bowl barrow 21m in diameter by 76cms high and slight ditch visible on west and south
- 44 [PRN 22103 Building, THE ELMS AND TRIANGLE COTTAGE, HIGH STREET](#)
Pair of cottages. Early C17 (Triangle Cottage) Ash Tree and C17 Cottage to right
- 45 [PRN 22097 Building, PEATREE COTTAGE AND SUITSUIS COTTAGE, BERRYCROFT](#)
Pair of cottages. Early C17
- 46 [PRN 7337 Monument, Bronze Age Bowl Barrow \(South West of Swinley copse\)](#)
Bowl barrow - Grinsell records as 16.4m diameter by 0.9m high. No ditch visible. Spread by ploughing
- 47 [PRN 22090 Building, ODESTONE FARMHOUSE, OXEN STABLE APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES SOUTH WEST \(SOUTH EAST?\)](#)
Oxen stable, now farm store and chicken house. Early C18
- 48 [PRN 22099 Building, COLLEGE FARMHOUSE, HIGH STREET](#)
Farmhouse. Mid/late C18
- 49 [PRN 12048 Monument, Medieval ? Rectangular Enclosure](#)
Re-examination of AP's indicate that the 'enclosure' was more likely to be an old field boundary or a river channel than an enclosure. Visible as cropmark on Aps.
- 50 [PRN 7332 Monument, Possible Barrow or Field Clearance Mound in Ashbury](#)
Bowl-shaped barrow, diameter 16.4m N-S, 13.7m E-W, c.0.6m high

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Displaying records **51 - 60** of **93** results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

51 [PRN 22102 Building, POST OFFICE WITH TWO ADJOINING COTTAGES, HIGH STREET](#)

Cottages, now shop (left) and cottage (right). Mid-late C18

52 [PRN 7526 Monument, Undated Ring Ditch](#)

An old track of the Ridgeway seen on AP's to north of present one, with a ring ditch close to it at SU 283854

53 [PRN 22113 Building, LOWER MILL COTTAGES \(NOS 1 & 2, CONSEC\), KINGSTONE WINSLOW](#)

Cottages. C18 (No. 1), two left bays are early C19 (No 2); attached to rear gable of Lower Mill House

54 [PRN 22091 Building, ODESTONE FARMHOUSE, BARN APPROXIMATELY 100 METRES SOUTH WEST](#)

Barn, now farm store. C17, altered early C18

55 [PRN 7327 Building, The Village Hall, Chapel Road](#)

Probably the school mentioned in 1952 as having been converted to village hall c.1872 by G.E Street

56 [PRN 22112 Building, LOWER MILLHOUSE, KINGSTONE WINSLOW](#)

Miller's house, now house. Late C18

57 [PRN 9246 Monument, Chapelwick Deserted Medieval Village](#)

No evidence for settlement, all the evidence is documentary. Site now covered in farmland

58 [PRN 22092 Building, THE OLD VICARAGE](#)

Vicarage, now house. Mid/late C17, extended c.1805

59 [PRN 22110 Building, THE HAVEN, KINGSTONE WINSLOW](#)

House. Late C16 to mid C17, converted into 2 cottages in late C18

60 [PRN 22109 Building, RECTORY FARMHOUSE, IDSTONE](#)

Farmhouse. Early C18

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- 61 [PRN 22106 Building, IDSTONE FARMHOUSE, IDSTONE](#)
Farmhouse. Early C18
- 62 [PRN 22095 Building, MERRY MADCAP AND TWO ADJOINING COTTAGES, BERRYCROFT](#)
3 cottages. Merry Madcap C17, 2 cottages to right are mid C18
- 63 [PRN 7324 Building, Upper Mill, Kingstone Winslow](#)
Mill and house, dated to 1792
- 64 [PRN 7314 Monument, Medieval Chapel and ?Moat \(site of\)](#)
Site of chapel of St Andrew at Estwick or Chapelwick, founded c. 1230. Became disused after reformation, there are now no remains
- 65 [PRN 22083 Building, ASHDOWN HOUSE, PAVILION APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES NORTH EAST](#)
Pavilion, one of a pair to Ashdown House (q.v.). c.1662
- 66 [PRN 7323 Building, Old Mill, Lower Mill, Kingstone Winslow](#)
Mill, miller's house and cottages. Mill is late C18th incorporating part of an earlier mill
- 67 [PRN 22104 Building, COB COTTAGE AND ADJOINING COTTAGE, IDSTONE](#)
2 cottages. Late C16 and early C18
- 68 [PRN 7833 Monument, Bronze Age Ring Ditches](#)
Features excavated by Passmore in 1933 who found no bones, ashes or flint and concluded they were not barrows
- 69 [PRN 22111 Building, KINGSTONE FARMHOUSE, KINGSTONE WINSLOW](#)
Farmhouse. Datestone: HE 1730 over door
- 70 [PRN 9738 Monument, Romano British Farmstead and Finds](#)
Site west of Botley Copse. Wide shallow ditch enclosing 1.5 acres, entrance on south side. Stone building foundations, T-shaped corn drying oven. Much C3rd-4th pottery

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Displaying records **71 - 80** of **93** results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

- 71 [PRN 15834 Monument, Romano British to Medieval Farmstead \(Shrivenham Road Site\)](#)
Extensive scatter of medieval (76), roman (12) and saxon (1) sherds found, as well as various features: pits, ditches, gullies, postholes and ?midden deposits
- 72 [PRN 9017 Monument, Odstone Deserted Medieval Village](#)
Good documentary evidence for existence of medieval village at Odstone. Deserted c. 1450-1700 due to enclosure for pasture/improved arable
- 73 [PRN 22094 Building, Nos 1 to 3 \(consec\), Berrycroft](#)
Row of 3 cottages. Late C16/early C17 (No.1) and graffito dated 1756 (Nos 2 & 3)
- 74 [PRN 9569 Monument, Bronze Age Ditch - ? Ranch Boundary](#)
Ancient ditch on Bishopstone Down/Idstone Down. The earthwork faces north just below the crest of the ridge and follows it for a considerable distance into Wilts
- 75 [PRN 22098 Building, BILLIE'S COTTAGE, HIGH STREET](#)
Farmhouse, now house. C15 hall house with late C16, late C18 and C20 alterations
- 76 [PRN 22108 Building, LOWER IDSTONE FARMHOUSE AND ROSE COTTAGE ADJOINING, IDSTONE](#)
Farmhouse. Datestone at rear: BEB 1595, rebuilt early/mid C18
- 77 [PRN 9030 Monument, Medieval Deer Park at Ashdown Woods](#)
Encloses southern part of Ashdown Woods, c.160 acres. Park pale consists mainly of a bank with inner ditch, clearly visible except in NW quadrant
- 78 [PRN 22084 Building, ASHDOWN HOUSE, PAVILION AND ATTACHED WALL APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES SOUTH EAST](#)
Pavilion, one of a pair to Ashdown House (q.v.). c.1662
- 79 [PRN 12788 Building, Rose Cottage and Eastwood, Chapel Road](#)
Substantial part of the house dates to late C15th- early C16th. 4bay house, 1 1/2 storeys
- 80 [PRN 7517 Monument, Bronze Age Barrow \(North of Hailey Wood\)](#)
Completely ploughed out, invisible from ground. Scraper and other flint artefacts found in 1933. Romano-British and Bronze Age sherds found in 1964, also sarsen stones

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- 81 [PRN 9764 Monument, Anglo Saxon Boundary Dyke](#)
'Bica's Dyke' mentioned in c.955 AD charter of Compton Beauchamp. It runs down from Ickfield Way through the belt of woods on the west boundary of the parish
- 82 [PRN 22089 Building, ODESTONE FARMHOUSE](#)
Farmhouse. c.1700
- 83 [PRN 22101 Building, OLD FORGE COTTAGE, TEALLACH COTTAGE, CRAVEN COTTAGE AND COTTAGE ADJOINING, HIGH STREET](#)
Smithy with one-unit cottage and 3 adjoining cottages in row. C17 (Teallach & Craven Cottages) and late C18
- 84 [PRN 9492 Monument, LINEAR MONUMENT Prehistoric Berkshire Ridgeway](#)
**Check to see if on 1st edition -- probably not plottable because boundaries are modern
- 85 [PRN 8896 Monument, Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal](#)
No further information available on PRN card, although several references given.
- 86 [PRN 9568 Building, Ashdown House](#)
Built c.1665 for William 1st Earl of Craven
- 87 [PRN 7340 Monument, Dispersed Barrow Cemetery, Idstone Down](#)
Monument includes three BA round barrows which form the core of a dispersed linear barrow cemetery situated on the the crest of Idstone Down. Two have evidence of central excavation.
- 88 [PRN 7326 Building, The Manor House](#)
House, c.1488 with additions in early C16, 1697 and later. Manor of 2 storeys and attic. Carefully restored. Consists of hall, screens passage, service area, kitchen in one range. 2 Storeyed area chamber wing behind hall.
- 89 [PRN 7330 Building, Church of St Mary](#)
Medieval church C12th-15th and modern. C12th doorway, C13th chancel with brasses
- 90 [PRN 15610 Monument, Bronze Age Metalworking Hoard and Settlement at Tower Hill](#)
Recovery in 1993 of metalworkers hoard from ploughed field; hoard consists of 22 complete looped socketed axes, axe fragments, 4 copper alloy rings as well as scrap metal, casting fits, and industrial waste.

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- 91 [PRN 9737 Monument, Iron Age/Roman Aggregate Field System](#)
Extensive Celtic Field system, c.1910 acres. R/B sherds found. Large areas destroyed by ploughing, racehorse gallops and plantations
- 92 [PRN 7333 Monument, Alfred's Castle](#)
Univallate hillfort consisting of roughly polygonal enclosure about 150m in diameter, with single rampart bank measuring between 3-10m in width and standing up to 1.5m high. Surrounded by segmented ditch sections up to 1.5m deep. Three entrances, only one is certainly original with defensive outworks. Apparent stone building foundations in centre. Excavations in summer 1998 reveal ? villa or temple complex in centre. Week long multidisciplinary Segsbury Project exposed artists to excavating with archaeologists at this site in the summer of 2000.
- 93 [PRN 7306 Monument, Wayland's Smithy](#)
Chambered long barrow built over an earlier wooden and earthen funerary chamber; SAM includes two field boundary ditches dating from the IA and the RB periods. Situated 50m N of the Ridgeway, c. 1km W of Whitehorse Hill.

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- 1 [O3/2/7/C1 - ASHBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CORRESPONDENCE, 1992-1995](#)
- 2 [O3/2/7/A3 - ASHBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE VCO REPORTS, 1980](#)
- 3 [O3/2/7/F1 - ASHBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, 1992](#)
- 4 [O3/2/7/A1 - ASHBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE COMMITTEE MINUTES, 1974-1992](#)
- 5 [NM2/33/P1/1 - Photograph of exterior of Ashbury Methodist Church, \[1950\]](#)
- 6 [O3/2/7/A1/1 - Ashbury WI Committee minute book, May/1974-Jul/1982](#)
- 7 [O3/2/7/A2/1 - Ashbury WI Monthly Meeting minute book, Mar/1973-Oct/1984](#)
- 8 [O3/2/7/A2/3 - Ashbury WI Monthly Meeting minute book, Jun/1991-Dec/1992](#)
- 9 [O3/2/7/A2 - ASHBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MONTHLY MEETINGS MINUTES, 1973-1992](#)
- 10 [O3/2/7/A1/2 - Ashbury WI Committee minute book, Oct/1982-Dec/1992](#)

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Displaying records 11 - 20 of 25 results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

- 11 [O3/2/7/A2/2 - Ashbury WI Monthly Meeting minute book, Nov/1984-May/1991](#)
- 12 [O3/2/7 - ASHBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE, 1973-1995](#)
This institute was suspended in 1992
- 13 [NM2/33 - ASHBURY, CO. BERKS., PRIMITIVE, 1860-\[1950\]](#)
The Primitive Methodist Chapel in the village was built circa 1838. In 1926 this was replaced by one erected as a memorial to Albert Partridge of the village.
- 14 [E114/C/1 - Letter addressed from Ashdown Park \(Ashbury\), to Sir \(probably from a, 03/Aug/1853](#)
servant), informing him that Mr Parnell has been at Ashdown Park..... for a stool for his lordships dressing room.
- 15 [E114 - ASHDOWN PARK, ASHBURY, 1853](#)
This document was permanently loaned to the office in 1983 and was then assigned the accession number 2158. It is a letter addressed from Ashdown park, which is situated in the parish of **Ashbury...**
- 16 [O3/2/7/F1/1 - Financial statement, 1992](#)
for **Ashbury** WI
- 17 [DV/III/5 - District Valuation Forms \(1910 Finance Act\), 1912-1915](#)
Covering **Ashbury**.
- 18 [O3/2/7/A3/1 - Voluntary County Organiser report, 14/May/1980](#)
for **Ashbury** WI
- 19 [DV/XI/6 - District Valuation Survey Book \(1910 Finance Act\), 23/11/1910](#)
Covering **Ashbury**.
- 20 [O3/2/7/C1/1 - Correspondence concerning subscriptions, 1992-1995](#)
for **Ashbury** WI

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Displaying records 21 - 25 of 25 results, consisting of exact matches, partial matches and other relevant results.

- 21 [NM2/D - FARINGDON CIRCUIT \(FORMERLY PRIMITIVE\), 1837-1966](#)
In 1956 the chapels in this circuit included:
Faringdon, Filkins, Littleworth, **Ashbury**, Bishopstone, Fawler, Watchfield, Langford, Black Bourton, Eastleach, Stanford...
- 22 [B28/1/F1/42 - Valuation ledger, 1900](#)
Little Baldon Farm. Manor Farm, Beckley. Sandford on Thames. Mill Wood Farm, Handborough. Ash Tree Farm, Buckland. Manor Farm, Kidlington. Wheatley Hill Farm. Watlington. Long Crendon. The Southfield Estate...
- 23 [B15/11/5D/1 - Assignment of Term of Years and Mortgage, 19/Jul/1783](#)
PARTIES:
1. Joseph Pearce of Kingston in **Ashbury**, Berks., Yeoman.
2. Charles Coxe of Cirencester, Gent.
3. a) Robert Hall.
b) William Thompson, both...
- 24 [ARCH/1/A3/J/1 - Annual visitation calls, with some court proceedings, 10/May/1676-04/Jul/1721](#)
including some faculty business, for the courts of the peculiars of Thame and Monks Risborough with Newington.
There are separate headings for the two courts throughout but the acts are in one chronological...
- 25 [NM2 - WITNEY AND FARINGDON METHODIST CIRCUIT RECORDS, 1804-2013](#)
In the 1790s Witney was connected with the large Oxfordshire circuit. In 1795 Newbury circuit was formed which included Witney until 1803. In 1803 Witney was made into a separate circuit.

The Primitive...

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1



[Banner. 20th century.](#)

Oxfordshire, England.

Kings Group Womens' Institute banner. Front - wool tapestry, purple background with yellow braid border; five yellow and gold crowns surrounding the 'WI' monogram on a red panel. Back - pink fabric with...

APPENDIX E PARISH ACTIVITY GROUPS

Outdoor Activities

Beating the Bounds
Planter Group

Circular & Health Walks

Indoor Activities

Art & Craft Sessions
Bell Ringers
Friends of Ashbury Church
Indoor Bowls Group
Neighbourhood Watch
Pre-School
Total Body Workout
Women's Fellowship

Baby & Toddler Group
Clay Workshops
Friends of Ashbury School
Local History Society
Prayer Group
Community Group
Watercolour Painting
Women's Institute