

# Joint Local Plan - Issues Consultation

South Oxfordshire and  
Vale of White Horse  
District Councils

May 2022

# Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>7. Nature Recovery and Landscape</b> .....	<b>32</b>
A new Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse .....	5	Map of Nature Recovery and Landscape.....	33
What’s happening now .....	8	Which part of the Vision does this address? .....	35
<b>2. The Districts - Context</b> .....	<b>10</b>	OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this? .....	36
About the Districts .....	11	<b>8. Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage</b> .....	<b>38</b>
Map of the Districts .....	12	Map of Local Heritage .....	39
<b>3. How things are right now</b> .....	<b>14</b>	Which part of the Vision does this address? .....	41
<b>4. Vision</b> .....	<b>18</b>	OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this? .....	42
Our Vision .....	19	<b>9. Thriving Inclusive Communities</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>5. Themes</b> .....	<b>22</b>	Our towns and villages .....	46
Corporate Plan themes .....	23	Which part of the Vision does this address? .....	47
Joint Local Plan themes.....	25	OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this? .....	48
<b>6. Reducing Carbon Emissions</b> .....	<b>26</b>	<b>10. Transport and Facilities</b> .....	<b>50</b>
Which part of the Vision does this address? .....	28	Which part of the Vision does this address? .....	52
OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this? .....	29	OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this? .....	53
		<b>11. Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities</b> .....	<b>56</b>
		Which part of the Vision does this address? .....	58
		OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this? .....	59

<b>12. Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation.....</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>16. Local Plan Explainer.....</b>	<b>78</b>
Map of Science Vale.....	64	A new Joint Local Plan for our area.....	79
Which part of the Vision does this address? .....	65	Existing planning documents.....	79
OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this? .....	66	Future Development Plan.....	80
<b>13. Any other thoughts?.....</b>	<b>68</b>	Oxfordshire Plan 2050 context .....	81
<b>14. Get Involved and Next Steps.....</b>	<b>70</b>	Oxfordshire Strategic Vision.....	82
Get Involved and Next Steps .....	71	Neighbourhood Plan Context .....	83
<b>15. Technical documents.....</b>	<b>74</b>	Map of the status of Neighbourhood Planning across the districts .....	84
Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report.....	75	The Local Plan process .....	85
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report.....	75	<b>17. Glossary.....</b>	<b>86</b>
Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology.....	76	Map data sources.....	91
Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document.....	76		
How to comment on the technical documents .....	77		

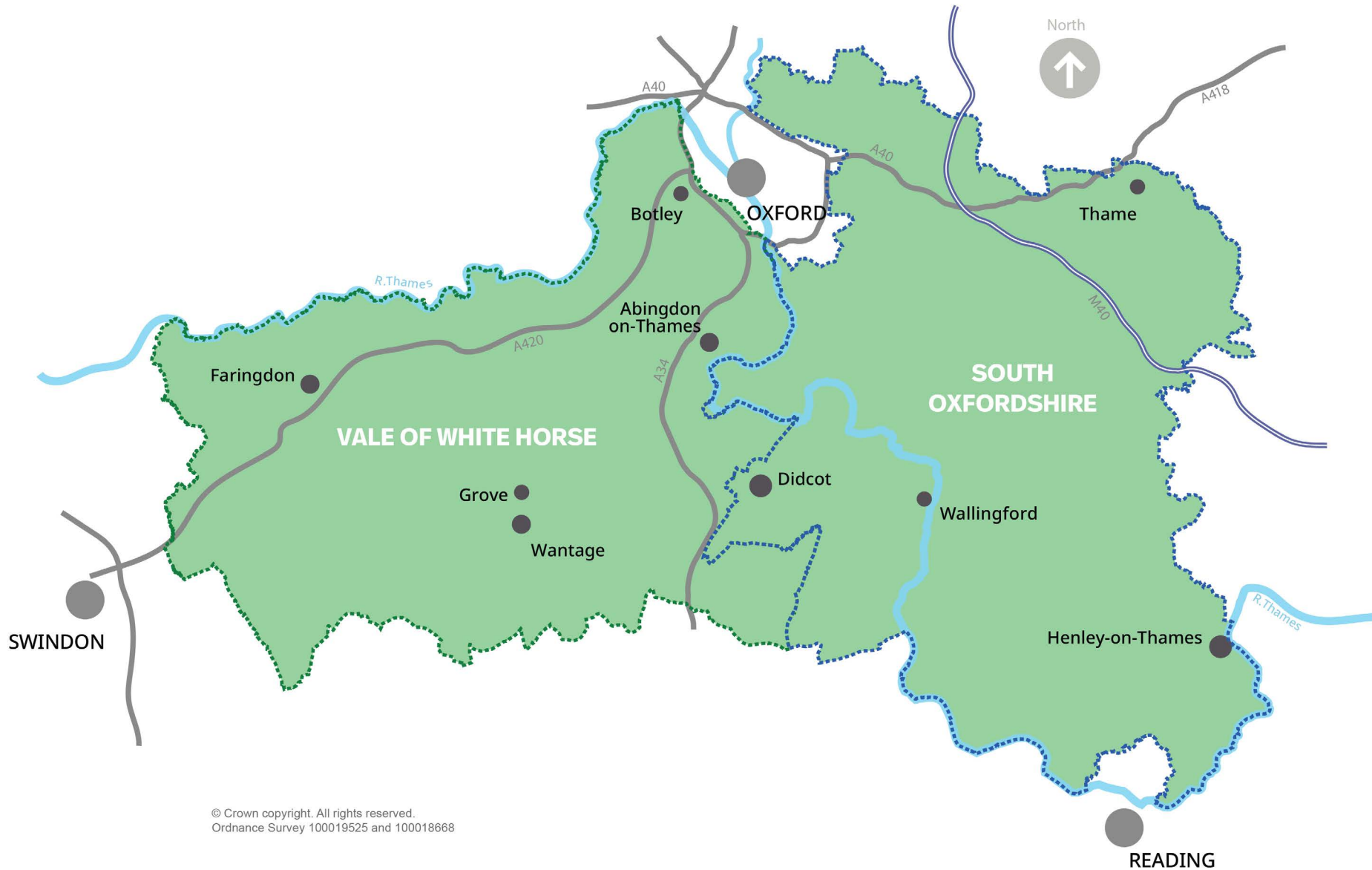




# 1. Introduction



# A new Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse



# A new joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse

Our councils have come together to prepare a new Local Plan that covers our two districts  
- here are Councillors Debby Hallett and Anne-Marie Simpson to explain more...



1 We're working together because our districts are quite similar and our Councils have shared ambitions about how to make our areas better. Challenges such as climate change, traffic congestion and shortage of affordable housing don't stop at district boundaries. By working together we can achieve more, while reducing costs to the taxpayer.

2 The climate emergency is our biggest challenge, and we must plan for a future that allows us to do all we can to tackle climate change, while protecting what's special about the districts.

3 And we also recognise we have to improve social, environmental and economic wellbeing for all. These factors will influence everything we intend to do in our new Joint Local Plan.

**So what actually is a Local Plan?**

4 A Local Plan does a lot of things. One of its purposes is to guide what kinds of new housing and jobs we need and where they should go – it also helps identify what infrastructure like transport, schools and leisure facilities we need. The policies in a Local Plan are used when making decisions on planning applications in the area.



5 Crucially, this plan will also help us identify ways we can meet our targets to make our part of the country carbon neutral, to make sure we're doing our part to tackle the climate emergency – it's a priority for both of our councils. Through the plan we can set new environmental standards for development.

If you find this, or any of our infographics, difficult to read, please email: [planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk) and we will provide a text version.

# A new joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse

Our councils have come together to prepare a new Local Plan that covers our two districts  
- here are Councillors Debby Hallett and Anne-Marie Simpson to explain more...

**Why do we need more development? Isn't there loads planned already?**

7

Yes, there is a lot planned already, enough until the year 2031 for Vale and 2035 for South Oxfordshire, plus some larger developments that will continue delivering homes beyond this. However, new plans need to cover at least a 15-year period and so our new local plan will cover the extra years to 2041.

9

You'll have several opportunities to comment as our new Joint Local Plan is developed. This is your first and we'd love to hear from you. Thank you for any comments you share – they will really help us.



**But don't you already have a Local Plan? Why do we need a new one?**

6

We do have Local Plans for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. However, we have a legal requirement to review plans at least every 5 years. It takes several years to prepare a new plan and go through all the legally required steps, so we need to start now. But more than that, we know how important it is to get this right, so we want to give ourselves as much time as possible to achieve that.

**So what's this consultation about?**

8

This early stage of a new local plan is all about issues. We're not proposing any new locations for development or asking you how much development the districts should take – that will come later. We're working out what are the issues the joint local plan should tackle before we get to writing any new policies.





# What's happening now?

We're at the early stages of creating this plan, and it's very important to us that you're part of the process from the beginning. This is a great opportunity to help make sure we're going in the right direction from the start.

We're currently trying to understand the main issues facing our districts and how we might be able to use the Local Plan to address them – you're the best people to help us understand this.

We've tried to avoid using planning 'jargon' as much as we can and have provided a [glossary](#) when we think some words or phrases might need a bit more explanation.

You can respond to as many questions as you like in this consultation, more details on how you can respond can be found here: [Get Involved and Next Steps](#)

## The Local Plan process

We have to follow government legislation and guidelines on creating Local Plans. It's those guidelines that mean we have to create an updated one every few years.

We want to make things as easy as we can here so lots of people can take part, including people who are new to the idea of Local Plans, and so we have simplified it a lot here. If you're interested to learn more, or you feel like you need to understand the process and context a bit better, head over to the section where we explain it in more detail: [Local Plan explainer](#)

Here's a quick look at a timeline of the process to create our Joint Local Plan:

### 2021

Evidence gathering – we asked people to let us know about land and buildings that are available for change

### 2022 (We are here)

Issues (Regulation 18) - you're helping us understand the issues we need to tackle, and finalise the vision and objectives

### Early 2023

Preferred options (Regulation 18) – we'll ask for your thoughts on the options we've identified to tackle the issues along with potential locations for future developments

### Summer 2023

Our draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) - we'll ask for your thoughts on our proposed plan

### Early 2024

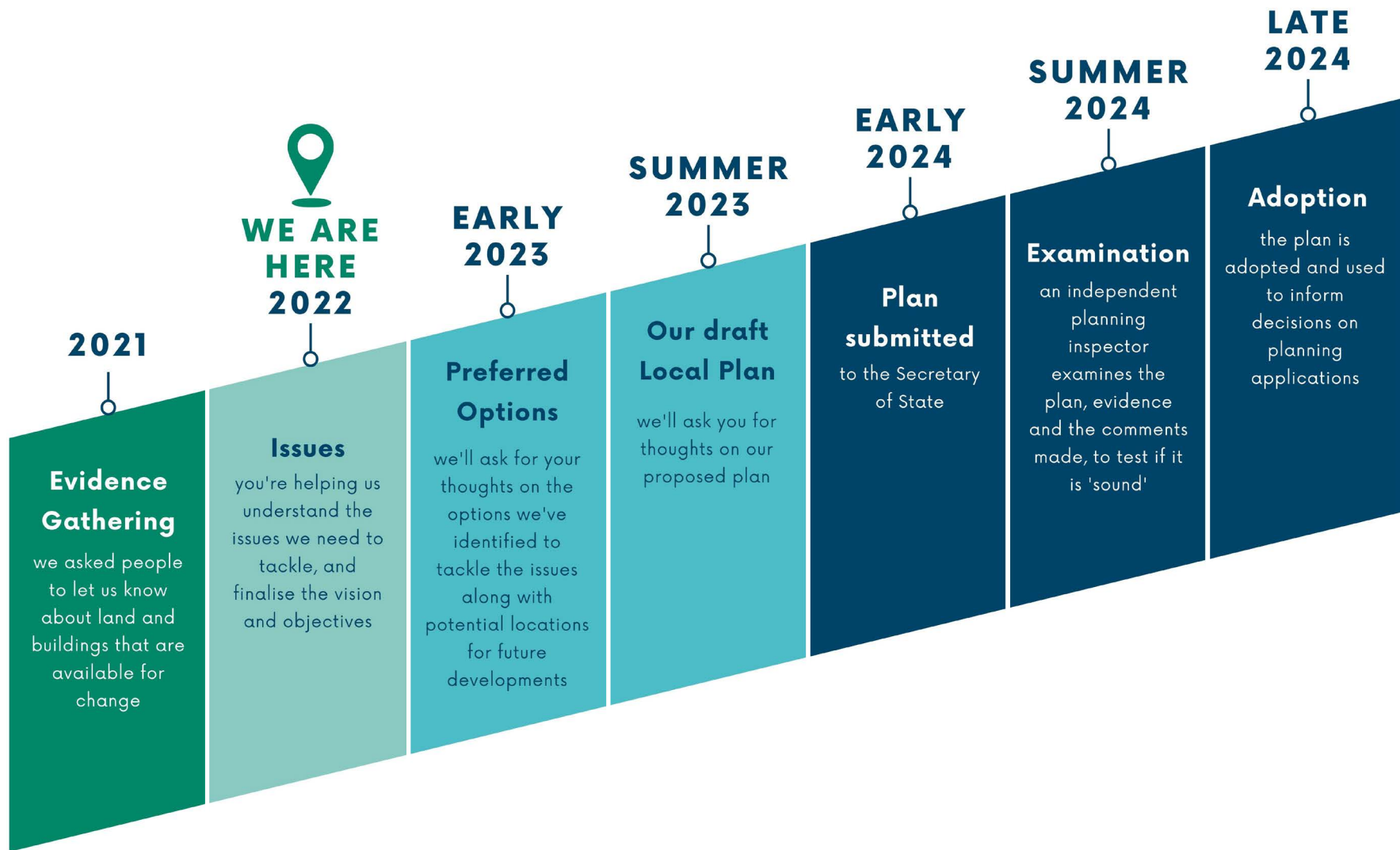
Plan submitted (Regulation 22) to the Secretary of State

### Summer 2024

Examination (Regulation 24) - An independent planning inspector examines the plan, evidence and the comments made, to test if it is 'sound'

### Late 2024

Adoption (Regulation 26) - The plan is adopted and used to inform decisions on planning applications





## **2. The Districts - Context**



# About the Districts

Here are some facts and figures about our districts that help set the scene and introduce challenges and opportunities that our plan could address.

## Estimated population (2020)...

**137,900**



Vale of White Horse

**143,800**



South Oxfordshire

## Total population projections to 2030...

**174,000**

+26%

**137,900**

Vale of White Horse

**175,800**

+22%

**143,800**

South Oxfordshire

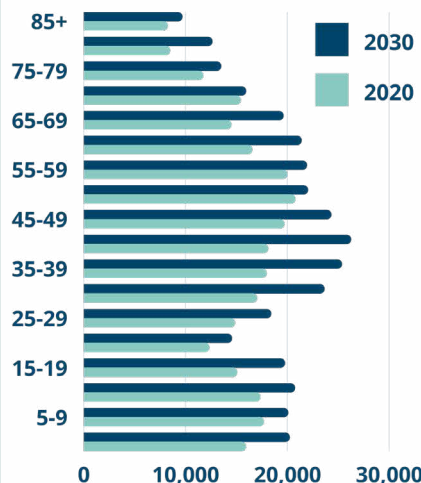
There are 3 Garden Communities in South and Vale...

**DIDCOT  
BERINSFIELD  
DALTON  
BARRACKS**

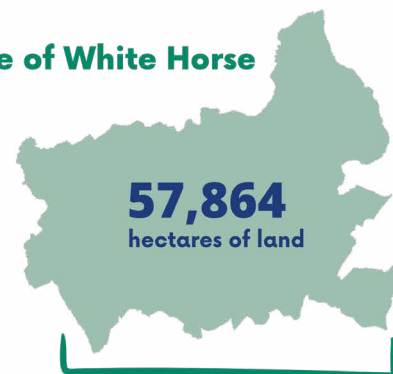


Garden communities provide new housing, infrastructure, jobs and services in sustainable settlements.

## Population projections to 2030 by age...



## Vale of White Horse



of which:

**14%**

is within the Green Belt



**23%**

is within an AONB



## Overall totals for both districts...

Total land:  
**125,712 hectares**

Land within the Green Belt:  
**22,577 hectares**

Land within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):  
**42,046 hectares**

## South Oxfordshire



of which:

**21%**

is within the Green Belt

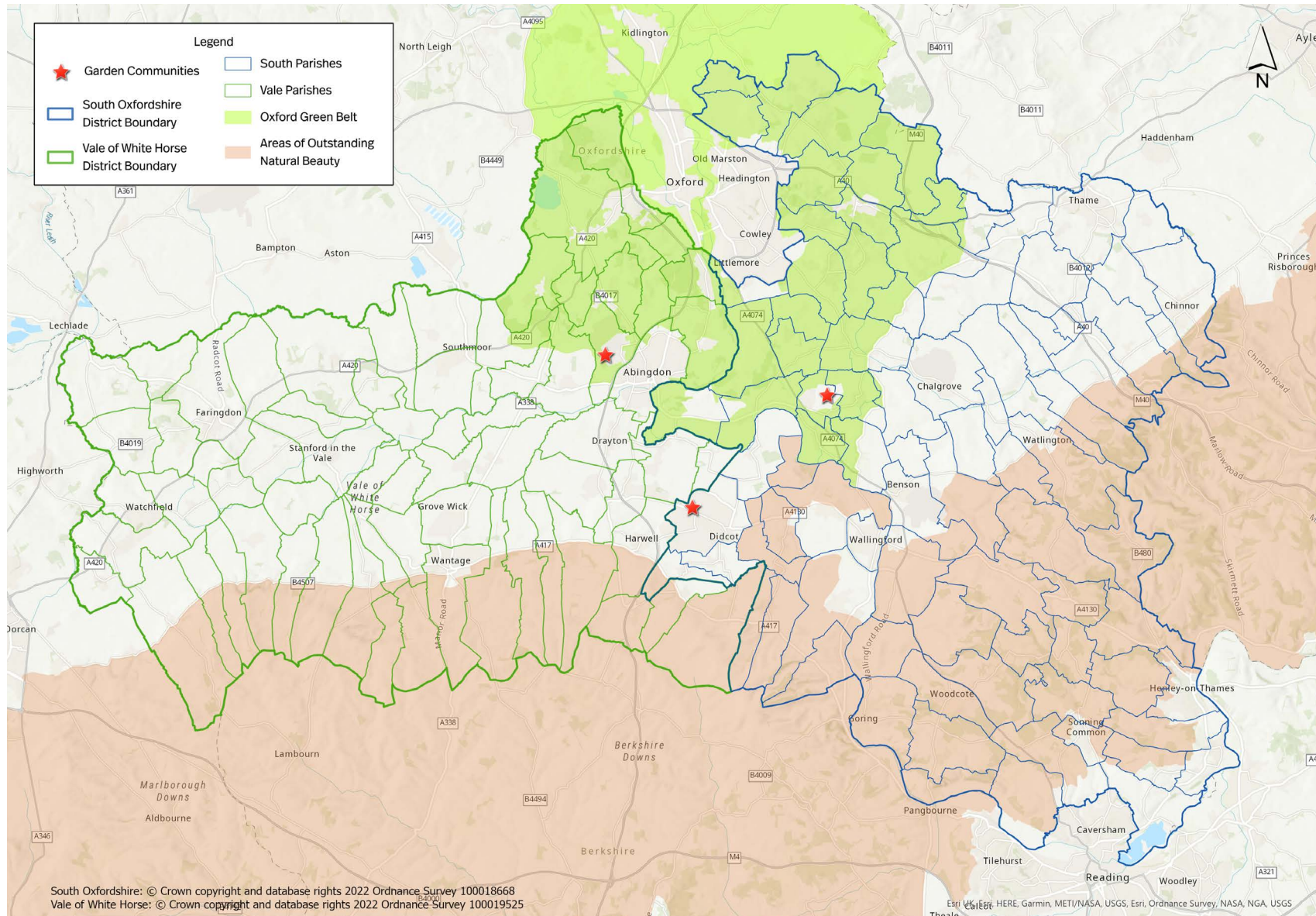


**42%**

is within an AONB



# Map of the districts



To explore this map in greater detail please visit our Joint Local Plan websites: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>. See glossary for definitions of the terms which appear in this map.

# Questions

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

To help us understand your priorities, we'd like you to tell us...

## 1. What three things do you value most about where you live?

1

2

3

## 2. In fewer than 50 words, if you could make one change to improve where you live, what would it be? Include the name of the town, village or area you're talking about.





### 3. How things are right now

# How things are right now

In this section, we'll set the scene around the main issues that a Local Plan might be able to influence. They are things we think we'll need to consider when preparing the local plan – there are two questions at the end of the section so you can let us know if you agree and which is the most important.



## Climate

We have a commitment and a duty to tackle the climate emergency, reduce carbon emissions, increase biodiversity and reverse nature's decline.



## Protecting our countryside

We live in districts of beautiful countryside that are home to two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which we have an important duty to protect. Oxfordshire is the most rural part of South-East England and we have lots of important historical and natural assets to look after, including the River Thames.



## Our towns and villages

Most of our residents live in historic villages and market towns, and we have a duty to manage any change in these locations extremely carefully. There are also a number of areas where significant growth and change is already planned or happening.





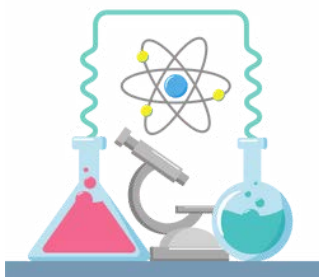
### **Quality of life and affordability**

We're an area of high demand for housing, with house prices beyond the reach of many who want to live in the district. Living in an expensive area of the country makes the lives of those with less money even more difficult. People's experiences of living in the districts vary and while we live in a relatively affluent area of the country, many households are facing a cost of living squeeze. The resident population is also getting older, which brings more challenges.



### **Traffic and transport**

Many of our roads have already reached or exceeded their maximum capacity, which causes congestion and significant air quality issues in certain areas. As a neighbour to the city of Oxford and large towns of Reading and Swindon, many people live in the districts and travel to work outside, and vice versa.



### **Employment**

There are low levels of unemployment in the districts, which are most notably home to a wide range of science and innovation businesses that are nationally and globally important. Many of these businesses are based in an area known as Science Vale that crosses the district boundary and is home to two Enterprise Zones.



### **Development and Infrastructure**

Our adopted Local Plans have already planned large quantities of new housing and employment land, much of it still to be built. It is important that new infrastructure is delivered alongside this growth, to reduce pressure on existing facilities. This will include better public transport, new schools, sewage treatment capacity, health facilities and open space.



# Questions

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

### 3. Overall, do you agree that these are the main issues that the Joint Local Plan should consider?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

If you think there are other issues the Local Plan should consider, please let us know in this box:

### 4. Which of these issues do you think is the most important?

- Climate
- Protecting our countryside
- Our towns and villages
- Quality of life and affordability
- Traffic and transport
- Employment
- Development and Infrastructure



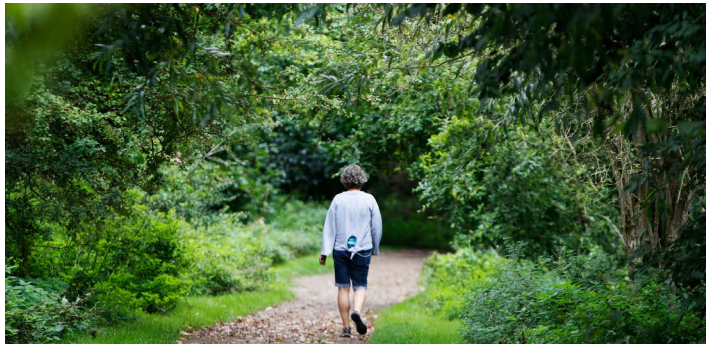
## **4. Vision**

# Our Vision

We'd like to show you our draft Vision for the Joint Local Plan – it highlights our goals for the future and what we want to achieve.



Our vision is for **carbon neutral** districts, for current and future generations.



For this to be a place where **nature** is thriving, and nature reserves are no longer isolated pockets. A place where **history** is still visible, where heritage and landscape character are safeguarded and valued, and the beauty and the distinctive local identity of our towns and villages have been enhanced.



A place where **people can thrive**. Where people have housing choices they can afford, where villages, market towns and garden communities are diverse and inclusive places where people of all ages and backgrounds can live together.

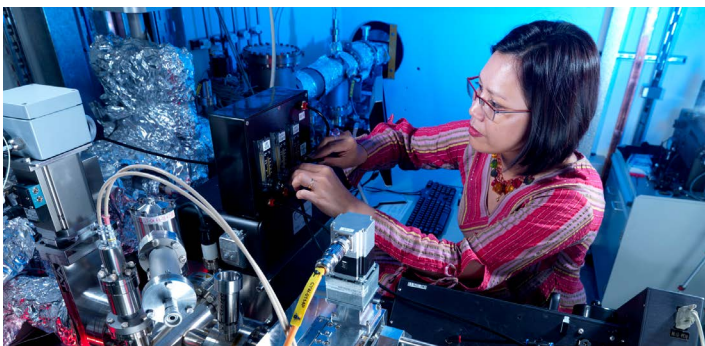




A place where local residents can reach the **facilities** they need for everyday living on foot, bicycle or by **zero-emission and low carbon transport choices**.



Where residents and visitors can live **healthy lifestyles** and access greenspace. Where **people are safe** from pollution, flooding, and the effects of climate change.



Where there are valuable and rewarding **jobs**, embracing clean technologies and growing the opportunities in Science Vale for the districts to contribute on a national and international scale to solving pressing global issues.

# Questions

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

## 5. How much do you agree with this vision for the Joint Local Plan?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

If there is anything you disagree with in particular, or you have any other thoughts let us know here:





## 5. Themes



# Corporate Plan themes

To start work on the Joint Local Plan, we have identified where some priorities set out in our Corporate Plans are linked to the main planning issues raised in [Chapter 3](#). These have inspired the key themes for the Joint Local Plan.



Protect and restore our natural world

Action on Climate Emergency

Improved economic and community well-being

Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs

## Key themes for the new Joint Local Plan for South and Vale

- Reducing Carbon Emissions
- Nature Recovery and Landscape
- Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage
- Thriving Inclusive Communities
- Transport and Facilities
- Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities
- Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation

Providing the homes people need

Tackling the Climate Emergency

Building healthy communities

If you want to find out more about our corporate plans, please use the links below:

### **Corporate Plan - South Oxfordshire District Council**

The Corporate Plan highlights the council's priorities and strategic themes for the next few years. Following a really successful engagement exercise with residents, we reviewed hundreds of responses and our Cabinet members worked hard to finalise the plan. It was adopted at a full council meeting in October 2020.

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/about-the-council/corporate-plan/>



### **Corporate Plan - Vale of White Horse District Council**

The Corporate Plan highlights the council's priorities and strategic themes for the next few years. Following a really successful engagement exercise with residents, we reviewed hundreds of responses and our Cabinet members worked hard to finalise the plan. It was adopted at a full council meeting in October 2020.

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/about-the-council/corporate-plan/>



# Joint Local Plan themes

In the next chapters we look at the following themes in a bit more detail and will ask you what you think as we go.



Reducing Carbon Emissions



Transport and Facilities



Nature Recovery and Landscape



Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities



Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage



Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation



Thriving Inclusive Communities

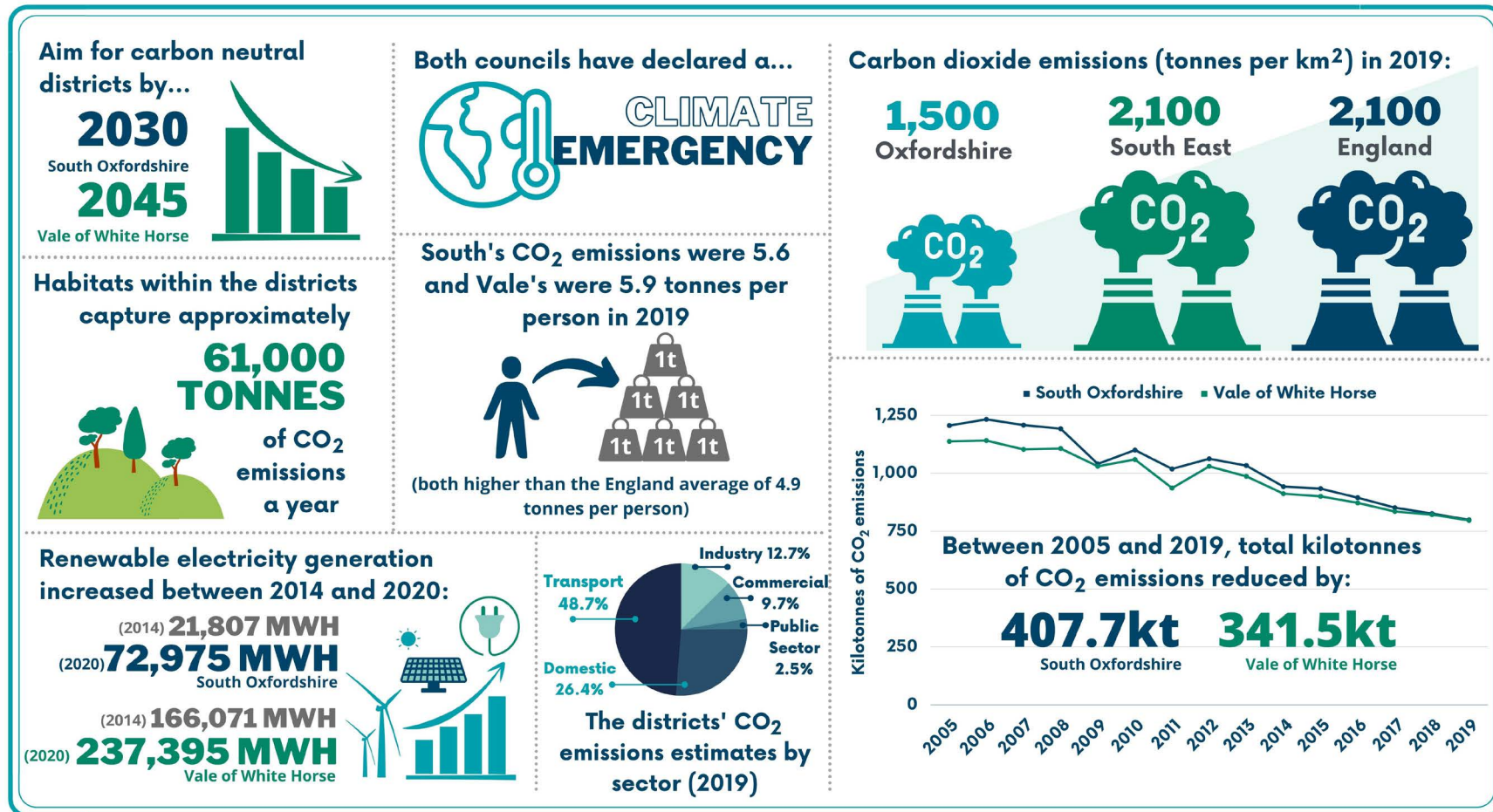




## **6. Reducing Carbon Emissions**

# Reducing Carbon Emissions

We have declared a climate emergency at both councils, and we have set targets to make our districts carbon neutral by 2030 for South Oxfordshire and 2045 for the Vale. The Government also has a target for the UK to **bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero carbon by 2050**<sup>1</sup>. To achieve this, we'll need to ensure developments within the districts produce as few carbon emissions as possible, both in their construction and during their use, and that the location and design of our developments encourage more sustainable lifestyles.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>





## Which part of the Vision does this address?

//

*“Our vision is for carbon neutral districts, for current and future generations”*



# **OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this?**

- **plan for a move away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions**
- **require new homes and buildings to minimise energy use through their layout and design, and have the highest standards of fabric efficiency**
- **transition to renewable forms of energy and support the districts in playing an international role in fusion energy power plant research and deployment**
- **ensure the amount of development taking place stays within the districts' carbon budget**
- **plan for new development in locations that enable sustainable lifestyles (20 minute neighbourhoods)**
- **limit parking at new developments**
- **require electric vehicle charging points**
- **encourage carbon sinks and increase tree cover**
- **limit developments with high greenhouse gas emissions e.g. intensive indoor livestock farming**

# Questions

Thinking of the opportunities explained above, please answer the following questions.

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

## 6. Please select the **THREE** opportunities that are most important to you.

- Move away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions
- Highest standards of energy efficiency in new buildings
- Transition to renewables and support fusion energy
- Ensure amount of development stays within carbon budget
- New development locations to enable sustainable lifestyles
- Limit parking at new developments
- Require electric vehicle charging points
- Encourage carbon sinks and increase tree cover
- Limit developments with high greenhouse gas emissions

**7. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.**

- Move away from fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions
- Highest standards of energy efficiency in new buildings
- Transition to renewables and support fusion energy
- Ensure amount of development stays within carbon budget
- New development locations to enable sustainable lifestyles
- Limit parking at new developments
- Require electric vehicle charging points
- Encourage carbon sinks and increase tree cover
- Limit developments with high greenhouse gas emissions

**8. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to reduce carbon emissions, please write them here.**





## **7. Nature Recovery and Landscape**



# Nature Recovery and Landscape

Developments and pollution can put pressure on nature and the countryside, but the planning process can help avoid, reduce and offset the harm that can occur. We want to conserve and enhance our natural environment, so new developments should make the most of opportunities to deliver benefits for wildlife and nature, whilst also meeting the needs of communities.

**Two nationally protected landscapes:  
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
covering...**

**42%**  
of South Oxfordshire

**23%**  
of Vale of White Horse



These are the **Chilterns and North Wessex Downs AONBs**

"Despite widespread historic loss of species-rich semi-natural grasslands, Oxfordshire still has some of the rarest and finest grasslands in the country."

"There is continued fragmentation and loss of connectivity across the county's landscapes, effecting the future viability of habitats and species."

'State of Nature in Oxfordshire' report  
(2017)



**18.5%**  
of South and Vale is in  
Flood Zones 2 and 3

**Important sites for nature:**

**Internationally important**

**Special Area  
of Conservation  
(SAC)**

**South  
Oxfordshire 4**

**Vale of  
White Horse 2**

**Nationally important**

**Site of Special  
Scientific  
Interest (SSSI)**

**South  
Oxfordshire 38**

**Vale of  
White Horse 22**

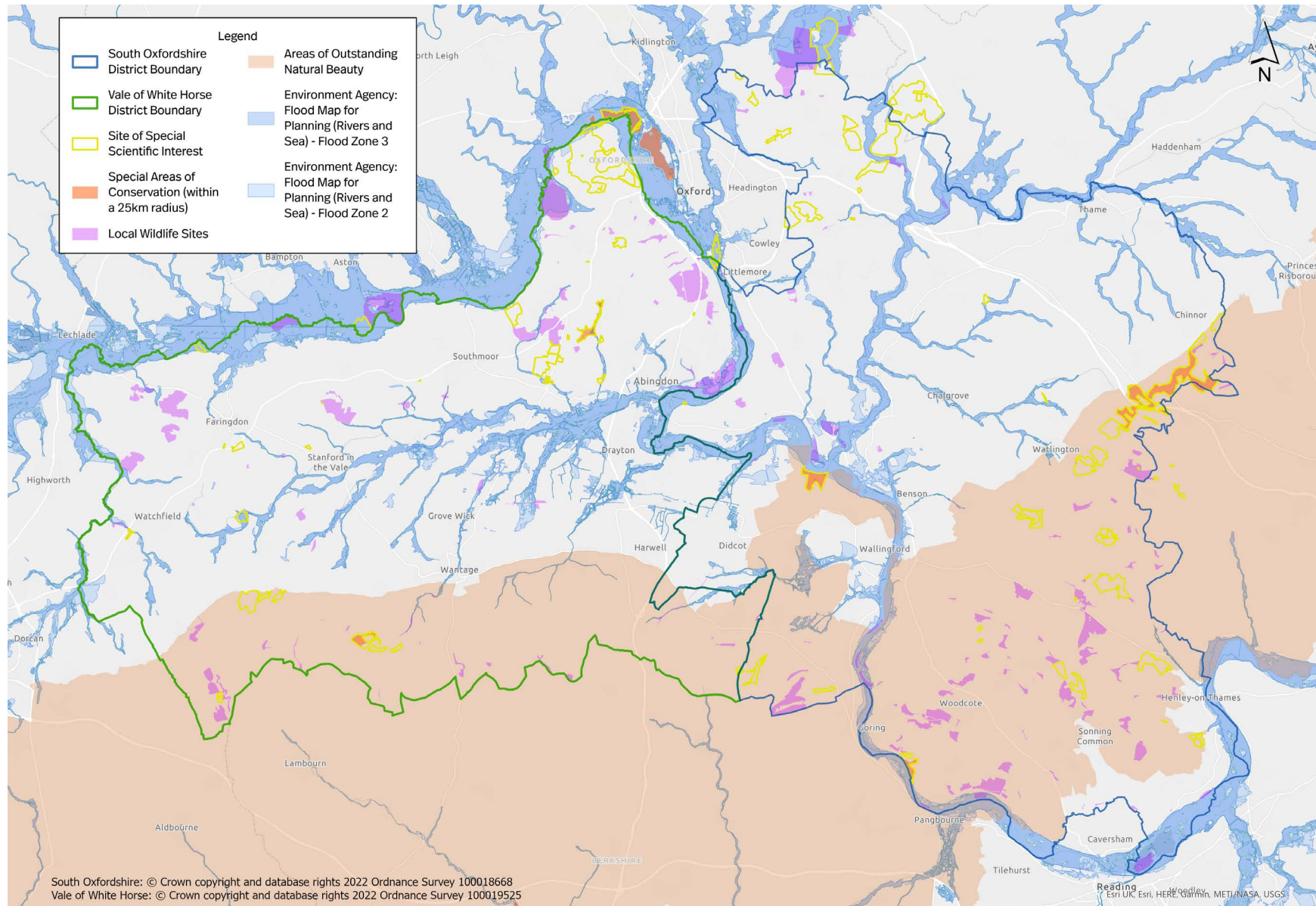
**Locally important**

**Local  
Wildlife Site**

**South  
Oxfordshire 126**

**Vale of  
White Horse 84**

# Map of the Nature Recovery and Landscape



To explore this map in greater detail please visit our Joint Local Plan websites: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>. See glossary for definitions of the terms which appear in this map.



## Which part of the Vision does this address?

*“For this to be a place where nature is thriving, and nature reserves are no longer isolated pockets. A place where history is still visible, where heritage and landscape character are safeguarded and valued, and the beauty and the distinctive local identity of our towns and villages have been enhanced.”*





## **OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this?**

- **respect landscape character, dark skies and the natural beauty of the countryside in development decisions**
- **research and map effective nature recovery networks**
- **restrict the amount of development in and around our top biodiversity areas**
- **require developments to generate a net gain in biodiversity**
- **ensure a net gain in biodiversity takes place where it's most effective**
- **require improvements to air and water quality**
- **protect trees and recognise the value of nature, giving us clean air, flowing water, soils to grow food in, and enjoyment**
- **support farmers, foresters and landowners committing to restore nature**
- **minimise the use of greenfield land by increasing the density of developments**

# Questions

Thinking about the opportunities explained above, please answer the following questions.

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

## 9. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

- Respect landscape character, dark skies and beauty of the countryside
- Research and map nature recovery networks
- Restrict development in and around top biodiversity areas
- Developments required to generate biodiversity net gain
- Biodiversity net gain where it's most effective
- Improvements to air and water quality
- Protect trees and recognise the value of nature
- Support those committing to restore nature
- Minimise greenfield use by increasing density of developments

## 10. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Respect landscape character, dark skies and beauty of the countryside
- Research and map nature recovery networks
- Restrict development in and around top biodiversity areas
- Developments required to generate biodiversity net gain
- Biodiversity net gain where it's most effective
- Improvements to air and water quality
- Protect trees and recognise the value of nature
- Support those committing to restore nature
- Minimise greenfield use by increasing density of developments

**11. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect the natural environment, please write them here.**






## 8. Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage




# Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage


Our local heritage gives where we live a unique identity and helps us learn about our past. The planning process can help make sure any change that happens does so in a way that protects and enhances the significance of our historic environment. We can ensure new development fits in with the character of the local area. Any changes to historic buildings must be managed carefully, particularly while making them energy efficient.

**There are 72 designated conservation areas in South Oxfordshire, over 3,000 listed buildings, 54 Scheduled Monuments and 13 Registered Parks and Gardens**




**There are 51 designated conservation areas in Vale of White Horse, over 2,000 listed buildings, 75 Scheduled Monuments and 8 Registered Parks and Gardens**






**The Vale is home to the UFFINGTON WHITE HORSE**  
A pre-historic figure of a horse cut into the chalk hillside over 3000 years ago.



**The site of the Civil War BATTLE OF CHALGROVE 1643 in South Oxfordshire, is included on the Register of Historic Battlefields**



**The famous Henley Royal Regatta has been running since 1839...**

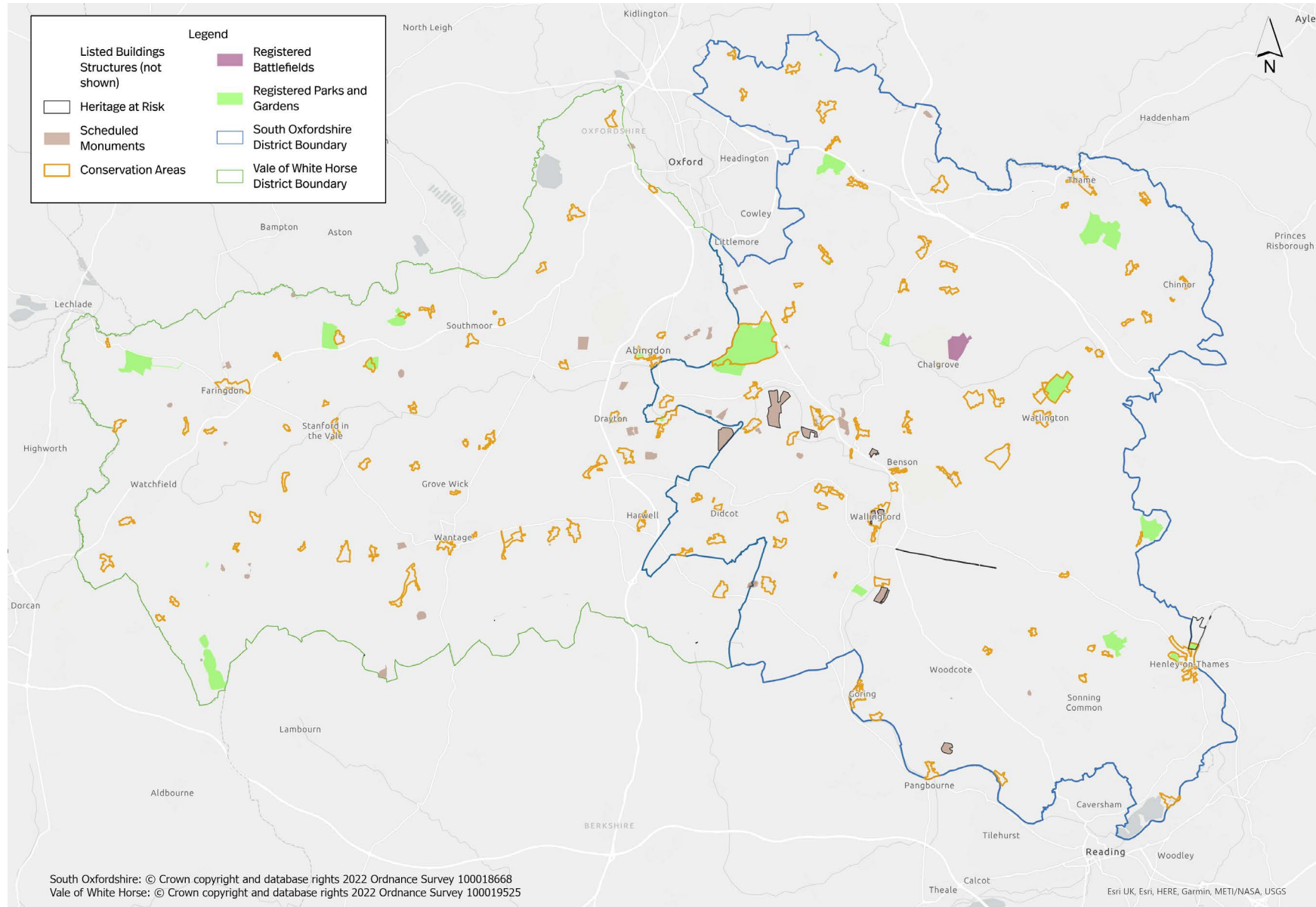


**The Heritage at Risk Register identifies:**

 <b>14</b> South	 <b>7</b> Vale
--	--

**...designated heritage sites as being at risk**

# Map of Local Heritage



To explore this map in greater detail please visit our Joint Local Plan websites: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>. See glossary for definitions of the terms which appear in this map.



## Which part of the Vision does this address?

*“A place where history is still visible, where heritage and landscape character are safeguarded and valued, and the beauty and the distinctive local identity of our towns and villages have been enhanced.”*





## **OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this?**

- protect heritage assets from harm or loss
- empower communities to research and protect their own heritage through Conservation Area Character Appraisals
- utilise enabling development where this can secure heritage assets and their settings
- plan development at a scale appropriate to market towns and villages
- require beauty in design for all new buildings and places
- keep alive traditions of local building materials, palettes and building styles
- encourage retention and reuse of historic buildings/ heritage assets as a sustainable resource
- embrace our cultural heritage
- ensure energy efficient and renewable energy measures for historic buildings adequately safeguard their heritage significance



# Questions

Thinking about the opportunities explained above, please answer the following questions.

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

## 12. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

- Protect heritage assets from harm or loss
- Empower communities through use of Conservation Area Character Appraisals
- Utilise enabling development to secure heritage assets
- Plan development at appropriate scales
- Require beauty in design for new buildings and places
- Keep alive traditions of local building materials, palettes and building styles
- Retaining and reusing historic buildings as a sustainable resource
- Embrace our cultural heritage
- Energy efficient measures for historic buildings to safeguard heritage significance

## 13. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Protect heritage assets from harm or loss
- Empower communities through use of Conservation Area Character Appraisals
- Utilise enabling development to secure heritage assets
- Plan development at appropriate scales
- Require beauty in design for new buildings and places
- Keep alive traditions of local building materials, palettes and building styles
- Retaining and reusing historic buildings as a sustainable resource
- Embrace our cultural heritage
- Energy efficient measures for historic buildings to safeguard heritage significance

**14. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to protect and enhance local heritage please write them here.**





## 9. Thriving Inclusive Communities



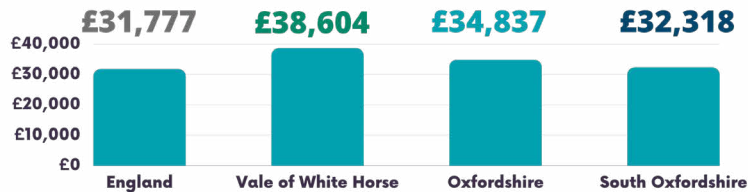
# Thriving Inclusive Communities

We know that many people face difficulties finding an affordable home in our districts compared with other parts of the country. We want to make sure the districts get the right size and type of housing that different groups in the community need. Our town centres and villages are also changing after the pandemic as many of us change how and where we work, shop and spend our leisure time.

## A) Median house prices in 2020...



## B) Median gross annual workplace earnings in 2020...

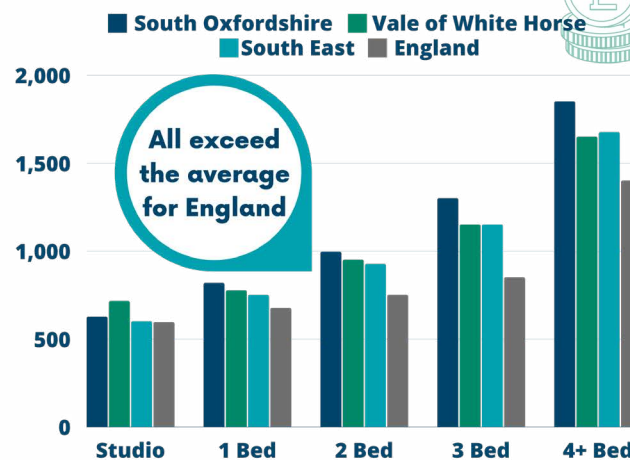


## C) Affordability ratio (based on A and B above)...

Calculated by: (A) house price ÷ (B) earnings



## Median monthly rents (October 2020 - September 2021)



National planning, the Covid-19 pandemic and the rise of online shopping will all influence the future of our 9 town and local service centres (see map below)



In 2020-21, the average age of first time buyers was 32 years (in England)

**4 X EARNINGS**

is generally considered an affordable house price

**8,046**  
South Oxfordshire

↑14% increase ↑20% increase

**10,214**  
Vale of White Horse



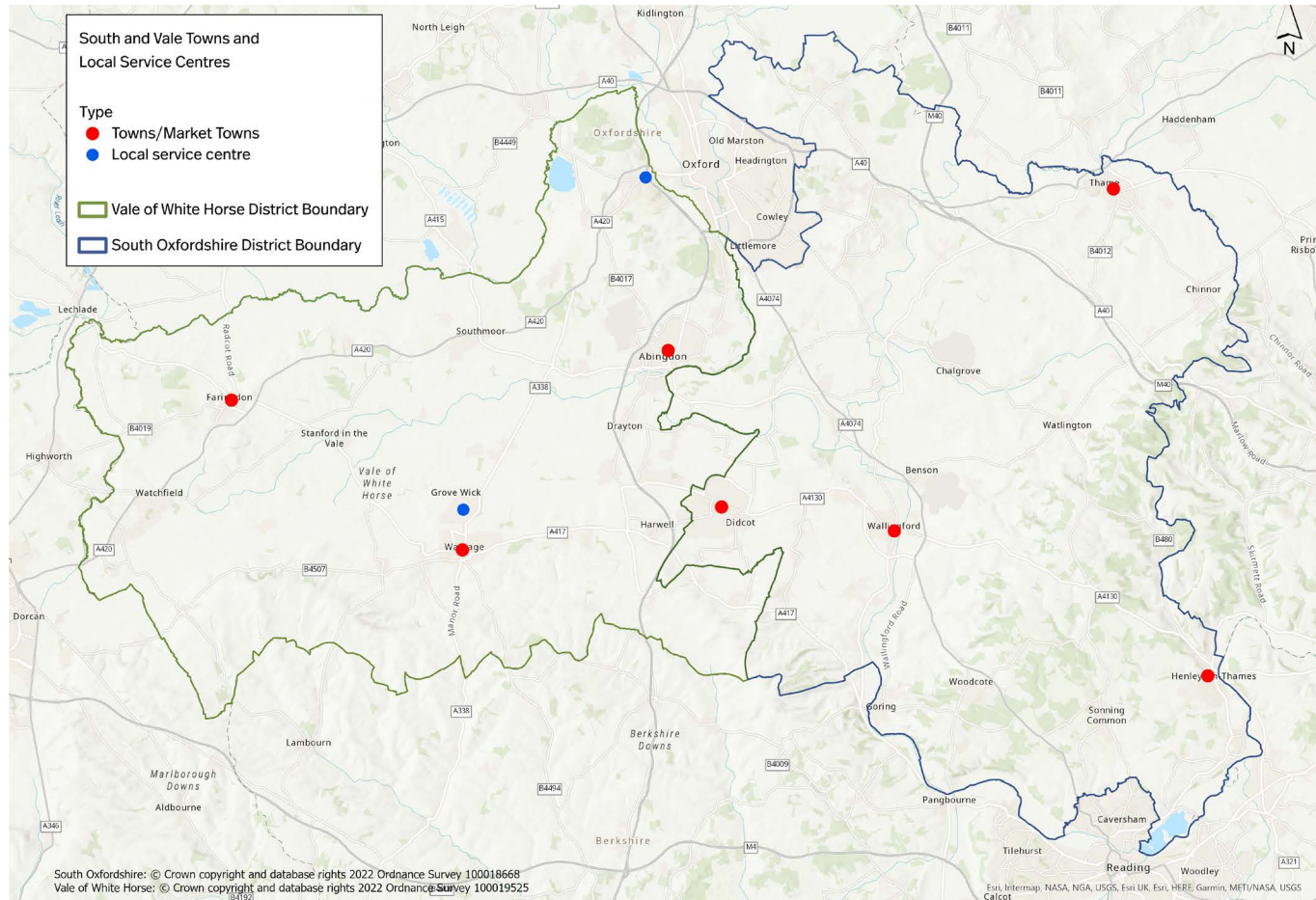
...new homes have been built between 2011 and 2021



# Our towns and villages

On the map below, we've shown our towns, market towns and local services centres, and we'll be asking you a question about them a bit later.

We will develop an important document to accompany our Local Plan known as a Settlement Assessment. This will assess and categorise all our towns and villages through an understanding of the level of services and facilities available to meet daily needs in these locations. We've drafted the methodology we'll use to carry out this work, which you can read and comment on here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.



## Which part of the Vision does this address?

*“A place where people can thrive. Where people have housing choices they can afford, where villages, market towns and garden communities are diverse and inclusive places where people of all ages and backgrounds can live together.”*





## **OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this?**

- plan for housing that is genuinely affordable for our communities
- require developers to build a mixture of housing types to help first time buyers, key workers, and those on lower incomes to live in the districts
- retain a proportion of homes that will remain affordable forever, not just for the first buyer
- support affordable housing on sites we'd normally protect from development
- promote alternative housing models like self-build, custom and community-led housing
- continue to support neighbourhood plans so housing meets local needs
- require high quality, beautiful and sustainable design for new buildings and places
- plan new developments, town centres and buildings to be accessible for those with disability or dementia, be places for children and young people to enjoy, and to be gender neutral
- include plans for communities with specific needs including older people, those needing supported living, students, and Gypsies and Travellers

# Questions

Thinking about the opportunities explained above, please answer the following questions.

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond.

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

## 15. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

- Plan for genuinely affordable housing
- Support affordable housing on sites we'd normally protect
- Require high quality, beautiful and sustainable designs
- Require a mixture of housing types
- Promote self-build, custom and community-led housing
- Plan new developments to be accessible to all
- Retain some homes that will be affordable forever
- Continue to support Neighbourhood Plans
- Plan for communities with specific needs

## 16. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Plan for genuinely affordable housing
- Support affordable housing on sites we'd normally protect
- Require high quality, beautiful and sustainable designs
- Require a mixture of housing types
- Promote self-build, custom and community-led housing
- Plan new developments to be accessible to all
- Retain some homes that will be affordable forever
- Continue to support Neighbourhood Plans
- Plan for communities with specific needs

**17. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to tackle housing inequality and affordability, please write them here.**

**18. We'd like to hear your ideas for how we could adapt our town centres and high streets to meet our changing needs. Are there any improvements, new facilities or uses that you would like to see in the locations marked on the map?**

**Which location(s) does your answer above apply to?**

- Abingdon
- Faringdon
- Thame
- Botley
- Grove
- Wallingford
- Didcot
- Henley
- Wantage



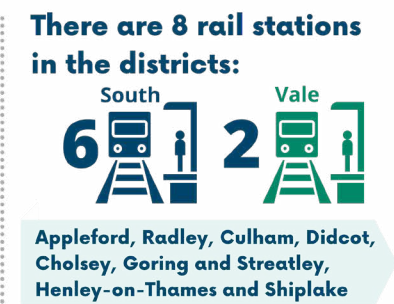
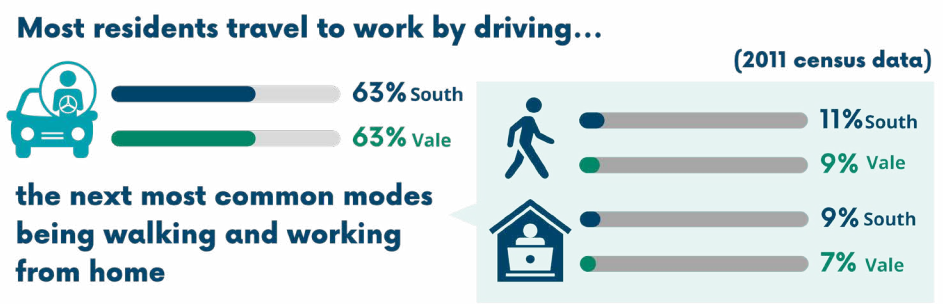


## 10. Transport and Facilities

# Transport and Facilities

In rural districts like ours, many people have to rely on private car travel to get around. We need to ensure that developments are within easy reach of jobs and services people need for their day-to-day lives and are supported by appropriate, low and zero-carbon transport options. We want to take the opportunity to improve active and sustainable travel infrastructure to make it the most attractive, reliable, and accessible choice.

Average car or van availability per household = **1.5**

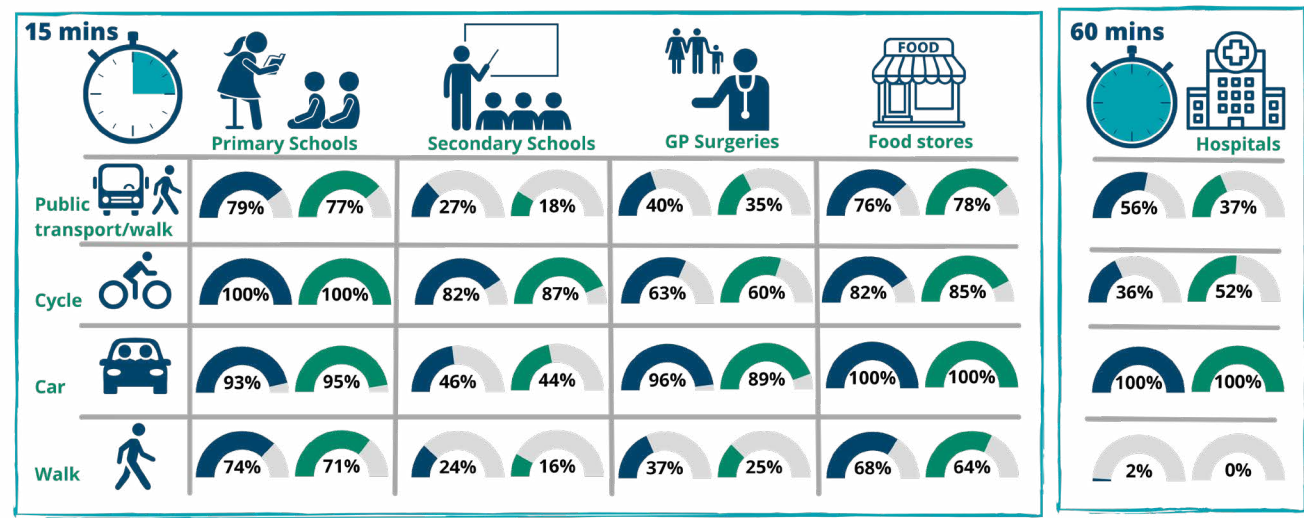



## Percentage of users within a 15/60 minute journey from facilities and services by different methods of travel\*

■ South Oxfordshire  
■ Vale of White Horse

\*These statistics are presented as % of users within 15 minutes' (60 minutes' for hospitals) travel time of facilities and services.

For primary schools, the users are defined as 'population aged 5-10 years'; for secondary schools, the users are 'population aged 11-15 years'; for the three remaining services the users are defined as households. Data from 2019.



Please note that the car or van availability data and mode of travel to work data is from the 2011 Census and therefore may have changed over time. The equivalent 2021 Census data has not yet been published. More recent data regarding home-working patterns can be found on the 'Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation' page.





## Which part of the Vision does this address?



*“A place where local residents can reach the facilities they need for everyday living on foot, bicycle or by zero-emission and low carbon transport choices.”*



## **OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this?**

- focus new development in settlements where the facilities for everyday living are available within 20 minutes' walk or cycling distance
- restrict development in locations which are not able to function as 20 minute neighbourhoods
- safeguard shops, community facilities and services from redevelopment to new uses
- plan for new infrastructure alongside development, especially in Garden Communities at Didcot, Berinsfield and Dalton Barracks and on strategic allocation sites
- plan a transition to sustainable transport modes by walking and cycling, shared transport, electric and alternative fuel cars, driverless cars, and plan for enhanced public transport including re-opening of the Cowley Branch line and a station at Grove
- plan for safe routes for walking and cycling, new quietways, new routes between settlements, secure bike parking, cargo bikes, electric bikes and scooters, electric vehicle charging
- plan for sustainable travel that is reliable, integrated and accessible
- plan for new technological innovation in transport and communications technologies



# Questions

Thinking of the opportunities explained above, please answer the following questions.

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

## 19. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

- Focus new developments where facilities are within 20 minutes walk/cycle
- Restrict development in locations that don't function as 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Safeguard shops, community facilities and services
- Plan for new infrastructure alongside development
- Plan a transition to sustainable transport modes and enhanced public transport
- Plan for safe walking and cycling routes and electric vehicle charging
- Plan for reliable, integrated and accessible sustainable travel
- Plan for technological innovation in transport and communications

## 20. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Focus new developments where facilities are within 20 minutes walk/cycle
- Restrict development in locations that don't function as 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Safeguard shops, community facilities and services
- Plan for new infrastructure alongside development
- Plan a transition to sustainable transport modes and enhanced public transport
- Plan for safe walking and cycling routes and electric vehicle charging
- Plan for reliable, integrated and accessible sustainable travel
- Plan for technological innovation in transport and communications

**21. If you currently drive, what would encourage you to drive less and/or walk, cycle or take public transport more?**

**22. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to ensure people have easy access to the services they need to use on a day-to-day basis, please write them here.**





## **11. Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities**



# Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities

We want to encourage healthy lifestyle choices, by providing opportunities for walking and cycling, exercise, social interaction and access to healthy food. We also want to keep our communities safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change.

## Life expectancy (years) at birth is...

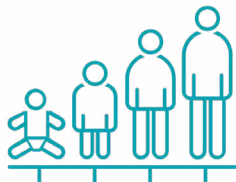
South Oxfordshire

**82.2**

for men

**85.6**

for women



Vale of White Horse

**82.6**

for men

**85.4**

for women

Which is longer than the England average of...

**79.6**

for men

**83.2**

for women

South

**13.8%**

Vale

**14.2%**

England

**17.6%**

...of the population have a long-term health problem or disability

South Vale  
**52.1% 58.4%**

of adults are classified as overweight or obese which is lower than the England average of 62.3%

South Oxfordshire has **LOWER LEVELS**



of physically active children (39.7%) than Vale (51.6%) and England (44.6%)



South Vale  
**75.5% 76.1%**

of adults are meeting physical activity recommendations (higher than the England average of 67.2%)

In 2019, South ranked

302 out of 317

and Vale ranked

305 out of 317

Local authorities in England in terms of deprivation

(where 1 is most deprived and 317 is least deprived)



**10.75%** of land in South and Vale is in Flood Zone 2 and

**7.75%** is in Flood Zone 3

**7.75%**

is in Flood Zone 3

The districts have many sports facilities with community access, including...

South  
**454**

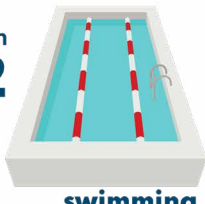
Vale  
**387**



grass pitches

South  
**22**

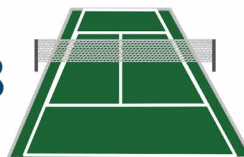
Vale  
**20**



swimming pools

South  
**128**

Vale  
**108**



outdoor tennis courts

There are...

South Oxfordshire



...air quality management areas in the districts

Vale of White Horse







## Which part of the Vision does this address?

//

*“Where residents and visitors can live healthy lifestyles and access greenspace. Where people are safe from pollution, flooding, and the effects of climate change.”*



## **OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this?**

- provide opportunities for active travel, exercise, social interaction and recreation
- enhance opportunities for exercise and enjoying high-quality open spaces and the countryside
- plan places for people to grow their own food
- avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas
- limit and control new sources of air, water, noise and light pollution
- require building designs to be adapted to be resilient to climate change impacts like overheating



# Questions

Thinking of the opportunities explained above, please answer the following questions.

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

## 23. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

- Provide opportunities for active travel, exercise and recreation
- Plan places for people to grow their own food
- Limit and control new sources of air, water, noise and light pollution
- Enhance opportunities for exercise in high-quality open spaces and countryside
- Avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas
- Building designs to be adapted to climate change impacts

## 24. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- Provide opportunities for active travel, exercise and recreation
- Plan places for people to grow their own food
- Limit and control new sources of air, water, noise and light pollution
- Enhance opportunities for exercise in high-quality open spaces and countryside
- Avoid inappropriate development in flood risk areas
- Building designs to be adapted to climate change impacts

**25. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to give residents and visitors the opportunity to live healthy lifestyles, please write them here.**

**26. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to keep residents and visitors safe from pollution, flooding and the effects of climate change, please write them here.**





## 12. Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation

# Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation

We want to provide opportunities for jobs, located in the right places, and continue to support and encourage innovation within Science Vale.



Science Vale is a global hotspot for **ENTERPRISE & INNOVATION**



**79.3%**  
South Oxfordshire



**82.5%**  
Vale of White Horse



**78.5%**  
Great Britain

of the population are economically active (October 2020 - September 2021)

For five seconds one day last December, Culham (JET) became the hottest place in the universe, at...

**150 MILLION DEGREES CELSIUS**



**37%** of the working age population in South and Vale are educated to degree level and above. (around 10% higher than the England average of 27.4%)

**78.6%**  
South Oxfordshire

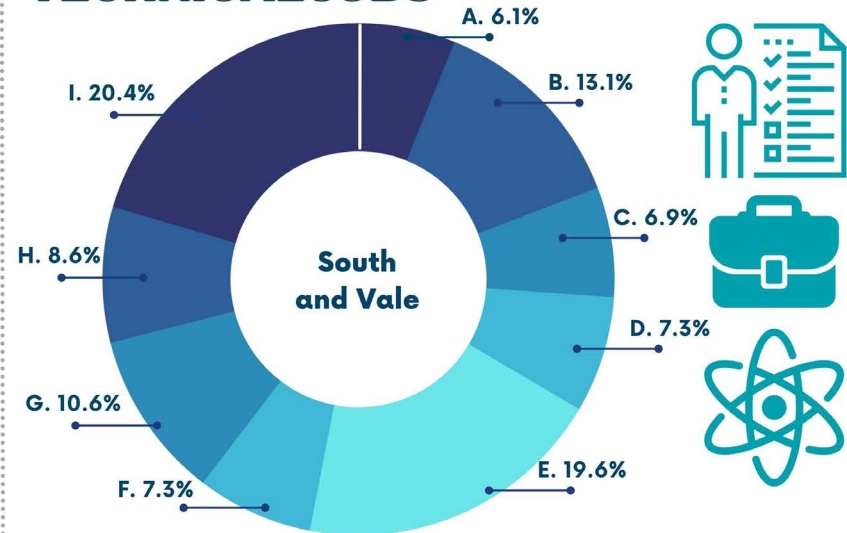
**81.4%**  
Vale of White Horse

**74.6%**  
Great Britain

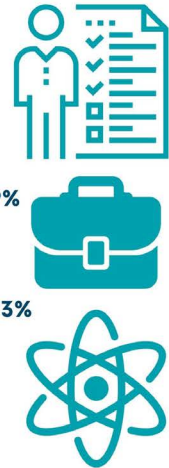
of people (aged 16-64) are in employment, which is higher than the average for Great Britain.



Both districts are heavily represented by... **PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL JOBS**



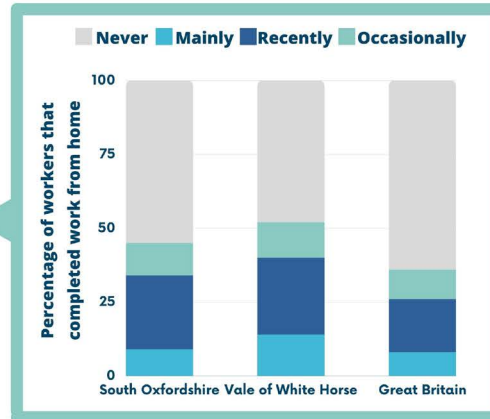
- A. Construction
- B. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- C. Accommodation and food service activities
- D. Information and communication
- E. Professional, scientific and technical activities
- F. Administrative and support service activities
- G. Education
- H. Human health and social work activities
- I. Other industries combined





Both districts had higher proportions of home-workers on average across 2020 than the Great Britain average...

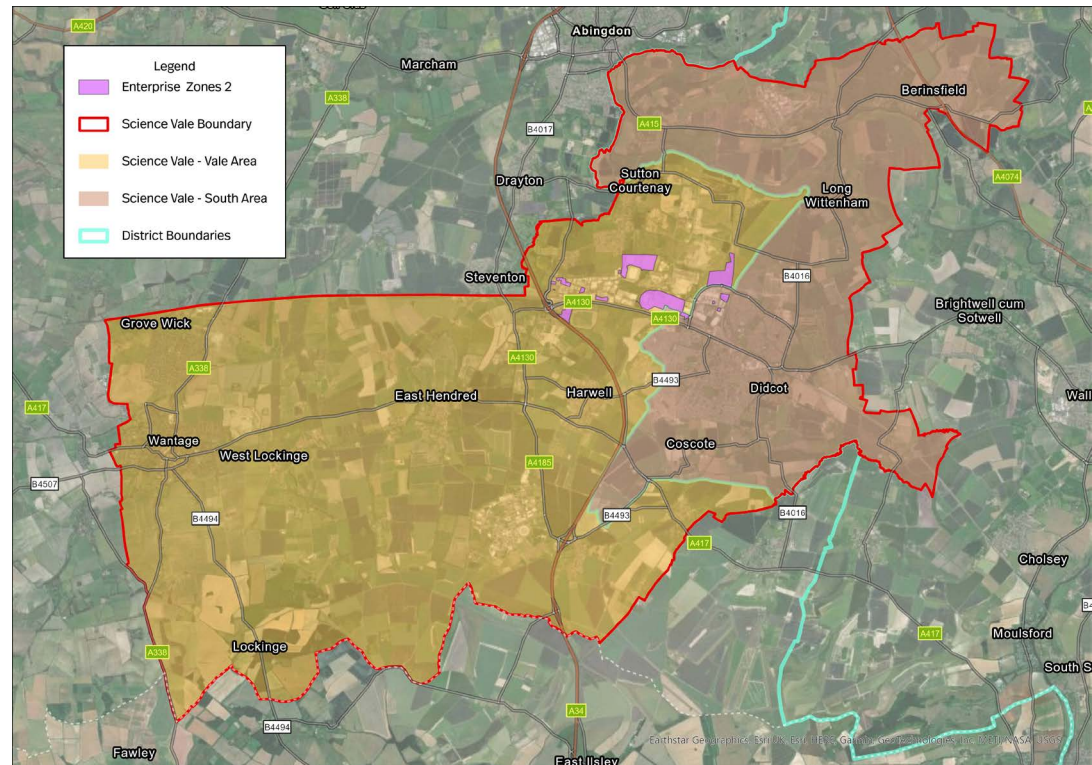
(Proportion of workers that completed any work from home are shaded in colour below)



## Map of Science Vale

Science Vale is one of the largest science and technology business clusters in the UK and a hotspot for enterprise and innovation. It spans the Wantage/Grove area of the Vale of White Horse, across Harwell Campus and Milton Park through to Culham, Didcot and Berinsfield in South Oxfordshire.

It also includes two Enterprise Zones: 'Science Vale Oxford' and the 'Didcot Growth Accelerator'. Enterprise Zones are areas offering government support to encourage business investment and enable local economic growth.



## Which part of the Vision does this address?

*“Where there are valuable and rewarding jobs, embracing clean technologies and growing the opportunities in Science Vale for the districts to contribute on a national and international scale to solving pressing global issues.”*







## **OPPORTUNITIES: What can the Joint Local Plan do about this?**

- plan jobs near homes and homes near jobs
- support working from home and community based work hubs/ facilities
- provide employment opportunities for innovation in Science Vale
- work to support innovation in Science Vale like the fusion work at Culham Science Centre, and space technology and vaccine manufacture at Harwell
- support the ‘circular economy’ and businesses working towards a greener future
- support rural land-based businesses, the local food economy and rural tourism

# Questions

Thinking of the opportunities explained above, please answer the following questions.

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond. <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

## 27. Please select the THREE opportunities that are most important to you.

- o Plan jobs near homes and homes near jobs
- o Support home working and community-based work hubs
- o Provide employment opportunities for innovation in Science Vale
- o Support innovation like fusion/space technology/vaccine manufacture in Science Vale
- o Support circular economy and greener businesses
- o Support rural land-based businesses, local food economy and rural tourism

**29. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to cater for future working styles and patterns, please write them below.**

## 28. Do you disagree with any of these opportunities? Tick all that apply.

- o Plan jobs near homes and homes near jobs
- o Support home working and community-based work hubs
- o Provide employment opportunities for innovation in Science Vale
- o Support innovation like fusion/space technology/vaccine manufacture in Science Vale
- o Support circular economy and greener businesses
- o Support rural land-based businesses, local food economy and rural tourism

**30. If you have any other thoughts on how we could use the Joint Local Plan to help ensure there are valuable and rewarding jobs in the districts, please write them here.**





**13. Any other thoughts?**

In the sections so far we've summarised the key issues, challenges and opportunities surrounding each of the following themes we think the Joint Local Plan should cover:



Reducing Carbon Emissions



Nature Recovery and Landscape



Protecting and Enhancing Local Heritage



Thriving Inclusive Communities



Transport and Facilities



Healthy Lifestyles and Safe Communities



Jobs and Opportunities for Innovation

## Questions

We've also shown you our draft Vision and asked for your thoughts about how we might address the issues and challenges and make best use of the opportunities, including how we might address Government policies, targets and legislation.

If you would like to answer the questions shown in this document please visit the Joint Local Plan websites for details on how to respond.

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or  
<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>.

### 31. Have we correctly summarised the issues, challenges and opportunities for the Joint Local Plan?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

If you've said no, what do you think we've missed?

### 32. Finally, do you have any other comments?





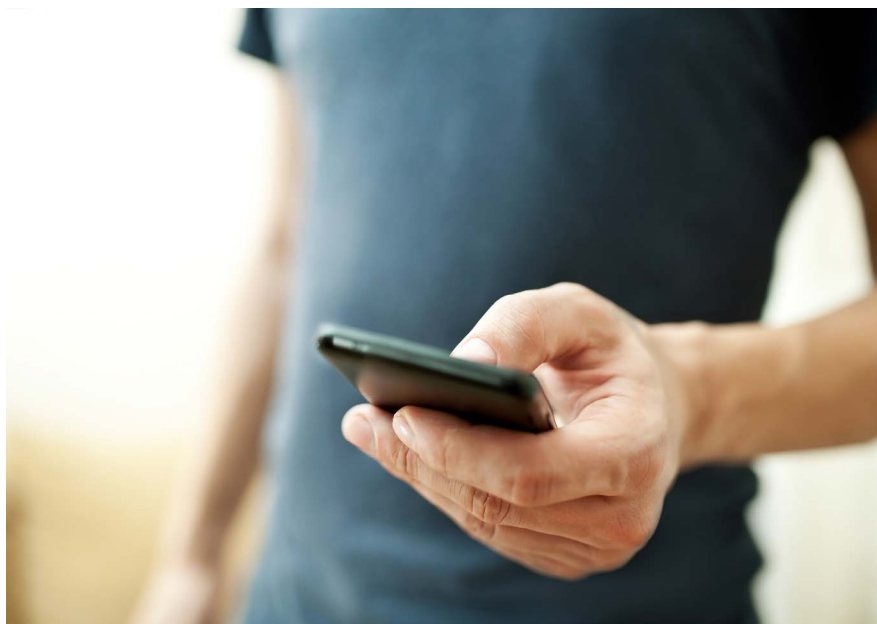
Get  
involved

## **14. Get Involved and Next Steps**

# Get Involved and Next Steps

Your views on this document will help shape the draft of the Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. We've designed the survey questions to be a quick and easy way to reply to this consultation. You can respond to as many questions as you like.

We will review all the comments we receive, and summarise the main issues in a consultation statement. In early 2023, we expect to publish a Joint Local Plan 'Preferred Options' document for consultation on proposed policies and sites for development.



## To respond, please:

Visit the Local Plan websites for details on the response options and to complete a response form:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>

If you are reading this document from one of our deposit locations, you can fill in a paper comment form and send it back to us, please see the public notice or ask a staff member for details.

At the websites above you can access all the consultation material.

Comments not relevant to planning issues will be shared with other teams in the council where they could help with them. If you would like to stay in touch about the Joint Local Plan and other planning policy consultations, please register your details here so that we can let you know about the next stages:

- [Have your say: consultation sign up](#)<sup>2</sup>

Please respond by **11.59pm Thursday 23rd June 2022**

If you have any questions on the consultation, please contact the planning policy team on [planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk) or call 01235 422600. If you have any questions on the comment form or require any of the consultation material in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages) please email [haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk) or call 01235 422425.

<sup>2</sup> <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/consultationsignup/>



We are in the process of gathering evidence to support the plan. We expect to prepare assessments and evidence on the topics below. We will refine this list following your comments and further scoping work.



Air Quality Evidence



Habitats Regulations Assessment



Built and Historic Environment Evidence



Health Impact Assessment



Climate Change Evidence



Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment and Capacity Evidence



Employment Land Assessment



Housing Needs Evidence (such as housing mix and tenure)



Green Belt Evidence



Landscape Evidence



Natural Environment Evidence



Transport Evidence



Open Space/Sports/Leisure Evidence



Viability



Strategic Flood Risk Assessment



Water Cycle Study



Sustainability Appraisal



Town Centres and Retail Evidence





## **15. Technical documents**

# Technical Documents

We are consulting on other documents alongside the Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation - these are:

## Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening and Scoping Report

We are required by law to prepare a sustainability appraisal alongside the Joint Local Plan. Sustainability appraisals look at a wide range of environmental, social, and economic characteristics and provide plan-makers with a set of objectives to assess their emerging proposals against. The first step of a sustainability appraisal is the screening and scoping report, which identifies these objectives.

Each subsequent time we consult on our plan, we will publish a sustainability appraisal report, which will identify the options we have considered, and the mitigation measures needed to offset any harmful effects. The sustainability appraisal does not dictate the direction of the plan but is a useful tool for identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that a plan might otherwise have.

We are currently at the Screening and Scoping Report stage, where we set the context and objectives, establish the baseline and decide on the overall scope.

## Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report

We have produced an HRA Scoping Report, which identifies the habitats sites that could be affected by the Joint Local Plan and their protected characteristics, current condition and main threats. The HRA is tasked with considering the habitats sites that sit at the top of the hierarchy of biodiversity designations in England and include Special Areas of Conservation for habitats and/or terrestrial/marine species and also Special Protection Areas for birds.

We have also identified the other plans and projects that have potential to give rise to in-combination effects. This information will feed into the HRA, which will be undertaken at a later stage in the plan-making process.

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the several distinct stages of assessment which must be undertaken to determine if a plan or project (such as new development) may affect the protected features of a habitats site before deciding whether to undertake, permit or authorise it.



## Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology

Having a strong understanding of the nature of the towns and villages in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse is a key part of our evidence base and essential to forming a successful strategy for the future of our districts in our Joint Local Plan.

The Settlement Assessment will look at settlements in the districts to determine their profile and the level of services each has. This assessment will therefore look at each place's population, households, employment, shops, schools and public transport, as well as other services.

The Draft Settlement Assessment Methodology proposes how we'll undertake the settlement assessment, which will eventually result in a settlement hierarchy.

## Duty to Cooperate Scoping Document

The district councils have a legal 'Duty to Cooperate' with other local planning authorities and organisations on strategic planning matters that are driven by larger than local issues – these are issues that are likely to have an impact beyond the immediate Local Plan area.

The strategic matters that need to be addressed through cross-boundary cooperation should be identified at the beginning of the Local Plan making process.

A strategic matter is defined as 'sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including, in particular, that in connection with strategic infrastructure.'

Our Duty to Cooperate Scoping document identifies the strategic matters relevant to the districts. These matters will be further refined, based on Duty to Cooperate discussions and feedback.

## How to comment on the technical documents

You can find and comment on these documents here:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> or

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>

If you are reading these documents from one of our deposit locations, you can fill in a paper comment form and send it back to us, please see the public notice or ask a staff member for details.





## 16. Local Plan Explainer

# A new Joint Local Plan for our area

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have come together to work on a new Joint Local Plan to 2041.

The Joint Local Plan will take account of the emerging strategic plan for Oxfordshire: the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

The Joint Local Plan will contain policies that will help to guide planning application decisions for the districts.

Once adopted, the Joint Local Plan will replace the current South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 and Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031, Parts 1 and 2.

## Existing planning documents



Once the new Joint Local Plan is adopted, it will replace the current Local Plans for South Oxfordshire (Local Plan 2035) and Vale of White Horse (Local Plan 2031: Parts 1 and 2). While we are preparing the new Joint Local Plan, nearly all of the existing policies and site allocations within these current documents remain relevant and will continue to be used to determine planning applications until replaced.

Vale of White Horse District Council undertook a review of the Local Plan Part 1, before it became 5 years old – that review is available here:

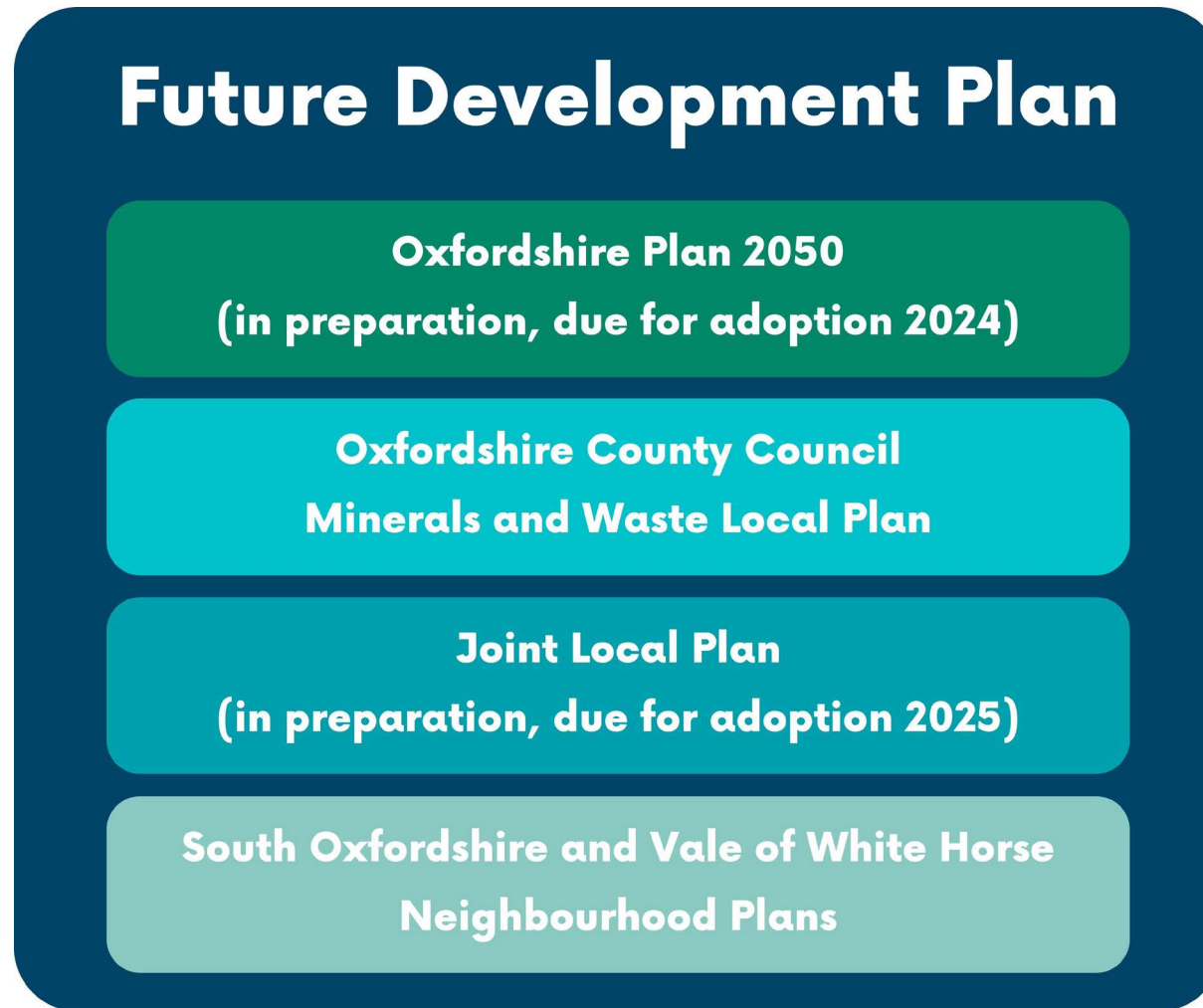
**<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/12/Local-Plan-Part-1-Review-Dec-2021..pdf>**

Neighbourhood planning will remain in place and used when determining planning applications. They should be reviewed to ensure conformity with the Joint Local Plan when it is adopted.

Existing Supplementary Planning Documents will also remain in place and be used to support the determination of planning applications, unless they are inconsistent with the new policies of the Joint Local Plan.



The diagram below shows what our Future Development Plan will look like, you can find out more in the [Local Development Scheme](#):<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/05/Joint-LDS-May-22-Final-Version.pdf>

# Oxfordshire Plan 2050 context



A countywide plan, known as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, is currently being prepared.

The five Oxfordshire authorities of Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, have committed to producing the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, which will be a joint Strategic Plan. We committed to producing this as part of the 2018 Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal with the Government. You may have already responded to consultations on this Plan, the latest one being an options consultation in July 2021.

The Oxfordshire Plan will set out the overall development requirement and identify broad areas for development across Oxfordshire. South and Vale will develop detailed planning policies and site allocations at a district level in the Joint Local Plan. Updates and details of progress on the Oxfordshire Plan can be found on the [Oxfordshire Plan 2050 website](https://oxfordshireplan.org/).<sup>4</sup>

Currently we envisage that the Oxfordshire Plan will set the future number of new homes to be built by 2050. The Joint Local Plan will only need to decide how and where our districts will deliver the homes needed until 2041. This current consultation doesn't ask questions about the amount of housing to be delivered in the districts because the Oxfordshire Plan still needs to identify this. Our existing Local and Neighbourhood Plans already plan for new homes which are still to be built. Once built, these new homes will increase the number of homes we had in 2021 by almost another third.

<sup>4</sup> <https://oxfordshireplan.org/>





## Oxfordshire Strategic Vision

All the Councils in Oxfordshire (including South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse) have signed up to the ***Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire***<sup>5</sup>, which sets out where the county needs to be in 2050. Achieving this will require bold, collaborative and inclusive thinking, with decisions and actions that deliver real and lasting change in ways that build resilience and enhance our shared prospects for the future. It is already influencing the direction of both the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and our Joint Local Plan vision.

<sup>5</sup> <https://futureoxfordshirepartnership.org/projects/oxfordshire-strategic-vision/>

# Neighbourhood Plan Context

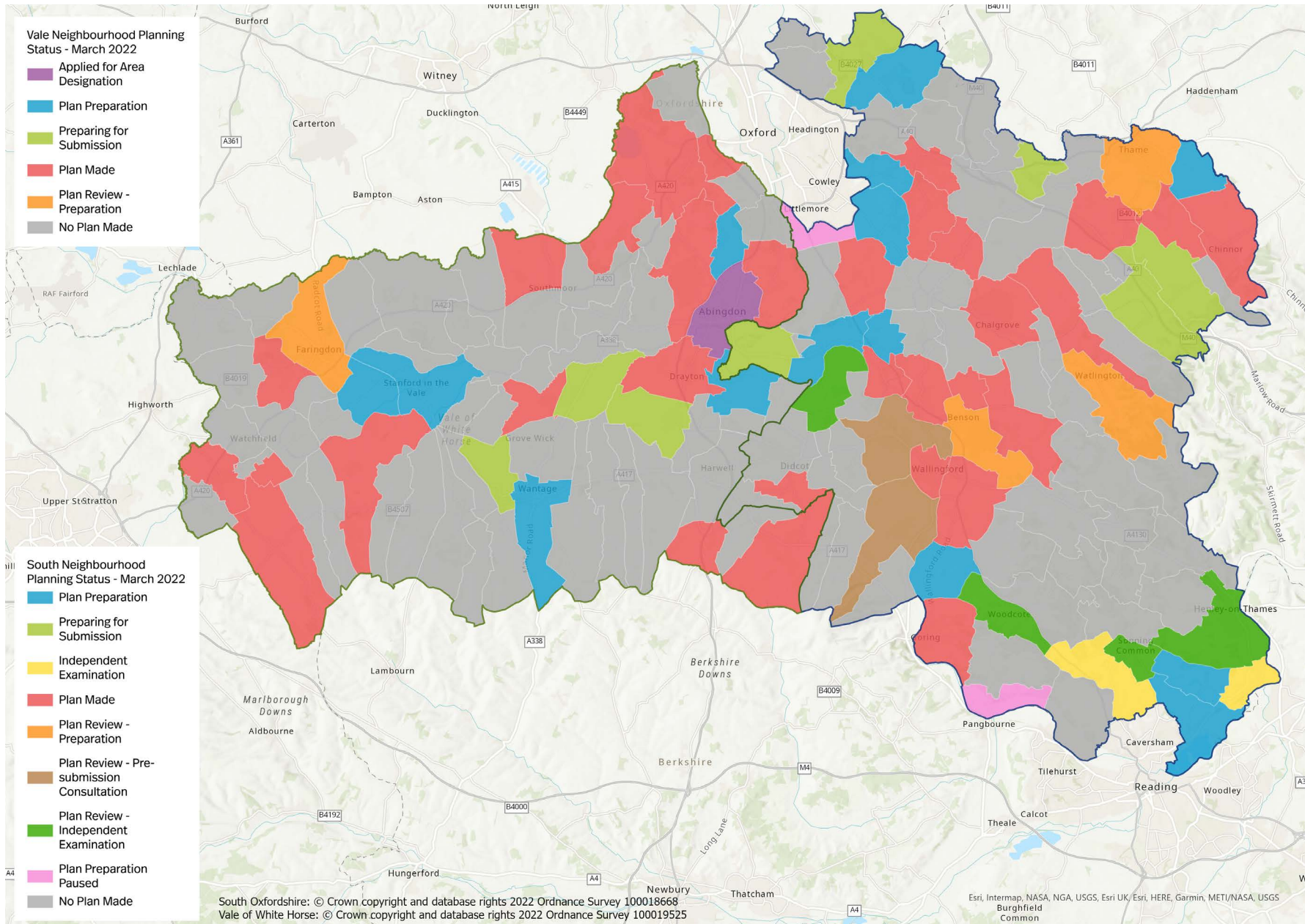


Neighbourhood planning allows communities to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

Our councils strongly advocate neighbourhood planning and offer a range of support to neighbourhood planning groups, via advice and guidance throughout plan-making and the preparation of neighbourhood plan reviews. The Joint Local Plan will set the overall context for future Neighbourhood Development Plans. Neighbourhood plans empower communities by giving them the opportunity to allocate sites for development, protect demonstrably special open spaces, identify opportunities for renewable energy schemes and nature recovery as well as develop policies to protect and enhance the character of towns and villages.



# This map shows the status of Neighbourhood Planning across the districts.



# The Local Plan process

Local Plan preparation must follow a process as set out by Government and new policies must be consistent with the **National Planning Policy Framework**<sup>6</sup>. Plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area and the framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities, being based on robust evidence.

Alongside the Joint Local Plan, we will prepare a ‘Sustainability Appraisal’ (SA) and a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ (HRA). These documents make sure the Joint Local Plan considers the relevant environmental, social, and economic issues and minimises any potential negative impacts. The progress on these documents and our evidence base can be found at: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointlocalplan> and <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>

While evidence gathering takes place, it is important to understand people’s views now, to help shape our approach before we propose preferred options for detailed policies and allocations of sites for development. We hope to share our recommendations for policy options and site allocations in 2023.

We will consider feedback, finalise our plan and give you the opportunity to comment on the final draft.

An independent planning inspector will then consider your final comments and assess the final draft version of the Joint Local Plan to ensure it meets legal requirements and by using the ‘four tests of soundness’ - whether it has been positively prepared, is justified, effective and consistent with national planning policy.

Here are some useful resources with more information about Local Plan processes:

- **Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**<sup>7</sup>
- **PAS Guidance on Local Plans**<sup>8</sup>
- **PINS Local Plan Examination Guidance**<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1005759/NPPF\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/plan-making>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/examining-local-plans-procedural-practice>





## **17. Glossary**

## **20 minute neighbourhoods**

Areas to live in where people can meet their everyday needs like shopping and primary schools within 20 minutes' walk or cycle of their home.

## **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

A national designation to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. The AONBs in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse are the North Wessex Downs and the Chilterns.

## **Biodiversity net gain**

Biodiversity net gain is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

## **Carbon budget**

A carbon budget places a restriction on the total amount of greenhouse gases a place or organisation can emit over a certain time period.

## **Carbon neutral**

Balancing of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere with the amount absorbed or removed from the atmosphere.

## **Carbon sinks**

A carbon sink is a living system that absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases – for example, trees, other plants, the ocean and soil.

## **Circular economy**

In a circular economy, every item or material is useful and valuable to another part of the economy. The two main ways to create a circular economy are to: design products for maximum value/life; and set up systems to deal with products in a way which retain maximum value, preventing products from being disposed of or downcycled.

## **Clean technologies**

Technology which avoids environmental damage at the source through use of materials, processes, or practices to eliminate or reduce the creation of pollutants or wastes.

## **Conservation Area**

An area designated by the District Council under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as an area of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

## **Conservation Area Character Appraisal**

A document which identifies the special architectural or historic interest of a Conservation Area.

## **Cultural heritage**

Ways of living or traditions developed in an area and passed on from generation to generation, and also the books, poems, music and art made in or about a local area.

## **Density**

The number of dwellings per hectare.

## **Development Plan**

A document setting out the local planning authority's policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in the area. This includes adopted Local Plans, neighbourhood plans, and is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.



## **Electric vehicle charging points**

Connect an electric vehicle (EV) to a source of electricity, to recharge electric cars, and plug-in hybrids.

## **Enabling development**

Enabling development is development that would not be in compliance with local and/or national planning policies, so would not normally be given planning permission, but a case is made that it would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset.

## **Fabric efficiency**

The performance of the components and materials that make up a building's fabric. Having the highest standards of performance, before considering the use of mechanical or electrical building services systems, can assist with reducing capital and operational costs, improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

## **Flood risk areas**

Flood Risk Areas identify locations where there is a significant flood risk.

## **Flood Zone 2**

Land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding; or Land having between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding.

## **Flood Zone 3**

Land having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding; or Land having a 1 in 20 or greater annual probability of sea flooding. This is the zone at the highest flood risk.

## **Fusion energy power**

Fusion power is a form of power generation using heat from nuclear fusion reactions to make electricity.

## **Garden Communities**

A holistically planned new or regenerated settlement which enhances the natural environment, tackles climate change and provides high quality housing and locally accessible jobs in beautiful, healthy and sociable communities.

## **Green Belt**

Designated land around a town or city where land is kept permanently open and where development is severely restricted.

## **Greenfield land**

Land that has not been previously developed.

## **Greenhouse gas emissions**

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities strengthen the greenhouse effect, causing climate change. The most well-known greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, which comes from burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.

## **Heritage assets**

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance worthy of consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.

## **Heritage at Risk**

The Heritage at Risk (HAR) programme identifies those designated heritage sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. The Register includes buildings, places of worship, monuments, parks and gardens, conservation areas, battlefields and wreck sites that are listed and have been assessed and found to be at risk.

## **Intensive indoor livestock**

Intensive animal farming or industrial livestock production, an approach to animal husbandry designed to maximise production, while minimising costs.

## **Landscape character**

The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the visible features of an area of land.

## **Listed Buildings**

Buildings and structures which are listed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as being of special architectural and historic interest and whose protection and maintenance are the subject of special legislation.

Listed building consent is required before any works are carried out on a listed building.

## **Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)**

Local Wildlife Sites are areas of land that are especially important for their wildlife. Local Wildlife Sites are identified and selected locally using scientifically-determined criteria and surveys.

## **Mixture of housing types**

Developments which combine a range of tenure options like owner-occupier housing, shared ownership housing and rental properties (social, intermediate and private).

## **Nature recovery networks**

A joined up network of wildlife-rich places to increase and restore nature.

## **Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal**

In March 2017 the Government committed to the Oxfordshire housing and growth deal (the deal), to support ambitious plans to deliver 100,000 homes by 2031. The deal committed to an Oxfordshire-wide joint statutory spatial plan to be adopted by 2021, and to be supported by £215 million of funding to help deliver more affordable housing and infrastructure improvements to support development across the county.

## **Quietways**

Walking and cycling routes that have been identified where traffic is generally quieter.

## **Registered Battlefields**

Historic England's Register of Historic Battlefields identifies 47 important English battlefields. Its purpose is to offer them protection through the planning system, and to promote a better understanding of their significance and public enjoyment. There is one Registered Battlefield in South Oxfordshire, the site of the Battle of Chalgrove.

## **Registered Parks and Gardens**

Historic England is enabled by government to compile the 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England' to identify those sites which are of particular historic significance. Registration means that planning authorities must consider the impact of any proposed development on the landscapes' special character.

## **Regulation 18, 19, 22, 24 and 26**

Formal stages of Local Plans preparation, examination and adoption identified by The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.



## **Safeguard**

A measure taken to protect someone or something or to prevent something undesirable.

## **Scheduled Monuments**

Scheduling is the selection of nationally important archaeological sites.

Scheduled monuments are not always ancient, or visible above ground

## **Self-build, custom and community-led housing**

Custom and self-build housing is housing built by groups or individuals for their own use. Those groups or individuals must have primary input into the homes final design and layout.

- Self-build is where a person directly organises the design and construction process of their own home, which can include building the home themselves or employing someone to build the home for them
- A custom-build home is where a person is working with a developer, who takes on more responsibility e.g. finding land to build on, constructing the home and arranging finance
- Community-led housing projects are led by community groups determined to make sure that new homes are built and empty homes and buildings can be brought back into use to meet local housing needs.

## **Site allocation**

A site allocation is a site that is earmarked in a local plan for a particular type of development or use, such as housing, employment and leisure.

## **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

Identified protected areas of nature conservation and scientific value identified by Natural England as being of national (and sometimes international) importance.

## **Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

An area designated to protect the habitats of those threatened species of wildlife that are considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level. Designed under EU Directive 92/43.

## **Strategic Plan**

The Oxfordshire Strategic Plan aligns the strategies of authorities within the county so that future housing and infrastructure is more joined up.

## **Sustainable resource**

A sustainable resource is a resource that can be continuously replenished, or there is an endless amount of it that can be captured or harnessed without decreasing the supply.

## **Zero-emission and low carbon transport**

Ways to get around which involve low or zero greenhouse gas emissions, for example walking and cycling, or vehicles which use alternative fuels.

# Map data sources

## **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: (AONB)**

Natural England

## **Enterprise Zones**

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire

## **Flood Zones 2 and 3**

Environment Agency

## **Conservation Areas**

Historic England

## **Green Belt**

Oxford Green Belt: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire

## **Heritage Assets at Risk 2021**

Historic England

## **Historic Parks and Gardens**

Historic England

## **Listed Buildings**

Historic England

## **Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)**

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC)

## **Parish and District Boundary**

Ordnance Survey

## **Scheduled Monuments**

Historic England

## **Science Vale**

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire

## **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

Natural England

## **Special Area of Conservation**

Natural England

## **Registered Battlefields**

Historic England

## **Registered Parks and Gardens**

Historic England

*South: © Crown copyright and database rights 2022 Ordnance Survey  
100018668*

*Vale: © Crown copyright and database rights 2022 Ordnance Survey  
100019525*

*Esri UK Esri, HERE, METI/NASA, UGS, Esri, Ordnance Survey, NASA, NGA, USGS*

*All data is subject to change. For the latest information go to the source providers.*



**Alternative formats of this publication, a summary of its contents or specific sections, are available on request.**

**These include large print, Braille, audio, email, easy read and alternative languages.**

**Please contact customer services to discuss your requirements on 01235 422422.**

**Planning Policy Team**

135 Eastern Avenue,  
Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

Tel: 01235 422422

Email: [planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk)

[www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

