

DRAYTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Report Purpose

This document is the scoping report for a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan and describes the procedure which the Drayton Neighbourhood Planning Team intends to follow to effect that assessment. A primary requirement of the Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is that it is in general conformity with the Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan. Accordingly the NDP Scoping Report is derived from the VWHDC Local Plan Scoping Report. This will ensure:

- (a) general conformity with the Local Plan; and
- (b) that all relevant legislation and policies identified as relevant and necessary by VWHDC are present in the NDP Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are incorporated into all levels of planning policy. Sustainability appraisal is a requirement of the EC Directive 2001/42/EC (the 'Directive') on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Directive) which is enshrined in UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This applies to plans with significant environmental effects and is usually delivered through a screening assessment which uses the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive.

1.2 Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan

The NDP covers the parish of Drayton, a parish is located approximately 1.5 due south of Abingdon containing some 939 dwellings. It is part of the Vale of White Horse District. The area covered by the NDP is coincident with the Parish of Drayton. This is shown in Figure 1.1; the black line denotes the parish boundary.

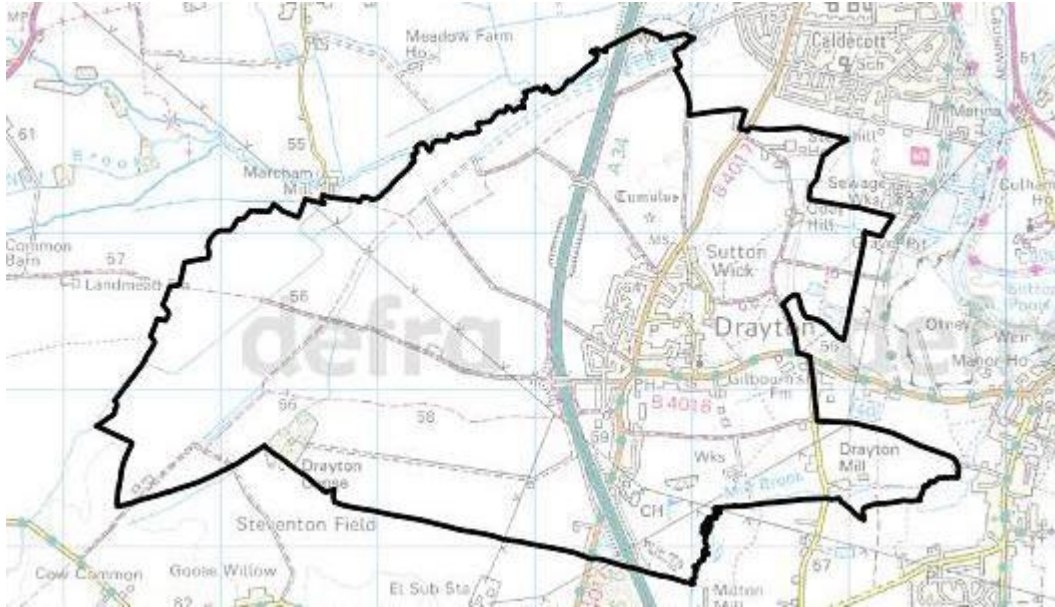


Figure 1.1

Drayton Parish: Area covered by the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Source: 2001 Census Output area boundary. Crown Copyright.

The NDP is being produced by the Parish Council in partnership with the Drayton 2020 and the VWHDC. The costs of the task are being met, in part, by a grant from the District Council, in part from a PC precept on the Council Tax and by some fundraising activities.

Drayton 2020 comprises a steering group made up of volunteers from the village to involve at least one member of the parish council. This approach was chosen to ensure that the views of local people are obtained which is seen as an important part of developing the plan, indeed fundamental to its legitimacy. The following working groups were constituted by steering group:

- Work & play
- Look & feel
- Transport
- Sustainability

Each of these groups contributed to the contents of the Housing Policy Guidance¹ adopted by Drayton Parish Council in December 2012, which gave rise to the setting up of a separate Housing working group

1.3 Contents and Main Objectives

The conformity between the NDP and the Vale of the White Horse's Local Plan is seen as a two way process. Formal adoption of VWHDC's Local Plan is not expected until late 2013/early 2014 but this should not effect the scope of this sustainability appraisal. In addition the Strategic Local Plan will not specify the number of new homes to be built in Drayton between now and 2029. It will instead apportion houses across the Vale outwith those allocated to the various so-called 'strategic sites' (e.g. Harwell, Grove etc). The initial approach, as detailed in VWHDC's draft Strategic Plan issued for public consultation in March 2013, is to allocate 299 dwellings to an area which includes Drayton.

The NDP has been prepared on the basis that the number of new dwellings to be permitted in Drayton should be enough to make the village a more sustainable location for development but not so many that the village loses its rural character. The expectation arising out of the consultation draft Local Plan is that the number of houses which could be required up until 2029 could be in the order of about 50 but that applications are likely to be made approaching 200 the merits of which would have to be considered against the policies in the emerging NDP.

Drayton Parish commissioned a Housing Needs Survey² in 2012. The survey attracted responses from 32% of households in Drayton, which indicated a need for 27 new dwellings. Demand was predominantly for one and two bedroom dwellings (24 out of the 27 new dwellings sought). The results of the House Needs Survey were analysed, summarised and are referred to in the Parish's draft Housing Policy Guidance¹. The results will also inform both the consultation and final form of the housing policies in the NDP.

A key task of all of the working groups constituted was to prepare a vision for their respective work area, along with a complement of initial objectives to act as a focus for discussion and feedback during consultation exercises. The vision and objectives derived for each work area are presented Table 1.3.1

THEME	VISION	OBJECTIVES
LOOK & FEEL	To create a cohesive and coherent look and feel to the overall plan for the village that helps integrate the residents and gives Drayton a real identity. To develop a safe, attractive and varied environment that builds on and enhances the distinctive character of the village and makes Drayton a place that offers even more opportunities for people to meet, interact and play, thereby creating a strong sense of community and belonging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a centre around a new village green at the heart of the village that acts as a focal point for village activity and brings the two distinct halves of the village together • Using the existing boundaries of the village for infill housing and commercial development to bring people closer together and stop further ribbon development • Weaving both greenery and the historical background of the village into any new development to retain character and enhance the existing situation • Creating something to give the Village an identity linked to its historical roots
WORK & PLAY	To promote and enhance work and leisure facilities in Drayton for all ages; making it a place where more residents can fulfil their requirements for living, working and playing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a new village centre on the proposed new village green. • Developing further provision for pre-school children and their carers. • Developing further play and social facilities for older children. • Encouraging the development of work opportunities in the village. • Creating further opportunities for interaction for the elderly. • Enhancing footpaths and cycle tracks throughout the village and parish.
TRANSPORT	To make it easier for all Drayton residents to travel in and around the village. To enable residents to stop in the village more safely and easily. To improve transport links to surrounding towns and villages whilst at the same time minimising the effect on the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the speed and volume of motor traffic travelling through the village • Improving non-car transport links to retail and work locations in surrounding area • Introducing additional safety measures for residents (especially the elderly and young)

SUSTAINABILITY	To ensure the long-term sustainability of the village, its buildings and its environment for the benefit both of existing and future generations and of the natural environment itself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a village that meets the needs of all age groups and is attractive to those wanting to continue living in the village • Aiming to reduce our carbon footprint • Protecting the natural environment and biodiversity of the village and its surroundings • Promoting localism for the economic benefit of the village
HOUSING	To ensure that any housing development meets the needs of Drayton’s inhabitants, fits into the character of the village and ensures the viability and sustainability of the village.	<p>To achieve this by requiring that any new development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a contribution (financial or otherwise) to the village to go towards this plan’s goals in improving the village’s amenities and environment. • Address the needs of the village inhabitants first (as identified by the 2012 Housing Survey and any future Parish Council authorised survey) including the provision of affordable housing. • Preserve and enhance the character of the village in line with an agreed set of Building Code guidelines. • Meet the prescribed energy conservation and sustainability criteria. • Reside within the existing boundaries of the village and not extend it further.

Table 1.3.1
DNDP Vision & Objectives

The respective vision and objectives were initially tested at an open meeting held in May 2013 attended by some 90 village residents. Questionnaire responses were received from XX people (*data to follow*). Of these XX% (*data to follow*) said that the proposed objectives positively reflected reflect their interests in shaping the NDP. The population of Drayton is some 1.9% of the population of the Vale of White Horse District³. The difference in scale of the area covered and the need to respond to the particular needs of the Drayton community means that although the NDP will be in general conformity with the Strategic Local Plan some of the objectives, scope and the emphasis may differ.

1.4 Report Structure

This Report is presented in 5 Sections:

- Section 1 (this section) comprises an introduction to the report
- Section Two describes the methodology to be used to effect the SA and SEA;
- Section Three reviews the relevant plans, policies and programmes of others and presents the relevant sustainability objectives;
- Section Four presents the sustainability baseline data and lists the key sustainability challenges; and
- Section Five provides the Sustainability Assessment Framework.

2. METHOD

2.1 Sustainability Assessment Stages

The SA and SEA of the DNDP will follow the process advocated in the published government guidance “*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*” issued in November 2005 and “*A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*” issued in September 2005. This guidance suggests the five stage (A-E) approach to SA. These are detailed below:

Stage A: Set the context and objectives, establish the baseline and decide on the scope and methodology of the SA process:

- A1: identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives
- A2: collect baseline information
- A3: identify sustainability issues and problems
- A4: develop the SA framework
- A5: consult on the scope of the SA

Stage B: Develop and refine options and assess effects:

- B1: test the NDP objectives against the SA framework
- B2: develop the NDP options
- B3: predict the effects of the NDP and options
- B4: evaluate the effects of the NDP and options
- B5: consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects of the NDP
- B6: propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the NDP

Stage C: Prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Report

- C1: prepare the SA Report

Stage D: Consult formally on the preferred option of the NDP and SA Report

- D1: take note of the public response to the preferred option and the SA Report
- D2: (i) appraise the effects of significant changes to the NDP and (ii) appraise the effects of significant changes resulting from the representations
- D3: make decisions and provide information

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the NDP

- E1: finalise the aims and methods for monitoring
- E2: respond to adverse effects

2.1.1 Sustainability Assessment Stage A

The five tasks in Stage A of the SA process produce the Scoping Report. This document sets out, therefore, the findings of Stage A and explains what happens next.

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

The sustainability objectives of other plans, policies or programmes may influence those of the NDP. As such, Section Three presents a review of the policy context and notes the sustainability objectives, targets or specific requirements they contain. The VWHDC carried out this context review for their Scoping Report supporting the Draft Strategic Plan. As noted previously Drayton's NDP is a local part of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and thus makes extensive use of the VWHDC context review.

Stage A2: Collecting baseline information.

The collection of baseline information is required under the Directive. Baseline information provides a starting point for assessing the likely effects of the NDP and identifying sustainability problems. The early stages of the NDP included a review of the national Planning Policy Framework, the adopted Local Plan and the 2012 Report on 'saved policies' and the data included in the Interim Housing Supply Policy (abandoned in 2012), and the Housing Needs Survey². Drayton was the subject of surveys of the flora and fauna that provides very detailed background to the state of the natural environment in 2002.

The SEA Regulations suggest that the SA should describe the baseline environment in the neighbourhood in terms of:

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

Data will be collected for these considerations to support the sustainability baseline by providing, where possible:

- information on the current situation and trends;
 - details of any established targets and how the current situation relates to these;
- and
- information on particularly sensitive or important features of locations potentially impacted by the NDP.

Note: Detailed information is not always available at parish level. In such cases, and if appropriate, projections from district or national data will be used.

Stage A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.

Analysis of the data from the sources mentioned in Stage A2 shows that within Drayton Parish certain sustainability issues are more significant than others, for example the pressure and provision of suitable housing and the protection of the character of a village so close to Abingdon. Such issues are highlighted in Section 4. Residents will be encouraged to voice their particular concerns and the village consulted to ensure that account is taken of their views.

Stage A4: Developing the SA framework

A sustainability framework will be developed for use during Stage B to test the emerging NDP and options. The objectives for this framework are derived by tailoring those developed for the VWHDC Sustainability Appraisal to reflect the particular situation of Drayton. Residents will be encouraged to voice their views at open meetings and/or exhibitions and through the website (www.drayton-near-abingdon.org.uk) launched in April 2013. This may lead to modifications to the sustainability objectives. Any such change will be tested against the VWHDC Strategic Plan objectives to ensure consistency.

Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

The draft scoping report will be sent to:

- (a) VWHDC
- (b) The three statutory consultees:
 - The Environment Agency
 - English Heritage
 - English Nature
- (c) Other local organisations with an interest in sustainability.

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

It should be noted that the issues relating to ‘sustainability’ have been a consideration from the outset and early activity has included:

- (a) using the NPPF and VWHDC consultation draft Strategic Local Plan SA objectives as a framework for appraisal to assist in achieving general conformity with higher level policy
- (b) checking the NDP objectives against the emerging Strategic Local Plan SA objectives;
- and
- (c) testing different strategic development options against the SA objectives, for example:
 - i. The possibility of minimal housing growth, (limited to infilling sites), medium growth resulting from the development of some more substantial areas on the village periphery and higher levels of growth utilizing land all/substantial areas of land around the village. For example, comparing the viability of:

- Minimal housing growth (limited to infilling sites)
- Medium housing growth, resulting from the development of some more substantial areas on the village periphery, and
- Higher levels of housing growth, utilising all substantial areas of land around the village.

OR

- i. Development on one large site,
- ii. Development limited to 1 or 2 smaller sites, or
- iii. Development limited to a maximum of X houses per site.

All these strategies would be considered against another section dealing with the matter of density

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

The requirement to undertake the ‘context review’ arises from the SEA Directive which states that the Environmental Report should include: “*an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes, the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation*”.

The policy context review looks at national and local (county and district) plans and policies. The former includes international (e.g. EU) policies which may be applicable and relevant; it is recognised that appropriate international sustainability objectives or requirements will have to be reflected by national and local policies and plans

As noted in Section One of this document, Drayton’s NDP is the interpretation at parish level of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the draft VWHDC Local Plan. The VWHDC undertook their own policy review during the preparation of their draft Local Plan’s Scoping Report. Drayton NDP scoping report used both of these documents for context review.

In undertaking this policy context review, it is recognised that

- a) No list of policies can ever be exhaustive; those which have been identified and selected are considered to be of particular relevance to Drayton’s NDP;
- b) New or revised plans and policies emerge. The regulatory context will, therefore, be periodically confirmed by those responsible for the maintenance and updating of the NDP, namely Drayton Parish Council and, should it be necessary, changes incorporated within the assessment.

This Section focuses on summarising the relevant policies and plans which could influence the NDP. The results of this review have been used to identify key issues for Drayton and to inform the baseline data, and have subsequently have been incorporated into the SEA/SA framework.

3.1.1 National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

Input required

Committee on Climate Change carbon reduction budgets and reports

Input required

3.1.2 Local Policy Context

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

Drayton Housing Needs Survey 2012

Input required

VWHDC Consultation Draft Strategic Local Plan

The Strategic Local Plan is currently in its consultative stages and is due to go to Examination in Public in 2013 with formal adoption in 2014. The objectives and this scoping report have been substantially derived from the emerging Local Plan and its supporting SA.

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011

Until the Strategic Local Plan is adopted, the saved policies of the Local Plan 2011 remain in force subject since 27 March 2013 to compliance with the NPPF. However, given the emergence of the Strategic Local Plan the NDP has focused on the sustainability objectives in this draft plan.

This emerging Strategic Local Plan presents VWHDC's Housing Services' priorities for action. It includes an action plan, which in turn informs more detailed actions in the annual Service Plan.

Vale of White Horse Homelessness Strategy

The strategy is aimed at reducing the incidences of homelessness, providing support to the homeless or those threatened with homelessness, and ensuring that sufficient suitable accommodation is available for the homeless

VWHDC Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026

VWHDC Community Strategy is part of the Oxfordshire Partnership's 2030 strategy and delivery plan. The Partnership's vision is that "*the Vale of White Horse should be an attractive, successful, vibrant and safe place where people choose to live, work and visit. It should be a place where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and a strong sense of community.*"

The South and Vale Community Safety Plan 2011/12

The 2011/12 annual plan aims to address the national and local crime priorities of the South and Vale and sets out the way that the districts will engage with communities. It represents a group of organisations that, in addition to South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils, include the Thames Valley Police, the Probation Service, the Fire & Rescue Service and others.

Oxfordshire's Local Area Agreement: 2008-2011

The local strategic partnerships established at county and district levels seek to promote their vision to make Oxfordshire a “*thriving county which adapts to a changing world but remains a special place in which to live and visit.*”

Oxfordshire Rural Framework 2007-2010 Oxfordshire Rural Forum ORCC

The framework provides a context and sign post to evidence for inclusion in Local Development Forums and other plans.

Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011

The Local Transport Plan was published in April 2011, and sets out objectives that reflect the transport related aspirations in ‘Oxfordshire 2030’.

Oxfordshire’s Biodiversity Action Plan 1998

The Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan contains strategies for various habitats in Oxfordshire.

Economic Development Strategy for Oxfordshire 2006- 2016

The Economic Development Strategy for Oxfordshire (EDSO) was produced for the Oxfordshire Economic Partnership, which is a network of private, public and voluntary sector partners. The Strategy deals with the international and business environment, skills development and infrastructure.

Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2013

The plan is in two parts. ‘Part 1: Statement of Action’ sets out a vision and aims. Part 2 analyses the extent to which local rights of way meet present and future needs.

3.2 Key Messages from the Policy Context Review

Table 3.2.1 summarises the implications as ‘Key Messages for Drayton’. In so doing it should be noted that the table is not necessarily exhaustive nor does its ordering imply any priority.

Table to follow

Table 3.2.1

Key Messages for Drayton from Policy Context Review

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT

4.1 Baseline Information

The Directive requires that baseline information should include: *“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without the implementation of the plan or programme, or the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected”*

This Section of the report provides a summary of the environmental baseline information for Drayton. The baseline data has been assembled using the criteria required by the Directive and the UK SEA Regulations. These criteria are:

- A. Nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)
- B. Landscape and townscape
- C. Air quality and climate factors
- D. Heritage and archaeology
- E. Soils and geology
- F. Water
- G. Human population
- H. Human health
- I. Material assets
- J. Employment and jobs
- K. Education and skills

Primary sources of data used to prepare the sustainability context include the Rural Community Profile for Drayton (Parish)⁴, prepared under contract for Drayton PC by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC). This report utilised a broad range of verified datasets including recent census and government sourced (e.g. ONS) data (the principal datasets used are listed in the report). Drayton PC employed the professional services of ORCC to ensure that where possible the NDP and the VWHDC Local Plan were informed by and made use of the same data.

Various other data sources were consulted during preparation sustainability context; these are referenced in the various sub-sections. Whilst baseline information should be as comprehensive and current as possible, it is recognised there may be gaps in data coverage, especially at Parish level.

A. Nature conservation

There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserves or Conservation Target Areas within, or likely to be affected by development within, Drayton parish. Similarly, there are no key habitats or species listed in the Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan²³ for Drayton parish.

Despite there being no local level designations of such land, there are various green spaces in/around the parish which the community values. These include:

- Millennium Green with its maturing woodland, meadow and pond;
- The land to the east of the parish bordering Peep-o-Day Lane;
- The corridor along the abandoned Wiltshire & Berkshire canal

Whilst not formally designated a nature reserve, the land to the east of the village constitutes a de facto nature refuge, due in part its unsuitability for farming, development or other use. The land comprises a mixture of low-lying flood plain, abandoned gravel pits and an area of capped land-fill. This area routinely attracts a wide range of migrant birds during both the summer and winter months. Recent rarities sighted in the area include Marsh Harrier (most recently sighted in spring 2013) and Spoonbill (spring 2011). The full complement of common summer warblers (Reed, Willow & Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Blackcap) are all annual visitors to the area. The area is also home to a diverse range of insects, including a thriving population of butterflies, moth and dragonflies. The resident mammal population includes Fox, Rabbit, Stoat and Muntjac Deer; reports of Otter in the area are, to date, unconfirmed.

Apex predators, indicators of a functioning and healthy biosystem, are resident in the parish. These include Tawny Owl, Common Buzzard and Red Kite. A number of these species are known to nest within the village's bounds. Peregrine and Hobby are occasional visitors to the parish, the former primarily during the winter period, when it feeds on the large resident and migrant population of duck and pigeon.

As noted in the description of Landscape (Section B below), the parish area comprises primarily open agricultural land. There is only one small woodland of note, namely Drayton Copse . The copse comprises a mix of deciduous trees (primarily ash, alder and oak). Being isolated from the public (no footpaths cross or border it) and not regularly used for shooting, the copse is a valuable reserve for wildlife in the area. This is evidenced by the prevalence of many animal species in and around the abandoned Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal which runs a short distance from the copse.

The village itself has a strong complement of mature trees, particularly in the older eastern 'half' of the village. The road to Steventon features a run of oak trees which are particularly valued by parishioners.

Drayton Parish has to date been active in seeking to preserve and enhance its natural assets. A noteworthy recent initiative was the securing of the aforementioned Millennium Green open space at the heart of village. The land was purchased in 1998 using funds raised by parishioners, and secured in trust for future generations. Drayton's Primary School and Golf course have both engaged in various projects to attract wildlife to their respective grounds, through activities such as installing bird and bat nest boxes.

Various environmental and special interest groups with a remit for or interest in nature conservation are active in and around Drayton parish. Examples include the Royal Society for the Protection Birds (RSPB) which reported that a number of parishioners are active and long-standing participants in their annual garden bird survey.

B. Landscape and townscape

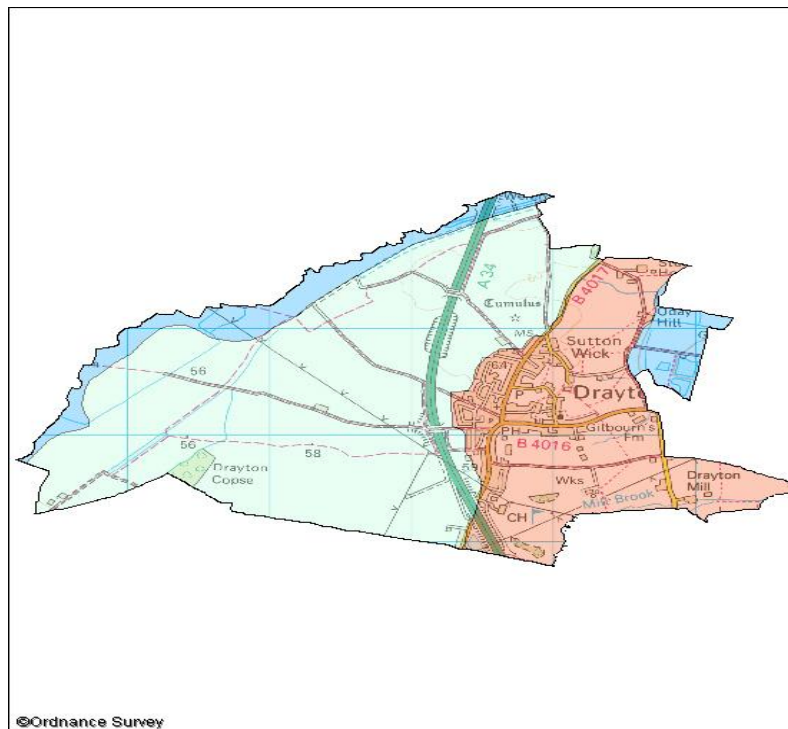
The Parish of Drayton is located two and a half miles southwest of Abingdon within the Vale of White Horse, an area occupying an attractive part of the Upper Thames Valley. From south to north the Vale of White Horse ranges from the rolling sweep of the chalk downs (designated as part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), across the wide vistas of the lowland clay vale, then rising to the limestone Corallian ridge, before dropping to the floodplain of the River Thames.

Drayton itself is a pastoral/arable landscape with moderate to large fields surrounded by hedgerows with a common variety of trees and occasional copses. Since the loss of the elms, pollarded willows tend to be the dominant tree. The village was once famous for its walnuts – and walnut trees still grace the Millennium Green – but, like so many other villages, the economy of Drayton is no longer primarily agricultural.

The parish is bisected by a major trunk route, the A34, an increasingly busy thoroughfare for commercial and private vehicles. East of the A34 a thicker layer of gravel overlays the clay, resulting in extensive gravel working in Drayton and its surrounding villages. Within the village boundary a major gravel working has been landfilled and converted into a golf course.

To the north and west of the parish lies the derelict Wiltshire and Berkshire canal where there are plans by the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal Trust to restore it and to develop a towpath along its length.

There are footpaths and bridleways across the parish which are very popular with walkers and horse riders.



Landscape Types

- Alluvial Lowlands
- Lowland Village Farmlands
- River Meadowlands

Figure 4.1.1
Drayton Landscape

C. Air quality and climate factors

Air quality in Drayton Parish is badly affected by vehicle traffic. As previously noted, the parish is bisected by the A34 trunk-route, one of the busiest in the country. The parish also has the dubious claim of having one of the busiest B roads in the country running through it. This is the B4017, known locally as the Drayton Road until it enters Drayton when it becomes the Abingdon Road and then Steventon Road. This is a thoroughfare which routinely doubles as a diversionary route for traffic when problems occur (and they do so frequently) on local stretches of the A34. The Drayton Road is also a notorious local traffic bottleneck in Abingdon. It has been the subject of several recent traffic surveys commissioned in response to a large-scale planning application submitted in 2012⁵.

Traffic and its associated problems are a major concern to the parish. The Drayton 2020 transport working group undertook extensive efforts to collate and interpret relevant data on this topic, including data on road usage and car ownership sourced from the ORCC Rural Community Profile⁴. In summary, it was established that the weight of traffic, hence the level of associated air and noise, was fairly constant

throughout the day with the expected peaks during rush hour and school runs. Despite the fact that a large proportion of secondary school pupils from the parish take either OCC-funded school buses or public transport to school, it was evident that there were a large number of private car journeys being made by parents taking their children to school (many from outside the parish).

Commuter traffic was, as expected, a significant influence. This transited north, south and east from the village centre, to the major local employment hubs of Abingdon, Didcot, Milton Park trading estate, and the Harwell and Culham science centres. A small but significant proportion of Drayton's resident working population, along with those of neighbouring parishes, drive to Didcot Parkway station prior to taking trains to Birmingham, Reading, Swindon and beyond. Because of limited employment opportunities within the parish, few parishioners can walk to work.

The X2 bus service which runs between Abingdon and Didcot does serve Drayton. However, it is neither sufficiently frequent (every 45 minutes) nor reliable to tempt many Drayton commuters out of their cars.

A secondary but in some respects more unpleasant source of air pollution is the Waste Disposal facility located on the south-western periphery of the village itself. The facility receives and processes a wide range of domestic waste, including garden waste and material for landfill. Whilst efforts are made to minimise the emission of odours from this facility by its operators, there are occasions when these odours can be smelt over a wide area of the village and beyond. The siting of the facility, being on the windward side of the village, is a key factor in its affect on the parish's air quality.

The parish has no significant sources of industrial air pollution. The only local source of note is the Didcot power station, which is located a good distance downwind of the parish. Since the closure of Didcot 'A' in March 2013 the only source of emissions from the site are from the gas-fired Didcot 'B' power station, with its advanced clean-up technologies. There are also major operational landfill sites to the east of the parish beyond the neighbouring village of Sutton Courtenay, but these only ver occasionally cause any air quality problems within Drayton parish.

Air quality in the parish, and the monitoring thereof, is the responsibility of VWHDC. If VWHDC determine that the air quality in Drayton is not meeting national air quality objectives, then it must declare it an Air Quality Management Area. To date and to Drayton PCs knowledge, no such AQMA has been declared for Drayton parish.

Drayton parish has no specific climate factors of note; the parish's climate is typical of that for southern England. Being located in open and essentially flat farmland, the parish does not experience rain shadow effects or the like. The Thames valley, in which the parish is located, does have some microclimatic characteristics, notably susceptibility to fog under certain meteorological conditions.

D. Heritage and Character

Drayton village is a typical south Oxfordshire village comprising a mix of heritage and modern housing. The original core of the village is designated as a conservation area.

Little has been recorded of the history of the village. However, it is likely that parts of the village have been settled for many centuries given its advantageous elevated position above the River Thames and Ock flood plains. The parish was mentioned in the Domesday book and subsequently in land registry and other documents; land and property in the parish was owned by the medieval abbey in Abingdon prior to its dissolution.

Evidence of early settlement have been found to the south-east of Drayton, at the site of the Drayton Cursus. Hints of earlier era, possibly Bronze Age, settlement are evidenced by the existence of a burial tumulus in a field to the north of the village and other archaeological finds within the parish. Recent investigations in support of a possible proposed housing development to the south of the High Street have identified evidence of strip farming and the possible footprint of an ancient moated manor house of as yet undetermined antiquity. Other noteworthy sites include the Dropshort Roman villa on the parish boundary with Sutton Courtenay.

Drayton has two listed Historic Monument sites, namely the Brook Farm and Sutton Wick sites (English Heritage List Entries 1004852 and 1003671 respectively).

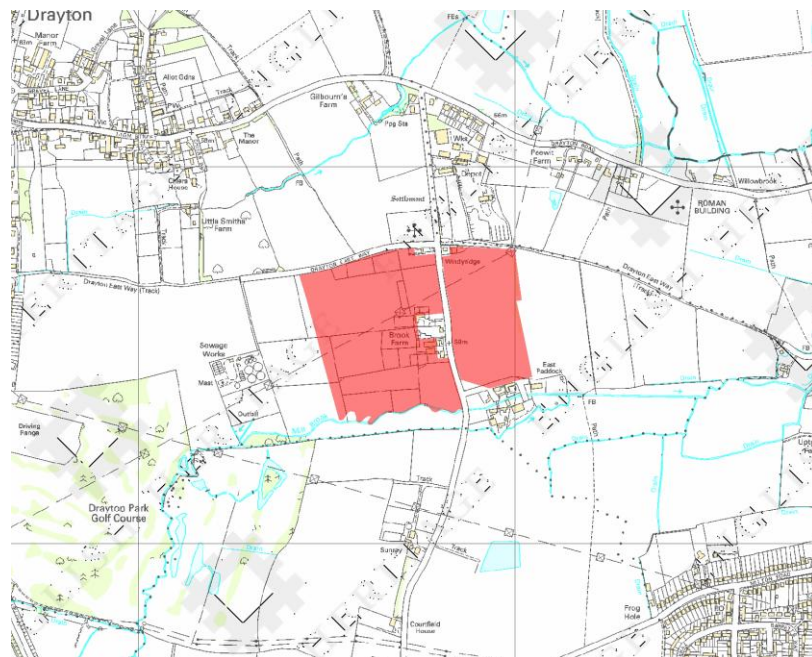


Figure 4.1.2
Location of Brook Farm Historic Monument
English Heritage List Entry 1004852

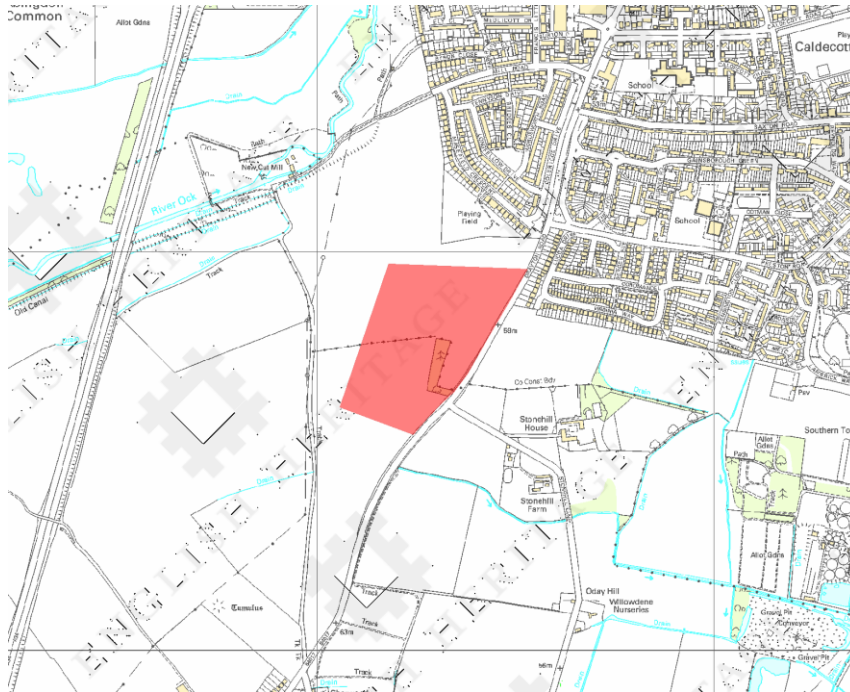


Figure 4.1.3
Location of Sutton Wick Historic Monument
English Heritage List Entry 1003671

There are few details of the site north of Drayton, opposite Sutton Wick, but the other site at Brook Farm on the Milton Road has been extensively investigated and is now a site of national historical importance. The site is the palace complex of 7th Century West Saxon Kings. It contains 5 Saxon halls including the largest so far discovered in the UK. It was also the first ever discovered Saxon settlement site in the UK, excavated by E.T. Leeds in the 1920's. Leeds was head of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and a friend of JRR Tolkien. Both this site, and that at Dropshort, have been further investigated by the Channel 4 'Time Team' series (Time Team "In the Halls of the Saxon Kings" Series 17 Episode 5 - broadcast 2009; and "Dropshort, Oxfordshire" Series 20 Episode 8 - broadcast February 2013).

A comprehensive listing of listed buildings in the village is presented at Annex A. The village has two churches, namely Church of St Peter on Church Lane, and the Baptist Church on Abingdon Road. A church has stood on the site of the Church of St Peter for many centuries. The original chapel was subordinate to St Helen's Church in Abingdon from 1284. Formal separation occurred in 1868. The oldest part of the building is the south wall containing a 13th Century piscina, however the church shows work from many periods. All that is visible of the original chapel is part of the south wall of the nave, and doorway to the chancel. The north aisle and tower were added in the 15th century. The church will shortly host a blue plaque commemorating the Revered F.E. Robinson, a former vicar and nationally-acclaimed bell-ringer.

Drayton village has experienced waves of development in the post-war period, notably in the 1950s and 1960s when the village was extended westwards beyond the B4017 road artery, then a major road artery south from Abingdon and Oxford. This

expansion more than doubled the number of properties in the village. Construction of the A34 dual carriageway in the 1970s effectively bounded any further western expansion of the village. There have been a number of 'in-fill' developments over the past 20 years, further adding to the village's housing stock.

Despite these developments and its increasing proximity to the borders of Abingdon town, Drayton residents have strong sense of identity with their village, not to mention a strong and increasing sense of community. This is demonstrated by the number of clubs within the village including, inter alia, the Bowls Club, Football Club, Table Tennis Club, Under 8s Football, Art Club, Drayton Players, Reading Group, Sequence Dancing, Brownies, DAMASCUS Youth Project, Drayton-Lesparre Twinning Association, Drayton Wives, First Tuesday Connections, and the Women's Institute.

The increasing sense of community is also evident in the very fact that the village is formulating its own Neighbourhood Development Plan.

E. Soil and Geology

The developed area of Drayton is surrounded primarily by fields which are used for a variety of agricultural purposes. The major part of the developed area is bounded to the west by the engineered grade of the A34 which runs in shallow cuttings or on embankments depending on the geography.

Underlying the whole of the parish is a bedrock of Gault and Kimmeridge Clay, dating from the Cretaceous period. This forms the base terrain of the whole of the Vale of the White Horse. The area was largely unaffected by glaciation during the Ice Age but as a result of melt water at the end of the Ice Age the clay is largely covered by fluvial drift deposits (superficial deposits) of sands, gravels and other material not local to the clay beds. Indication of the varied covering and depth of covering can be seen around the parish where the soils vary from clay-influenced to sandy / gravel soils. Because these are water-deposited drift formations they can be relatively diverse within short distances and the depths can vary markedly.

Evidence for the varied shallow covering and the underlying clay soils can be seen by the old brick works and clay pits near the centre of the village. Further evidence is provided by the name 'Gravel Lane' (not far from the clay pits), by the good quality soils in some of the fields and by the varied quality of soil in the gardens. Perhaps because of the relative unsuitability of the ground for farming, the village was built on the end of a deposition mound. This means it is higher than communities to the north and south, and therefore less susceptible to flooding. Also the parish does not extend much to areas where there are deep gravel deposits so there has not been significant gravel extraction and resultant back filling with rubbish or other material.

There is one remaining allotment site located within Drayton and these provide both recreational activities and also provide locally grown food. The VWHDC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facility Assessment Consultation⁶ suggest that smaller settlements should provide 0.20 hectares of allotments per 1000 people. Drayton

currently exceeds this provision with an estimated allotment capacity of c.0.22 hectare per 1000 population, all within the recommended 10-15 minutes walking distance for the majority of the parish's residents. There is currently a short waiting list for the parish's allotments.

F. Water

Drayton has one water course of note running along part of the parish's north western boundary, namely the River Ock. Various minor streams and ditches also cross the parish.

The South Oxfordshire District Council & Vale of White Horse District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment⁷ noted for Drayton:

- The absence of any recorded fluvial flooding events; the flooding at Abingdon Road end of Sutton Wick Lane has experienced flooding but the drainage has recently been renewed
- Zero incidents of sewer flooding
- A medium risk of Surface Water Flooding significant flow paths along dry valleys;
- No incidents of groundwater flooding mapped by DEFRA report for 2000/1

The parish contains no Zone 2 or 3 flood risk areas.

Being located in the Thames valley, the parish is not located in an area deemed likely to suffer from water stress or water shortages. Despite worries regarding the levels of local reservoirs, water extraction from the Thames river for the Didcot power facility, and depletion of local water tables, the recent high levels of precipitation have allayed any fears regarding the short- to medium-term availability of water in the area. Water extraction from the River Thames by the aforementioned power station has also recently decreased as a consequence of the closure of Didcot A power station.

The parish's water, sewerage and surface water disposal infrastructure is considered adequate by Thames Water, the principal local utility provider. Remedial upgrading and repair work to this infrastructure are on-going throughout the Thames valley area.

G. Human Population

Drayton parish's population, as determined by the 2011 Census⁸, is 2270 souls. Comparison with this figure from the 2001 census indicates the population increased by less than 3% in ten years (in 2001 it was 2218). An analysis of the parish's current population is given in Table 4.1.

MEASURE	VALUE	COMMENTS
Population of Parish	2353	48.7% male; 51.3% female
Number of households	900	
Working age adults (aged 16-65)	1365	
Children under 16	450	
Older people over 65	450	<i>Data from 2001 Census¹⁴</i>
People from Black or Minority Ethnic groups	115	<i>Data from 2001 Census¹⁴</i>

Table 4.1.1 Analysis of Drayton Parish's population

It is notable from Table 4.1 that the parish has a sizeable youth (i.e. under 16 years old) and retiree (over 65) population, both representing just under a fifth of the total. This, however, is fairly typical of the VOWH as a whole. Also latest figures from the Vale suggest the Over 65 population has increased from 18% to 22%.

The parish's population has a very low deprivation index; according to 2010 DCLG data⁹ Drayton ranks as one of the least deprived areas in the country. A total of 110 people were defined as living in 'income deprivation'. Household incomes are correspondingly high, although the measure (average net household incomes) have declined since the last census, which presumably is a consequence of the economic downturn.

Other noteworthy data include that on crime and public safety. Recorded crime offences for the Vale of White Horse as a whole reported in the period 2010-2011¹⁰ were 19.6 per thousand residents. This represents a drop on the previous year. Compared to regional and national averages, the area is a safe place to live.

Drayton residents have, along with those of the rest of the Vale of the White Horse, believed their local area was a good place to live. They have also demonstrated a strong sense of social cohesion with those of different social backgrounds. According to a 2009 Place Survey Community Strength Data¹¹, 86.2% of respondents expressed satisfaction with their local area as a place to live; 82.8% indicated that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area.

H. Human Health

In general, Drayton parish, along with the remainder of the Vale of the White Horse district, enjoys better health than the average for the country. The only area where residents of the Vale of White Horse are at significantly greater risk is that of being killed or seriously injured on the road.

In spite of the parish's overall better-than-average health, a number of parishioners do suffer from poor health and long-term illnesses. Recent census data⁸ identified 155 Drayton residents aged under 65 with a limiting long-term illness, which represented 8.7% of that age group's population at the time. More recent data¹² found there were 60 residents claiming Disability Living Allowance.

Drayton parishioners are on the whole fit and active. Resident dogwalkers abound on the local footpaths, and there is a cadre of local runners and cyclists who range further afield. There are several sports clubs in the parish, including a popular and well attended football club.

Drayton is considered by its residents to be poorly served with medical services. The local GP surgery closed some years ago, compelling residents to travel to one of three GP surgeries in Abingdon which were subsequently allocated to cover the parish. The community hospital in Abingdon is under three miles from the village, but access is via the Drayton road which can be heavily congested. Also this hospital lacks Accident and Emergency provision (the community hospital does have a Minor

Injuries unit). The nearest A&E service is at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust's John Radcliffe hospital, some 30 minutes journey time by road from Drayton. Paramedic and ambulance response times in Oxfordshire are believed to be within national guidelines¹³.

I. Material Assets

Drayton has a small complement of community recreational and sports facilities, including a village hall with outdoor play area, a football pitch with associated changing facilities. The village hall comprises a main hall with various side rooms, and office and bar area.

In addition there is a small green in the centre of the village to the east of Abingdon Road, and the Millennium Green open space in the north-eastern quadrant of the village.

There is one adult football pitch and a junior football pitch in the school grounds. Local sports and recreation provision is enhanced by:

- the use of the village hall (badminton, yoga short mat bowls);
- the village's proximity to Abingdon with sports centre/swimming pool, rugby and junior football pitches and tennis club at the Southern Sports Park off Preston Road, tennis courts, the Tilsley Park athletics centre and Astro turf hockey/5-a-side pitches in north Abingdon.

J. Employment and Jobs

A good proportion of Drayton's working age residents are economically active i.e. in some form of employment. Recent census data⁸ indicates that 1145 or 80.5% of the parish's working population are economically active. Historical census data¹⁴ found that just under half over the working population at that time was in full-time employment, and over of third of these worked 49 hours or more per week. This data also found a significant proportion of people in part-time work, or self-employed. Homeworking was also noteworthy in the parish.

Historical data¹⁴ indicated that real estate and business activities were the largest employment sector for Drayton residents, followed by manufacturing then wholesale and retail trade and the repair of motor vehicles. A breakdown of employment of residents is presented in Table 4.1.2

OCCUPATION TYPE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
Managerial occupations	220 (20.1% of people in employment)
Professional (or associate) occupations	285 (26.4% of people in employment)
Administrative or secretarial occupations	135 (12.5% of people in employment)
Skilled trade occupations	120 (11.1% of people in employment)
Elementary occupations	120 (11.1% of people in employment)

Table 4.1.2
Breakdown of Employment of Drayton Residents

There are relatively few employers within the village, consequently most people in employment commute outside of the parish, the principal centres of employment being Abingdon, Didcot, Milton Park, and the Harwell and Culham Science centres.

To date the parish is unaware of any plans for businesses to locate into the parish. In 2012 Milton Park announced plans to expand and attract new businesses, which may provide employment opportunities for Drayton parish residents. It is anticipated the Science Vale initiative, along with plans to attract businesses to Abingdon and Didcot, will provide further employment prospects for parishioners.

Unemployment is a small but significant problem in the parish. In 2011 a total of 65 parishioners were in receipt of some form of 'out of work' benefit^{8, 15}.

K. Education and Skills

The Parish contains one school, Drayton Primary School. This is an grant maintained co-educational school for children aged 5 to 11 years. The primary school is on a secure site in the north east part of the village. The school has a theoretical capacity of 140 which, with 140 currently on its roll suggests that it is working at capacity.

The school have recently changed their classroom mix which has allowed for an increase in capacity in KS1 with separate classes for reception, year's 1 & 2, with in the region of 25 available spaces, which are rapidly filling.

KS2 is at full capacity, which will cause problems within the next few years as the school will not have enough required spaces to move the children from KS1 to KS2 within the next 3 years.

In September 2013 the school will be changing their mixed year groups in KS2:

- Years 3-4 – mixed class
- Years 4-5 – mixed class
- Year 6 – single year group

The school has a mixed group of children from Drayton, and an increasing number from South Abingdon and other surrounding villages. The school has a below average ethnic mix of children.

There is a developing problem with high demand for the rising 4s and increased demand for places in the area is adding to the pressure for places. This would increase if developments South of Abingdon, Drayton and Steventon go ahead.

The school needs to look at expansion of KS2 to enable them to be sustainable in bringing the children through from KS1 to provide the increased need for spaces in KS2 to enable the children to continue their education at the school.

There is an existing need for more classrooms or a new school, it would be possible to use the existing site to expand or build a new school which is being discussed by the Senior Management team.

Drayton has no secondary education provision within its parish bounds. The parish is divided between the catchments of three secondary schools, namely St Birinus (boys) and Didcot Girls in Didcot, and John Mason school (co-ed) in Abingdon. OCC operate a term-time bus service to/from the latter from the centre of Drayton; pupils at the Didcot schools are required to use public transport.

Drayton currently has no pre-school or nursery provision. These services are offered in Abingdon and Didcot.

Data assimilated on Drayton parishioners education and skills have highlighted a range of noteworthy pointers. Recent census data⁸ noted that 90 Drayton residents, which equated to 6% of the working population at the time, had no qualifications. This compared favourably with Oxfordshire overall (8.2%) and the nation as a whole (13.4%). By contrast, 640 residents (43.7%) had Level 4 (degree level) qualifications, again comparing well with county (40.6%) and national (32.7%) data. This and other data is presented in Table 4.1.3

QUALIFICATION	NO OF PEOPLE	COMMENT
People with no qualifications	90 (6.0% of working age people)	-
People with highest qualification: Level 1	195 (13.4% of working age people)	Level 1 qualification equivalent to a single O-level, GCSE or NVQ
People with highest qualification: Level 2	240 (16.5% of working age people)	Level 2 qualifications equivalent to five O-levels or GCSEs
People with highest qualification: Level 3	295 (20.1% of working age people)	Level 3 qualifications equivalent to two A levels
People with highest qualification: Level 4	640 (32.7% of working age people)	Level 4 qualifications equivalent to degree level or higher

Table 4.1.3
Qualifications of Drayton Residents

4.2 Issues, Problems and Trends

The identification of sustainability issues, problems and trends facing Drayton assists in meeting the vision and objectives set out in Section 1, and specifically in the selection and evaluation of potential development sites.

The VWHDC draft Strategic Local Plan identifies various issues, problems for the District, many of which are directly relevant to Drayton parish. These have been used as a baseline and have been supplemented with specific issues, problems and trends of importance to Drayton identified by:

- a) Investigations undertaken by the various working groups established to consider the various themes of the NDP
- b) An analysis of statistics and data in the document ‘Rural Community Profile for Drayton’⁴, compiled for Drayton PC by ORCC
- c) Consultation events held in the village in September 2012 and May 2013.

The sustainability problems & issues, grouped under Social, Environmental and Economic, are listed in Table 4.2.1. This is not an exhaustive list of sustainability problems, but it includes those where the NDP may contribute towards their solution or amelioration.

ISSUE/PROBLEM/ TREND CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of affordable housing • General cost of housing • Lack of appropriate size of housing • Needs of an ageing population • Poor access to local services and employment • Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape deterioration • Loss of biodiversity • Road traffic congestion • Flood risk • Risk of drought • Energy consumption
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pockets of deprivation • Local employment prospects

Table 4.2.1

Social, Environmental and Economic Problems pertaining to Drayton Parish

4.2.1 Social Issues, Problems and Trends Evidence

1. Shortage of affordable housing

The need for affordable housing in the VOWH District remains high. In 2011, the district had a housing stock of 50,000 homes, of which 13% constituted affordable housing⁸. The VWHDC currently has 3,333 households on its waiting list for affordable homes. This figure includes households wishing to make aspirational changes, but 1202 households are in the categories where they require housing. 97% of those households are looking for one and two bedroom accommodation, and this pattern is reflected in the Drayton Housing Need Survey². In that survey there were 27 respondents looking for affordable housing, and 24 of those respondents needed one or two bedroom accommodation.

The Affordable Housing Ratio¹⁶ (lowest 25% of house prices as a ratio of lowest 25% of incomes) showed the Vale of White Horse to be substantially less affordable than England (10.9). In March 2012 the average price for all properties in Drayton was:

- 25 % higher than those across Oxfordshire;
- 33% higher than Reading, the nearest large town.

2. General cost of housing

In 2012 an average semi-detached property in Oxfordshire cost £269,000. Potential buyers are commonly expected to provide a deposit of 20% (£55,000 in Oxfordshire). If a typical mortgage is based on three times salary multiplier, then potential buyers would need to be earning £70,000 per annum. Meanwhile there is little rental accommodation in Drayton² (only 10% of respondents were paying rent) and in 2013 a typical rent for a 2 bedroom property in Drayton is £850 per calendar month.

In short, young people cannot afford to live independently of their parents in the village they grew up in.

3. Lack of appropriate size of housing

The main requirement is for smaller accommodation for elderly villagers wishing to downsize and for young singles or couples. This is consistent with the shortfall in both the affordable and general market housing sectors of two bedroom accommodation across the VOWH District.

Drayton's NDP has a major role in the delivery of new housing, within the provisions set by the VWHDC Strategic Local Plan. The NDP will play a pivotal role in the delivery of affordable and lower cost housing of a type and at a scale to meet local needs.

4. Needs of an ageing population

Across the Vale the population is ageing². In 2011 the number of people over 65 was 18% of the population. By 2026 this is expected to rise to 22%. Drayton's population spread is in line with the Vale's. Also average household size is falling across the Vale

(it fell from 2.46 persons per dwelling in 2001 to 2.42 persons per dwelling in 2011). This is only a marginal fall but the trend is expected to continue. The VWHDC Local Plan estimates that the housing stock would have to grow by 10% to maintain the existing population by 2020. This will place extra, and different, demands on local health, transport and housing.

5. Poor access to local services & employment

Access to health and social care services, shops and employment is difficult for some Drayton residents without the use of a private car, as public transport services are limited. According to the Rural Community Profile for Drayton⁴, 13% of the households in Drayton had no car.

Other issues include:

- There is no longer a Doctor in Drayton. As has been previously noted, there is health provision in Abingdon - accessed via the notorious Drayton road.
- There is a Post office in the village but no bank. There is a cashpoint machine but this is only available during shop hours and there is a charge for withdrawing cash.
- There are two convenience stores (one incorporating the post office) but neither can compete with the superstores in terms of choice or price. Therefore those with no car in Drayton (those who can no longer drive or cannot afford a car) are penalised. Tesco in Abingdon operates a free bus service once a week on a Friday morning. Also there is a local bus service between Drayton and Abingdon but, as has been noted, this is infrequent and unreliable.

All this infrastructure (or current lack of in certain areas) must be taken into account when considering the provision of housing / sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

6. Fear of crime and antisocial behaviour

Drayton is a safe place to live and concern about crime is not high in the parish¹⁰. At an average of 2.6 crimes per 1000 people Drayton's crime rate is below average for the nation and is in the lowest 16% for crime and anti-social behaviour. Thames Valley Police Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) routinely patrol the village but, without support, cannot continue after 10pm.

4.2.2 Environmental Issues, Problems and Trends Evidence

This covers any existing environmental issues, problems or trends which are relevant to the NDP. These include, in particular, issues relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (the 'Birds Directive') and 92/43/EEC (the 'Habitats Directive').

7. Landscape deterioration

Drayton is sited within an agricultural landscape. Any development in the Parish should be subject to, amongst others, a landscape assessment as part of any

environmental impact assessment. It is envisaged the NDP will mitigate the negative impact of new developments.

8. Loss of biodiversity

Loss of biodiversity and the destruction of natural habitats is another key concern for local residents. Many parishioners value the countryside and habitats which abound with local area.

It is therefore envisaged the NDP will contribute to the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the parish, through specific initiatives and actions, in addition to working with prospective developers and other organisations with a remit for protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

9. Road traffic congestion

As noted throughout this report road traffic congestion is a major issue for Drayton parishioners. By way of evidence⁸, traffic in Oxfordshire grew by 14% between 1991 and 2000 and overall daily car traffic could grow by 35% to 2021. Car ownership in Drayton is high and at peak times traffic congestion occurs around the centre of the village but also in the local highway network.

10. Flood risk

Drayton is not in a low-lying part of the Thames valley and not subject to fluvial flooding. Heavy winter rainfall storms are expected to increase in intensity and frequency due to climate change^{17, 18}. According to a recent OFWAT report¹⁹, all winter rainfall events are likely to become more frequent.

11. Risk of drought

Climate change is likely to result in periods of drought spanning more than one season or one year, presenting a serious threat to water supplies. Over the next 20 years summer rainfall in this region is likely to reduce by 10-20%^{17, 18}. This will mean less water will be stored and there will be an increased risk of severe droughts in the region from the 2030s onwards. The NDP should therefore aim to identify and implement measures to promote water economy and conservation within the parish bounds.

12. Energy Consumption

Domestic energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in the Vale of White Horse district are higher than the Oxfordshire, South East and UK averages²¹. CO₂ emissions across the UK range from 4.6 (best) to 20.6 (worst). The average across the country is 7.6; the Vale's figure is 10.0. It has also been reported that slow progress being made in the development of renewable energy resources in the county²⁰.

It is recognised that more could and should be done to cut down on energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in the parish. In terms of existing homes, actions could include:

- Loft insulation and cavity wall insulation
- Draft proofing
- Low energy lighting
- High efficiency boilers

In terms of new housing all developers should be required to incorporate up-to-date energy efficiency into all building projects. Currently this is not the case. The Code for Sustainable Homes and upgrade Part L of the Building Regulations are moving towards the zero carbon target in 2016

4.2.3 Economic Issues, Problems and Trends Evidence

13. Pockets of deprivation

The 2011 Health Profile for the Vale of White Horse²² assesses deprivation according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007. This index is divided into 5 quintiles ranging from "least deprived" (quintile 1) to most deprived (quintile 5). On the national index almost the whole of the VOWH (95%) is in the first or second quintile. Drayton, like 70% of the Vale is in the first quintile. However, if one compares deprivation on a local, District level then Drayton fits into the third quintile.

Unemployment is lower than the national average while incomes are higher.

14. Local employment prospects

As the majority (around 75%) of residents⁸ work outside the village local recruitment is unlikely to be seriously affected and 50% of those working in the village do not live in the village

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

5.1 Framework Considerations

The sustainability challenges identified in Section 4.2 have been used to formulate the sustainability framework which underpins Drayton's NDP. As previously noted, this is based on the sustainability framework from the VWHDC draft Strategic Local Plan.

The sustainability framework will be used to evaluate different options for development in Drayton and inform the selection process and criteria used to evaluate potential development sites. In so doing, and in order to accord with the SEA regulations, the environmental effects of options and alternatives will also be tested. In particular, consideration will be given to the extent to which the plan:

- 1) Establishes a framework for developments and other activities with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions of these developments;
- 2) Is in general conformity with the emerging Vale of White Horse Strategic Local Plan;
- 3) Includes environmental considerations and promotes sustainable development;
- 4) Considers environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;
- 5) Considers specific local environmental challenges such water conservation or flood prevention.

Also particular consideration will be given to the impact on those areas within Drayton likely to be affected by the proposals, in terms of:

- 1) The effects on the surrounding landscape and setting of the village;
- 2) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (i.e. the geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- 3) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to any special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
- 4) The importance of meeting and if possible exceeding any environmental quality standards or limits;
- 5) The over-intensive use of land.
- 6) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- 7) The cumulative nature of the effects;
- 8) The impact on adjacent communities; and
- 9) The risks to human health or the environment

5.2 Sustainability Objectives

Table 5.2.1 provides a list of the Sustainability Objectives. These have been derived by modifying the VWHDC Sustainability Objectives to reflect the particular circumstances and opportunities within Drayton parish.

ITEM	CRITERIA
1	To help provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home.
2	To help to create safe places for people to use and for businesses to operate, to reduce antisocial behaviour and reduce crime and the fear of crime.
3	To improve accessibility for everyone to health, education, recreation, cultural and community facilities and services.
4	To maintain & improve people's health, well-being and community cohesion and support voluntary, community and faith groups
5	To reduce harm to the environment by seeking to minimise pollution of all kinds.
6	To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.
7	To conserve and enhance biodiversity.
8	To protect & enhance the District's open spaces & countryside & in particular, those areas designated for their landscape importance.
9	To protect and enhance the District's historic environment and to ensure that new development is of a high quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness
10	To seek to address the causes and effects of climate change by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. securing sustainable building practices which conserve energy, water resources and materials; b. maximising the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources; c. ensuring that the design and location of new development is resilient to the effects of climate change.
11	To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.
12	To seek to minimise waste generation and encourage the re-use of waste through recycling, composting or energy recovery.
13	To improve efficiency in land use and reduce development pressure on the countryside and natural resources/ material assets, such as landscape, minerals, biodiversity and soil quality.
14	To improve the supply and processing of local food.
15	To ensure high and stable levels of employment and facilitate inward investment within the district.
16	To assist in the development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a strong, innovative and knowledge-based economy that delivers that delivers high-value-added, sustainable, low-impact activities; b. small firms, particularly those that maintain and enhance the rural economy; c. thriving economies in market towns and villages.

17	To assist in the development of a skilled workforce to support the long term competitiveness of the district by raising education achievement levels and encouraging the development of the skills needed for everyone to find and remain in work.
18	Support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable communities is to provide local services and solutions

Table 5.2.1
Sustainability Objectives

5.3 Sustainability Assessment

The Sustainability Assessment is achieved by deriving a site screening process from the Sustainability Objectives. These were tested at a major village consultation held in May 2013, and are listed below in Table 5.3.1

ITEM	SITE RANKING PARAMETER	ADDITIONAL CRITERIA
1	Be within the existing built up area of the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site within the existing built up ‘footprint’ of the village? • Is the site unconditionally available for development within in 1 - 10 years? • How many homes can the site take? • Can this site take a mixed development of houses?
2	Not be of special ecological or archaeological significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site a green field site? • Is the site particularly environmentally or ecologically sensitive? • Is the site of archaeological interest? • Are there tree preservation orders?
3	Have minimal impact on rural landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site particularly sensitive from a landscape standpoint?
4	Have easy pedestrian access to village amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are community facilities reasonably accessible? • Is a bus stop reasonably accessible? • Are shops reasonably accessible? • Are local schools reasonably accessible?
5	Have a low impact on local traffic flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the site’s impact on local traffic be acceptable?
6	Be subject to low traffic noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the site be adversely affected by road noise from the existing road network?
7	Have a low impact on neighbours and green space in the village, in the case of a garden or small infill site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On how many sides does the site adjoin existing housing?
8	Preserve the existing character of the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site contain or adjoin any heritage assets? • Are there natural or other obvious boundaries to the site?
9	Are there any other criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site have a history of

	<p>that you consider should be used in assessing housing sites?</p>	<p>serious planning objections?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the land graded 3a, or above? • Does the site have any infrastructure deficiencies? • Is the site free from flood risk? • Is this site likely to provide employment within the village? • Is the site being made available to meet local needs, for affordable housing, self-building or co-housing?
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Table 5.3.1
Site Ranking Parameters and Additional Ranking Criteria

REFERENCES

1	Drayton Housing Policy Guidance (draft)
2	Drayton Housing Needs Survey
3	Drayton Age Structure 2011
4	Rural Community Profile for Drayton (Parish) produced by Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council (ORCC), January 2012
5	Drayton Road Planning Application by Hallam Land Group – traffic survey report commissioned by Abingdon Town Council
6	Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facility Assessment Consultation
7	South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) & Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
8	2011 Census
9	Index of Multiple Deprivation, ID 2010 Income Domain, Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) – Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG)
10	Notifiable crime offences recorded by the police (Home Office, 2010/11)
11	Place Survey community strength and community safety data (Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG, 2008)
12	Working age people receiving any DWP benefit, Income Support, Pension Credit, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance – Department for Work and Pensions (DWP, May 2011)
13	NHS Emergency and urgent care services http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/Emergencyandurgentcareservices/Pages/Ambulanceservices.aspx
14	2001 Census
15	Jobseekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Employment Support Allowance – Department of Work & Pensions (DWP, May 2011)
16	Affordable Housing Ratio (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings/Land registry 2010)
17	Local Environment Agency Plan Oxfordshire 2002
18	‘Climate change-Time to get ready’ Environment Agency 2005
19	‘Waste not, want not – making best use of our water’ Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT), 2010
20	Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy, Briefing Paper 6: Environment, 2007
21	Per capita CO2 emissions per year – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA, 2008)
22	Health Profile of the Vale of White Horse, NHS October 2011
23	Oxfordshire’s Biodiversity Action Plan and Conservation Target Areas, Oxfordshire County Council

ANNEXES

Annex A: Listed buildings in Drayton Parish