# Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Plan

## Scoping Report

January 2014

LEPUS CONSULTING
LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY, PLANNING AND URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

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## Scoping Report

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|---|---|
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# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| **AQMA** | Air Quality Management Area |
| **BAP** | Biodiversity Action Plan |
| **CAMS** | Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies |
| **$CO_2$** | Carbon Dioxide |
| **CPRE** | Campaign to Protect Rural England |
| **DCLG** | Department of Communities and Local Government |
| **DECC** | Department of Energy and Climate Change |
| **DEFRA** | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| **DLA** | Disability Living Allowance |
| **EU** | European Union |
| **GCSE** | General Certificate of Secondary Education |
| **GIS** | Geographic Information Services |
| **HAP** | Habitat Action Plans |
| **ICT** | Information Communications Technology |
| **IMD** | Index of Multiple Deprivation |
| **km** | kilometres |
| **kW** | kilowatts |
| **LLTI** | Limiting Long-Term Illness |
| **LNR** | Local Nature Reserve |
| **LSOA** | Lower Super Output Area |
| **NDP** | Neighbourhood Development Plan |
| **$NO_2$** | Nitrogen Oxide |
| **NPPF** | National Planning Policy Framework |
| **ODPM** | Office of the Deputy Prime Minister |
| **ONS** | Office of National Statistics |
| **$PM_{10}$** | Particulate Matter |
| **PPP** | Policies, Plans or Programmes |
| **PROW** | Public Rights of Way |
| **RIGS** | Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites |
| **SAP** | Species Action Plans |
| **SEA** | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| **SDC** | Stratford-on-Avon District Council |
| **SINC** | Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation |
| **SLINC** | Sites of Local Importance to Nature Conservation |
| **SOA** | Super Output Area |
| **SPZ** | Special Protection Zone |
| **SSSI** | Sites of Special Scientific Interest |
| **UK** | United Kingdom |
| **WMU** | Water Management Units |

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 This report

1.1.1 The Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is in the process of being prepared. As part of the process Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken. This Scoping Report has been prepared to inform the SEA of the NP. A previous Screening Report (Lepus Consulting, October 2013) concluded that the NDP should be subject to a SEA in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

## 1.2 Stratford-upon-Avon

1.2.1 Stratford-upon-Avon is a market town in south Warwickshire, England. The town itself lies within the valley of the River Avon and has extended gradually in most directions, with a swathe of attractive open space alongside the river. The town is located 22 miles (35 km) south east of Birmingham and 8 miles (13 km) south west of Warwick.

1.2.2 Stratford-upon-Avon is the largest and most populous town of Stratford-on-Avon district. Four electoral wards make up the urban town of Stratford: Alveston; Avenue and New Town; Mount Pleasant and Guild; and Hathaway. The estimated total population for the parish of Stratford-upon-Avon is 27,555 (ONS 2011).

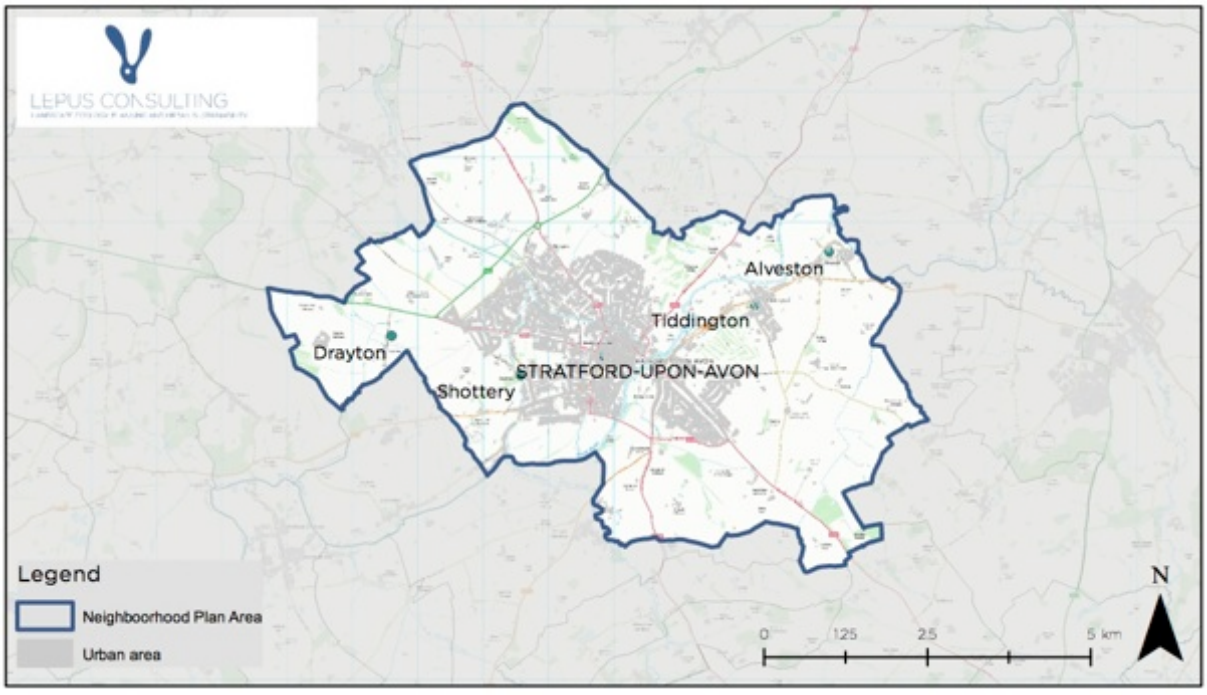


***Figure 1.1**: Neighbourhood Development Plan Area*

1.2.3 The proposed Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Plan covers the administrative boundaries of Stratford upon Avon Town Council as well as Old Stratford and Drayton Parish Council. The boundary also includes the parishes of Alverston and Tiddington. **Figure 1.1** shows the current neighbourhood plan boundary.

1.2.4 The plan area is approximately 4 kilometres high by 10 kilometres wide. The census data states that the area of the parish of Stratford-uopn-Avon is approximately 27,600 metres squared.

## 1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.3.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).

1.3.2 Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (The SEA Directive) and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), specific types of plans that set the framework for the future development consent of projects, must be subject to an environmental assessment.

1.3.3 Where a Neighbourhood Development Plan could have significant environmental effects, it may fall within the scope of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and so require a SEA. One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European obligations.

1.3.4 Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires a strategic environmental assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. A SEA may be required, for example, where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of higher order plans.

1.3.5 The key stages of Neighbourhood Plan preparation and their relationship with the strategic environmental assessment process are shown in **Figure 1.2,** which is taken from National Planning Practice Guidance produced by DCLG.

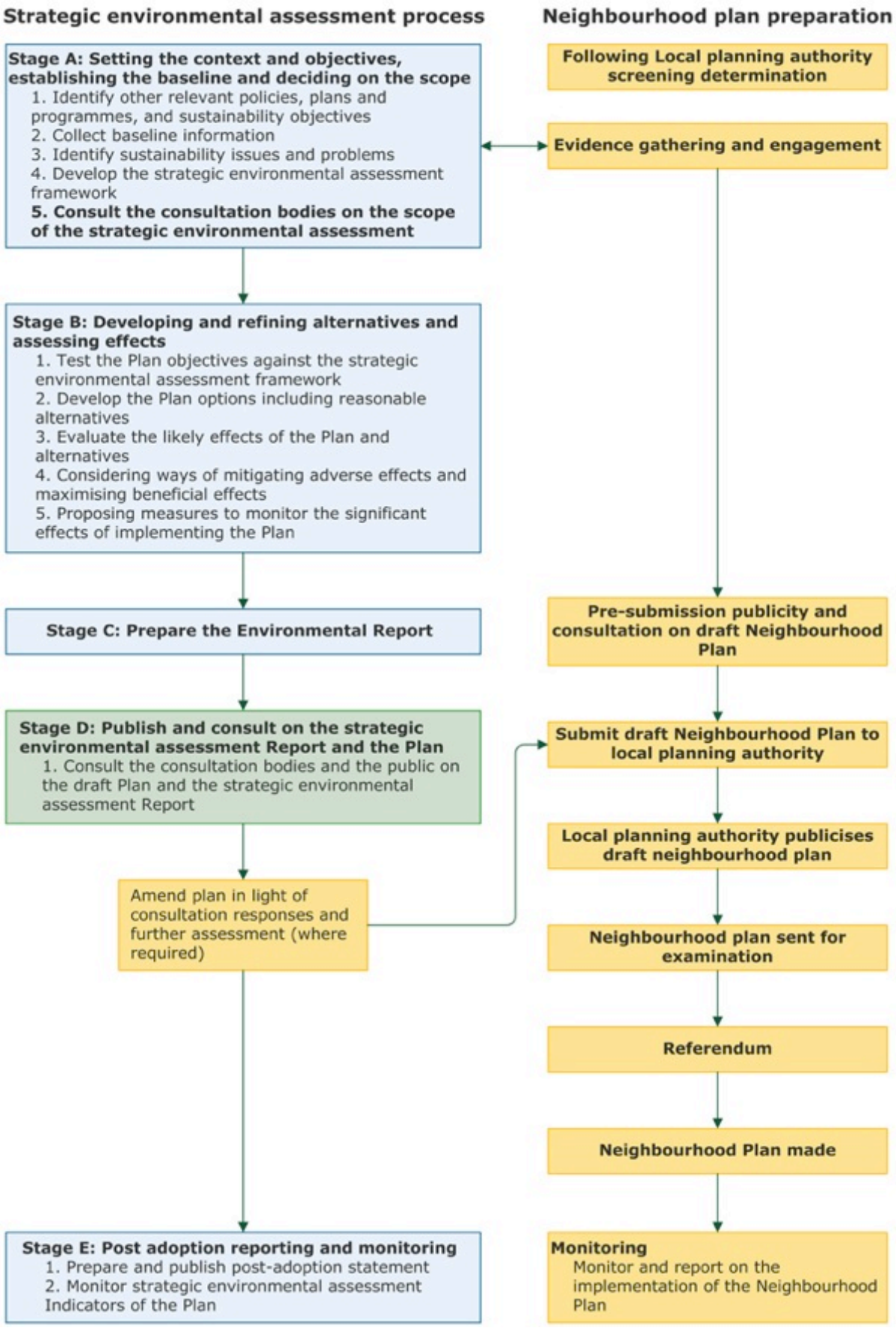


***Figure 1.2**: The key stages of neighbourhood plan preparation (DCLG 2013)*

1.3.6 The scoping stage (Stage A) should identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the strategic environmental assessment. It should set out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; establish the baseline; and identify relevant environmental issues and objectives.

1.3.7 A formal scoping report is not required by law but is a useful way of presenting information at the scoping stage. The scoping procedure should help ensure the strategic environmental assessment is proportionate and relevant to the NDP being assessed.

1.3.8 When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, a qualifying body must consult the consultation bodies.

## 1.4 The Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan

1.4.1 The Stratford-upon-Avon NDP website[1] explains that the creation of neighbourhood plans started with the Government's Localism Act which came into effect in April 2012. The Act sets out a series of measures to shift power away from central government and towards local people. One of the Localism Act's key components is the Neighbourhood Plan; a new tier in planning policy which enables local people to shape the development of the community in which they live.

1.4.2 The process started in the summer of 2011 when Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council held a series of meetings to find volunteers who were representative of the community and willing to help prepare a NP for the area. These meetings led to the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which includes representatives from: The Stratford Society, Stratford Voice, Stratford Vision, Four residents' associations, Warwickshire Police, Clopton Forum, Three secondary schools, Old Stratford and Drayton Parish Council, Stratford BID, Accessible Stratford, SCAN, Stratford Churches Together, Stratford Town Trust, Transition Stratford, Warwickshire County Council, Stratford District Councillors, Stratford Town Council, VASA, and numerous skilled volunteers.

1.4.3 The steering group collected public views on what residents would like to change about the area and used these to create a set of planning objectives which they believed reflected most of the major planning concerns in the community, this formed the consultation draft of the NDP (as shown on the website).

1.4.4 After consultation, any responses will be taken into account and used to prepare a 'submission draft' of the Neighbourhood Plan. This version of the plan will be subject to inspection by an independent examiner. If the examiner approves the NP it will be subject to a local referendum. If 50% or more of people voting in the referendum support the plan, the NP will be adopted.

[1] http://www.ourstratford.org.uk

[2] Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011 to 2026: http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/wccweb.nsf/Links/5D561F3BBE31F6A580257850005275DD/$f

# 2 Presenting the Sustainability Information

## 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The policy and plan review, the baseline data, and the identification of sustainability issues (i.e. Stage A) have been presented through a series of sustainability themes.

2.1.2 These sustainability themes incorporate the topics listed in the SEA Directive as well as other issues key to Stratford-upon-Avon. Consequently a broad and effective range of sustainability themes are covered by the appraisal process. The selected sustainability themes incorporate the SEA 'topics' derived from Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive:

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna;
- Population;
- Human health;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage);
- Landscape; and
- The inter-relationship between these factors.

2.1.3 **Table 2.1** presents full details about each sustainability theme in terms of content and specifically, details of the required SEA topic.

2.1.4 It is anticipated that presenting the information through these sustainability themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the SEA information representing their specific areas of interest.

***Table 2.1**: Sustainability themes*

| Sustainability theme | SEA topic included in EU Directive 2001/42/EC | What is included in the sustainability theme |
|---|---|---|
| Accessibility and transportation | Population | Transportation infrastructure;<br>Traffic flows;<br>Walking and cycling;<br>Accessibility. |
| Air quality | Air | Air pollution sources;<br>Air quality hotspots;<br>Air quality management. |
| Biodiversity and geodiversity | Biodiversity flora and fauna | Habitats;<br>Species;<br>Nature conservation designations;<br>Landscape features;<br>Geological features. |
| Climate change | Climatic factors | Greenhouse gas emissions by source;<br>Greenhouse gas emissions trends;<br>Effects of climate change;<br>Climate change adaptation. |
| Economic factors | Material assets | Economic performance;<br>Business start-ups;<br>Employment and earnings;<br>Skills and unemployment;<br>Sites and premises. |
| Health | Human health | Health indicators;<br>Healthcare inequalities;<br>Sport, fitness and activity levels. |
| Historic environment and townscape | Cultural heritage | Historic development of the City;<br>Designated and non-designated sites and areas;<br>Setting of cultural heritage assets;<br>Historic landscape character assessment;<br>Archaeological assets. |
| Housing | Population<br>Material assets | House prices and affordability;<br>Housing quality and vacancy rates;<br>Homelessness. |
| Material assets | Material assets | Renewable energy;<br>Waste arisings and recycling rates;<br>Minerals;<br>Previously developed land. |

| Sustainability theme | SEA topic included in EU Directive 2001/42/EC | What is included in the sustainability theme |
|---|---|---|
| Population and quality of life | Population | Population size and migration;<br>Population density;<br>Age structure;<br>Indices of Multiple Deprivation;<br>Unemployment;<br>Crime;<br>Recreation and amenity (including open space and green infrastructure). |
| Water and Soil | Soil<br>Water | Soils;<br>Watercourses;<br>Water resources;<br>Water quality;<br>Flooding;<br>Contaminated land. |

## 2.2 Policy and plan review

2.2.1 The NDP may be influenced in various ways by other policies, plans or programmes (PPPs), or by external sustainability objectives such as those put forward in strategies or by legislation. The SEA process will take advantage of potential synergies between these PPPs and address any inconsistencies and constraints.

2.2.2 **Appendix B** represents an evaluation of the key PPPs that are likely to be relevant to the NDP and the SEA process. The review of PPPs is presented according to the sustainability themes discussed in **Section 1.5.**

2.2.3 A summary of the PPP review is presented in the following chapters under each sustainability theme. The PPP summaries should be read alongside the more detailed information included in **Appendix B**.

## 2.3 Baseline data collection

2.3.1 The following chapters present a review of current environmental and social-economic conditions affecting Stratford-upon-Avon by sustainability theme. The purpose of the baseline review is to help define the key sustainability issues for the NDP. This will enable the predicted effects of the plan to be effectively appraised.

2.3.2 The currency, resolution and presentation of data are crucial to an effective baseline. Information selected seeks to:

- Inform the situation at the local level;
- be the most up to date; and
- be fit for purpose.

2.3.3 One of the purposes of consultation on the Scoping Report is to seek views on whether the data selected is appropriate. The baseline has been constructed utilising a wide range of data sources, with GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data where available. The data has been presented through tables, text and GIS mapping, and all data sources have been referenced as appropriate. Meaningful data for the purposes of comparison and to address the topics being assessed as part of the SEA processes is not always available. Where data is available at a local scale it has been used to inform the scoping process, if local information is not available district wide information has been used, where this is the case, it is clearly stated.

2.3.4 Where relevant, data has been presented specifically at a neighbourhood level. This enables more specific information to be included on the communities and areas most affected by possible issues to help identify areas most in need of change.

## 2.4 Key sustainability issues

2.4.1 Drawing on the PPP review and the baseline data, C**hapters 3 to 13** set out a series of key sustainability issues relevant for the NDP. The identification of these sustainability issues will help the SEA process focus on the key problems and opportunities which may be addressed through the plan.

# 3 Accessibility and Transport

## 3.1 Summary of policy and plan review

3.1.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

3.1.2 The PPPs highlight that congestion and poor air quality resulting from transport are key issues for a number of locations in the wider West Midlands area. Regional and local plans therefore focus on appropriate design, location and layout of development, increasing investment in infrastructure, improving the quality, equality and accessibility of public transport, supporting walking and cycling, enhancing road safety and reducing the amount of emissions produced by transportation.

3.1.3 Recent reports have shown that parking facilities and their availability can be used as an effective tool in influencing driving behaviour to improve congestion, the aesthetics of the area, safety and economic viability.

## 3.2 Baseline data

**Road network**

3.2.1 The location of Stratford-upon-Avon in the heart of England means the area is well connected to the strategic road network. There are no motorways within the Neighbourhood Plan area; nearby motorways include the M40 (to the north west of the NDP area), the M42 (to the north) and the M5 (to the west). The A46(T), which links Evesham with Warwick, crosses the plan area to the north and west and forms a bypass for Stratford-upon-Avon. The A46 is the primary road within the NDP area (shown in Figure 3.1).

3.2.2 Other notable routes in the district include the A422 between Stratford-upon-Avon and Banbury in Oxfordshire; the A3400 which links Stratford-upon-Avon with the M42 and the A34 to the north and Chipping Norton to the south; and the A439 which links the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon to the A46 and junction 15 of the M40.

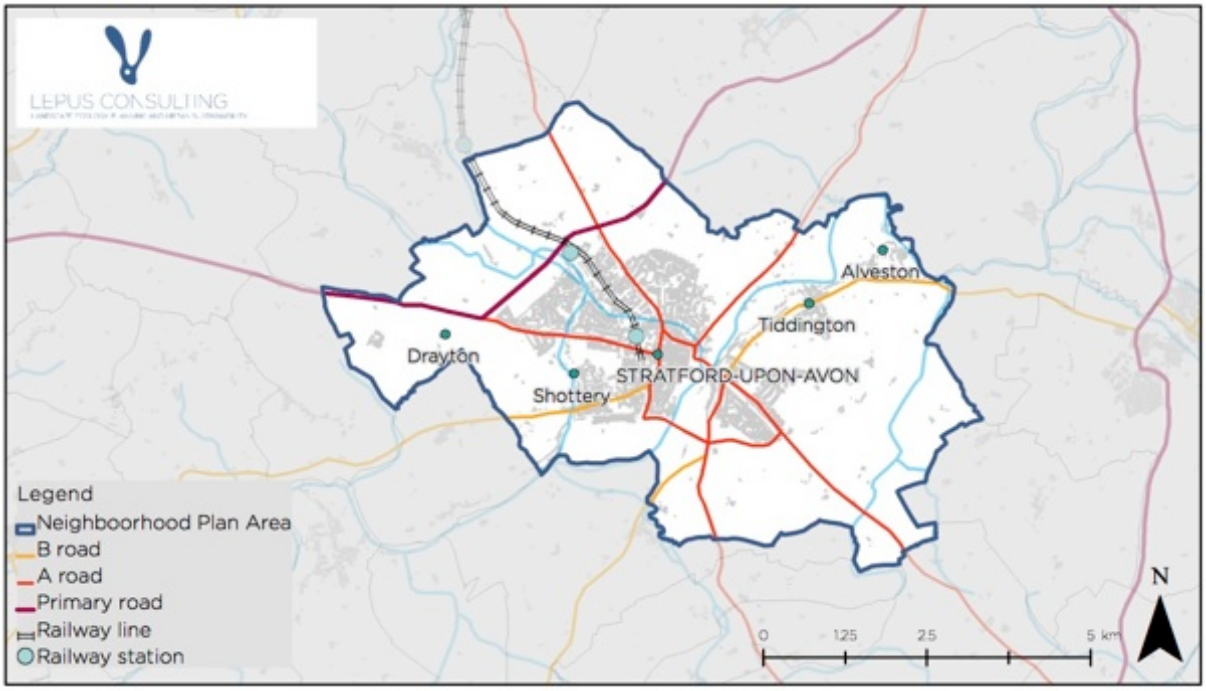


***Figure 3.1**: Main transportation routes within the Neighbourhood Plan area*

**Rail network**

3.2.3 The Shakespeare Line, which links Stratford-upon-Avon, Wilmcote, Wootton Wawen, Henley-in–Arden, Danzey and Wood End with Birmingham, Smethwick, and Stourbridge provides an important rail service for shoppers, tourists and students in the district.

3.2.4 There is a railway station (Stratford-upon-Avon Railway Station) in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon. There is also the recently completed Stratford-upon-Avon Parkway Railway Station which is located on the same railway line, but to the northwest, near Bishopton.

3.2.5 Whilst the journey time from Stratford-upon-Avon to Birmingham Snow Hill is approximately 53 minutes, there is considerable scope to improve this line, particularly through the introduction of a semi-fast service. From the end of December 2013 the area will also have regular trains to Solihull.

3.2.6 A further rail service links Stratford-upon-Avon to London Marylebone via Leamington Spa, with six direct trains daily. Journey times on this service are in the region of 1hour 58mins to 2hrs 18mins from Stratford-upon-Avon to London Marylebone.

**Public rights of way and cycle routes**

3.2.7 Stratford-on-Avon district has an extensive Public Rights of Way (PROW) network, including footpaths, bridleways and byways. The district network includes 3,002 footpaths, with a total length of 1,342km, and 642 bridleways, with a total length of 329 km.

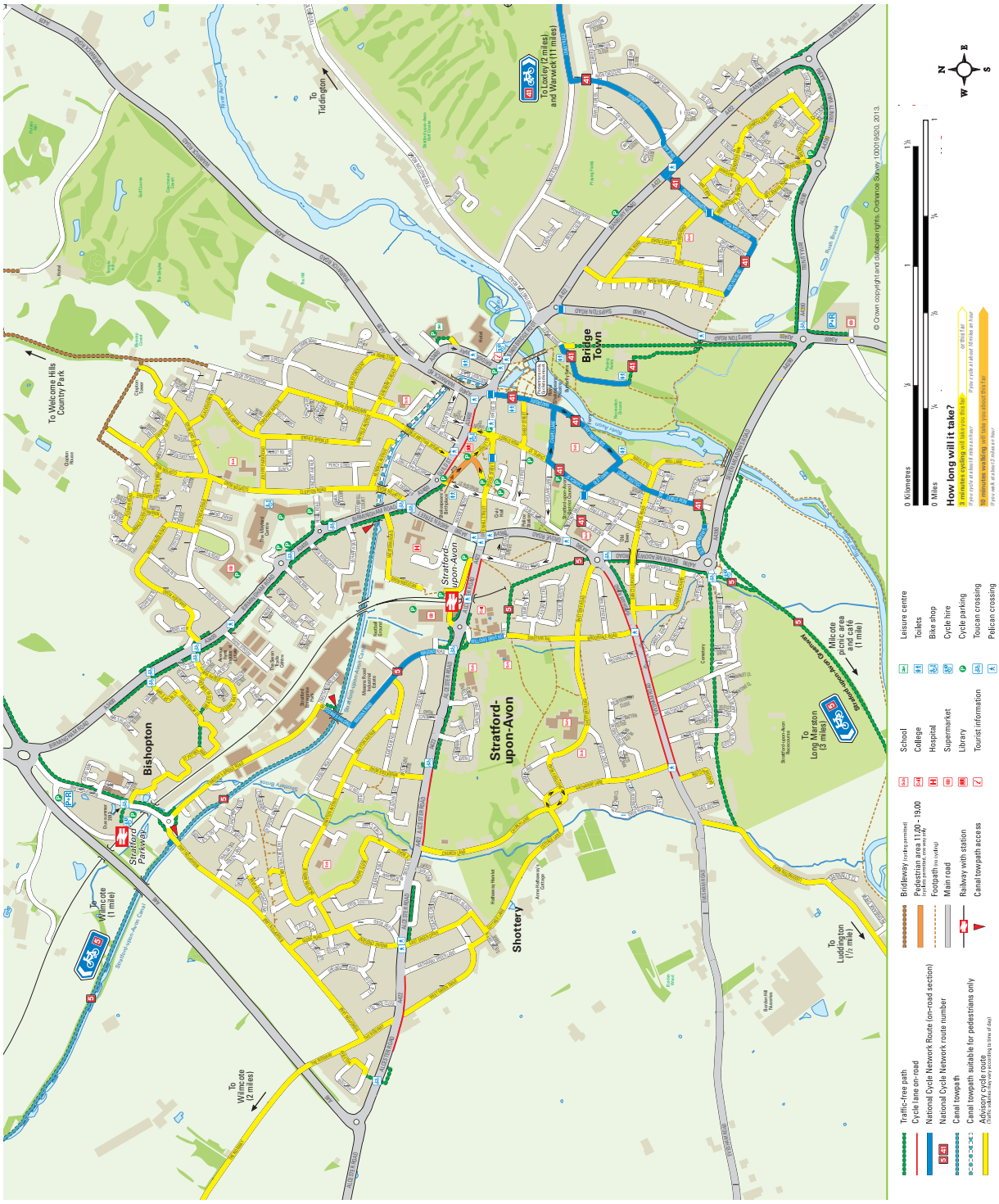


***Figure 3.2**: Cycle routes within the Neighbourhood Plan area (Warwickshire County Council 2013)*

3.2.8 Within Stratford-upon-Avon, there are multiple National Trails, running alongside the River Avon to the south and up through the town centre towards the north and the Wellcombe Hills Country Park. These are supplemented by other footpaths running throughout the NDP area.

3.2.9 The area also has a high quality and extensive cycle network (see **Figure 3.2**), which utilises off road routes along canals, former railways and other features. Such as the Stratford-upon-Avon canal and the rivers (River Avon and River Stour) which offer significant walking and cycling opportunities along their lengths. The Stratford-upon-Avon Canal offers an important traffic-free cycle route. Other notable routes in the plan area include the traffic free Stratford Greenway between Long Marston and Stratford-upon-Avon, the Stratford-upon-Avon to Redditch cycle route, and the Stratford-upon-Avon to Ilmington route.

3.2.10 Two completed National Cycle Routes run through the area, including National Route 5, which links Oxford and Birmingham via Stratford-upon-Avon, and National Route 41 the 'Lias Line', which links Stratford-upon-Avon with Warwick, Leamington Spa and Rugby (Sustrans, 2011).

**Accessibility, public transport and car ownership**

3.2.11 Stratford-upon-Avon has relatively frequent bus (and train) services (see **Figure 3.3**). With bus services running every half hour on Monday to Friday, and hourly on Saturdays. Although those living in the wider district are heavily reliant on personal car use due to the disparate and predominantly rural nature of the district, those within the plan area are less reliant. Almost half of the 53,678 households in Stratford-on-Avon have two or more cars, which is among the highest levels in the UK[2]. Whereas just under 37% of households within Stratford-upon-Avon have two or more cars (ONS 2013).

[2] Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011 to 2026: http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/wccweb.nsf/Links/5D561F3BBE31F6A580257850005275DD/$file/Warwickshire_LTP3.pdf

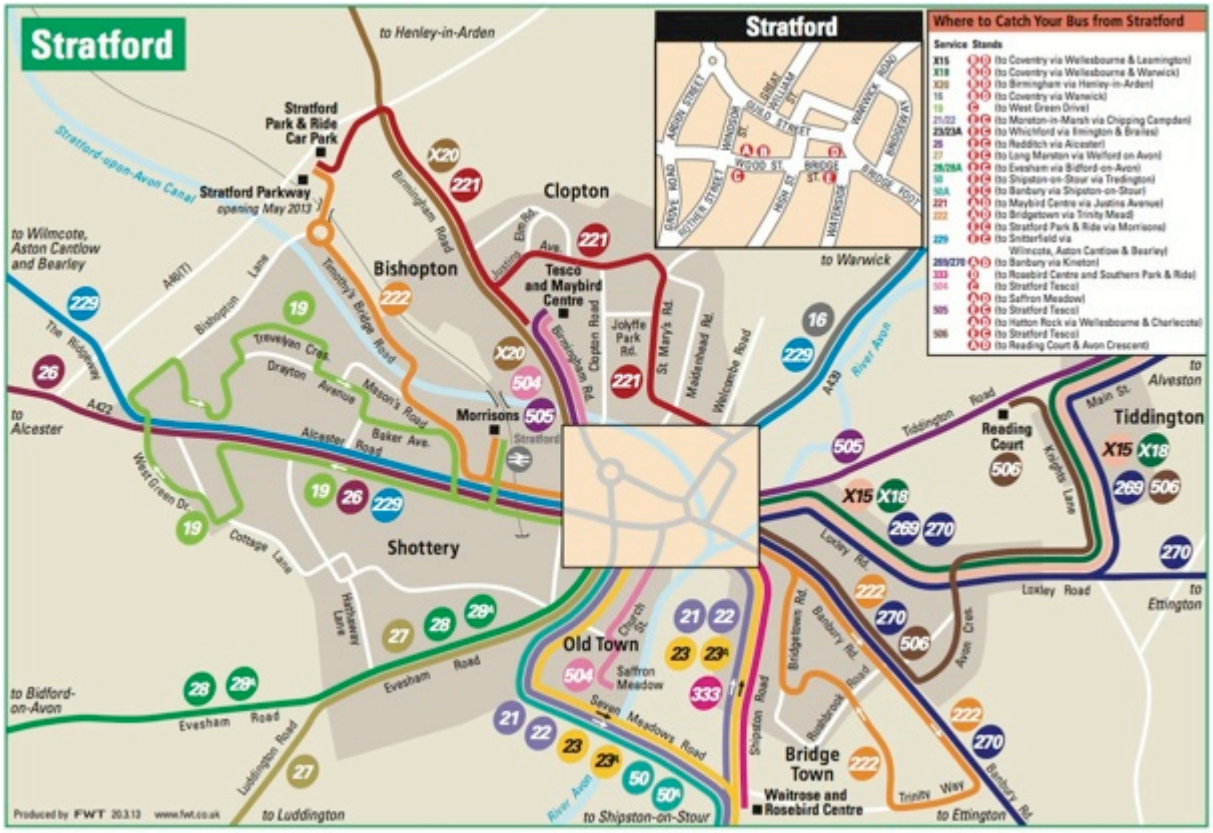


***Figure 3.3**: Bus routes within the Neighbourhood Plan area (Warwickshire County Council 2013b)*

3.2.12 The Warwickshire Lopcal Transport Plan (2011) advised that "between 2000 and 2009, traffic in Stratford-upon-Avon increased by 4.6%". With the added information that "traffic growth trends in Stratford-upon-Avon are strongly linked to local housing, employment and retail growth".

3.2.13 Traffic congestion is a significant issues for Stratford-upon-Avon. Most trip generators such as schools, shops and employment are located north of the River Avon. These generate a considerable demand for movement from residential areas south of the river and the rural areas to the south of the town. The location of these trip attractors also generates a significant demand for cross-town movements north of the river, most of which have to pass through the congested town centre.

**Box 3.1:**
**Key Accessibility and Transport Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area**

- The use of private cars is lower in Stratford-upon-Avon than the Stratford-on-Avon average.
- Stratford's road system dates from the middle ages and the town suffers from significant congestion. The town has a partial ring road where the A46 carries traffic to the north-west of the town, but all traffic from the south and east has to pass through the town centre. Developments both in the town and elsewhere in the district are expected to increase the number of vehicles on the town's roads. Further improvements to town centre junctions are needed, and the weight of through traffic through the town needs to be addressed.
- There are a number of barriers to easy movement around the town for pedestrians and cyclists. For example, the two main pedestrian river crossings are of poor quality and there is no cycle-friendly crossing of the river or suitable crossing for users of wheelchairs or other mobility aids.
- The provision of good public transport services is important to a large number of local people and for the provision of tourist visitors.
- Bus services within the town are generally good, but the lack of a bus station leads to vehicles congesting the main streets of the town centre. It is also important that there are good inter-changes between different modes of transport – in particular at the town's railway stations.
- The city's road network is increasingly congested, particularly along radial and sub-radial routes. Congestion has potential adverse effects on human health and safety as well as the economy. It can make commuter journeys more stressful and delay buses which are then unable to offer a viable alternative to the car for some journeys. Congestion can make deliveries less reliable and deter investment in the area.

# 4 Air Quality

## 4.1 Summary of policy and plan review

4.1.1 A number of objectives have been established in relation to air quality at both the European and the UK level (emanating from the 1996 EC Directive). This includes the setting of targets for reducing emissions of specific pollutants to minimise negative impacts on health and the environment. At the sub-regional and city level emphasis is placed on reducing emissions of nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$) and particulates ($PM_{10}$), particularly from the transport sector.

4.1.2 Local Plans such as the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan includes a goal to improve air quality by improving congestion and reducing traffic as well as encouraging people to use more sustainable modes. It also seeks to reduce and minimise the number of areas declared as having poor air quality as a result of road transport emissions.

## 4.2 Baseline data

4.2.1 Air quality within Stratford-upon-Avon is linked to emissions from road traffic and congestion. Following the implementation of the Environment Act 1995, and since the publishing of the National Air Quality Strategy in 1997, SDC have been undertaking reviews and assessments of air quality. These include for the following pollutants identified as possible risks to human health:

- Carbon Monoxide;
- Benzene;
- 1,3 – Butadiene;
- Lead;
- Nitrogen Dioxide ($NO_2$);
- Sulphur Dioxide; and
- Particulates.

4.2.2 In 2008 a Detailed Assessment for Stratford-upon-Avon was carried out due to monitored exceedances of $NO_2$ objectives. The study confirmed that a number of locations in Wood Street, Greenhill Street, Grove Road and Tiddington Road in Stratford-upon-Avon were unlikely to meet the annual mean air quality objective for $NO_2$.

4.2.3 It was recommended that Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) should be declared for exceedences of the $NO_2$ annual mean objective at these locations. The geographical extent of the AQMAs for Stratford-upon-Avon were subsequently the subject of detailed public consultations in 2009. Following this consultation it was decided to declare the whole of Stratford town should be assigned as an AQMA (see **Figure 4.1**). The Stratford AQMA came into effect on 22nd January 2010.

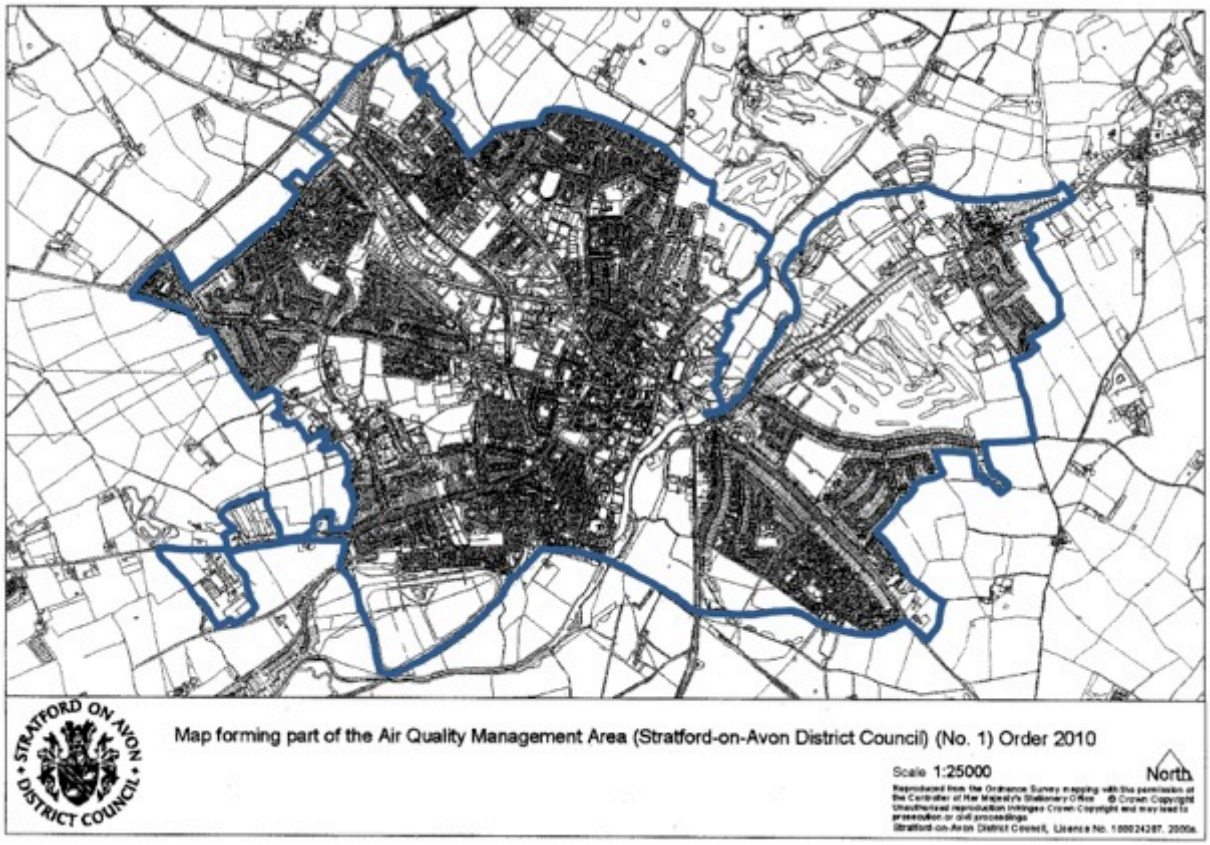


***Figure 4.1**: extent of AQMA in Stratford-upon-Avon (Stratford-on-Avon DC 2010, edited by Lepus Consulting to highlight boundary line)*

**Box 4.1:**
Key Air Quality Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- The majority Stratford-upon-Avon was declared an Air Quality Management Area in 2010.
- Increasing traffic levels and congestion cause less efficient motoring and more emissions. Poor air quality can lead to health problems. Transport emissions contribute to global warming and climate change.
- New housing, employment development areas and increasing visitor numbers in the area have the potential to lead to impacts on air quality from increased traffic flows.

# 5 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

## 5.1 Summary of policy and plan review

5.1.1 The objectives of policies and plans at all levels, focus on the conservation of biological diversity (including a reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss), and the protection and monitoring of endangered and vulnerable species and habitats. In general, emphasis is also placed on the ecological importance of brownfield sites, geodiversity, enhancing areas of woodland and other important habitats. The integration of biodiversity considerations into all environmental and socio-economic planning is strongly advocated.

5.1.2 The recently introduced Natural Environment White Paper (HM Government 2011) focuses on promoting high quality natural environments, expanding multifunctional green infrastructure networks and initiating landscape scale action to support ecological networks. The White Paper specifically seeks to: protect core areas of high nature conservation value; promote corridors and 'stepping stones' to enable species to move between key areas; and initiate Nature Improvement Areas, where ecological functions and wildlife can be restored.

5.1.3 The White Paper is supported by the recently released Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA 2011). This seeks to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy, well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. The Biodiversity Strategy for England also proposes introducing a new designation for Local Green Areas to enable communities to protect places that are important to them.

5.1.4 The NPPF includes guidance on promoting the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. It requires the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures

## 5.2 Baseline data

### Habitats and Species

5.2.1 Stratford-upon-Avon contains a diverse mosaic of habitats (see **Figure 5.1**). The area's watercourses and waterbodies are important habitats (see **Figure 13.4** for watercourse in Stratford-upon-Avon). A key green infrastructure asset for Stratford-upon-Avon is the River Avon, which provides a link from the town centre to open countryside to the north and south. The Stratford-upon-Avon canal also joins the River Avon at Bancroft Gardens. The canal, which links the River Avon with the Worcester and Birmingham Canal at Kings Norton in Birmingham, is an important green infrastructure link to the north of the town.

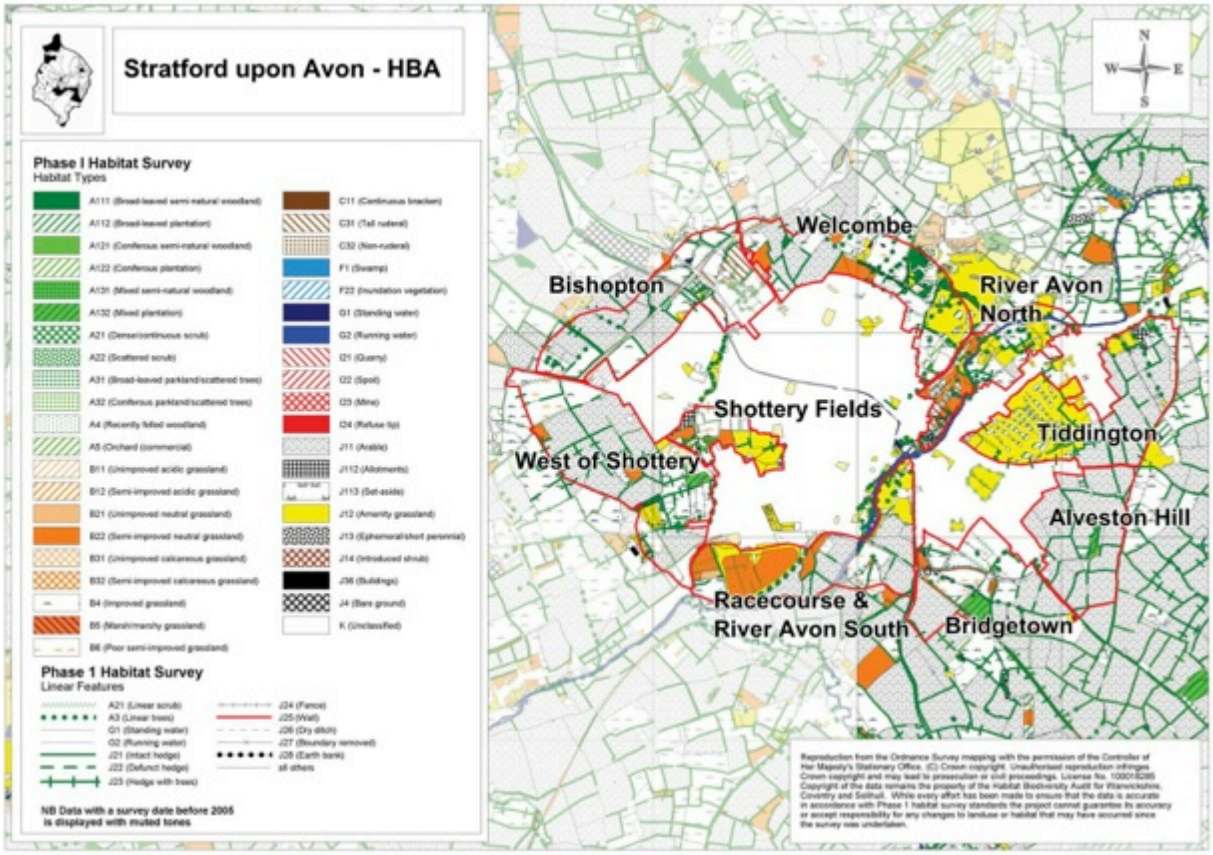


***Figure 5.1:*** *Habitats within the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Plan area (Stratford-on-Avon DC 2009)*

5.2.2 The Stratford on Avon District Ecological and Geological Assessment (2010) advises that within Stratford-on-Avon there are local Species Action Plans (SAP) for 26 priority species which are declining or locally threatened. These are:

- Mammals – otter, water vole, all bat species, common dormouse
- Reptiles and amphibians – adder, great crested newt
- Crustaceans - White-clawed crayfish
- Birds – farmland birds, barn owl, bittern, lapwing, snipe, song thrush
- Invertebrates - Bloody-Nosed Beetle, Chalk Carpet Moth, (A) Cuckoo Bee, Dingy
- Skipper, Dotted Bee-Fly, (A) Leaf-Rolling Weevil, Rare Bumblebees, Small Blue
- Butterfly, Red Wood Ant, Wood White Butterfly
- Flora – Black poplar, Scarce Arable Plants

5.2.3 There are also 24 local Habitat Action Plans (HAP) for priority habitats which are of conservation concern:

- (Lowland) Acid Grassland
- (Lowland) Calcareous Grassland
- Field Margins

- (Lowland) Heathland
- Hedgerows
- (Lowland) Neutral Grassland
- Scrub & Carr
- Traditional Orchards
- Woodlands
- Wood-Pasture, Old Parkland & Veteran Trees
- Allotments
- (The) Built Environment
- Canals
- Churchyards & Cemeteries
- Disused Industrial & Railway Land
- Ponds, Lakes & Reservoirs
- Fen & Swamp
- Gardens
- Parks & Public Open Spaces
- Quarries & Gravel Pits
- Reedbeds
- Rivers & Streams
- Roadside Verges
- School Grounds

5.2.4 The biodiversity report (2010) notes that that whilst some positive action such as enhancing and restoring the condition of some species and habitats is occurring, there are more situations where the reverse is true and overall there is a greater loss than gain.

5.2.5 Reflecting the range of biodiversity habitats present in the district, Stratford-on-Avon has a rich species diversity. The district of Stratford-on-Avon contains a range of Priority Species including the dormouse, otter, white-clawed crayfish, song thrush, great crested newt and water vole. The in-depth maps of the areas surrounding Stratford-upon-Avon show that the NDP area contains:

- Black Poplar
- County Rare Plants; Cat-Mint, Common Calamint, Almond Willow, Common Fumitory SSP, Common Broomrape, Conflower, Dropwort, Fritillary, Parsley Water Dropwort
- Barn Owl
- Brown Hare
- Reptile/amphibian: Bb (Common Toad), Tv (Common Newt), Rt (Common Frog)[3]
- BAP butterfly: Cp (Small Heath), Lc (White Admiral), Swa (White-Letter Hair Streak)[3]

[3] Only the shorthand of the reptiles, amphibians and butterflies was given in document; the common names have been added by Lepus Consulting and could be different from what was found.

5.2.6 The black poplar is a Local BAP species for Warwickshire; specimens are found throughout Stratford-upon-Avon NDP area. Veteran trees are an important and irreplaceable biodiversity resource, it is important that they are not harmed by development. Ancient woodlands are also important biodiversity habitats. The existence of ancient woodland and traditional orchards are shown in **Figure 5.2**, with woodland spread across the NDP area. The largest areas of ancient woodland are located in the north and north-east of the plan area.

5.2.7 BAP priority habitat is most prominent to the north and north-east and includes lowland mixed deciduous woodland and wet woodland. The River Avon in particular is an important biodiversity corridor locally, supporting grassland and wetland habitats and a range of wildlife, including a number of protected species.

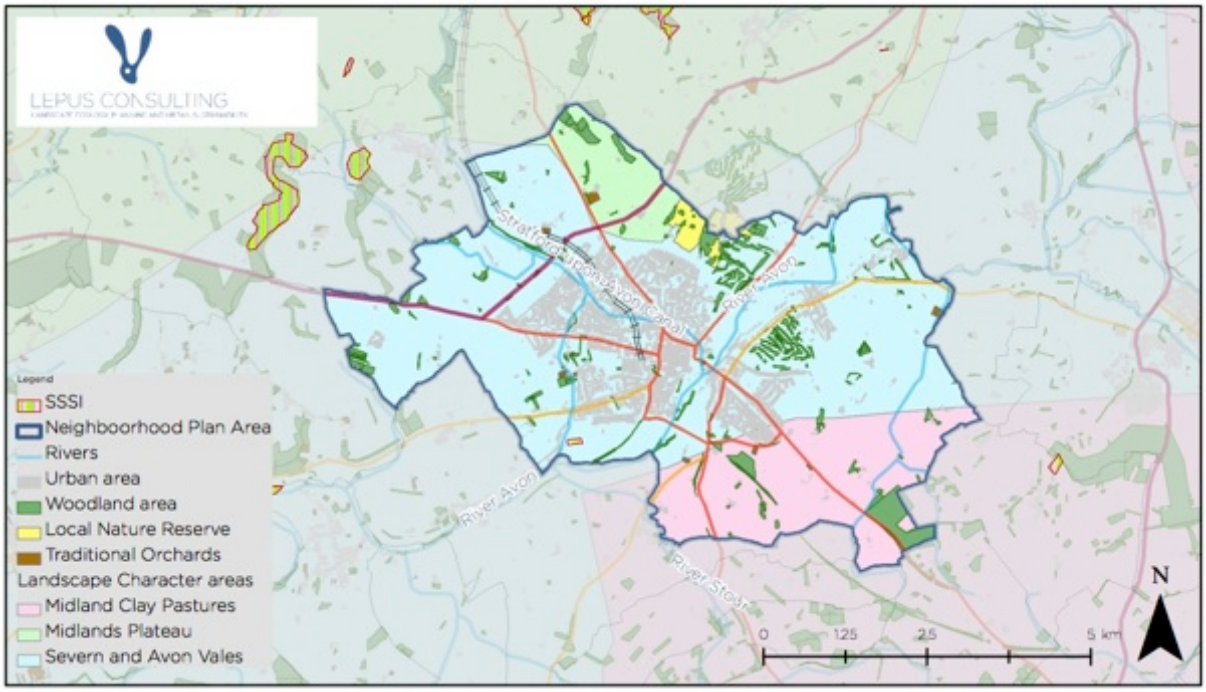


***Figure 5.2:*** *Designated sites and landscape character areas within the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Plan area*

**Nature conservation sites and nature reserves**

5.2.8 According to the Stratford-on-Avon Annual Monitoring Report 2010, 84.6% of the area covered by SSSIs in Stratford-on-Avon district is in favourable condition; 15.4% is in unfavourable condition but in the process of recovery. This compares well with the national level (43%), the regional level (34%) and the county level (79%).

5.2.9 There is only one nationally designated site within the NDP area. This consists of the Racecourse Meadow SSSI located to the south of Stratford-upon-Avon (see **Figure 5.2**). According to Natural England the SSSI is lowland neutral grassland covering 1.66 hectares. Racecourse Meadow is currently of 'unfavourable declining' condition.

5.2.10 Just outside the boundary of the NDP lie six further SSSI's. To the east is Loxley Church Meadow SSSI. To the southwest is Welford Field SSSI. To the west, there are three sites; from large to small the sites are: Aston Grove and Withycombe Wood SSSI; Copmill Hill SSSI; and Wilmcote Quarry SSSI. To the north lie two sites of Snitterfield and Bearly Bushes SSSI. Of these, three sites are of favourable condition, the remaining two are unfavourable recovering.

***Table 5.1:*** *SSSI's in and around the plan area, their main habitat and condition*

| SSSI Name | Main Habitat | Condition |
|---|---|---|
| Racecourse Meadow SSSI | Neutral grassland - lowland | Unfavourable declining |
| Loxley Church Meadow SSSI | Neutral grassland - lowland | Favourable |
| Welford Field SSSI | Neutral grassland - lowland | Unfavourable recovering |
| Aston Grove and Withycombe Wood SSSI | Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland | Favourable |
| Copmill Hill SSSI | Calcareous grassland - lowland | Unfavourable recovering |
| Wilmcote Quarry SSSI | Earth heritage | Favourable |
| Snitterfield and Bearly Bushes SSSI | Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland | Favourable |

5.2.11 No internationally designated nature conservation are located within Stratford-upon-Avon, or lie within 10km of the district. The Habitats Regulations Assessment carried out for the Core Strategy examined potential effects on Natura 2000 sites located further than 10km from the district[4]. This is also relevant and worth considering for the NDP.

5.2.12 Natural England encourages local authorities to formally designate appropriate sites as 'Local Nature Reserves' under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) designation demonstrates a commitment by the local authority to manage land for biodiversity, protect it from inappropriate development and provide opportunities for local people to study and enjoy wildlife.

5.2.13 There is only one LNR located within the Stratford-upon-Avon NDP area. This is the Welcome Hills and Clopton Park LNR located to the north of Stratford-upon-Avon. The reserve is a mixture of grassland, woodland and scrub. It has numerous historical and ecological interests and is noted for its yellow meadow ant hills, its Shakespearian connections and its variety of bird life.

[4] Levett-Therivel: Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Stratford-on-Avon District Consultation Core Strategy: http://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/10830/Habitats%20Regulations%20Assessment%20for%20Consultation%20Core%20Strategy%20-%20March%202010.pdf

5.2.14 A number of locally designated Local Wildlife Sites are also present in the town. These include the River Avon, Steeplechase Meadow, the Greenway/Dismantled Railway, Bordon Hill Old Rifle Range and the Lench Meadows.

5.2.15 The town also has good access to Accessible Natural Greenspace, including at the Lench Meadows, Seven Meadows Road, Maidenhead Road, Arden Paddocks, Trinity Mead and Blue Cap Road.

5.2.16 Allotments are available at Bordon Place, Manor Cottage and Redlands Crescent and at 3.03ha represent a relative under provision according to the Open Space Assessment (Arup, 2011).

**Geodiversity**

5.2.17 The geodiversity of Stratford-on-Avon is an important asset for the district. Geodiversity is the collective term describing the geological variety of the Earth's rocks, fossils, minerals, soils and landscapes together with the natural process which form and shape them. Geodiversity underpins biodiversity by providing diversity of habitat and the ecosystem, with the soil being the link between them. It also embraces the built environment by providing the basis for neighbourhood character and local distinctiveness through building stone and material.

5.2.18 Whilst the underlying bedrock geology of Stratford-on-Avon is diverse, covering four geological eras, due to the topography of the district exposures of the underlying geology are rare and are largely restricted to those found in quarries.

5.2.19 The geology of the district comprises five main groups[5]:

- **Mercia Mudstone Group:** Comprising various mudstones, siltstones and sandstones, these rocks date from the Upper Triassic and were formed between 228 to 196 million years ago. The mudstones represent wind-blown dust and intermittent river sediments that settled in shallow salt-lakes and sun-baked mudflats, and cover much of the north and north west of the district.
- **Penarth Group:** These rocks form a thin band between the rocks of the Mercia Mudstone Group and the Lias Group. The Penarth Group sediments were deposited in the recently formed Rhaetian Sea, marking the end of 'red-bed' deposition and acting as a prelude to the succeeding marine Lias succession.
- **Lias Group:** Much of the south and east of the district is underlain by rocks of Jurassic age (205-142 million years old). These were deposited as layers of mud and sand in the warm, tropical shallow sea which covered much of central England at this time. The oldest part of the Jurassic succession is termed the Lias and comprises clays, limestones and sands. The clays of the Lias tend to form lower-lying ground and

[5] The information provided in these sections is from Natural England, Geology of Warwickshire: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/geodiversity/englands/counties/area_ID37.aspx [accessed December 2013]

give rise to heavy clay soils. These rocks have yielded the skeletons of marine reptiles (ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs) and many other fossils can be found, such as ammonites, bullet-like belemnites (the internal shell of extinct squid-like animals) and bivalves.

- **Middle Jurassic:** Rocks of the Middle Jurassic are found in the far south-east of the district. A 40m band of limestone, the Marlstone Rock, represents the Middle Lias, and forms the escarpment of Edge Hill.
- **Quartenery:** Over the last two million years the climate of Britain has varied significantly with periods of temperate climate interrupted by repeated advances and retreats of glaciers and ice sheets. Within Stratford-on-Avon evidence for the mix of glacial and warmer conditions is provided by deposits of clay, sand and gravel scattered throughout the district, representing the remnants of past landscapes and the deposits of ancient river systems. In this period significant changes have been made to the landscape; for example the River Avon was rerouted from a tributary of the River Trent to a tributary of the River Severn approximately 500,000 years ago.

5.2.20 The varied geodiversity of Stratford-on-Avon district is highlighted by the presence of a number of sites designated for their geodiversity value. These include Geological SSSIs and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS). There are no Geological SSSIs or RIGS within Stratford-upon-Avon.

**Box 5.1:**
Key Biodiversity and Geodiversity Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- There is one SSSI and one LNR located in the NDP area. LNRs, SINCs and SLINCs make up an important part of Stratford-on-Avons's biodiversity resource and should be protected and enhanced.
- Racecourse Meadows condition is unfavourable declining.
- Need to recognise the role of open space, street trees, allotments and other green infrastructure assets as important features which can support urban wildlife.
- The River Avon and other watercourses in the plan area are important to the towns biodiversity and natural environment and should be protected and improved.
- Biodiversity may be affected from noise and light pollution issues generated from increases in traffic flows.
- Enhancements to the area's green infrastructure network will support local and sub-regional biodiversity networks through helping to improve connectivity for habitats and species.

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# 6 Climate Change

## 6.1 Summary of policy and plan review

6.1.1 Climate-related PPPs focus on both mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to the effects of climate change. Commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have been introduced from the international level to the sub-regional level. The PPPs address policy development across all sectors and at all levels, combining both demand management (reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency of use) and supply side measures (low carbon options including fuel mix and renewables). A number of the PPPs state specific targets to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. This is led at the national level by the Climate Change Act (2008), which sets a legally binding target of at least a 34 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and at least an 80 per cent cut by 2050 against a 1990 baseline.

6.1.2 Adaptation measures proposed by the PPPs include a presumption against development in flood risk areas, appropriate design of new development, the promotion of new infrastructure such as sustainable urban drainage systems and improved maintenance to help address the changes that are likely to occur as a result of climate change. Through this approach the NPPF seeks to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.

## 6.2 Baseline data

**Potential effects of climate change**

6.2.1 Climatic and anthropogenic-induced climate change are increasing concerns for Stratford-upon-Avon. Locally defined levels of emissions are seen as contributing to national and international changes in climate with implications for a range of environmental and socio-economic receptors.

6.2.2 In June 2009 the outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team[6]. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

6.2.3 Stratford-upon-Avon falls within the West Midlands region. As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the West Midlands' climate by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario are likely to be as follows:

[6] The data was released in June 2009: See: http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/

Under medium emissions, the central estimate of increase in **winter mean temperature** is 2.1ºC; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.2ºC and is very unlikely to be more than 3.2ºC. A wider range of uncertainty is from 0.9ºC to 3.5ºC.

Under medium emissions, the central estimate of increase in **summer mean temperature** is 2.6ºC; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.2ºC and is very unlikely to be more than 4.4ºC. A wider range of uncertainty is from 1ºC to 4.8ºC.

Under medium emissions, the central estimate of increase in **summer mean daily maximum temperature** is 3.6ºC; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.3ºC and is very unlikely to be more than 6.5ºC. A wider range of uncertainty is from 1.1ºC to 7.2ºC.

Under medium emissions, the central estimate of increase in **summer mean daily minimum temperature** is 2.7ºC; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.1ºC and is very unlikely to be more than 4.8ºC. A wider range of uncertainty is from 1ºC to 5.3ºC.

Under medium emissions, the central estimate of change in **annual mean precipitation** is 0%; it is very unlikely to be less than –5% and is very unlikely to be more than 6%. A wider range of uncertainty is from –6% to 6%.

Under medium emissions, the central estimate of change in **winter mean precipitation** is 13%; it is very unlikely to be less than 2% and is very unlikely to be more than 27%. A wider range of uncertainty is from 1% to 30%.

Under medium emissions, the central estimate of change in **summer mean precipitation** is –17%; it is very unlikely to be less than –37% and is very unlikely to be more than 6%. A wider range of uncertainty is from –39% to 14%.

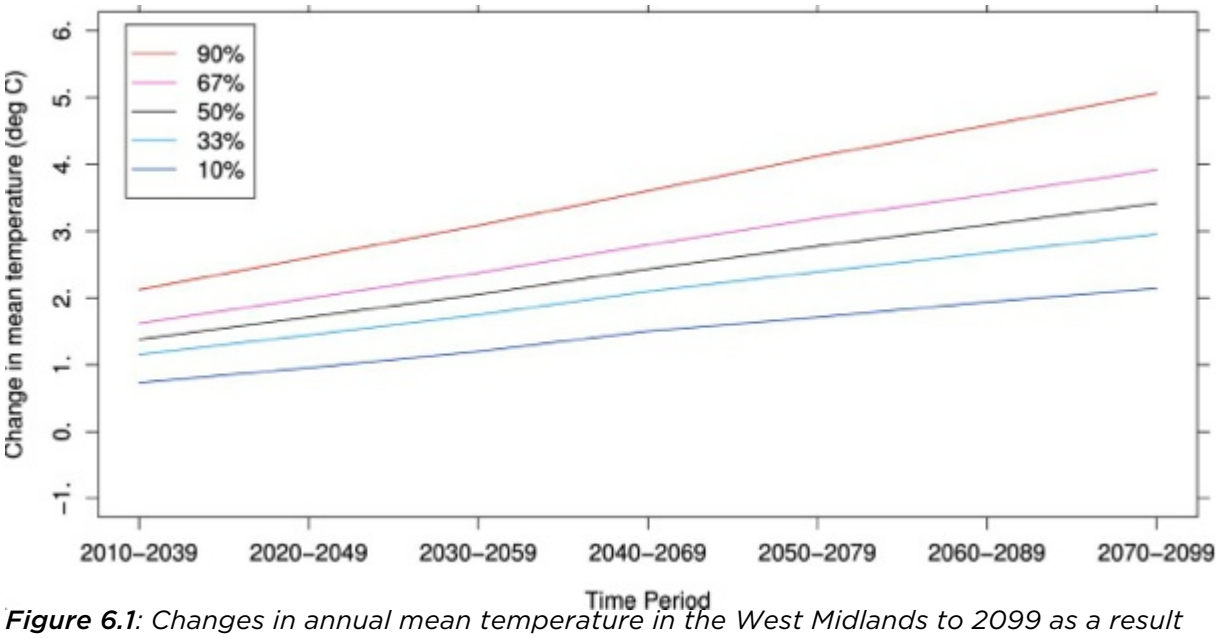


***Figure 6.1**: Changes in annual mean temperature in the West Midlands to 2099 as a result of a medium emissions scenario (UK Climate Projections 2012)*

6.2.4 **Figures 6.1, 6.2** and **6.3** are a series of graphs to illustrate UKCP09 information for the West Midlands region over a wider timescale to the end of the century. This is presented in five (10, 33, 50, 67 and 90%) probability levels for each 30-year time period:

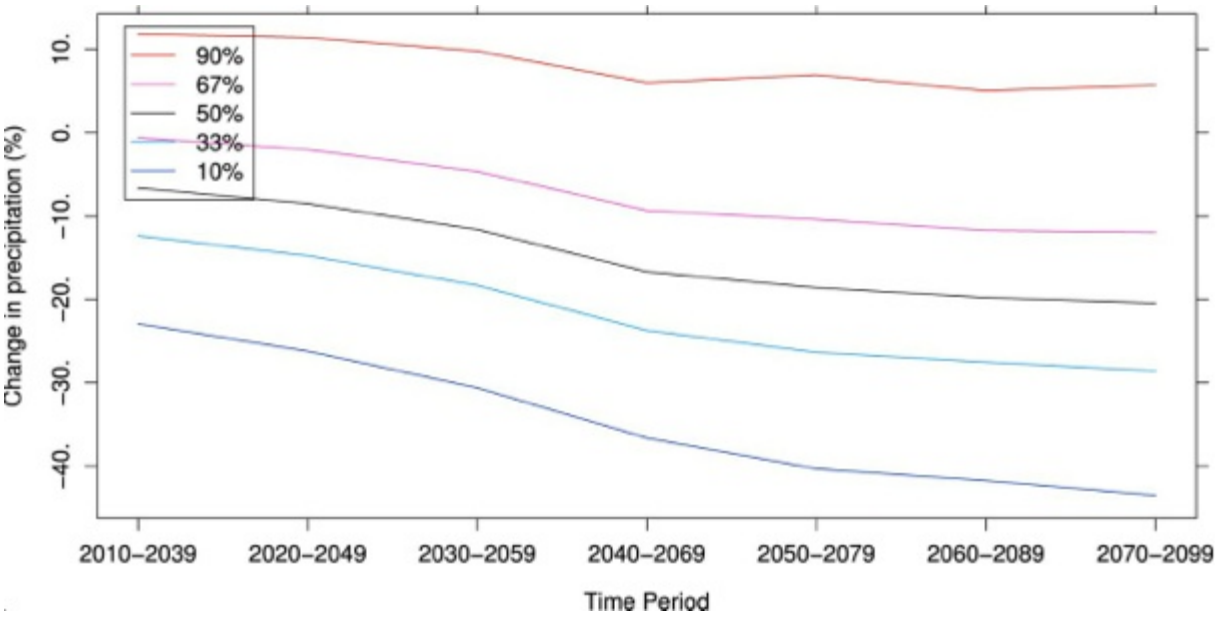


***Figure 6.2**: Changes in summer mean precipitation in the West Midlands to 2099 as a result of a medium emissions scenario (UK Climate Projections 2012)*

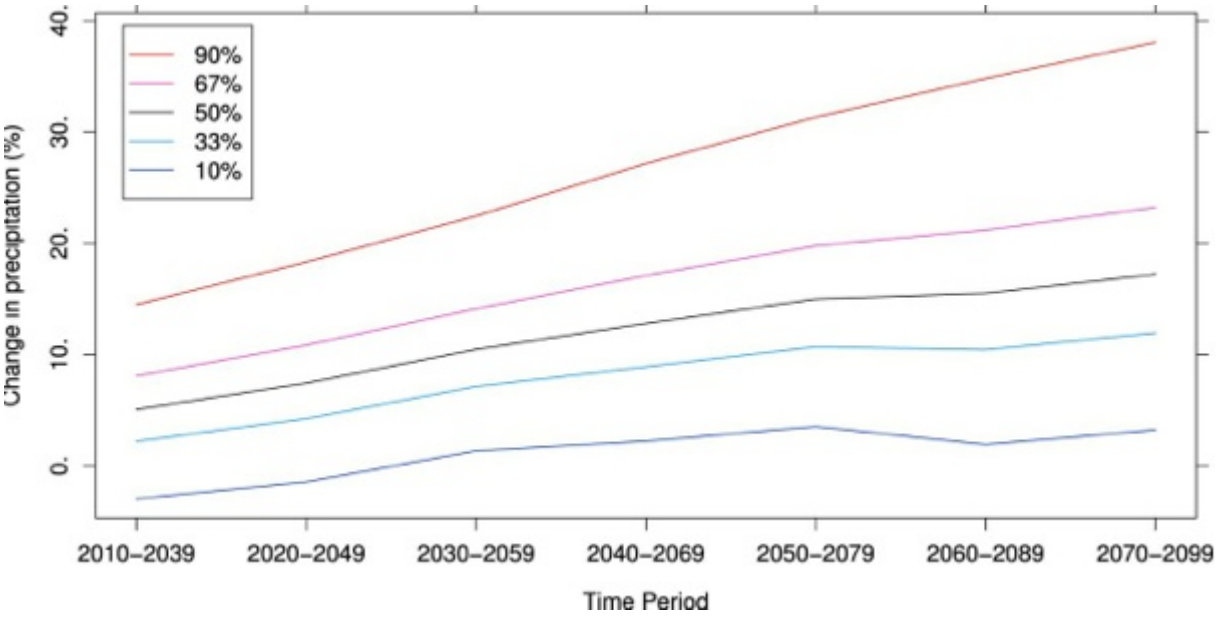


***Figure 6.3**: Changes in winter mean precipitation in the West Midlands to 2099 as a result of a medium emissions scenario (UK Climate Projections 2012)*

6.2.5 Resulting from these changes, the study has suggested that a variety of risks exist for the West Midlands. The risks relevant to Stratford-on-Avon resulting from climate change include as follows:

- Increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- Increase incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- Increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- Increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- Increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of surface water in reservoirs and rivers for abstraction in summer;
- Adverse effect on water quality from watercourse levels and turbulent flow after heavy rain and a reduction of water flow;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- Changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Increased likelihood of summer droughts and soil and water deficits, leading to demand for increased irrigation;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- Changes to global supply chain;
- Increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage more difficult due to higher temperatures;
- An increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for local business;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of rail tracks buckling due to increased temperature and road surfaces melting more frequently; and
- Flooding of roads and railways.

**Flooding**

6.2.6 Due to the impermeability of the underlying geology, and the size and shallow topography of much of the catchment area, fluvial flooding has been a historic risk for Stratford-on-Avon, and continues to be a significant issue for many areas of the district.

6.2.7 Many historic flood events have occurred in the district. The most recent major flood event were the July 2007 floods, which significantly affected many of the district's main settlements. The flood event led to 75 properties being flooded in Stratford-upon-Avon[7]. **Figure 6.4** shows that areas of Stratford-upon-Avon are already at significant risk of flooding from rivers. Climate change is likely to increase the risk of flooding.

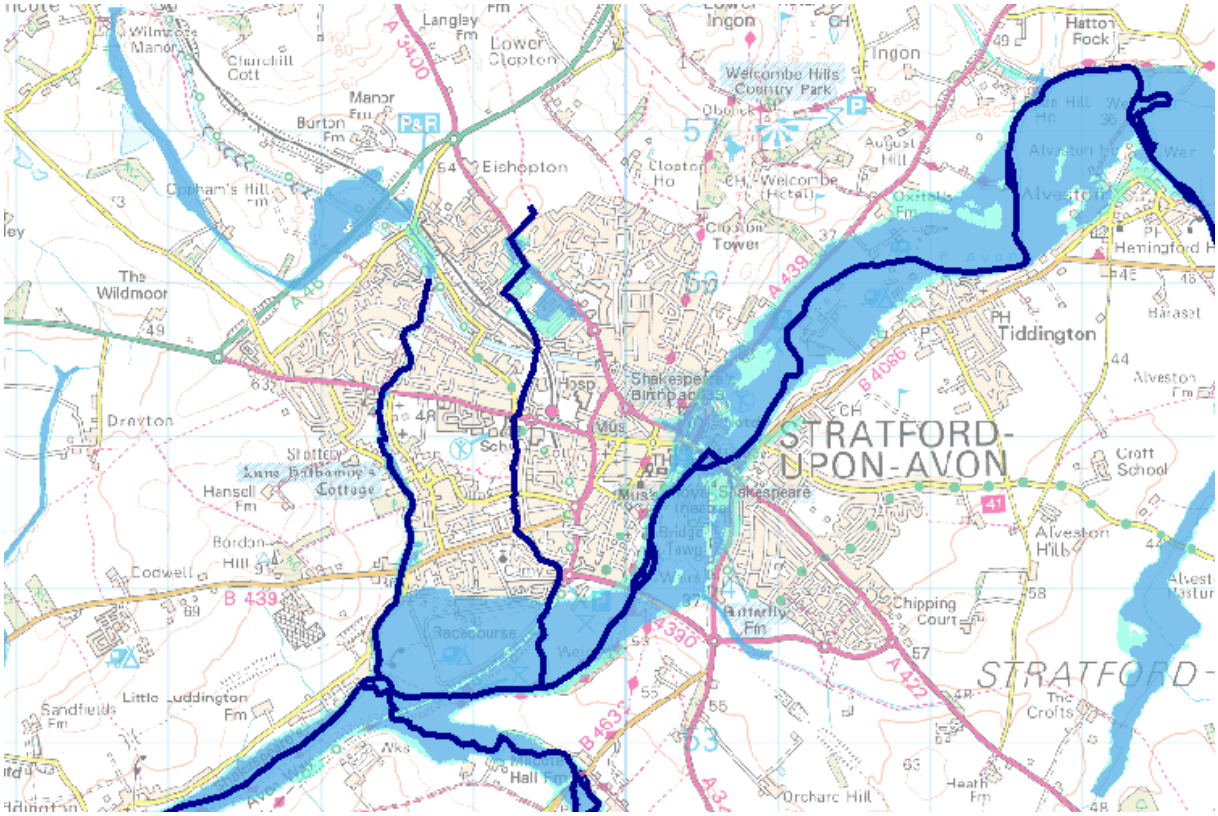


***Figure 6.4**: Risk of flooding from rivers and sea (Environment Agency 2013)*

6.2.8 Surface water flooding takes place when the ground, rivers and drainage systems cannot absorb heavy rainfall. Typically this type of flooding is localised and occurs quickly after heavy rain. It is often a significant issue in areas where natural drainage has been heavily modified. The more built up areas of the district are deemed to be particular risk from this type of flooding such as the urban area of Stratford-upon-Avon. Surface water flooding in combination with fluvial flooding can also be a significant issue, as highlighted by the July 2007 floods.

### Greenhouse gas emissions

6.2.9 Stratford-on-Avon's per capita $CO_2$ emissions are lower than the Warwickshire average. However, both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwickshire have significantly higher per capita emissions than regional (West Midlands) and country averages (**Table 6.1**). Over the period 2005 to 2011 emissions within Stratford-on-Avon fell at a similar rate to regional and country averages (**Figure 6.5**).

[7] Source, Environment Agency, Summary of July 2007 Flood Event, available on: http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/2CCEECB3DF671CB9802575EF0033B573/$file/Warwickshire.pdf

***Table 6.1**: per capita CO2 emissions (ONS 2013)*

| | Stratford-on-Avon | Warwickshire | West Midlands | England |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 10.8 | 12.5 | 8.2 | 8.5 |
| 2006 | 10.8 | 12.7 | 8.3 | 8.4 |
| 2007 | 10.5 | 12.9 | 8.1 | 8.2 |
| 2008 | 9.9 | 12.0 | 7.8 | 8.0 |
| 2009 | 9.1 | 11.1 | 7.0 | 7.1 |
| 2010 | 9.5 | 11.4 | 7.2 | 7.3 |
| 2011 | 9.1 | 10.9 | 6.7 | 6.7 |

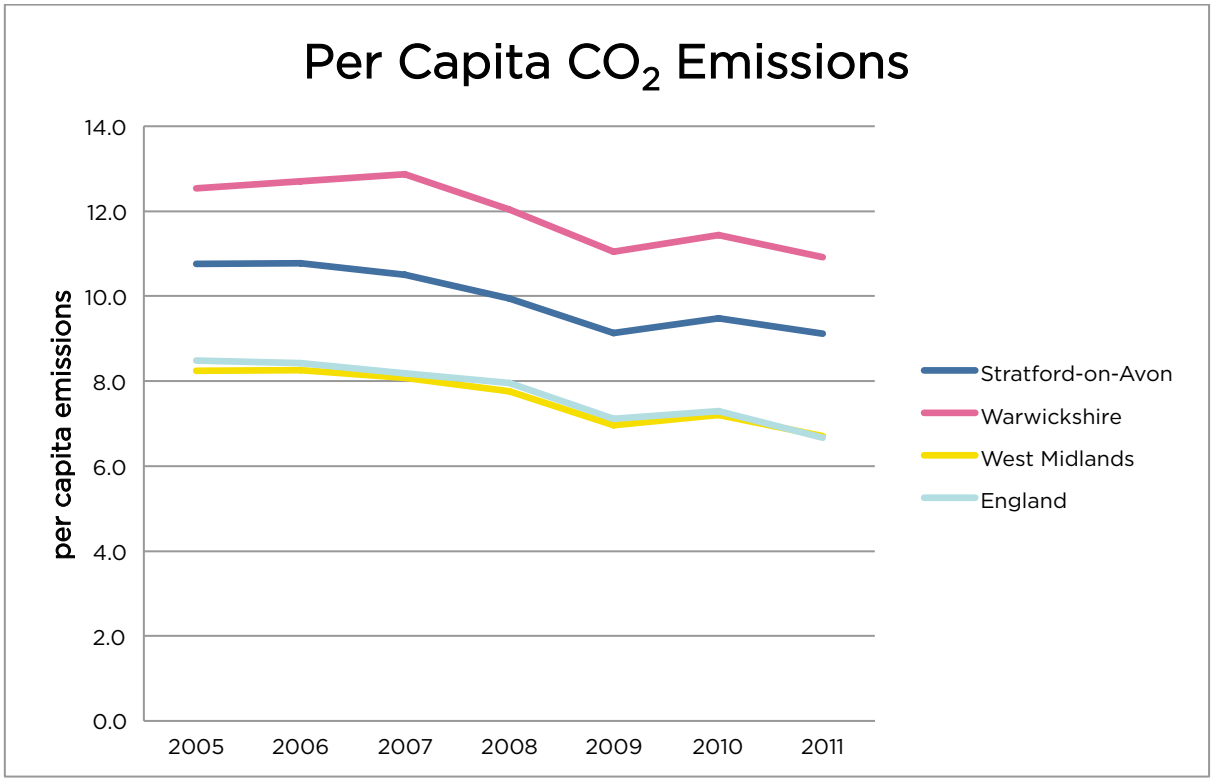


***Figure 6.5**: graphical representation of per capita emissions (ONS 2013)*

6.2.10 As **Table 6.2** and **Figure 6.6** highlight, the cause of $CO_2$ emissions by end user, over the period 2005 to 2011 the proportion of emissions from road transport was by far the highest of all sectors in Stratford-on-Avon, and significantly higher than from industrial/commercial and domestic sources, the other two major sources of emissions in the district. The proportion of greenhouse gas emissions from each sector largely stayed similar in the same period, with a slight decline in all sources in the latter years.

***Table 6.2**: CO2 emissions by end user (DECC 2013)*

| | Industry and Commercial | Domestic | Transport | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 302.6 | 319.2 | 587.1 | 1235.6 |
| | 24.5% | 25.8% | 47.5% | |
| 2006 | 317.9 | 325.7 | 587.2 | 1257.8 |
| | 25.3% | 25.9% | 46.7% | |
| 2007 | 305.2 | 319.0 | 594.5 | 1245.2 |
| | 24.5% | 25.6% | 47.7% | |
| 2008 | 296.2 | 314.7 | 554.8 | 1190.8 |
| | 24.9% | 26.4% | 46.6% | |
| 2009 | 252.1 | 287.0 | 529.3 | 1093.8 |
| | 23.1% | 26.2% | 48.4% | |
| 2010 | 268.4 | 310.0 | 537.7 | 1139.5 |
| | 23.6% | 27.2% | 47.2% | |
| 2011 | 266.8 | 274.2 | 537.3 | 1100.6 |
| | 24.2% | 24.9% | 48.8% | |

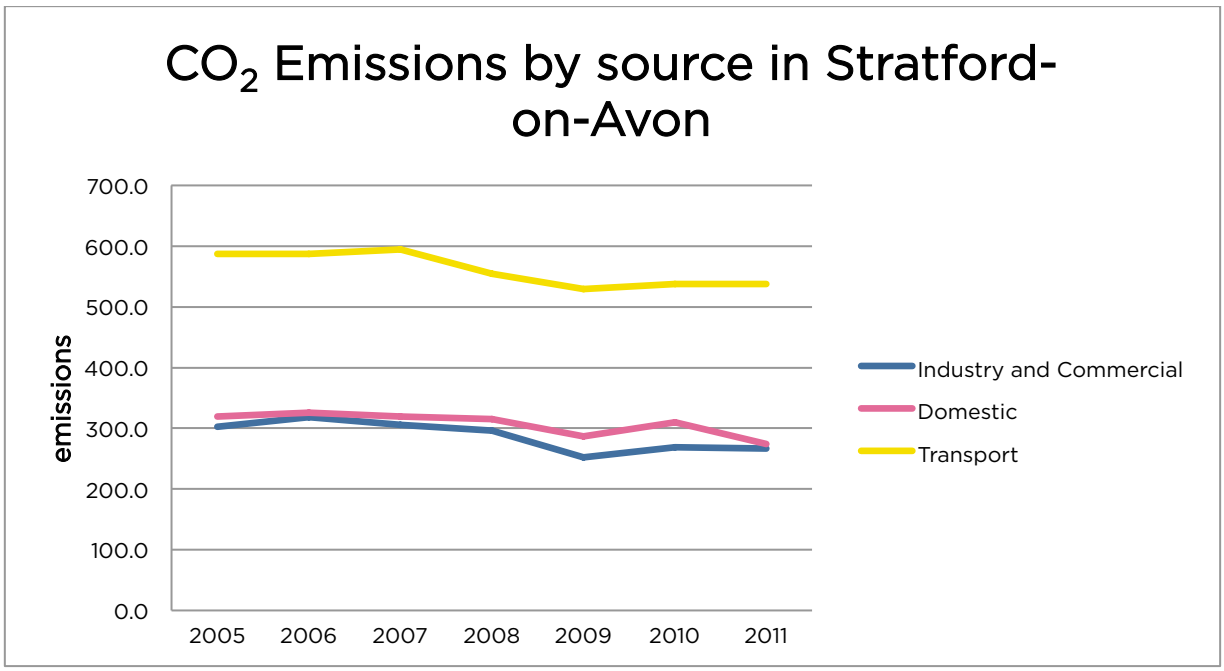


***Figure 6.6**: graphical representation of per capita emissions (created from DECC 2013)*

**Box 6.1:**
Key Climate Change Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- A range of further risks linked to climate change affect the AAP area. These include the following: an increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer; increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events; adverse effect on water quality from watercourse levels and turbulent flow after heavy rain and a reduction of water flow; a need to increase the capacity of sewers; loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution and spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution; an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for local business; and increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence.
- The proportion of emissions from originating from transport, industry, commercial and domestic sources has decreased across the district since 2005.
- Climate change has the potential to increase the risk of fluvial and surface water flooding
- High quality landscapes in the district have the potential to be affected by changes in rainfall, invasive species, changes in farming practices, soil erosion and renewable energy provision
- Transport is by far the sector with the highest emissions in Stratford-on-Avon. An increase in traffic from new growth areas in the district has the potential to undermine the realisation of the government target of a 34% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

# 7 Economic Factors

## 7.1 Summary of policy and plan review

7.1.1 The improvement and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment are key aims of the strategies at UK and European levels. Other objectives include improvements to the education system to increase the skill levels of both children and adults, as well as improved productivity and innovation, particularly with regards to technology.

7.1.2 At a regional and local level, emphasis is placed on community regeneration; improvements to the cultural and visitor economy; inward investment; and the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to improve efficiency and skills. One of the major aims of the Regional Economic Strategy is to close the West Midlands' output gap (£20 Billion as of 2011 (The Black Country Consortium 2011)) by seeking to raise output per head in the region to the average for the UK as a whole (Advantage West Midlands 2009).

## 7.2 Baseline data

### Economic performance

7.2.1 Within Stratford-upon-Avon parish there are 1,395 businesses (**Table 7.1**). The majority of these enterprises (40.9%) are over 10 years old, showing that the businesses in Stratford-upon-Avon are established. Figures for Stratford-upon-Avon show that there are fewer enterprises under two years old and more than ten years old than regionally, with higher figures in the middle bands of two to nine years.

7.2.2 The smaller amount of younger businesses within Stratford-upon-Avon shows that less start up enterprises are be locating in the area could be an indication of a lack of enterprise and entrepreneurship.

***Table 7.1**: Enterprises by Age of Business (ONS 2011)*

| | Stratford-upon-Avon | % | Stratford-on-Avon | % | West Midlands | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All VAT and/or PAYE Based Enterprises (Enterprises) | 1,395 | | 7,310 | | 171,405 | |
| Less than 2 Years Old (Enterprises) | 180 | 12.9 | 890 | 12.2 | 23,850 | 13.9 |
| 2 to 3 Years Old (Enterprises) | 235 | 16.8 | 985 | 13.5 | 24,105 | 14.1 |
| 4 to 9 Years Old (Enterprises) | 410 | 29.4 | 2,135 | 29.2 | 47,595 | 27.8 |
| 10 or More Years Old (Enterprises) | 570 | 40.9 | 3,300 | 45.1 | 75,855 | 44.3 |

***Table 7.2**: Number of all VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises (ONS 2010)*

| | Stratford-on-Avon | West Midlands | England |
|---|---|---|---|
| March 2008 | 7,525 | 178,680 | 1,851,205 |
| March 2009 | 7,450 | 177,195 | 1,844,030 |
| March 2010 | 7,310 | 171,405 | 1,797,910 |

7.2.3 Over time the amount of businesses in Stratford-on-Avon has fallen, this trend is seen both regionally and country wide (**Table 7.2**).

**Employment and earnings**

7.2.4 Both employment and unemployment levels in Stratford-on-Avon have been falling in since 2009 (**Table 7.3**).

***Table 7.3**: Employment and Unemployment Rate in Stratford-on-Avon (ONS 2013b)*

| | Employment % | Unemployment % |
|---|---|---|
| 2009 | 78.7 | 4.4 |
| 2010 | 83.1 | 4.1 |
| 2011 | 77.4 | 3.9 |
| 2012 | 73 | 4.5 |
| 2013 | 74.4 | 3.7 |

7.2.5 According to the Official Labour Market Statistics, there are a range of sectors and occupations providing employment in Stratford-on-Avon (see **Table 7.4**).

***Table 7.4**: Employment by occupation (ONS 2010)*

| | Stratford-on-Avon (numbers) | Stratford-on-Avon (%) | West Midlands (%) | Great Britain (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Managers, directors and senior officials | 10,500 | 18.4 | 10 | 10.2 |
| Professional occupations | 12,400 | 21.7 | 17.6 | 19.6 |
| Associate professional & technical | 6,200 | 10.9 | 11.9 | 14.1 |
| Administrative & secretarial | 5,500 | 9.6 | 10.4 | 10.9 |
| Skilled trades occupations | 5,400 | 9.5 | 11.6 | 10.4 |
| Caring, leisure and Other Service occupations | 3,500 | 6.2 | 9.4 | 8.9 |
| Sales and customer service occupations | 4,100 | 7.1 | 8.5 | 8 |
| Elementary occupations | 6,900 | 12.2 | 11.7 | 10.9 |

7.2.6 As highlighted by **Table 7.4** the district has a higher proportion of the workforce working in in managerial, senior and professional occupations. This reflects the highly skilled nature of the workforce, and the trend of out commuting for higher paid jobs from the district to surrounding urban areas such as Birmingham, Oxford, Coventry and other employment centres. The district also has a significantly higher proportion of the workforce working in tourism-related occupations. This reflects the importance of the district's visitor economy. Of the jobs located in the district, there is a high level of self-employment at 12.6% of all jobs[8].

7.2.7 According to the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2010, median weekly earnings for full time workers working in the district were £498 compared to £467 for that in the West Midlands and £500 in Great Britain. Average incomes in the district are therefore higher than regional averages and similar to national averages.

7.2.8 **Table 7.5** shows that skills levels are high in Stratford-on-Avon. A significantly higher proportion of the district's working age population has higher level qualifications compared to West Midlands and Great Britain averages, with far fewer residents (17.3%) of Stratford-upon-Avon failing to achieve any qualifications. Educational performance also continues to exceed regional and national levels in the district: in 2009, a higher proportion of students achieved 5+ GCSEs at grade A*-C (74.3%) in Stratford-on-Avon than regional (70.1%) and national averages (69.8%)[9].

***Table 7.5**: Highest level of qualification in Stratford-upon-Avon parish (ONS 2011)*

| | Stratford-upon-Avon | Stratford-on-Avon | West Midlands | England |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No Qualifications | 17.3% | 19.3% | 26.6% | 22.5% |
| Level 1 Qualifications | 11.4% | 12.0% | 13.7% | 13.3% |
| Level 2 Qualifications | 15.0% | 15.6% | 15.4% | 15.2% |
| Apprenticeship | 3.1% | 3.6% | 3.3% | 3.6% |
| Level 3 Qualifications | 11.3% | 11.7% | 12.3% | 12.4% |
| Level 4 Qualifications and Above | 35.8% | 33.4% | 23.3% | 27.4% |
| Other Qualifications | 6.1% | 4.4% | 5.4% | 5.7% |

**Box 7.1:**
Key Economic factors Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- Tourism and the visitor economy are important for the local economy.
- New business start ups should be encouraged in the district.
- The residents of Stratford-upon-Avon are highly skilled, with higher average incomes.

[8] From: http://www.stratford.gov.uk/business/index.cfm

[9] Source: Neighbourhood Statistics. Figures are for September 2008-August 2009.

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# 8 Health

## 8.1 Summary of policy and plan review

8.1.1 Health related PPPs focus on improving rates of infant mortality and life expectancy; reducing work related illness and accidents; significantly improving levels of sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups; promoting healthier modes of travel; supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices in regards to their health; improving accessibility to healthcare and leisure/recreational facilities; and reducing health inequalities, particularly for children and older people.

## 8.2 Baseline data

8.2.1 The health of residents in Stratford-on-Avon is generally very good, with 48.2% of people in the district describing their health as very good (2011 Census). Whilst in many respects health in Stratford-on-Avon is favourable, there are a number of aspects relating to health which have the potential to be improved.

8.2.2 Data on Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants gives an indication of prevalence of disability among the population. Stratford-on-Avon has a total of 4,110 DLA claimants. The ward with the highest number of DLA claimants is Stratford Avenue and New Town which has almost 8% of all DLA claimants in Stratford-on-Avon (.Stratford-on-Avon 'Mini' JSNA Profile, NHS Warwickshire et al, 2011). DLA under-16 claimants' data indicates the number of children living with a disability in Stratford-on-Avon District. Figures in November 2011 show that there were 570 Disability Living Allowance claimants aged under-16. Stratford Avenue and New Town ward had the highest under-16 claimants as a percentage of all under-16 claimants (13%).[10]

8.2.3 Forecasts show that the number of people aged 65 and over predicted to have dementia is likely to increase by almost 100% between now and 2030. Dementia is most likely to increase in people aged over 90.

8.2.4 Average life expectancy in Stratford-on-Avon is 79.5 for men and 83 for women (2011 Census). Although this is higher than averages for England (78.3 and 82.3), life expectancy is lower in those parts of the district which exhibit forms of deprivation. For example, in the most deprived areas of Stratford-on-Avon, on average, the predicted life expectancy for men is four years and women 3 years less for those living in the least deprived areas of the district[11]. **Figure 8.1** highlights the health inequalities present in the district.

[10] Stratford-on-Avon 'Mini' JSNA Profile, NHS Warwickshire et al, 2011

[11] Department of Health, Stratford-on-Avon Health Profile 2010: http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=49802

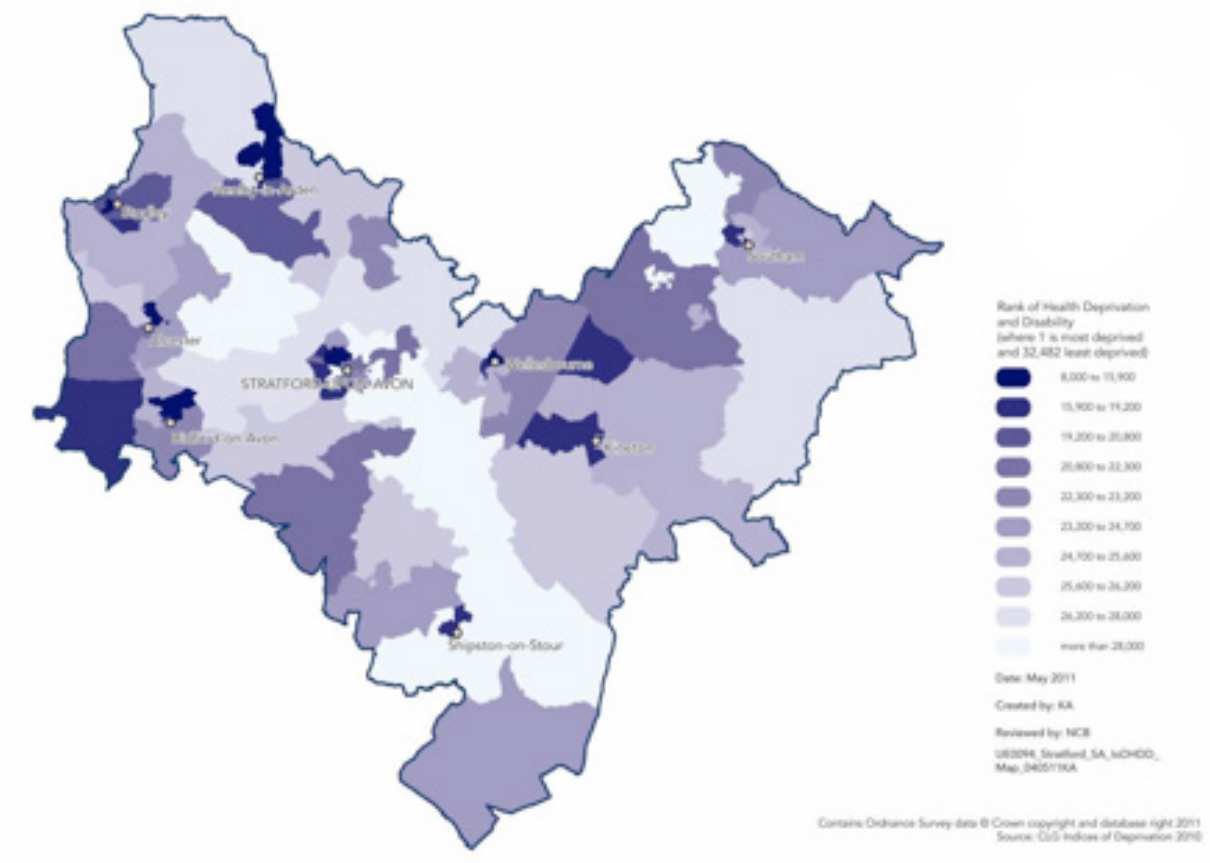


***Figure 8.1**: Index of Multiple Deprivation in Stratford-on-Avon: Health deprivation and disability (source: ONS 2010)*

8.2.5 Rates of early death from heart disease and stroke and from cancer have fallen over the past 10 years and both remain below the England average. Indicators of child health are also mostly good in the district and levels of tooth decay in children aged 5 years, the percentage of children in Reception year classified as obese and rates of teenage pregnancy are all lower than the England average, although rates are increasing[12]

8.2.6 Indictors that are worse than the rest of England include:

- Road deaths and seriously injured
- Hospital admissions due to land transport injury
- Hospital admissions due to unintentional poisoning

8.2.7 The health summary in **Figure 8.2** highlights the generally high levels of health in the district.

[12] Stratford on Avon Mini JSNA Profile, NHS Warwickshire et al, 2011

| Domain | Indicator | Stratford-on-Avon 2012 | Trend | Warwickshire 2012 | Variation across Districts | England 2012 | Data |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Communities | Deprivation | 0 | → | 5.6 | 0.0-18.4 | 19.8 | % living in deprivation |
| | Proportion of Children in poverty | 10.7 | ↑ | 15 | 10.7-20.9 | 21.9 | % |
| | Statutory homelessness | 1.4 | ↑ | 1.6 | 0.8-2.1 | 2 | Rate per 1,000 households |
| | GCSE achieved (5A*-C inc. Eng & Maths) | 70 | ↑ | 60.5 | 49.1-70 | 58.4 | % |
| | Violent Crime | 7 | ↓ | 10 | 7-14.5 | 14.8 | Rate per 1,000 |
| | Long Term Unemployment | 1.7 | ↓ | 3.3 | 1.7-5.1 | 5.7 | Rate per 1,000 |
| Children's and young people | Smoking in pregnancy | 16.7 | ↑ | 16.7 | 16.7 | 13.7 | % |
| | Breast feeding initiation | 71.6 | ↓ | 71.6 | 71.6 | 74.5 | % |
| | Obese children (year 6) | 15.8 | ↑ | 16.2 | 13.9-19.5 | 19 | % |
| | Alcohol-specific hospital stays (under 18) | 44.1 | n/a | 63.9 | 44.1-82.1 | 61.8 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Teenage pregnancy (under 18) | 23.7 | ↓ | 36 | 23.7-48.8 | 38.1 | Rate per 1,000 |
| Adult's health and lifestyle | Adults smoking | 18.9 | ↑ | 19.3 | 15.5-22.4 | 20.7 | % |
| | Increasing and higher risk drinking | 24 | ↑ | 23.3 | 22.1-24 | 22.3 | % |
| | Healthy eating adults | 32.6 | → | 28.2 | 22.6-32.6 | 28.7 | % |
| | Physically active adults | 13.3 | ↑ | 10.6 | 9.5-13.3 | 11.2 | % |
| | Obese adults | 23.5 | → | 25.5 | 21.4-29.8 | 24.2 | % |
| Disease and poor health | Incidence of malignant melanoma | 17 | ↑ | 13.1 | 6.7-17 | 13.6 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Hospital stays for self-harm | 149.4 | ↑ | 189.3 | 120.1-257.2 | 212 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Hospital stays for alcohol related harm | 1519 | ↑ | 1,693 | 1519-1935 | 1,895 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Drug misuse | 3.2 | ↓ | 6 | 3.2-8.4 | 8.9 | Rate per 1,000 |
| | People diagnosed with diabetes | 4.7 | ↑ | 5.2 | 4.6-6.3 | 5.5 | % |
| | New cases of tuberculosis | 3.4 | ↑ | 9.7 | 3.4-18.2 | 15.3 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Acute sexually transmitted infections | 445 | n/a | 664 | 445-862 | 775 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Hip fracture in over-65s | 452 | ↓ | 465 | 413-555 | 452 | Rate per 100,000 |
| Life expectancy and causes of death | Excess winter deaths | 18.6 | ↓ | 17.9 | 14.2-24.5 | 18.7 | Ratio |
| | Life expectancy – male | 80.4 | ↑ | 79.1 | 77.5-80.4 | 78.6 | Years at birth |
| | Life expectancy – female | 83.5 | ↑ | 83 | 81.9-84.3 | 82.6 | Years at birth |
| | Infant deaths | 5.8 | ↑ | 5 | 2.8-6.4 | 4.6 | Rate per 1,000 |
| | Smoking related deaths | 146 | ↓ | 178 | 146-226 | 211 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Early deaths: heart disease & stroke | 41.9 | ↓ | 57.5 | 41.9-75.5 | 67.3 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Early deaths: cancer | 95.6 | ↓ | 101.6 | 95.2-111.5 | 110.1 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Road injuries and deaths | 74.6 | ↓ | 59.6 | 39.9-89.4 | 44.3 | Rate per 100,000 |
| Health Protection | Chlamydia | 106 | n/a | 132.45 | 87.7-183.4 | n/a | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Gonorrhoea | 9 | → | 27.6 | 7.5-56.7 | 39.1 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Syphilis | n/a | n/a | 3.3 | n/a | 5.4 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Herpes | 49 | ↑ | 61.5 | 40.6-71.8 | 58.1 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Warts | 150 | ↑ | 134.1 | 98.2-155.5 | 141.8 | Rate per 100,000 |
| | Flu Vaccinations in over 65s | n/a | n/a | 74.6 | 59.6-89.9 | n/a | % |

***Figure 8.2*** *Health Summary for Stratford on Avon (JSNA, 2011)*

8.2.8 In the 2011 Census, 48.2% of people reported that they were in 'very good health', with 0.9% reporting that they were of 'very bad health'. **Table 8.1** indicates that Stratford-on-Avon has both higher levels of very good health and lower levels of 'very bad' health in comparison to regional and national averages. Likewise, the 2011 Census also reported that 28% of households in Stratford-on-Avon had one or more people with a limiting long-term illness (LLTI); this is lower than both West Midlands and England averages.

***Table 8.1**: Limiting long-term illness and levels of health in Stratford-on-Avon.*[13]

| | % of people with a limiting long-term illness | % of people with 'very good' health | % of people with 'very bad' health |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stratford-on-Avon | 28.85% | 48.2% | 0.9% |
| West Midlands | 35.71% | 45.1% | 1.4% |
| England | 33.55% | 33.55% | 1.2% |

8.2.9 In England, obesity is responsible for 9,000 premature deaths each year, and reduces life expectancy by, on average, nine years. Alongside, an ageing population has the potential to have implications for services in the district. This stems from the impact of the growth of the older population on the development of health and social care services. An ageing population will also increase the dependency ratio in the district.

**Open Space, Sports and Recreational facilities**

8.2.10 The Green Infrastructure Study for the Stratford-on-Avon District (UE Associates, now Lepus Consulting, 2011) advises that there are a range of sports and recreational facilities in Stratford-upon-Avon, including: 23 senior, junior and mini football pitches; six cricket pitches; twelve rugby pitches; 23 tennis courts; one bowls green; five hockey pitches; and 13 netball courts.

8.2.11 The Riverside area provides significant areas of open space including Bancroft Gardens on the west bank of the river and a large area of open space on the eastern side of the river, where Stratford Recreation Ground is situated. Stratford Recreation Ground is a district-wide green infrastructure resource, including football pitches, local cafes and refreshment stands, an extensive children's playground, mini golf and a paddling pool.

8.2.12 In terms of open space provision in the town; the PPG17 Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment completed in April 2011 (Arup, 2011) advises that there is a marginal under provision of parks, gardens and amenity greenspace in Stratford-upon-Avon. There is open space in Stratford Recreation Ground and Bancroft Gardens, there are also parks and gardens in the town including those at Cottage Lane, Firs Garden, Foxtail Close, Memorial Gardens, Shottery Brook, Shottery Fields and Theatre Gardens. There are also over 20 further areas of amenity greenspace in the town.

8.2.13 The Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment (Arup 2011) suggests that there are 27.51ha of such provision in the town, with a provision of 1.14ha per 1,000 population.

[13] Source: National Statistics Online. 2011 Census Data [online]. Available from: http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

**Box 8.1:**
Key Health Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- Whilst health levels are generally high in Stratford-on-Avon, health inequalities exist between the most and least deprived areas of the district, which includes areas within the NDP area.
- Stratford-on-Avon, in common with many other areas, is experiencing an ageing population. This will have implications for health service provision and accessibility to other services, facilities and amenities, including an increasing proportion of the population with dementia.
- there is an identified shortfall in the provision of mini and junior football pitches and junior rugby pitches, as well as a shortfall of play space for children and young people. Further housing development will put pressure on play and sports provision

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# 9 Historic Environment and Townscape

## 9.1 Summary of policy and plan review

9.1.1 Historic environment priorities, from the international to the local level seek to address a range of issues. These include protecting designated resources and their settings (such as listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, and registered parks and gardens); recognising the cultural aspects of landscape and establishing mechanisms for their protection against inappropriate development; recognising the potential value of unknown and undesignated resources; and preserving/enhancing sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic interest so that they may be enjoyed by both present and future generations.

## 9.2 Summary of baseline data

**Designated and non-designated features**

9.2.1 Until the end of the twelfth century, Stratford–upon-Avon was a village, with its houses clustered round the parish church. Then, in 1196, the lord of the manor, wishing to raise Stratford's status to that of a town, laid out a grid of streets on adjacent land to encourage the development of an urban community.

9.2.2 Eight hundred years later, the consequences of this act of town planning are still clearly reflected in the regular grid layout of the town's main streets, and in the distance of the parish church from what, after 1196, became the town centre.

9.2.3 Less obvious at first glance is the 'historic spine'; the main route through the town which provided the vital link between the new town centre and the old parish church. High Street, as its name indicates, was one of the earliest streets to be developed. It was the continuation of this, via Chapel Street, Church Street and Old Town, which was to provide that link.

9.2.4 It is no accident that along this age-old route are to be found the finest of Stratford's buildings, ranging in date from the fourteenth to the twentieth centuries. At the 'town end' it can be extended north-west along the line of Henley Street, another old route incorporated into the 'new town'[14].

9.2.5 The preservation of the town's medieval character and layout stems from the decline of the wool trade at the end of the 16th Century with modest change occurring as a result of the canal and then the railway.

9.2.6 Other factors that have shaped the town include:

[14] http://www.stratfordsociety.co.uk/spine.htm (accessed 17th December 2013)

- The Roman occupation of the area, highlighted by the site of the Romano-British settlement at Tiddington;
- The development of Stratford-upon-Avon as a Market Town and centre for trade for the surrounding region in the 13th and 14th Centuries;
- 
- The opening of the canal system from the early 1800s, including the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal, the Oxford Canal and the Grand Union Canal;
- The growth of tourism in the late 19th Century, including linked to the district's cultural association with William Shakespeare.

9.2.7 This rich history is reflected by the district's diverse cultural heritage resource. The Central part of the town is designated as a Conservation Area, within which there are a substantial number of listed buildings, and it extends eastwards to cover the river environs. Clopton Bridge is an Ancient Monument, as is the Romano British settlement at Tiddington (**Figure 9.1**).

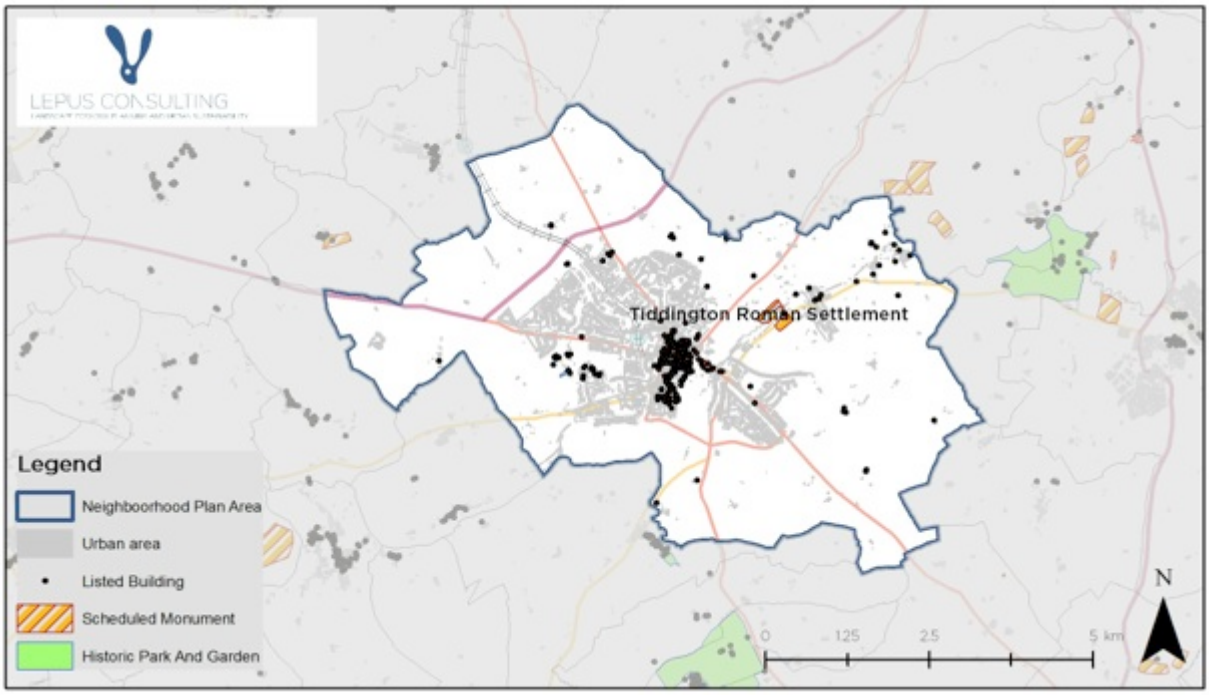


***Figure 9.1**: Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings within the Stratford-upon-Avon NDP*

9.2.8 Many important features and areas for the historic environment in Stratford-upon-Avon are recognised through historic environment designations. These include listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments, which are nationally designated, and the Conservation Area, which was designated at the local level. English Heritage is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms.

9.2.9 Listed buildings are those which have been placed on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The listed buildings within the Stratford-upon-Avon NDP area are shown on **Figure 9.1.**

9.2.10 Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Local authorities have the power to designate as conservation areas in any area of 'special architectural or historic interest' whose character or appearance is worth protecting or enhancing. This is judged against local and regional criteria, rather than national importance as is the case with listing. Conservation Area designation increases the local planning authority's control over demolition of buildings and over certain alterations to residential properties which would normally be classed as 'permitted development' and not require planning permission.

9.2.11 The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest was first published by English Heritage in 1988. Although inclusion on the Register brings no additional statutory controls, registration is a material consideration in planning terms. Parks and gardens are registered as: Grade I, which are parks and gardens deemed to be of international importance; Grade II*, which are parks and gardens deemed to be of exceptional significance; and Grade II, which are deemed to be of sufficiently high level of interest to merit a national designation. Within the NDP area, Anne Hathaway's Cottage is a Grade I Listed Building and Grade II Registered Garden[15]:

9.2.12 Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The Risk Register identifies the Toll House at Clopton Bridge as being at risk. This is a Grade I Listed Building[16]. at risk.

9.2.13 It should be noted that not all of the Town's historic environment resource are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a significant aspect of heritage which is often experienced on a daily basis by many people – whether at home, work or leisure. Whilst not listed, many buildings and other neighbourhood features are of historic interest. Likewise, not all nationally important archaeological remains are scheduled.

**Landscape and Townscape**

9.2.14 The landscape character of Stratford-on-Avon reflects both natural factors, including geology, landform and ecology, and human influences. Due to this interaction between natural and human influences, the historic environment and landscape character in the district are closely linked.

[15] Source: English Heritage, The National Heritage List for England: http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/ [accessed 17th December 2013]

[16] Heritage at Risk Register, http//risk.english heritage.org.uk (accessed 17th December 2013)

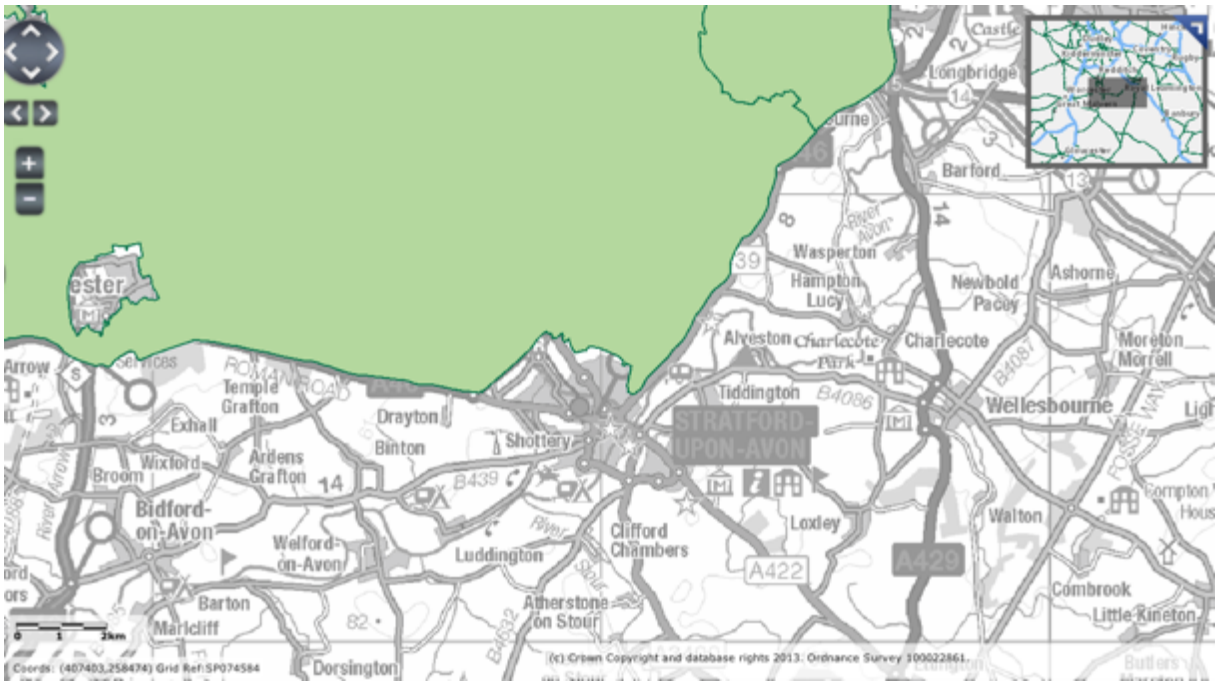


***Figure 9.2**: Green belt designations (MAGIC 2013)*

9.2.15 The West Midlands Green Belt extends into the north of the NDP area (**Figure 9.2**). Whilst the green belt is not a landscape designation, it is a significant element of landscape protection in the area. Green Belts are intended to[17]:

- Check the unrestricted sprawl of larger built-up areas;
- Prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another;
- Assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- Preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- Assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

**Landscape Sensitivity**

9.2.16 The landscape sensitivity assessment carried out by established that the majority of the rural urban fringe surrounding Stratford-upon-Avon is highly sensitive to residential and particularly commercial development. Only the west and north west areas of Stratford-upon-Avon have areas which are of medium and low sensitivity. This is shown in **Figures 9.3** and **9.4.**

[17] Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts (1995) http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg2

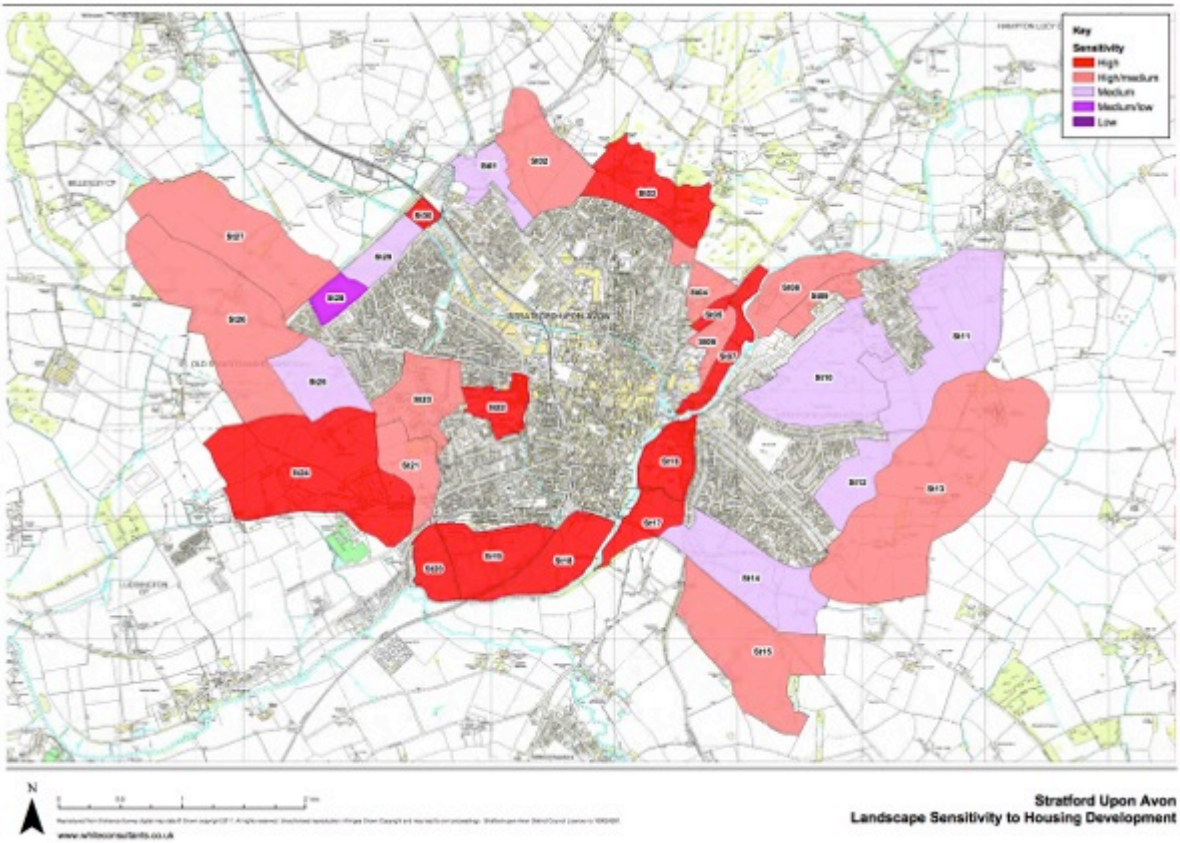


***Figure 9.3**: Stratford-upon-Avon Landscape Sensitivity to housing development (White Consultants 2011)*

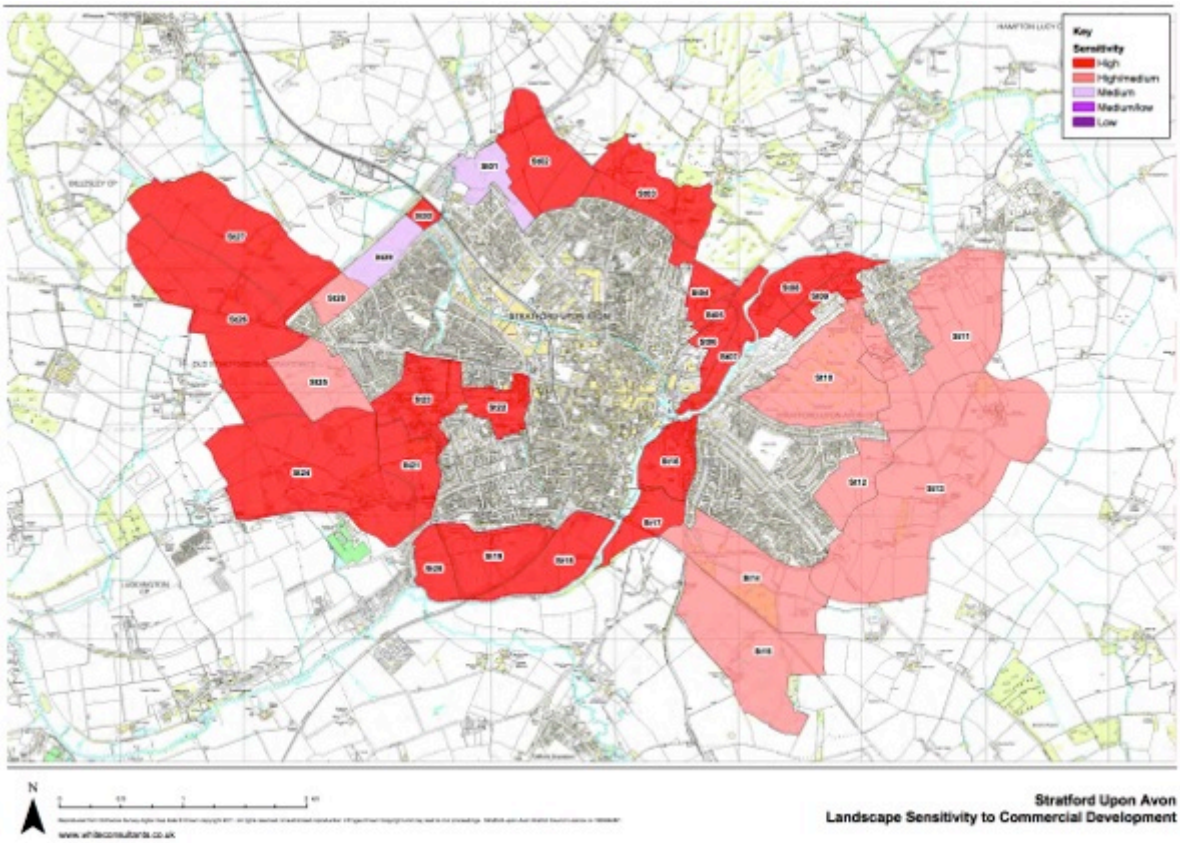


***Figure 9.4**: Stratford-upon-Avon Landscape Sensitivity to commercial development (White Consultants 2011)*

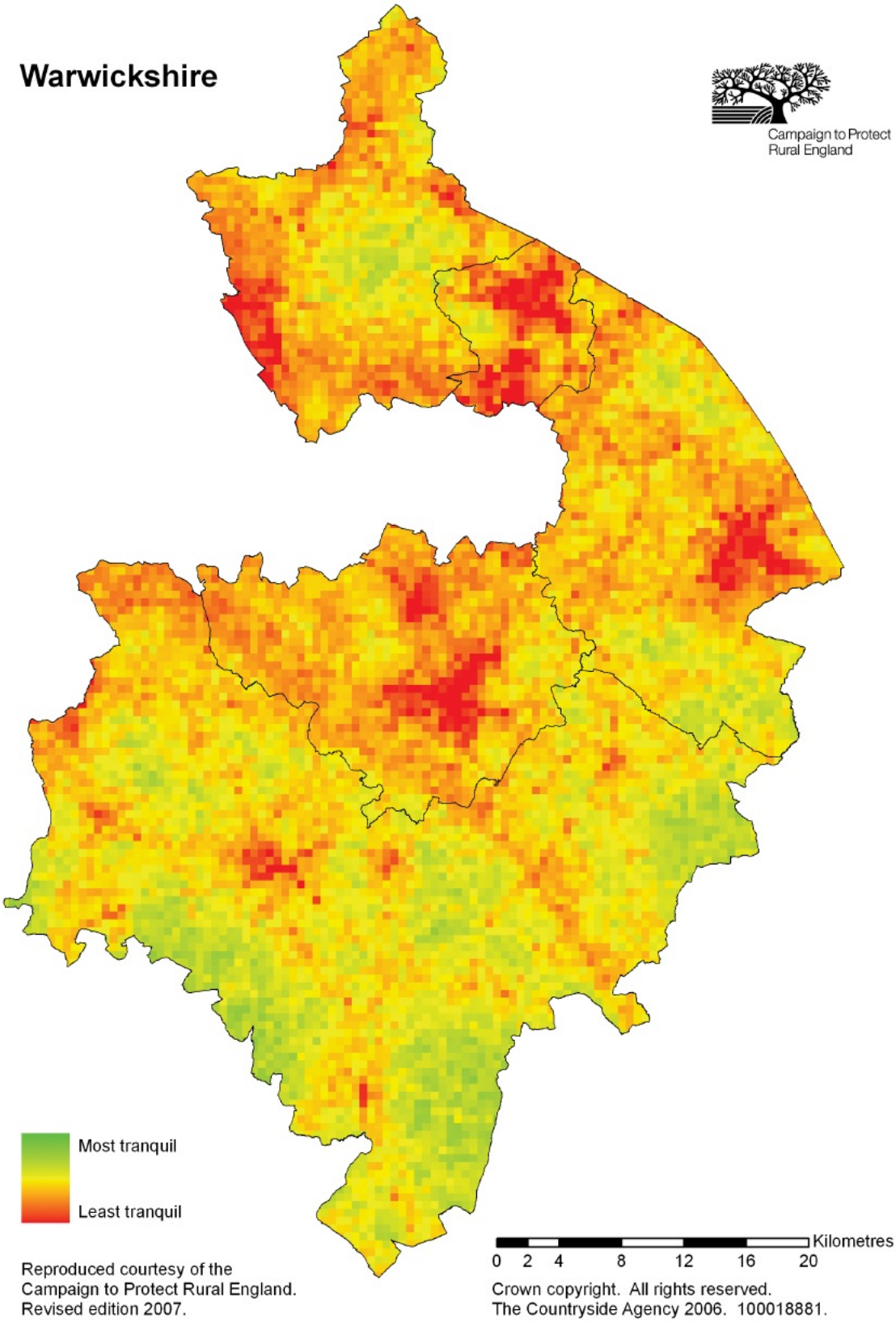


***Figure 9.5**: Tranquillity in Warwickshire (CPRE 2010)*

### Tranquillity

9.2.17 New employment, residential and retail growth in the district can have significant effects on landscape quality, including through impacts on noise pollution, light pollution and broader effects on people's perceptions of tranquillity. Since 2004 CPRE have undertaken a study of tranquillity in England, which has examined a range of factors including topographical factors, light pollution, noise pollution, the location of man made features, people's perceptions of tranquillity and other influences. Based on these factors an appraisal of tranquillity has been carried out for the whole of England, which has mapped the country through 500m by 500m quadrants[18].

9.2.18 **Figure 9.5** presents the findings of the CPRE assessment of tranquillity in Warwickshire. The map highlights that the district is more tranquil than other areas in Warwickshire. However there are significant variations in tranquillity around Stratford-upon-Avon, Alcester, Wellesbourne, Southam, Shipston-on-Stour, the M40 corridor.

**Box 10.1:**
Key Historic Environment Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- Increasing traffic flows and congestion in the town could affect the integrity of historic environment assets and their settings.
- There is an opportunity to protect and enhance the historic spine within the Town centre.
- Development in the NDP area have the potential to lead to effects on historic landscapes and cause direct damage to archaeological sites, monuments and buildings and / or their settings.
- Archaeological remains, both seen and unseen have the potential to be affected by new development areas
- The area to the north of Stratford-upon-Avon is part of the West Midlands Green Belt
- The majority of the rural urban fringe to the north, east and south of Stratford-upon-Avon is highly sensitive to both commercial and housing development, areas to the west of the town have a lower landscape sensitivity, particularly to housing development.
- Stratford-upon-Avon is one of the least tranquil areas in Stratford-on-Avon

[18] A more detailed description of the methodology used can be found on: CPRE, http://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/countryside/tranquil-places/in-depth/item/1688-how-we-mapped-tranquillity

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# 10 Housing

## 10.1 Summary of policy and plan review

10.1.1 National and sub-regional objectives for housing include improvements in housing affordability; high quality housing; a more stable housing market; improved choice; location of housing supply which supports accessibility and patterns of economic development; and an adequate supply of publicly-funded housing for those who need it. In addition, new homes should meet high Code for Sustainable Homes ratings in terms of water and energy efficiency, and meet the government target of zero carbon emissions by 2016.

10.1.2 Local plans and strategies focus on the affordability of housing, the quality of housing, access to services, and meeting the housing needs of vulnerable people. The housing needs of elderly people, disabled people and gypsies, travellers and travelling show-people are also provided with a focus by relevant policies.

## 10.2 Baseline data

10.2.1 The housing stock of Stratford-on-Avon was 52,400 dwellings in April 2010[19]. Approximately 77% were owner-occupied, 10% were rented privately and 13% were housing association affordable rented properties[20].

10.2.2 As highlighted by the latest Annual Monitoring Report[21] a substantial amount of housing development has taken place in the district in recent decades. The overall number of dwellings has increased by 40% between 1981 and 2010. Much of this has been concentrated in the larger settlements, with Stratford-upon-Avon seeing an increase in dwellings of 50%.

### House prices and affordable housing

10.2.3 The average house price in Stratford-on-Avon District was £269,000 in Spring 2012 compared to £203,000 for Warwickshire as a whole. Average prices vary from £130,000 for a flat or maisonette (on average across the District) to £414,000 for detached properties. House prices in the District have grown just 1.7% in the District between 2006-11 (and remained static across the region). However taking account of inflation, house prices have fallen in real terms over this period. Whilst house prices have fallen in real terms since the peak of the market in 2007, there remains a significant demand for affordable housing (both to buy and rent) in the district. This in part reflects the continuing disparity between house prices and average incomes[22].

[19] SDC: Annual Monitoring Report 2010 (December 2010)

[20] SDC: Housing Strategy 2009-2014 http://www.stratford.gov.uk/housing/community-202.cfm

[21] SDC: Annual Monitoring Report 2011 (December 2011)

[22] Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update, GL Hearn, January 2013

10.2.4 Average monthly rent in Stratford-upon-Avon is marginally higher than the average monthly rent across Stratford-on-Avon (**Table 10.1**).

***Table 10.1**: Average rent prices (Stratford-on-Avon DC 2012)*

| Number of bedrooms | Median monthly rent across Stratford-on-Avon (including Stratford-upon-Avon) | Average monthly rent across Stratford-on-Avon (including Stratford-upon-Avon) | Average monthly rent in Stratford-upon-Avon town |
|---|---|---|---|
| Room in shared house | £390 | £389 | £399 |
| Bedsit or 1 bedroom | £525 | £527 | £564 |
| 2 bedrooms | £695 | £701 | £751 |
| 3 bedrooms | £863 | £886 | £941 |
| 4 bedrooms | £1,413 | £1,357 | £1,396 |

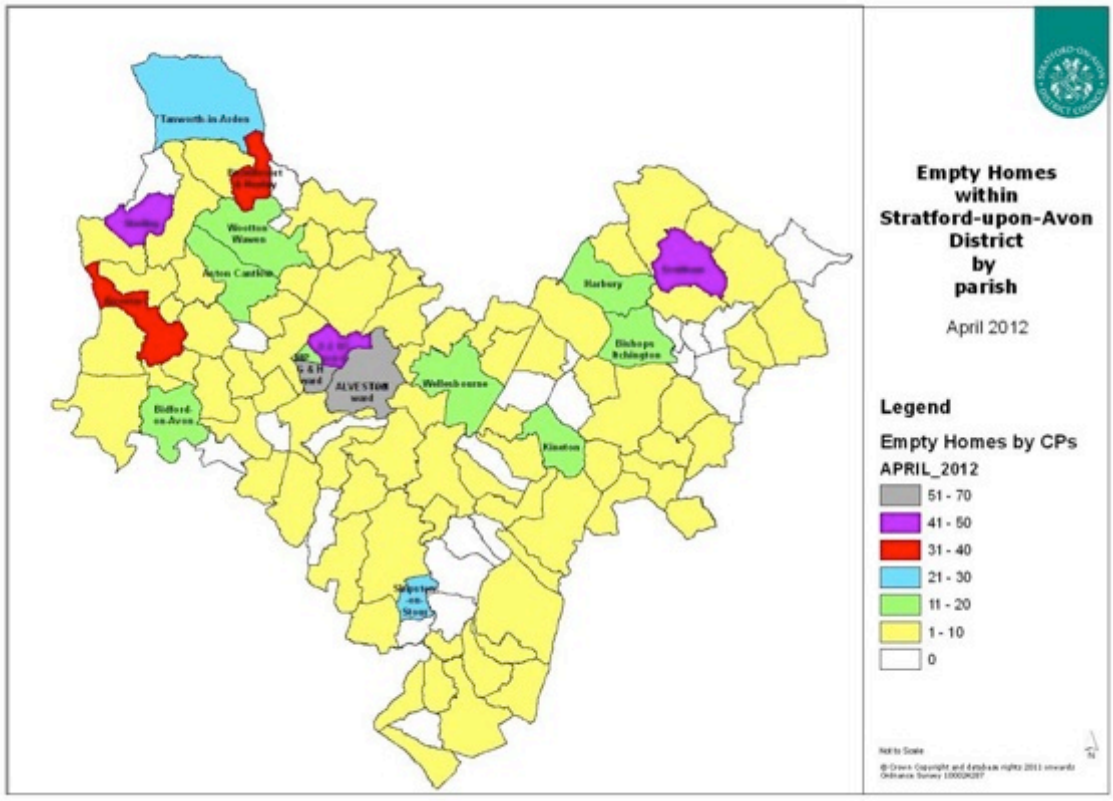
10.2.5 Just under a quarter (24.2%) of households have an income below £30,000 with a further 22.3% in the range of £30,000 to £40,000. The overall average (median) income of all households in the District was estimated to be £42,789. The median income in Stratford–upon–Avon was £39,678[22]. The minimum entry-level income for a two-bedroom home is estimated as £36,900[22].

10.2.6 In this context the affordability of housing is a major issue in the district and the Town. Reflecting the localised need for affordable housing, the *Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Update 2013* estimated that there is a net shortfall of 1,523 affordable homes for the period 2012-17, which equates to 305 affordable homes in the district each year[22]. The number of households on the Local Authority Housing Register (SDC's register of applications for social rented housing) in 2012 was 5,394 (including both transfer and non-transfer applicants)[22]. The number of households considered to be in greatest need was 852, 416 net of transfers[22]. In Stratford – upon – Avon there were 1,619 people on the register, which represents 13.6% of households in the Town. Of these 288 were in greatest need, 166 net of transfers.

10.2.7 All affordable homes in the district were expected to meet the Government's Decent Homes Standard by the December 2010 target date. A decent home is defined as one that is free of serious hazards, warm, in a reasonable state of repair, and having reasonably modern facilities. Orbit Heart of England Housing Association owns over four fifths of the affordable rented housing in the District: 98% of its homes met the Standard in summer 2009[22].

10.2.8 Stratford-upon-Avon has the highest rate of empty homes in Stratford-on-Avon (**Figure 10.1**). Both Alverston and Stratford Guild and Hathaway parishes have the highest rate of empty homes in the district (shown in grey and measuring 51-70 empty homes). Stratford Avenue and Newtown parish has 41-50 empty homes and Stratford Mount Pleasant has the lowest empty homes rate of 11-20. The area surrounding Stratford-upon-Avon has the lowest level with only 1-10 empty homes.

***Figure 10.1**: Empty homes within Stratford-on-Avon District by parish (Stratford-on-Avon DC 2012)*




**Box 10.1:**
Key Housing Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- The population of Stratford-on-Avon is expected to grow significantly in the next twenty years. This will increase pressures on housing provision.
- An ageing population in the district will increase demand for certain types of housing, which could impact on the character of the town.
- Market housing in Stratford-on-Avon is the least affordable in Warwickshire.
- There is a shortage of affordable housing in the district, with an annual shortfall of 305 affordable homes per annum for the period 2012-17.
- There is a need for affordable rented accommodation to address existing and future needs.
- There is inadequate provision of housing and support for people who are vulnerable or at risk of homelessness.
- Stratford-upon-Avon has the most empty homes in the district.

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# 11 Material Assets

## 11.1 Summary of policy and plan review

11.1.1 The material assets sustainability theme covers a range of policy areas, including waste management, minerals, energy production and previously developed land.

11.1.2 National level PPPs seek to the protect minerals resources and promote appropriate after uses for minerals workings. PPPs at all levels seek to promote the 'waste hierarchy'. The waste hierarchy seeks to prioritise waste management in the following order: reduction; reuse; recycling and composting; energy recovery; and disposal. National and regional PPPs also support the use of previously developed land.

11.1.3 At the sub-regional level, the Black Country Joint Core Strategy includes policies for minerals and waste.

11.1.4 An expansion of renewable energy production is strongly promoted by European and national PPPs. Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC, member states are jointly required to achieve 22% of electricity production from renewable energies by 2010; with the UK-specific target is 10%. This has been reinforced by the UK's recent Renewable Energy Strategy which seeks to produce 15% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

## 11.2 Baseline data

### Demand for energy

11.2.1 Within the district, Stratford-upon-Avon has the highest demand for heat, ranging from 501-2000kW/km2 (see **Figure 11.1**). This is likely to be due to the largely rural nature of the district, compared to the more densely populated Stratford-upon-Avon town area.

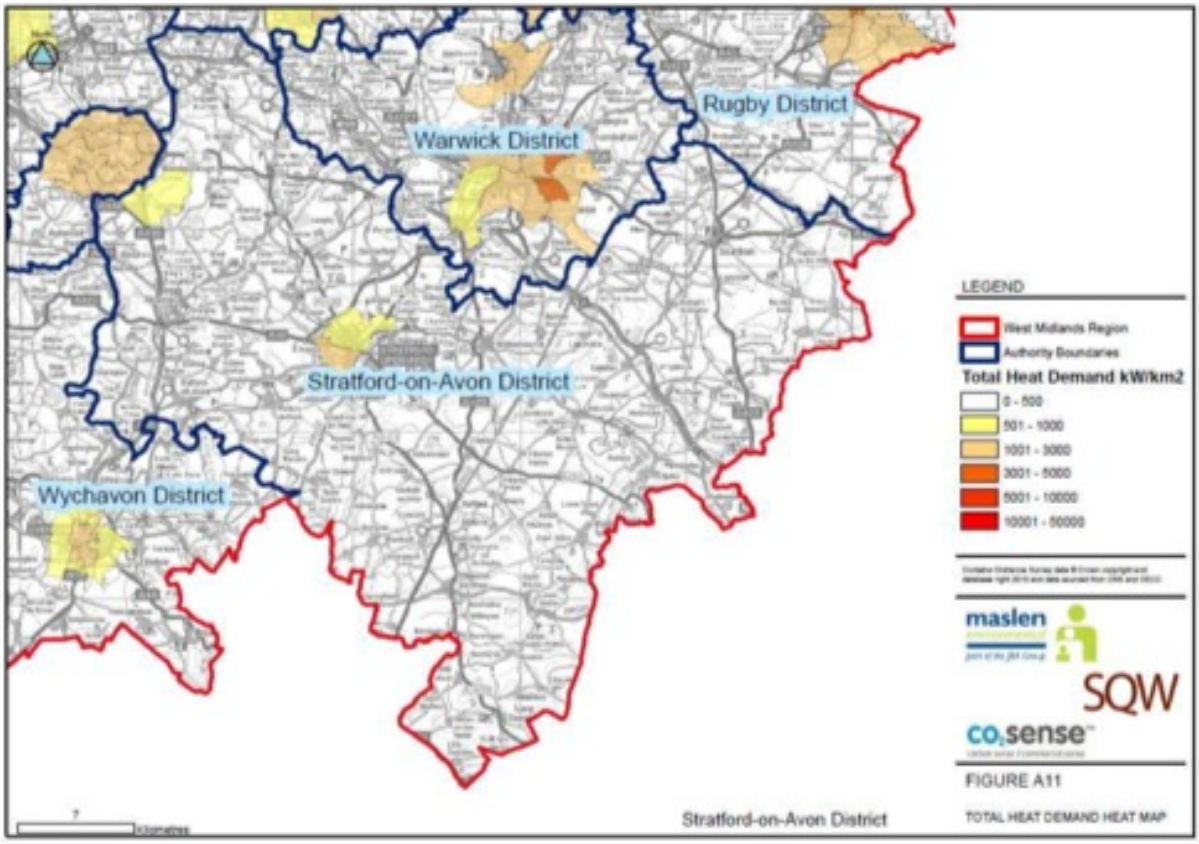


***Figure 11.1**: Total heat demand (SQW et al 2010)*

### Renewable energy

11.2.2 Local renewable energy production currently provides a very low proportion of Stratford-on-Avon's energy needs, comprising only 0.4% of the district's total energy consumption (excluding transport)[23].

[23] CAMCO (April 2010) Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Resource Assessment and Feasibility Study: http://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/11321/Renewable%20Energy%20Assessment%20-%20April%202010.pdf

***Table 11.1**: Estimated Installed capacity and generation of renewable energy in Stratford-on-Avon (CAMCO 2010)*

| | Stratford-on-Avon |
|---|---|
| Estimated installed capacity: biomass (kW) | 100 kW |
| Estimated installed capacity: landfill gas (kW) | 1006 kW |
| Estimated installed capacity: small wind (kW) | 43 kW |
| Estimated installed capacity: total electrical (kW) | 1,160 kW |
| Estimated installed capacity: total thermal (kW) | 100 kW |
| Estimated installed generation (MWh): energy from waste, thermal (kW) | 100 kW |
| Estimated installed generation (MWh): landfill gas, electricity | 8,372 kW |
| Estimated installed generation (MWh): small wind, electricity | 38 MWh |
| Estimated installed generation (MWh): solar PV, electricity | 83 MWh |
| Estimated installed generation (MWh): total electrical (kW) | 8,493 MWh |
| Estimated installed generation (MWh): total thermal (kW) | 170 MWh |

11.2.3 The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Resource Assessment and Feasibility Study (CAMCO, 2010) carried out for Stratford-on-Avon and neighbouring local authorities presents a study of the potential viability and the deliverability of various renewable and low carbon options in each authority. The study suggests that large parts of the district are suitable for wind energy. The results of the analysis suggests that 115 to 224 wind turbines could be developed in Stratford-on-Avon by 2026, producing between 97% to 181% of the district's electricity demand. The same study suggests that biomass could deliver an equivalent of 22% of the district's energy needs and microgeneration could meet 1.3% to 5% of electricity in the district.

11.2.4 A report on the Renewable Energy Capacity Study of the West Midlands by SQW, Maslen Environmental and CO2Sense (2010) advised that Stratford-on-Avon has a potential renewable energy capacity of 4200MW, which is around 8% of the total capacity identified for the West Midlands. It also suggested that there is considerable potential for renewable energy generation from wind due to Stratford on Avon's rural characteristics.

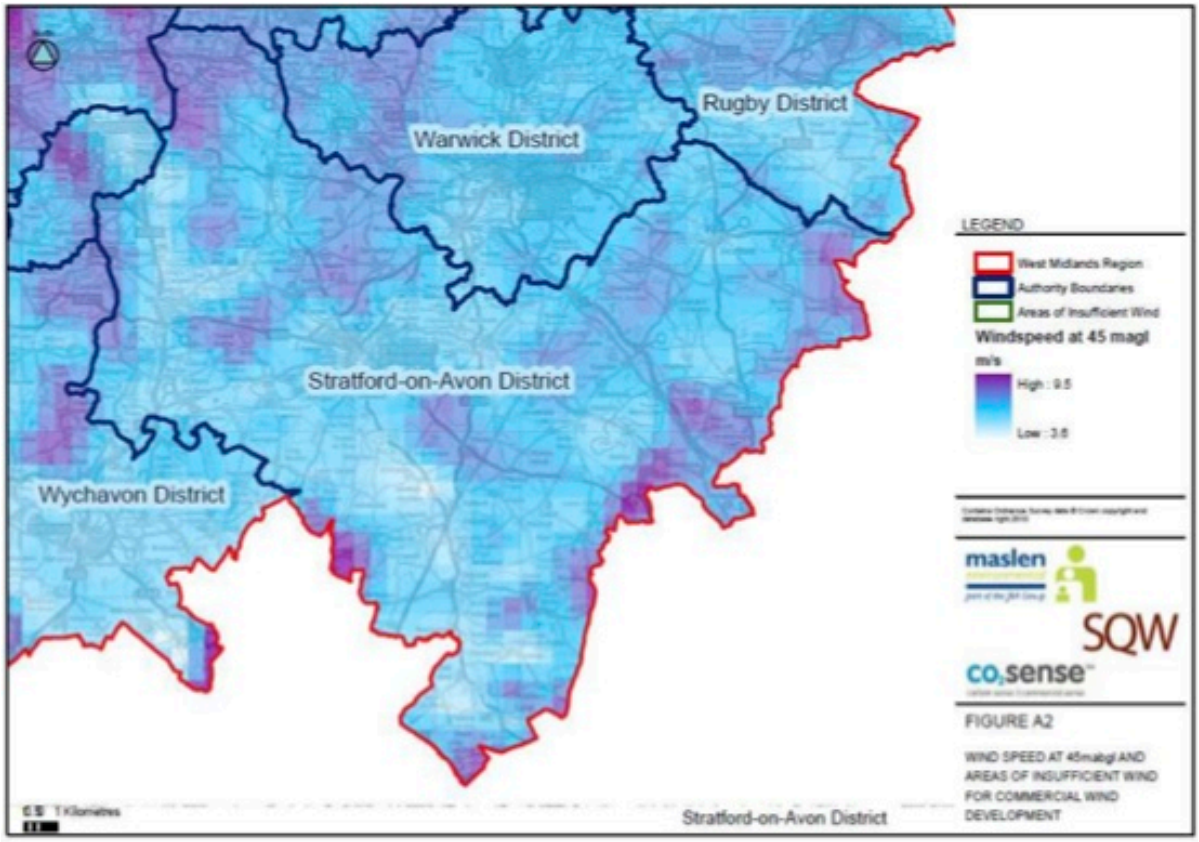


***Figure 11.2**: Capacity for onshore wind (SQW et all 2010)*

11.2.5 However the NDP area is predominantly urban, and **Figure 11.2** shows that Stratford-upon-Avon and its environs have a low capacity for onshore wind.

11.2.6 The West Midlands Renewable Energy Capacity Study (SQW et al 2010) advised that the area also has substantial for micro-generation capacity. Other technologies, such as waste and biomass offer more modest potential, with the lowest potential offered by hydropower which could only generate less than 1% of the area's potential renewable energy.

11.2.7 These studies highlight that significant potential renewable capacity exists in the area from a variety of sources.

**Waste**

11.2.8 In comparison with national and regional averages, recycling rates on Stratford-on-Avon are very favourable (see **Table 11.2**). Whilst approximately 40% of municipal waste was recycled or composted in 2008/9 regionally and nationally, 59% was recycled or composted in the district during the same period. This is an increase from 43% in 2007/08. Alongside this, waste collected per household has decreased since 2007/8, from 583kg to 403kg in 2009/10 (DEFRA 2010).

***Table 11.2**: Waste arisings and recycling rates in Stratford-on-Avon in comparison with regional and national averages 2009/10-2007/8 (DEFRA 2010b)*

| Year | Kg of waste collected per household | | | Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Stratford-on-Avon | West Midlands | England | Stratford-on-Avon | West Midlands | England |
| 2009/10 | 403 | 581 | 625 | 58.6% | 40.0% | 39.7% |
| 2008/09 | 516 | 609 | 669 | 47.0% | 36.6% | 37.6% |
| 2007/08 | 583 | 659 | 735 | 43.4% | 33.0% | 34.5% |

11.2.9 There are four Household Waste Recycling Centres within the district which are managed by Warwickshire County Council. There is one centre in the NDP area, located in Burton Farm, Bishopton, it also contains a charity reuse shop[24].

11.2.10 There are two other recycling centres in the District which are privately operated but are provided for public use. One of these, an independent charity shoes/textile bank Tesco Supermarket Car Park is located in Stratford-upon-Avon.

**Box 11.1:**
Key Material Assets Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- Where possible continue to develop brownfield sites rather than greenfield to support national targets.
- Whilst recycling rates are very favourable compared to national and regional averages, continued improvements should be sought to meet national targets.
- Stratford-on-Avon currently generates low levels of renewable energy. Significant opportunities exist in the district for increasing capacity, especially from wind power and biomass.
- Identify and support opportunities for renewable energy provision locally.

[24] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/community/waste-and-recycling-centres.cfm

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# 12 Population and Quality of life

## 12.1 Summary of policy and plan review

12.1.1 PPPs on population include a range of different objectives, including tackling social exclusion; improving human rights and public participation; improving health; and ensuring every child has the chance to fulfill their potential by reducing levels of education failure, ill health, substance misuse, crime and anti-social behaviour. At the regional and local levels, support for cultural diversity and young people are key aims.

12.1.2 A wide range of objectives exist within policies and plans from an European to a local level with regards to Quality of Life. In particular these focus on improving social progress and social inclusion; reducing poverty; improving housing quality; preventing crime, anti-social behaviour and truancy; improving skill levels and employability; and regenerating communities.

12.1.3 The Equality Act 2006 sets out that people should not be disadvantage on the basis of age; disability; gender; proposed, commenced or completed gender reassignment; race; religion or belief and sexual orientation.

## 12.2 Baseline data

### Population size and migration

12.2.1 In 2009, the population of Stratford-on-Avon district was approximately 118,900. The largest settlement in the district is Stratford-upon-Avon, which is the district's principal administrative and retail centre, and home to approximately 26,100 people. However 80% of the district's population live outside of Stratford-upon-Avon, with the rest of the population split between the main rural settlements of Alcester, Henley-in-Arden, Shipston-on-Stour and Southam, the local centres and many smaller villages and hamlets. Nearly 45% of residents live in parishes with a population of less than 3,000 [25]. Stratford-on-Avon has a very low population density, and the district as a whole has a population density of 122 people per square kilometre hectare[26], the lowest of authorities in Warwickshire.

12.2.2 Since 2001 the population of the district has grown from 111,600, an increase of 6.5% from 2001-2009. This is a higher rate of increase than the figures for the West Midlands and England during the same period, which were 2.85% and 4.8% respectively[27].

[25] SDC (December 2010): Annual Monitoring Report 2010

[26] Warwickshire Observatory: Stratford-on-Avon District profile: http://www.warwickshireobservatory.org/observatory/observatorywcc.nsf/0/2354100779AB226E802576AB0035A2F7/$file/Stratford-on-Avon%20District%20Profile1.pdf

[27] Source: Neighbourhood Statistics http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

### Age Structure

12.2.3 The population pyramid in **Figure 12.1** shows the age profile of Stratford-on-Avon's population against the national average (based on 2007 figures). As highlighted by the pyramid, the district has an ageing population, and is proportionately older than England's population profile. There are also significantly less people in the 16 to 40 age groups. Overall, the district has an average age of 42, and almost 50% of the population is over 45, with only 18% of the population under 16 years old[28].

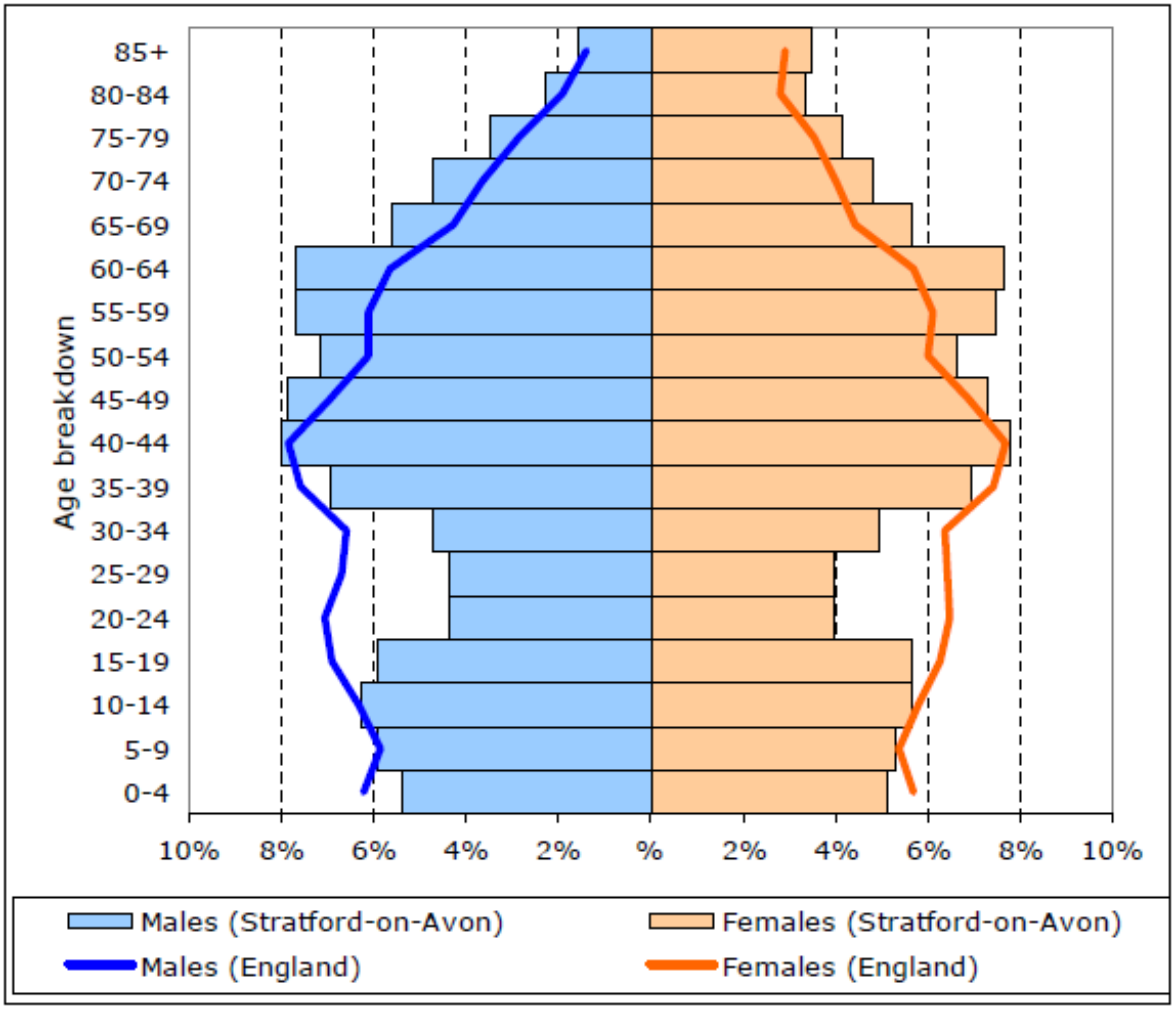


***Figure 12.1**: Stratford-on-Avon population pyramid against the England and Wales average for 2007 (Source: Warwickshire Observatory and Annual Monitoring Report 2010)*

12.2.4 **Figure 12.2** shows the age distribution for Stratford-upon-Avon. This is similar to that of Stratford-on-Avon with each age group under 25 only accounting for around 5% of the population. Most residents are aged between 40 and 50 years old, with another large percentage of residents aged between 60 and 64.

[28] Warwickshire Observatory: Stratford-on-Avon District profile, September 2009 http://www.warwickshireobservatory.org/observatory/observatorywcc.nsf/0/2354100779AB226E802576AB0035A2F7/$file/Stratford-on-Avon%20District%20Profile1.pdf

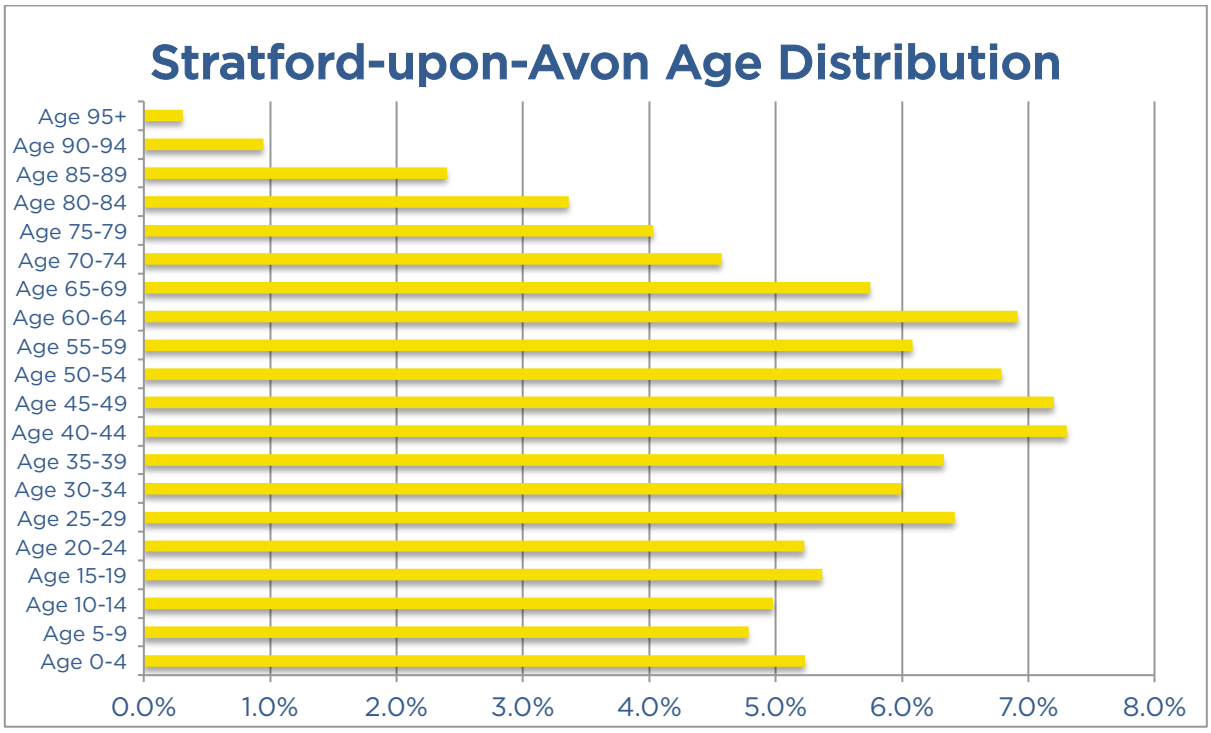


***Figure 12.2**: Stratford-upon-Avon Age Distribution (data source ONS 2011)*

**Ethnicity**

12.2.5 As highlighted by **Table 12.3** only 5.8% of the district's population are from ethnic minorities. The data demonstrates that Stratford-on-Avon has a lower proportion of population from ethnic minority groups compared Warwickshire which has 7.7% ethnic minority.

**Estimated resident population by broad ethnic group**

| | Stratford on Avon | | Warwickshire | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| White | 111,900 | 94.2% | 493,700 | 92.3% |
| Mixed | 1,500 | 1.3% | 7,300 | 1.4% |
| Asian | 3,300 | 2.8% | 22,700 | 4.2% |
| Black | 1,100 | 0.9% | 6,100 | 1.1% |
| Other | 1000 | 0.8% | 5,100 | 1.0% |
| All Groups | 118,800 | 100.0% | 534,900 | 100.0% |

*Source: Mid-2007 ethnicity estimates, ONS, 2011*

***Figure 12.3**: Resident population by broad ethnic group (ONS 2011)*

12.2.6 According to the Warwickshire Observatory (2013) there are 15 out of 79 SOAs where at least 10% of the population does not speak English as their main language. The most common non-english language spoken in Stratford-upon-Avon is Polish, followed by Chinese (see **Figure 12.4**).

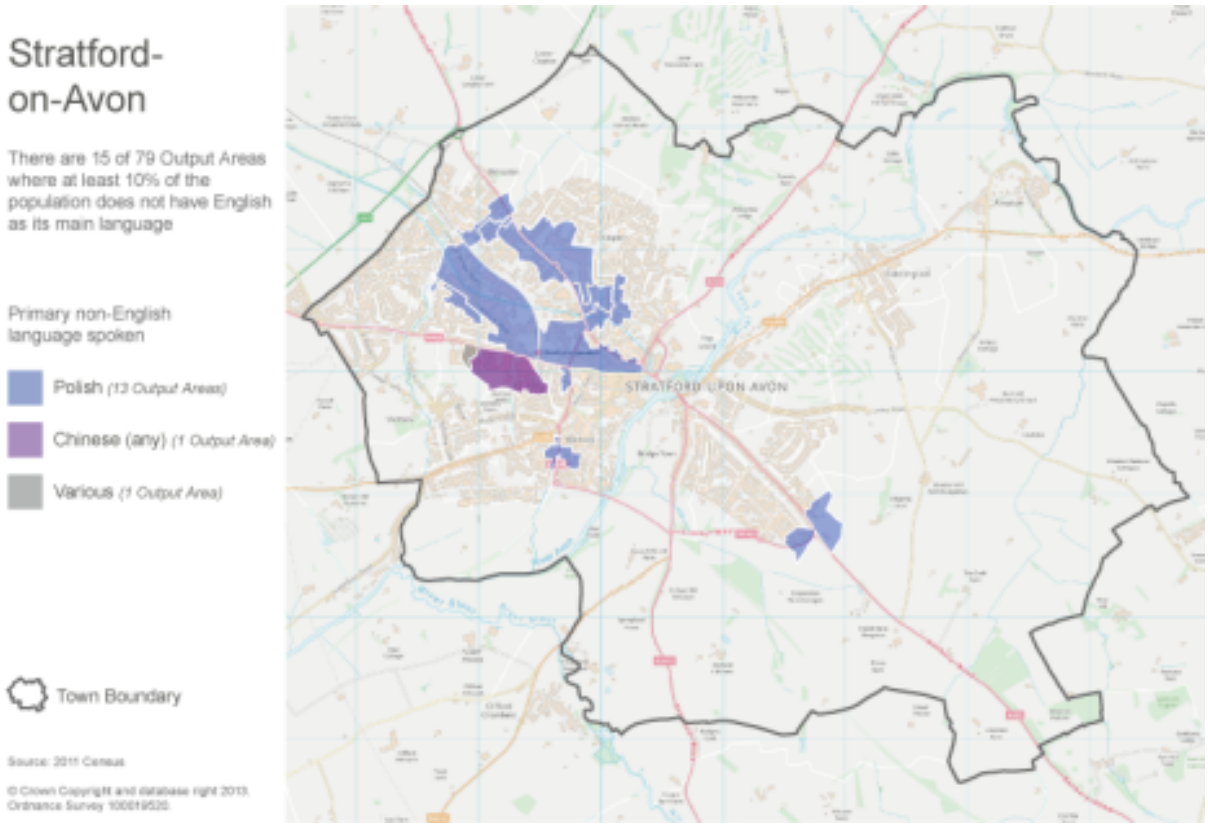


***Figure 12.4**: Mapping Stratford-upon-Avon where English is not the main language (Warwickshire Observatory 2013)*

**Deprivation**

12.2.7 The IMD 2010 comprises seven aspects of deprivation and disadvantage, each containing a number of component indicators – income, employment, health, education & skills, barriers to housing & services, crime and living environment. These domains are weighted and combined to create the overall IMD 2010. (IMD 2010) is a nationally recognised measure of deprivation at lower layer Super-Output Area level (LSOA). LSOAs have on average, a population of around 1,500 people. They are smaller than wards, thus allowing the identification of small pockets of deprivation. There are 71 SOAs in Stratford District.

12.2.8 Overall Stratford-on-Avon has low levels of deprivation. According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010, as a whole the district is ranked as the 278th most deprived local authority district out of 326 and has no Super Output Areas within the top 30% most deprived nationally[29]. The highest ranking SOAs are: Alcester North & Conway; Stratford Mount Pleasant East; and Maybird.

[29] Source for IMD 2010: Warwickshire Observatory http://www.warwickshireobservatory.org/observatory/observatorywcc.nsf/05a17cfbd3bcf85d802572920033cf0f/f11bb5bb649e59cf802572cf002fe3fa?OpenDocument

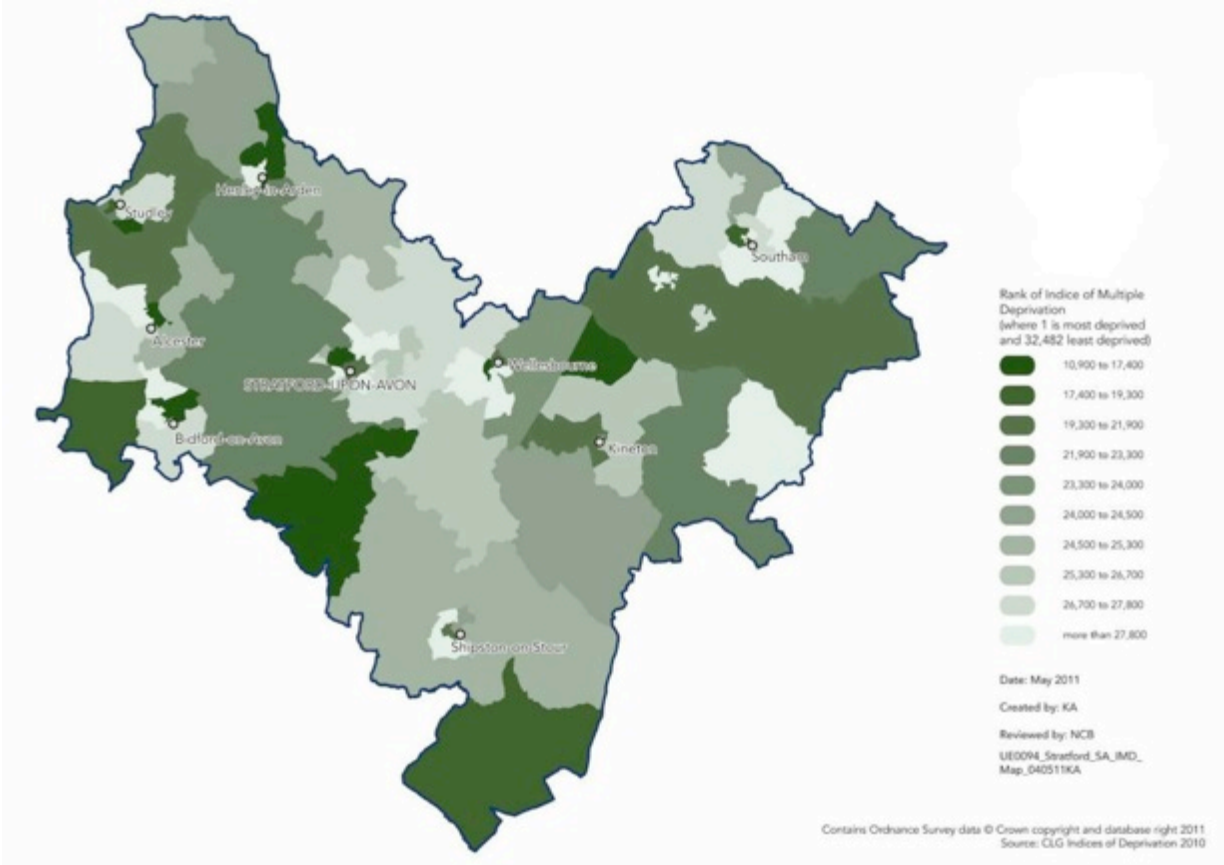


***Figure 12.5**: Index of Multiple Deprivation in Stratford-on-Avon: overall scores (data source ONS 2010)*

12.2.9 Stratford-on-Avon has 31 SOAs in the top 30% most deprived nationally in terms of barriers to housing and services and 39 SOAs in the top 30% most deprived in terms of geographical barriers.

12.2.10 As highlighted by **Figure 12.5**, which is shaded according to the SOA rankings for IMD, whilst large parts of the district are less affected by multiple deprivation, there are some relative concentrations in Stratford-upon-Avon, Alcester, Bidford-on-Avon and Wellesbourne.

| LSOA Name | Ward | IMD SCORE | Position out of 71 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maybird | Stratford Avenue and New Town | 22.73 | 2 |
| Stratford Mount Pleasant East | Stratford Mount Pleasant | 22.50 | 3 |
| Town Centre North | Stratford Avenue and New Town | 12.65 | 17 |
| Old Town & Town Centre South | Stratford Guild and Hathaway | 12.39 | 19 |
| The Avenue | Stratford Avenue and New Town | 10.65 | 27 |
| Shottery North & Racecourse | Stratford Guild and Hathaway | 10.57 | 31 |
| Bishopton | Stratford Mount Pleasant | 9.56 | 38 |
| Old Town | Stratford Guild and Hathaway | 8.36 | 46 |
| Tiddington & Alveston | Stratford Alveston | 8.10 | 48 |
| Stratford Mount Pleasant West | Stratford Mount Pleasant | 7.68 | 51 |
| Stratford South East & Alveston Hill | Stratford Alveston | 7.28 | 55 |
| Bridgetown | Stratford Alveston | 5.59 | 66 |
| Shottery South & Racecourse | Stratford Guild and Hathaway | 4.34 | 67 |
| Clopton & Welcombe Hills | Stratford Avenue and New Town | 2.51 | 70 |
| **SDC AVERAGE** | | **10.42** | |

***Figure 12.6**: Most and least deprived LSOA in Stratford-upon-Avon*[30]

12.2.11 This is reiterated by **Figure 12.6** which shows that Maybird LSOA located in Stratford Avenue and New Town ward is ranked as the 2nd most deprived area in Stratford-on-Avon and Stratford Mount Pleasant East is 3rd. However, some areas of Stratford-upon-Avon are the least deprived in Stratford-on-Avon such as Clotpon and Welcombe Hills in Stratford Avenue and New Town.

12.2.12 In Stratford-upon-Avon, 8% of pupils are eligible for free school meals, the second highest in Stratford-on-Avon after Alcester and Bidford. This is higher than the district average, but substantially less than Warwickshire (10%) and England (17%) averages (**Figure 12.7**).

[30] Stratford-upon-Avon: Locality Data (2012). Available at: https://democracy.stratford.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=17835

| % of Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals | |
|---|---|
| **Locality** | **%** |
| Alcester & Bidford | 9 |
| Shipston | 6 |
| Southam & Feldon | 7 |
| Stratford | 8 |
| Studley & Henley | 6 |
| Wellesbourne & Kineton | 7 |
| **District – All** | **7** |
| **Warwickshire – All** | **10** |
| **England** | **17** |

***Figure 12.7**: Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals*[30]

### Crime

12.2.13 Stratford-on-Avon generally has low levels of crime. As highlighted by **Table 12.1**, crime for all types of offences in the district are below the average rates for the Warwickshire force area. Some residents, particularly older people, report a significant fear of crime.

***Table 12.1:** Crime Statistics for Stratford-on-Avon and Warwickshire (Warwickshire Observatory 2009)*

| Offence | Number | Per 1,000 population (Stratford-on-Avon) | Per 1,000 population (Warwickshire) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Domestic burglary | 266 | 5.32 | 10.01 |
| Robbery | 29 | 0.25 | 0.64 |
| Vehicle crime | 872 | 7.40 | 10.24 |
| Criminal damage | 1,152 | 9.78 | 15.12 |
| Small deliberate fires (arson) | 87 | 0.74 | 1.76 |
| Anti-social behaviour incidents | 4,396 | 37.32 | 56.89 |
| Total recorded crime | 6,303 | 53.51 | 71.05 |
| Total violent crime | 988 | 8.39 | 12.69 |

12.2.14 The highest levels of both crime and anti-social behaviour are in the vicinity of Stratford-upon-Avon town centre in the wards of Guild and Hathaway and Avenue and New Town. The district also suffers from issues relating to cross border offending when criminals living in other areas outside Warwickshire offend within the district[31].

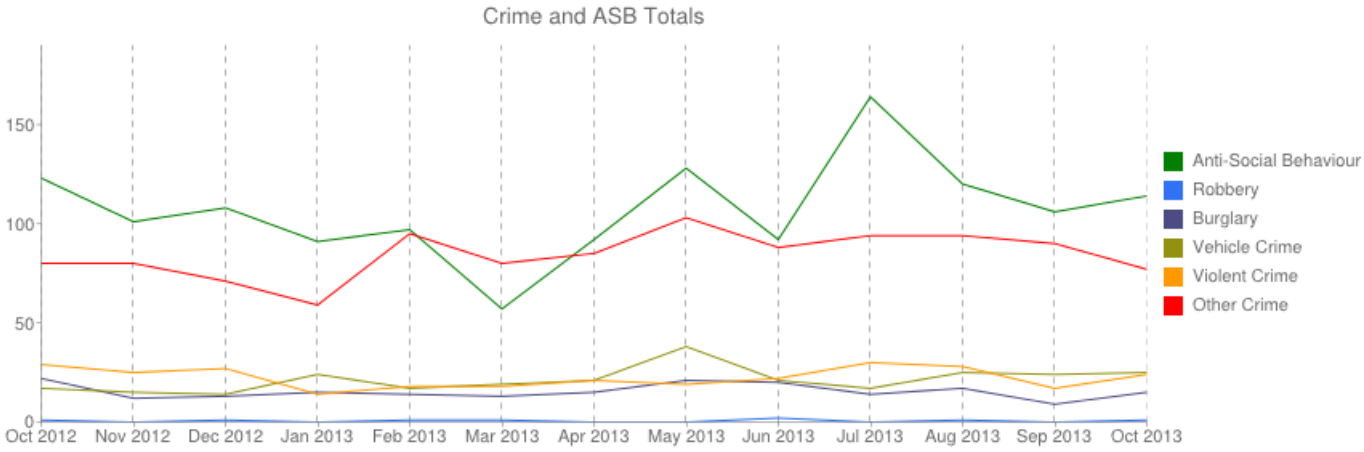


***Figure 12.8**: Stratford Town Crime Statistics (UK Crime Stats 2013)*

12.2.15 The type of crime most experienced by Stratford Town is anti-social behaviour, which is consistently above the rates of burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and violent crime (**Figure 12.8**).

**Box 14.1:**
Key Population and Quality of Life Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- Areas of Stratford-upon-Avon experiences the most crime in Stratford-on-Avon.
- An ageing population and an increased dependency ratio in the district has the potential to lead to implications for service provision.
- Whilst overall deprivation is low in the district, levels are significantly higher for the barriers to housing and services and geographical barriers IMD 2010 domains.
- The development of a high quality and multifunctional green infrastructure network in Stratford-on-Avon will be a key contributor to quality of life in the district.

[31] Warwickshire Observatory: Stratford-on-Avon District profile, September 2009 http://www.warwickshireobservatory.org/observatory/observatorywcc.nsf/0/2354100779AB226E802576AB0035A2F7/$file/Stratford-on-Avon%20District%20Profile1.pdf

# 13 Water and Soil

## 13.1 Summary of policy and plan review

13.1.1 National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, as translated into national law by the Water Framework Regulations 2003. Key objectives include improving the quality of rivers and other water bodies to 'good ecological status' by 2015; considering flood risk at all stages of the plan and development process in order to reduce future damage to property and loss of life; and incorporating water efficiency measures into new developments. The Water Framework Directive also requires groundwater to reach 'good status' in terms of quality and quantity by 2015.

13.1.2 National and regional strategies also have a focus on maintaining and protecting the availability of water. Severn Trent Water's Water Resource Management Plan provides the means of enabling water to be supplied and treated in the area. Water supply and use is guided by Environment Agency's Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies. The district is covered by the Warwickshire and Avon CAMS. Setting out how water quality can be improved, the River Basin Management Plan for the Severn river basin also has been prepared by the Environment Agency under the Water Framework Directive.

13.1.3 The NPPF seeks to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.

13.1.4 National and regional policies and strategies on soil seek to: prevent soil pollution; reduce soil erosion from wind and water; maintain soil diversity; improve the quality of soil, including through the remediation of contaminated land and through promoting an increase in organic matter in soil; protect and enhance stores of soil carbon and water; recognise soils' role for natural systems; and increase the resilience of soils to a changing climate.

13.1.5 The PPPs also have a focus on protecting the quality and availability of agricultural land, through reducing soil degradation, maintaining soil productivity, limiting compaction and range of other approaches.

## 13.2 Baseline data

### Soil

13.2.1 As highlighted by the Soil Strategy for England[32], soil is a vital natural resource, with a range of key functions. These include:

[32] DEFRA (2009) Soil Strategy for England: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/sap/

- Support of food, fuel and fibre production;
- Environmental interaction functions (e.g. regulating the flow of and filtering substances from water, emitting and removing atmospheric gases, storing carbon);
- Support of habitats and biodiversity;
- Protection of cultural heritage and archaeology;
- Providing a platform for construction; and
- Providing raw materials.

13.2.2 Stratford-on-Avon has a diverse soil resource which has developed since the last ice age 10,000 years ago. These encompass a range of soils types which reflect complex interactions between underlying geology, landform, past and existing land use and climate.

13.2.3 Soil quality has a strong influence on the quality of agricultural land. The Agricultural Land Classification system provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. The Agricultural Land Classification system classifies land into five grades, with Grade 3 subdivided into Subgrades 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a, which is deemed to be the land which is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver future crops for food and non food uses such as biomass, fibres and pharmaceuticals[33].

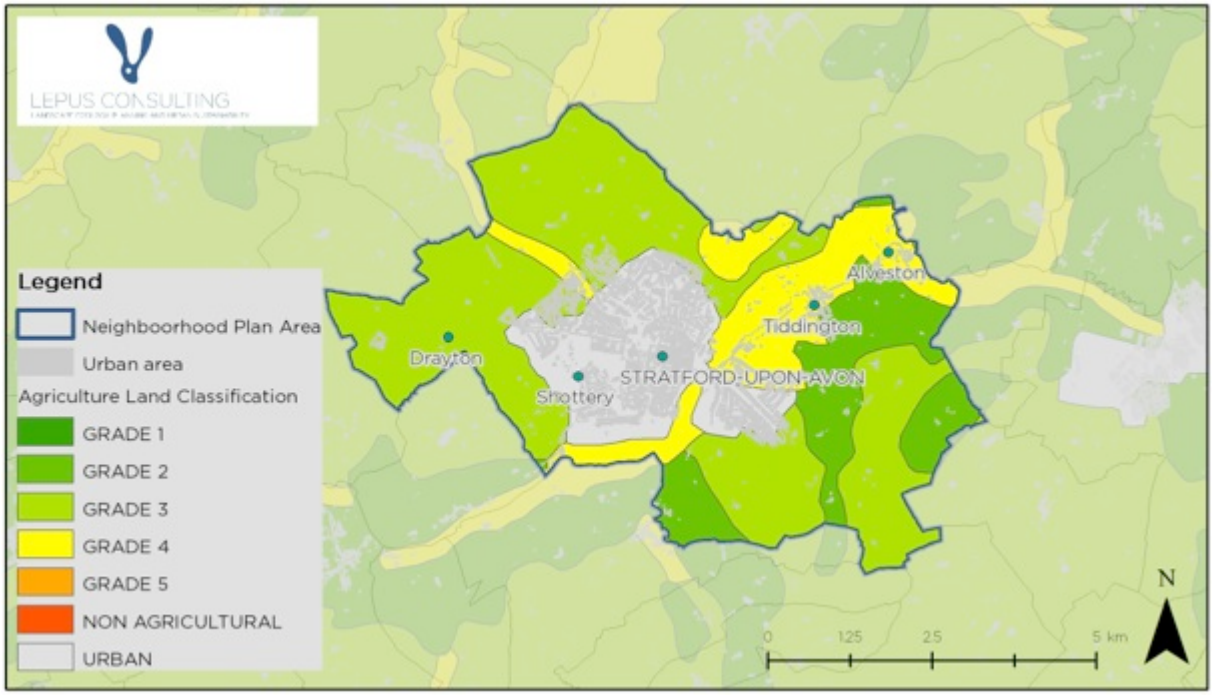


***Figure 13.1**: Agricultural Land Classification within the Stratford-upon-Avon NDP area*

[33] ODPM (2004) Planning Policy Statement 7: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147402.pdf

13.2.4 The areas of best and most versatile agricultural land in the plan area, which has been classified as Grade 2 land, is located south and east of Stratford-upon-Avon. These areas represent the fertile alluvial soils of the Avon river valley (See **Figure 13.1**).

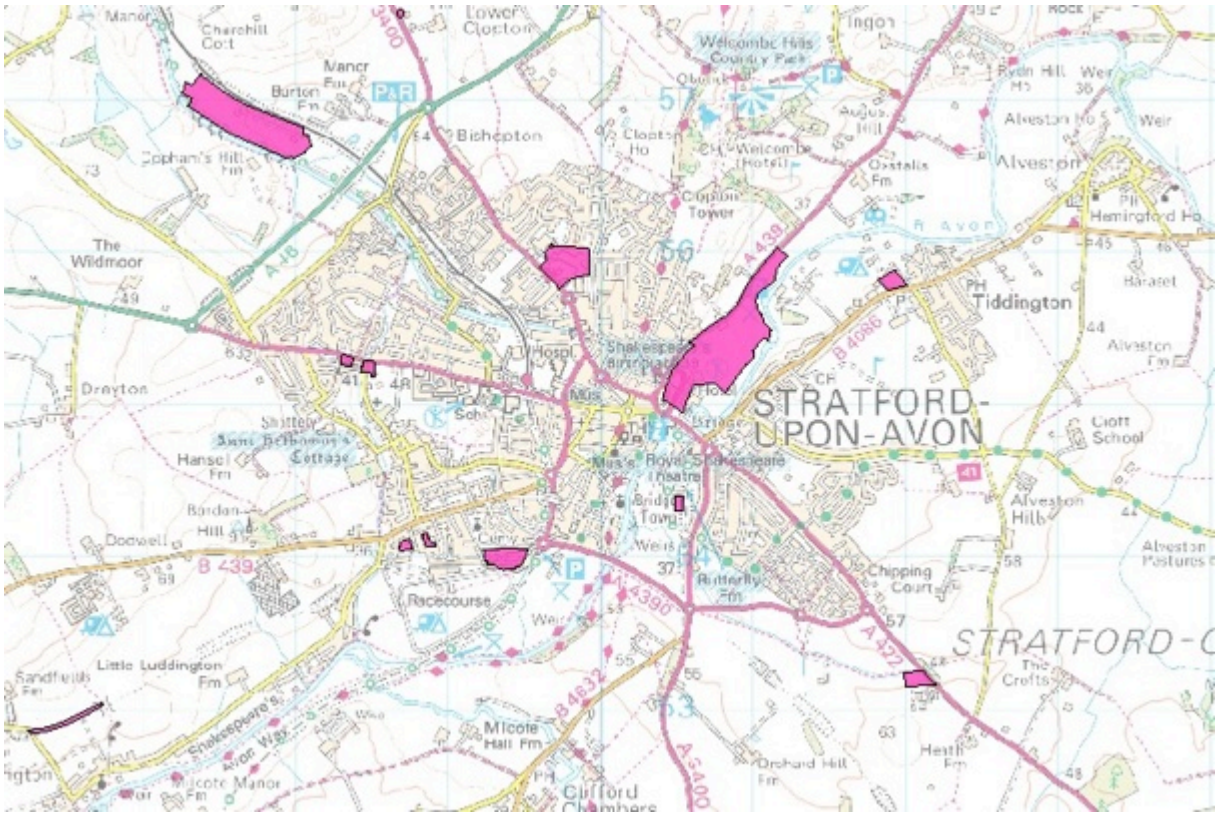


***Figure 13.2**: Historic landfill sites (Environment Agency 2013)*

13.2.5 There are areas of Stratford-upon-Avon which have historic landfill sites (see **Figure 13.2**). Historic landfill sites are potential sources of contamination and could generate landfill gas emissions.

**Rivers, Streams and Canals**

13.2.6 The district's water environment is dominated by the River Avon and its tributaries, these are shown in **Figure 13.3**. The watercourses relevant to Stratofrd-upon-Avon are the River Avon and the River Stour.

13.2.7 The River Avon flows from its source near Naseby in Northamptonshire in a south-westerly direction through Rugby and Warwick, before forming part of the boundary between Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick district. It then enters the district near Hampton Lucy and flows through Stratford-upon-Avon, Welford-on-Avon, Bidford-on-Avon before entering Worcestershire north east of Evesham. The River Avon subsequently joins the River Severn at Tewkesbury.

13.2.8 The River Stour rises near Wiggington Heath in Oxfordshire close to the border of Stratford-on-Avon, and flows westwards through Stourton, before turning northwards past Willington, Shipston-on-Stour, Tredington, Halford, Newbold-on-Stour and Alderminster. It then joins the River Avon between Clifford Chambers and Stratford-on-Avon.

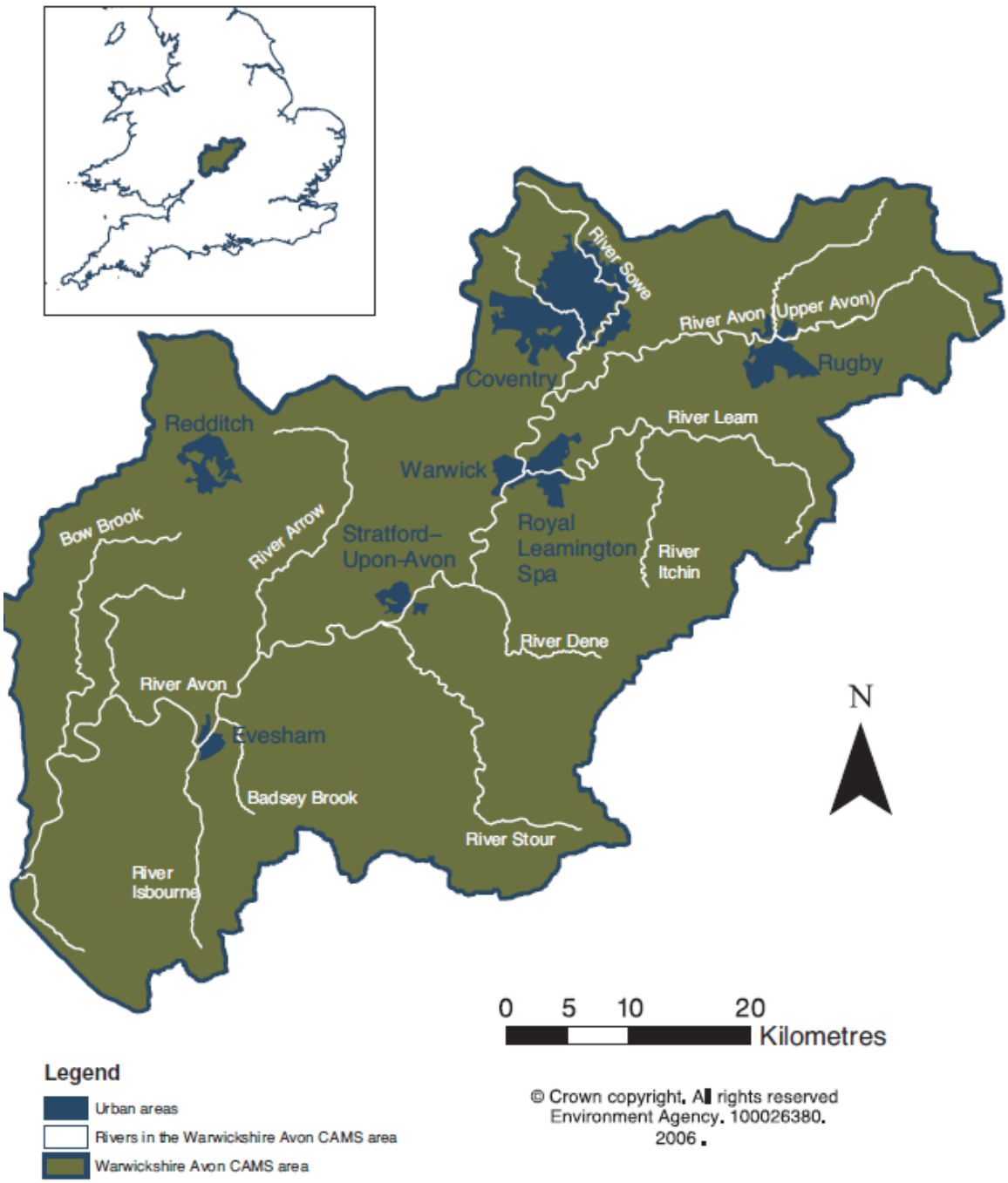


***Figure 13.3**: Catchment area of the River Avon (Source: Environment Agency (2006) Warwickshire Avon CAMS).*

13.2.9 The Stratford-upon-Avon Canal also flows through Stratford-upon-Avon. The canal links the River Avon at Stratford-upon-Avon with the Worcester and Birmingham Canal at Kings Norton in Birmingham. Travelling south from Kings Norton, it travels along the border of the district east of Earlswood Lakes where it joins the Grand Union Canal. It then diverges from the Grand Union Canal at Lapworth in Warwick, before re-entering the district east of Henley-in-Arden and travelling south past Wootton Wowen towards Stratford-upon-Avon.

13.2.10 All of the watercourses which flow through Stratford-upon-Avon are shown in **Figure 13.4**.

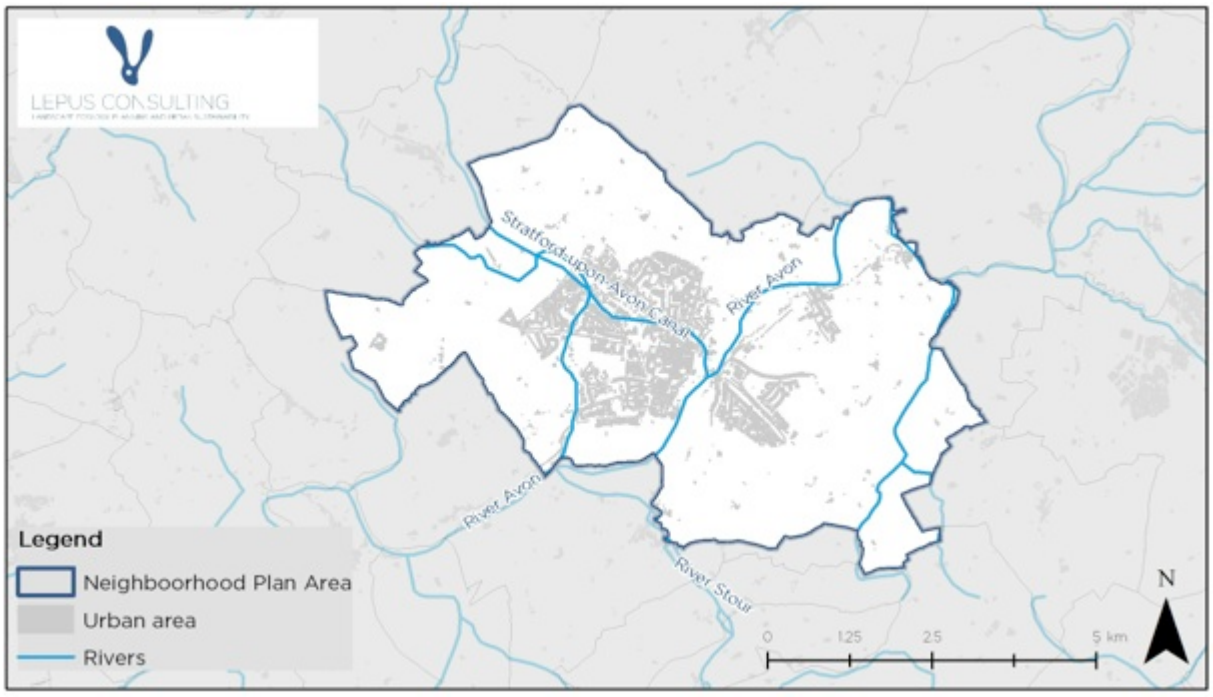


***Figure 13.4**: Watercourses within the Stratford-upon-Avon NDP area*

**Water resources**

13.2.11 In terms of water resources, as highlighted by the Water Cycle Study carried out for Warwickshire[34], most of the district's water is supplied by Severn Trent Water's Severn Resource Zone, with a small amount supplied by Severn Trent Water's Birmingham Resource Zone and South Staffordshire Water Plc. According to the Environment Agency, water resources are under 'moderate stress' in the area, with some areas under 'serious' stress. In this context there are current and predicted supply-demand deficits within the district[34].

[34] Halcrow, Warwickshire Sub-Regional Water Cycle Study, Final Report (March 2010)

13.2.12 Whilst the River Severn (including the River Avon) is the major source of water in the area, a number of major aquifers exist locally, including the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group. These sandstones are capable of supporting large abstractions and form important aquifers for water supply in these areas. Another major aquifer is in the Jurassic Great & Inferior Oolitic Limestone, which is based along the Cotswold scarp covering part of the south of the district. This limestone aquifer provides an important water resource for the area and supports a number of abstractions, mainly from spring sources[35].

13.2.13 Catchment Area Management Strategies (CAMS) are six year strategies developed by the Environment Agency for managing water resources at the local level. CAMS will be produced for every river catchment area in England and Wales. Stratford-upon-Avon is covered by the Warwickshire Avon CAMS.

13.2.14 The CAMS document contain maps and descriptions of the local Water Management Units (WMUs), groundwater and surface water, and an assessment of water availability at times of low flow – normally mid to late summer. CAMS also classify each WMU into one of four categories: 'over-abstracted'; 'over-licensed'; 'no water available'; or 'water available'. The WMU covering Stratford-upon-Avon is 'Stratford'. The Stratford WMU is classed as having 'no water available'. This means that no water is available for further licensing at low flows, but water may be available at higher flows with appropriate restrictions.

[35] Environment Agency (2006) Warwickshire Avon CAMS

### Water quality

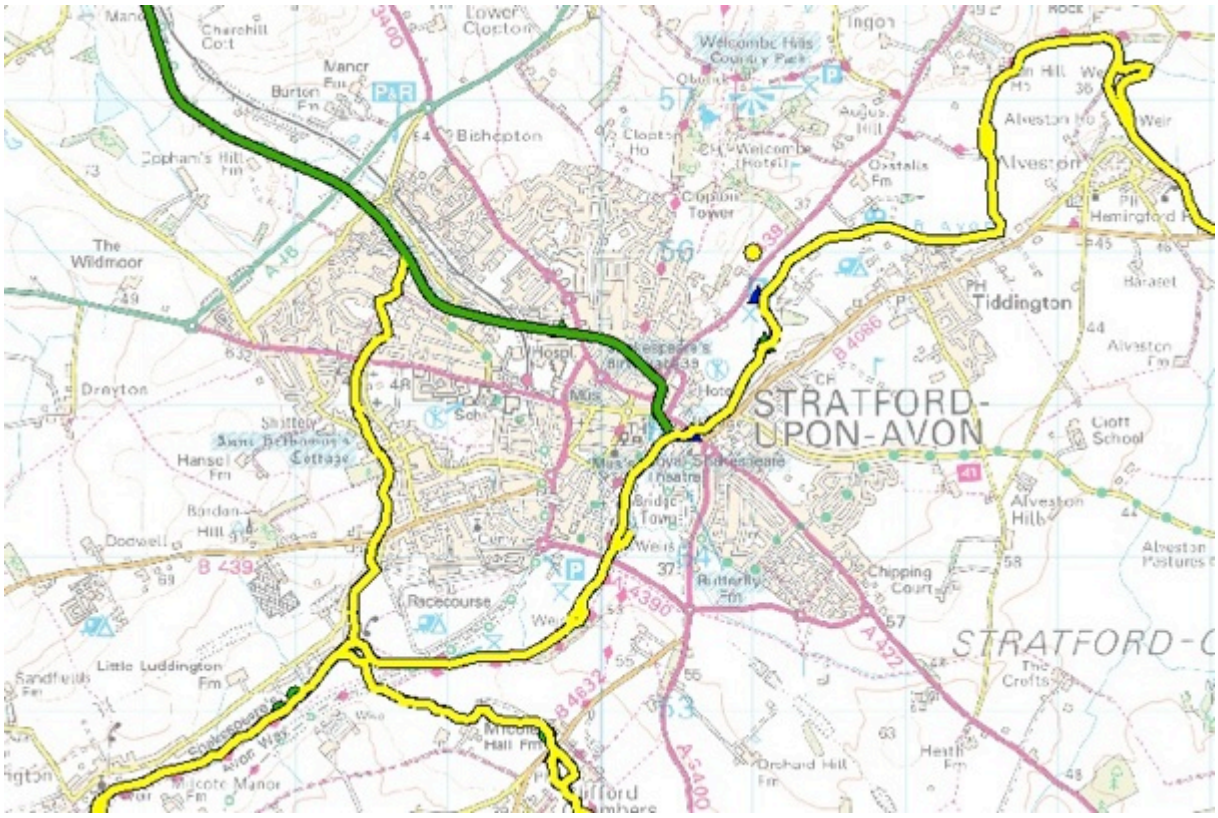


***Figure 13.5**: Current ecological quality of watercourses in Stratford-upon-Avon (Environment Agency 2013)*

13.2.15 The water quality of a watercourse is assessed by both its ecological and its chemical water quality. **Figure 13.5** shows the current ecological quality of the watercourses in Stratford-upon-Avon NDP area. The Stratford-upon-Avon canal is assessed as having a good ecological water quality, however the River Avon and River Stour are assessed as having moderate ecological water quality. The chemical water quality of both rivers is 'good'. The chemical status of the canal does not need to be assessed.

13.2.16 Improvements to water quality in the area are required to meet the target of all watercourses to reach 'good' biological and chemical water quality status by 2015, as required by the Water Framework Directive[36].

[36] The Water Framework Directive, which came into force in December 2000, requires all inland and coastal water bodies to reach at least "good status" by 2015. More information on the WFD can be found on: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/wfd/index.htm

13.2.17 The vulnerability of groundwater to pollution is determined by the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil and rocks, which control the ease with which an unprotected hazard can affect groundwater. Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) indicate the risk to groundwater supplies from potentially polluting activities and accidental releases of pollutants. Designed to protect individual groundwater sources, these zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. In this context they are used to inform pollution prevention measures in areas which are at a higher risk, and to monitor the activities of potential polluting activities nearby. There are no Groundwater SPZs within the Stratford-upon-Avon NDP area.

**Box 14.1:**
Key Water and Soil Issues for the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan area

- Some areas of higher grade quality agricultural land may be under threat from new growth areas in the district and associated infrastructure.
- Areas of land contamination may exist in the NDP area.
- The development of new and improved infrastructure to accompany growth has the potential to lead to an increase in soil erosion and soil loss.
- Improvements are still required to meet the target of all watercourses to reach 'good' water quality status by 2015.
- The Stratford WMU has 'no water available'.

# 14 SA Framework

## 14.1 The purpose of the SA Framework

14.1.1 The Stratford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan will be assessed through an SA Framework of objectives, decision making criteria, indicators and targets. The full SA Framework for the NDP is presented in **Appendix A**.

14.1.2 To ensure consistency throughout the hierarchy of plans the same SA Framework has been used for the Stratford-upon-Avon NDP as was created for Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy.

14.1.3 The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The SA Framework consists of SA objectives which, where practicable, may be expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which is measurable using indicators. SA objectives and indicators can be revised as further baseline information is collected and sustainability issues and challenges are identified, and are used in monitoring the implementation of the NDP.

14.1.4 To expand on the central focus of each SA objective (as they are high-level and potentially open-ended) the SA Framework includes a series of questions or 'decision making criteria' for use when applying the SA Framework to the assessment of proposed policies. These are accompanied by the indicators and targets for each SA Objective.

## 14.2 Sustainability Appraisal objectives

14.2.1 The purpose of the SA objectives is to provide a way of ensuring the proposed NDP policies consider the needs of Stratford-upon-Avon in terms of their environmental and socio-economic effects. The SEA topics identified in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive are one of the key determinants when considering which SA Objectives should be used for the environmental criteria. Consequently, the SA Objectives seek to reflect all subject areas to ensure the assessment process is transparent, robust and thorough.

14.2.2 The SA objectives have drawn on the baseline information, the key issues and other plans and programmes of particular interest discussed earlier in this Scoping Report (see **Chapters 3 to 13**). It should be noted that the ordering of the SA objectives do not infer any prioritisation.

***Table 14.1**: SA Objectives.*

| SA Objectives | | Relevance to sustainability theme |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance. | Historic environment |
| 2 | Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities. | Landscape, historic environment |
| 3 | Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity. | Biodiversity and geodiversity. |
| 4 | Reduce the risk of flooding. | Water, climate change. |
| 5 | Minimise the district's contribution to climate change. | Climate change. |
| 6 | Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change. | Climate change, water. |
| 7 | Protect and conserve natural resources. | Material assets, soil, water. |
| 8 | Reduce air, soil and water pollution. | Air, soil, water. |
| 9 | Reduce waste generation and disposal, and promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle/compost, energy recovery and disposal. | Material assets. |
| 10 | Improve the efficiency of transport networks by increasing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel. | Accessibility and transport, population and quality of life. |
| 11 | Reduce barriers for those living in rural areas. | Accessibility and transport, population and quality of life. |
| 12 | Protect the integrity of the district's countryside. | Population and quality of life, landscape, historic environment, soil, economic factors. |
| 13 | Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all. | Housing, population and quality of life. |
| 14 | Safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing. | Population and quality of life |
| 15 | Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities. | Economic factors |

# 15 Subsequent stages to be carried out

## 15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 This chapter summarises the stages of, and approach to the processes that will be carried out for the NDP following consultation at the scoping stage. This has been presented through the stages set out in DCLG Plan Making Manual in **Figure 1.2**. Where appropriate, the assessment methods to be used have been included.

## 15.2 Refining options and assessing effects

15.2.1 The assessment of options (or alternatives) is an important requirement of the SEA Directive, which requires that the Environmental Report includes the following information about reasonable alternatives:

> *"an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information"*

15.2.2 Reasonable alternatives will be assessed through the SEA process, and the assessment of alternatives will take place following consultation on the Scoping Report. This will enable options for the NDP to be explored. Whilst this report would not be a requisite of the SEA Directive, a report of this nature can help demonstrate iteration between the plan making process and the SA, and provide a coherent story of the NDP's evolution and choice of options.

## 15.3 Sustainability Appraisal and Publication/Submission

15.3.1 The next stage of the SEA will involve assessing successive drafts of the NDP. Whilst assessment work has been undertaken in the previous stage, the information that is prepared during this stage is more detailed.

15.3.2 In terms of the assessment methodology, a two stage sequential approach to assessment will be utilised. The first stage is to produce a 'High Level Assessment' of all policies and proposals presented in the NDP. The second stage is more detailed and evaluates specific aspects of the plan proposals which have been identified as being potentially adverse in some way. This approach is more comprehensive and is supported by the Planning Advisory Service[37] guidance, which refers to the technique as 'sieving'.

[37] Planning Advisory Service (2007) Local Development Frameworks; Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal p.32.

15.3.3 Findings from the High Level Assessment will be presented in matrix format. The high-level matrix is not a conclusive tool or model. Its main function is to identify at a strategic level whether or not the assessment requires a more detailed examination or whether satisfactory conclusions may be drawn from the high-level assessment without the need for further (time consuming) detailed analysis of a particular policy.

15.3.4 In cases where further detailed analysis is required, a secondary level of assessment will be used. This introduces the application of Detailed Assessment Matrices. The purpose of Detailed Assessment Matrices are to provide an in-depth assessment of the different aspects of a particular policy which revealed potentially significant adverse effects at the high-level assessment stage. The Detailed Assessment Matrices evaluate specific aspects of the NDP proposals to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

15.3.5 The assessment of policies and options will include:

- A description of the predicted effect;
- The duration of the effect: whether the effect is long, medium or short term;
- The frequency of the effect: will it be ongoing?
- Whether the effect is temporary or permanent;
- The geographic significance: whether the effect is of localised, regional, national or international significance;
- The magnitude of effect;
- The severity of significance; and
- Whether mitigation is required/possible to reduce the effect.

15.3.6 As required by the SEA Directive, cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects will also be identified and evaluated during the assessment. An explanation of these is as follows:

- Indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway.
- Cumulative effects arise where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect, or where several individual effects of the plan have a combined effect.
- Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

15.3.7 The assessment of these effects will be presented in tabular format and show where the different effects arise when two or more draft policies operate together.

15.3.8 Wherever possible, throughout the appraisal process, GIS will be used as an analytical tool to examine the spatial distribution of identified effects.

## 15.4 Draft Environmental Report

15.4.1 The above process will lead to the preparation of a Draft Environmental Report. This version will be an internal document designed to provide sustainability feedback to the plan makers at an important time in the plan's preparation.

15.4.2 The purpose of the report is to enable plan makers to take on board assessment findings, and proposed mitigation and monitoring before the NDP is finalised.

## 15.5 Consultation Version of the Environmental Report

15.5.1 Once plan-makers have received and considered the Draft Environmental Report any amendments which are been made to the NDP will then be re-appraised. The result of the appraisal at this stage in the process will be a Consultation Version of Environmental Report to accompany the release of the Consultation NDP.

15.5.2 The report will be written in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision-makers. This version of the Environmental Report will be fully compliant with all aspects of the SEA Directive as set out in Annex 1 of the Directive. In line with the requirements of the SEA Directive, a Non-Technical Summary will be produced to accompany the finalised consultation version.

15.5.3 Following consultation on the Draft Environmental Report, any amendments which are made to the NDP will be appraised before preparing the final version of the Environmental Report to accompany the Submission version of the NDP.

## 15.6 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Examination

15.6.1 In accordance with SEA procedures, a post-adoption statement will be produced at the very end of the process, following Examination when the NDP is adopted.

15.6.2 Having completed the assessment of the NDP, the SEA process requires the plan making authority to monitor any aspect of the assessment findings that might be associated with significant effects in the future. To address this requirement, a monitoring framework will be prepared to incorporate indicators which are related to the identified potential adverse effects.

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# 16 Consultation on the Scoping Report

## 16.1 Purpose of Consultation

16.1.1 The SEA Regulations state that a Scoping Report shall be prepared which will be the subject of consultation with statutory consultation bodies for a minimum period of five weeks.

16.1.2 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. The SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public at the scoping stage. Regulation 12 (5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1633) states that:

> *"When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies."*

16.1.3 The statutory consultation bodies are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

## 16.2 Consultation Details

16.2.1 This Scoping Report is available to download at:

www.ourstratford.org.uk or www.stratford.gov.uk

16.2.2 Alternatively, hard copies can be viewed at:

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council
Sheep Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
CV37 6EF

16.2.3 The consultation period runs from Tuesday 14th January 2014 to Wednesday 18th February 2014.

16.2.4 All responses on this consultation exercise should be sent to deborah.frith@lepusconsulting.com or to the following address:

Lepus Consulting Ltd,
321 Eagle Tower,
Montpellier Drive,
Cheltenham.
GL50 1TA

16.2.5 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the SEA process for the NDP.

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# Appendix A: Full SEA Framework

| | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... | | Indicators | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance. | Q1a | Will it preserve buildings of architectural or historic interest and, where necessary, encourage their conservation | Number of Grade I and Grade II* buildings at risk. | None (English Heritage) |
| | | | | Number of Grade II and locally listed buildings at risk. | None (English Heritage) |
| | | Q1b | Will it preserve or enhance archaeological sites/remains? | Proportion of scheduled monuments at risk from damage, decayor loss | None (English Heritage) |
| | | | | Number/proportion of development proposals informed by archaeological provisions, including surveys | All (English Heritage) |
| | | Q1c | Will it improve and broaden access to, understanding, and enjoyment of the historic environment? | Annual number of visitors to historic attractions | |
| | | Q1d | Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets? | Proportion of conservation areas covered by up-to-date appraisals (less than five years old) and published management plans. | |
| 2 | Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities. | Q2a | Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the landscape and local distinctiveness and identity? | Application of detailed characterisation studies to new development<br><br>avoid development in the Green Belt (as suggested in the NPPF) | |
| | | Q2b | Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets? | Proportion of conservation areas covered by up-to-date appraisals (less than five years old) and published management plans. | |
| | | Q2c | Will it help limit noise pollution? | Tranquillity assessments | |
| | | Q2d | Will it help limit light pollution? | Tranquillity assessments | |
| | | Q2e | Will it encourage well-designed, high quality developments that enhance the built and natural environment? | % development meeting Building for Life standards. | |
| 3 | Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity. | Q3a | Will it lead to a loss of or damage to biodiversity interest? | Extent (and condition) of priority habitats | there should be 20 standard plots of 250 square metres per 1,000 households (NSALG) |
| | | | | Extent of priority species | |
| | | | | Area and condition of nationally designated sites in appropriate management | By 2010, to ensure that 95% of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition (target to directly reflect the national PSA target) |
| | | Q3b | Will it lead to habitat creation, matching BAP priorities? | Area of Nature Conservation designation per 1,000 population (ha). | At least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population (Natural England) |
| | | | | Area of new habitat creation reflecting Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull BAP priorities | |

| | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... | | Indicators | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Extent and condition of key habitats for which Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been established | |
| | | Q3c | Will it maintain and enhance sites nationally designated for their biodiversity interest and increase their area? | Number, area and condition of nationally designated sites in appropriate management | |
| | | Q3d | Will it increase the area of sites designated for their geodiversity interest? | Area designated for geological interest | |
| | | Q3e | Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their geodiversity interest? | Condition of geological SSSIs | By 2010, to ensure that 95% of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition (target to directly reflect the national PSA target) |
| | | Q3f | Will it link up areas of fragmented habitat? | Extent (and condition) of priority habitats | |
| | | Q3g | Will it increase awareness of biodiversity and geodiversity assets? | Number of school trips to Stratford-on-Avon's Nature Reserves | |
| | | | | Number of accessibility improvements to nature reserves and local sites (including geodiversity sites) | suggested distances from residential areas to assets shown in Shaping Neighbourhoods (Barton et al 2010):<br>300m to a local park/green space<br>1km to playing fields<br>2km major natural green space |
| | | | | Number of interpretation improvements (including information boards etc) in nature reserves and local sites | |
| 4 | Reduce the risk of flooding. | Q4a | Will it help prevent flood risk present in the district from fluvial flooding? | Amount of new development (ha) situated within a 1:100 flood risk area (Flood Zone 3), including an allowance for climate change | Zero (Environment agency) |
| | | Q4b | Will it help prevent flood risk present in the district from surface water flooding? | Number of properties at risk of flooding | |
| | | Q4c | Will it help limit potential increases in flood risk likely to take place in the district as a result of climate change? | Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds | Zero (Environment agency) |
| 5 | Minimise the district's contribution to climate change. | Q5a | Will it help reduce Stratford-on-Avon's carbon footprint? | Proportion of electricity produced from renewable resources | UK Government renewable energy target: 15% of electricity to be produced from renewable sources by 2020. |
| | | | | Proportion of new homes achieving a four star or above sustainability rating for the "Energy/$CO_2$" category as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes | All new homes to be carbon neutral by 2016 (DCLG target) |
| | | | | Per capita greenhouse gas emissions | |
| | | | | Emission by source | |

| | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... | | Indicators | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by driving a car or van | |
| | | | | $CO_2$, methane and nitrous oxide emissions per sector | UK Government targets: 80% reduction of carbon dioxide emission by 2050 and a 26% to 32% reduction by 2020 |
| | | Q5b | Will it help raise awareness of climate change mitigation? | Number of initiatives to increase awareness of energy efficiency | |
| 6 | Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change. | Q6a | Will it help limit potential increases in flood risk likely to take place in the district as a result of climate change? | Amount of new development (ha) situated within a 1:100 flood risk area, including an allowance for climate change | Zero (Environment agency) |
| | | | | Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds | Zero (Environment agency) |
| | | | | Number of properties at risk of flooding. | |
| | | Q6b | Will it encourage the development of buildings prepared for the impacts of climate change? | % of developments meeting the minimum standards for the "Surface Water Run-Off" and "Surface Water Management" categories in the Code for Sustainable Homes | |
| | | | | Thermal efficiency of new and retro fitted development; % planning permissions for projects designed with passive solar design, building orientation, natural ventilation | |
| | | | | No. of planning permissions incorporating SUDS | |
| | | Q6c | Will it retain existing green infrastructure and promote the expansion of green infrastructure to help facilitate climate change adaptation? | Amount of new greenspace created per capita | |
| 7 | Protect and conserve natural resources. | Q7a | Will it include measures to limit water consumption? | Average domestic water consumption (l/head/day) | |
| | | Q7b | Will it safeguard the district's minerals resources for future use? | Area of land with potential for minerals use sterilised | |
| | | Q7c | Will it utilise derelict, degraded and under-used land? | % of dwellings built on previously developed land | |
| | | | | Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than five years | |

| | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... | | Indicators | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Q7d | Will it lead to the more efficient use of land? | Housing density in new development: average number of dwellings per hectare | |
| | | Q7e | Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources? | Percentage of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good Standard or above or equivalent | |
| | | | | Percentage of housing developments achieving a four star or above sustainability rating as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes | |
| | | Q7f | Will it lead to the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land? | Area of Grades 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land lost to new development | planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality (NPPF) |
| 8 | Reduce air, soil and water pollution. | Q8a | Will it lead to improved water quality of both surface water groundwater features? | % of watercourses classified as good or very good biological and chemical quality | All inland water bodies to reach at least "good status" by 2015 (Water Framework Directive) |
| | | | | % change in pollution incidents | |
| | | Q8b | Will it lead to improved air quality? | Number and area of Air Quality Management Areas | To meet national Air Quality Standards |
| | | | | No. of days when air pollution is moderate or high for $NO_2$, $SO_2$, $O_3$, CO or PM. | To meet national Air Quality Standards |
| | | Q8c | Will it maintain and enhance soil quality? | Area of contaminated land (ha) | |
| | | | | % of projects (by number and value) involving remediation of any kind | |
| | | Q8d | Will it reduce the overall amount of diffuse pollution to air, water and soil? | % change in pollution incidents | |
| 9 | Reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste. | Q9a | Will it provide facilities for the seperation and recycling of waste? | Type and capacity of waste management facilities | |
| | | | | Household waste (a) arisings and (b) recycled or composted | |
| | | Q9b | Will it encourage the use of recycled materials in construction? | Reuse of recycled materials from former building stock and other sources | |
| 10 | Improve the efficiency of transport networks by increasing the proportion of | Q10a | Will it reduce the need to travel? | Percentage of completed significant local service developments located within a defined centre | |

| | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... | | Indicators | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel. | | | Average distance (km) travelled to fixed place of work | suggested distances from residential areas to assets shown in Shaping Neighbourhoods (Barton et al 2010):<br>600m to the local centre<br>2km to industrial estate<br>5km to a major employment centre |
| | | | | Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and major health centre. | |
| | | | | Percentage of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services. | |
| | | Q10b | Will it encourage walking and cycling? | Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by bicycle or on foot | Shaping Neighbourhoods suggests that the average cycling journey is 3km, with normal use in the 1-5km range. The normal maximum is 8km. People should not be expected to cycle further than this |
| | | | | Proportion of new development providing cycle parking. | Shaping Neighbourhoods suggests that 75% of people will walk if the jouney is 600m or less, 50% of people will walk if the journey is between 600m and 1km, and only 25% of people will walk if the journey is over 1km. These distances should be considered if intending to increase walking rates. |
| | | Q10c | Will it reduce car use? | Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by driving a car or van | PPS 1 on ecotowns states travel plans should enable at least 50% of trips to be made by non-car means |
| | | Q10d | Will it encourage use of public transport? | Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by bus or train | |
| | | | | Number of journeys made by bus per annum | |
| | | | | Percentage of development in urban/rural areas within 400m or 5 minutes walk of half hourly bus service | All (Shaping Neighourhoods) |
| | | | | Number of journeys made by train per annum | |
| | | Q10e | Will it provide adequate means of access by a range of sustainable transport modes? | Distance of new development to existing or proposed public transport routes. | a complient transport node must be via a safe and convenient pedestrian route of between 350m to 650m in an urban environment (BREEAM communities) |
| | | | | Provision of new walking and cycling links to accompany new development | |
| | | Q10f | Will it help limit HGV traffic flows? | HGV traffic flows | |
| 11 | Reduce barriers for those living in rural areas | Q11a | Will it increase provision of local services and facilities and reduce centralisation? | Percentage of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services | |

| | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... | | Indicators | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Q11a | Will it improve accessibility by a range of transport modes to services and facilities from rural areas? | Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service | |
| | | Q11a | Will it support the provision of affordable housing in rural areas? | Affordable housing completions in rural areas | |
| 12 | Protect the integrity of the district's countryside. | Q12a | Will it prevent the degradation of land on the urban fringe? | Area of derelict or underutilised land on the urban fringe | |
| | | Q12b | Will it lead to a loss of agricultural land? | Area of agricultural land not in use or under active management. | planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality (NPPF) |
| | | Q12c | Will it safeguard local distinctiveness and identity? | Application of detailed characterisation studies to new development | |
| 13 | Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all. | Q13a | Will it ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing? | Affordable housing completions | |
| | | Q13b | Will it identify an appropriate supply of land for new housing? | Net additional dwellings for the current year. | |
| | | Q13c | Will it ensure that all new development contributes to local distinctiveness and improve the local environment? | Number of major housing applications refused on design grounds. | |
| | | | | Accessible Natural Greenspace | 100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England) SDC targets for open space are currently being developed. |
| | | Q13d | Will it meet the building specification guidance in the Code for Sustainable Homes? (DCLG) | Percentage of housing developments achieving a four star or above sustainability rating as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes | All new homes to be carbon neutral by 2016 (UK Government target) |
| | | Q13e | Will it reduce the number of households on the Housing Register? | Number of households on the Housing Register | To reduce the numbers of homeless households in priority need and the number of households in housing need on the housing register |
| 14 | Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being. | Q14a | Will it improve access for all to health, leisure and recreational facilities? | Travel time by public transport to nearest health centre and sports facility. | |
| | | Q14b | Will it improve and enhance the district's green infrastructure network? | Area of parks and green spaces per 1,000 head of population | SDC open space standards are currently being developed. |
| | | | | Accessible Natural Greenspace | 100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England) SDC standards are currently being developed. |
| | | | | Area of playing fields and sports pitches. | 2.83 hectares per 1,000 population for playing field provision (National Playing Fields Association Standard) SDC open space standards are currently being developed. |

| | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... | | Indicators | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Amount of land needed to rectify deficiencies in Open Space Standards | |
| | | | | Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard | |
| | | | | Percentage of residents that are satisfied with the quantity/quality of open space | |
| | | Q14c | Will it improve long term health? | Life expectancy at birth | |
| | | | | Standardised mortality rates | |
| | | Q14d | Will it ensure that risks to human health and the environment from contamination are identified and removed? | Area of contaminated land (ha) | |
| | | Q14e | Will it encourage healthy and active lifestyles? | % of adults (16+) participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking) on three or more days of the week | To increase participation by 1% year-on-year until 2020 to achieve target of 50% of population participants in 30 mins activity, three times a week by 2020 (The Framework for Sport in England) |
| | | | | The number of sports pitches available to the public per 1,000 population | |
| | | Q14f | Will it reduce obesity? | Percentage of adult population classified as obese | By 2010, stabilise incidences of obesity in children by 2010 (DoH) |
| | | Q14g | Does it consider the needs of the district's growing elderly population? | Percentage of older people being supported intensively to live at home | Increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by 1% annually (DoH PSA) |
| | | Q14h | Will it enable communities to influence the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life? | Percentage of adults surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their own local area | |
| | | Q14i | Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as a place to live? | % respondents very or fairly satisfied with their neighbourhood | |
| | | Q14j | Will it reduce crime and the fear of crime? | Indices of Multiple Deprivation: Crime domain | |
| | | Q14k | Will it reduce deprivation in the district? | Indices of Multiple Deprivation | |
| | | Q14l | Will it improve road safety? | Number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads per year | |

| | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... | | Indicators | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities. | Q15a | Will it ensure that new employment, office, retail and leisure developments are in locations that are accessible to those who will use them by a choice of transport modes? | Proportion of residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of key services | |
| | | Q15b | Will it help ensure an adequate supply of employment land? | Ha of new employment land provision | |
| | | Q15c | Will it support or encourage new business sectors? | No. of start-up businesses in the environmental and social enterprise sector | |
| | | | | Expenditure on R&D as the proportion of GVA | |
| | | Q15d | Will it support the visitor economy? | Visitor numbers | |

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# Appendix B: PPP Review

| Title of PPP | Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP |
|---|---|
| Accessibility and Transport | |
| EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) | This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and "underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified". Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed. |
| EU Transport White Paper. Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system (2011) | The white paper sets out a European vision for a competitive and sustainable transport system for the EU. The white paper sets out an aim to achieve a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the European transport system whilst growing transport systems and supporting mobility. The White paper sets out ten strategic goals. |
| National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) | The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development.<br>The NPPF includes guidance on promoting sustainable transport. The NPPF requires development plans to seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and congestion, reduce the and to travel, and exploit opportunities for the sustainable movement of people and good. Developments should be located and designed where practical to:<br>• accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies;<br>• give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities;<br>• create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate establishing home zones;<br>• incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles; and consider |

| Title of PPP | Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP |
|---|---|
| | the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport. |
| Department for Transport: Transport White Paper: The Future of Transport – A Network for 2030 (2004) | Sets out factors that will shape transport in the UK over the next thirty years. Also sets out how the Government will respond to the increasing demand for travel, while minimising the negative impact on people and the environment. |
| Department for Transport: Towards a Sustainable Transport System: Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World (November 2008) | Outlines five national goals for transport, focusing on the challenge of delivering strong economic growth while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It outlines the key components of national infrastructure, discusses the difficulties of planning over the long term in the context of uncertain future demand and describes the substantial investments we are making to tackle congestion and crowding on transport networks.<br>The National Goals for Transport are as follows:<br>Goal 1: To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change.<br>Goal 2: To support economic competitiveness and growth, by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks.<br>Goal 3: To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society.<br>Goal 4: To contribute to better safety, security and health and longer life expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health.<br>Goal 5: To improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, and to promote a healthy natural environment. |
| Department for Transport: The Future of Rail White Paper (2004) | Sets out a blueprint for a new streamlined structure for Britain's Railway. The proposals aim to provide a single point of accountability for the network's performance, allow closer working between track and train and provide for greater devolution of decision-making. |
| Department for Transport: An Evidence Base Review of Public Attitudes to Climate Change and | Summary report of the findings of an evidence base review investigating the research base on public attitudes towards climate change and transport behaviour. |

| Title of PPP | Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP |
|---|---|
| Transport Behaviour (2006) | |
| Department for Transport: National Cycling Strategy and Review (1996, reviewed 2005) | The National Cycling Strategy aims to increase cycle use for all types of journey. The Review focuses on the mechanisms established for the delivery of cycling and the effect these have had on increasing cycling rates. |
| Warwickshire County Council: Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-26 (2011) | Warwickshire County Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) came into effect on 1st April 2011. The Plan covers the period 2011-2026 and replaces the second Local Transport Plan (2006-11).<br>The LTP3 comprises two parts:<br>• The Local Transport Strategy - covering the 15-year period 2011 - 2026<br>• The Implementation Plan - which details how the first three years of the Strategy will be delivered (2011-2014)<br><br>The overall objectives of the LTP3 are as follows:<br>1. To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens in order to promote a fairer, more inclusive society;<br>2. To seek reliable and efficient transport networks which will help promote full employment and a strong, sustainable local and sub-regional economy;<br>3. To reduce the impact of transport on people and the [built and natural] environment and improve the journey experience of transport users;<br>4. To improve the safety, security and health of people by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health;<br>5. To encourage integration of transport, both in terms of policy planning and the physical interchange of modes;<br>6. To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change. |

| Title of PPP | Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP |
|---|---|
| Stratford-on-Avon Local Development Framework Car and Cycling Parking Standards; Supplementary Planning Document (2007) | The Supplementary Planning Document recognises that the management of the demand and supply of parking spaces can be used as an effective tool in influencing a shift in the mode of travel, from car-based journeys to more sustainable modes such as public transport. The document sets out what the criteria for the car parking standards should be.<br>The objectives of the parking standards are:<br>• To reduce traffic congestion in urban areas;<br>• To provide effective access to town centres;<br>• To sustain and improve upon the economic viability of the District;<br>• To assist in achieving an effective balance between car based travel and environmentally friendly alternatives such as walking, cycling and public transport;<br>• To ensure safety in the use of transport;<br>• To assist in improving upon the aesthetic quality of towns and villages; and<br>• To strike a balance between the provision of adequate car parking to serve the development and the need to avoid highway danger. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The Core Strategy includes a policy on transportation, the policy has seven parts:<br>• Transport strategy;<br>• Transport and new development;<br>• Parking standards;<br>• Strategic transport schemes;<br>• Other transport schemes;<br>• Aviation; and<br>• Information and communication technologies.<br>Development proposals must be consistent with and contribute to the implementation of the agreed transport strategies and priorities set out in the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan, including its area strategies. Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council will work together to achieve the objectives and implement the proposals in the LTP, with particular emphasis on encouraging modal shift and the greater use of more sustainable forms of transport |

| Title of PPP | Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP |
|---|---|
| Air Quality | |
| EC Air Quality Directive (1996) | Aims to improve air quality throughout Europe by controlling the level of certain pollutants and monitoring their concentrations. In particular the Directive aims to establish levels for different air pollutants; draw up common methods for assessing air quality; methods to improve air quality; and make sure that information on air quality is easily accessible to Member States and the public. |
| DEFRA: The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (2007). | The Strategy provides specific UK targets for reducing air pollution and sets out local authority responsibilities for achieving most of these. It states that land use planning has a key role to play in contributing to these targets. |
| Warwickshire County Council: Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-26 (2011) | Warwickshire County Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) came into effect on 1st April 2011. The Plan covers the period 2011-2026 and replaces the second Local Transport Plan (2006-11).<br>The LTP3 comprises two parts:<br>• The Local Transport Strategy - covering the 15-year period 2011 - 2026<br>• The Implementation Plan - which details how the first three years of the Strategy will be delivered (2011-2014)<br>The LTP3 includes a goal to improve air quality by improving congestion / reducing traffic and encouraging people to use more sustainable modes. It also seeks to reduce / minimise the number of areas declared as having poor air quality as a result of road transport emissions. |
| Warwickshire County Council: Draft Air Quality Strategy (2010) | The objectives of the Air Quality Strategy (which reflect the wider objectives of the LTP) have been prepared to support local, regional and national policy on air quality and transport.<br>The objectives of the Strategy are:<br>• To address air quality issues that have, or will arise, due to transport-related issues;<br>• To inform and complement the County Council's wider policies on transport contained in the LTP;<br>• To take a proactive, rather than a reactive approach, to dealing with future air quality issues and taking measures to minimise them before they occur;<br>• To create a realistic, deliverable Action Plan with schemes and initiatives for improving air quality related to transport issues within the County; and |

| Title of PPP | Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP |
|---|---|
| | • To integrate the Strategy fully within the Local Transport Plan, complementing the schemes and objectives contained in other parts of the document.<br>The Air Quality Strategy includes 6 policies relating to improving air quality through partnership working and education. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council: 2009 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment (2009) | The report presents the findings of Stratford-on-Avon District Council's third Updating and Screening Assessment of air quality within the District. It evaluates new and changed sources to identify those that may give rise to a risk of the air quality objective being exceeded. |
| Biodiversity and Geodiversity | |
| EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme 2002-2012 (2002) | Nature and biodiversity (including soil communities) has been identified as one of four priority areas for Europe. The EAP requires specific action to counteract pressures arising notably from pollution, the introduction of non-native species, and potential risks from releasing genetically modified organisms. |
| Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (2011) | The EU biodiversity strategy follows on from the EU Biodiversity Action Plan (2006). It aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services across the EU by 2020. The strategy contains six targets and 20 actions. The six targets cover:<br>• Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity;<br>• Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure;<br>• More sustainable agriculture and forestry;<br>• Better management of fish stocks;<br>• Tighter controls on invasive alien species; and<br>• A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. |
| The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995) | The strategy aims to stop and reverse the degradation of biological and landscape diversity values in Europe. |

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| UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) | The aims of the Convention include the conservation of biological diversity (including a commitment to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss), the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. |
| Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) | The Convention seeks to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, and to monitor and control endangered and vulnerable species. |
| DEFRA Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended) | The principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. |
| DEFRA. Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) | The England biodiversity strategy 2020 ties in with the EU biodiversity strategy in addition to drawing links to the concept of ecosystem services. The strategy's vision for England is;<br>"By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone".<br><br>The Strategies overall mission is to:<br>"to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people". |
| DoE Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan (1994) | Government's strategy for protection and enhancement of biodiversity, from 1992 convention on Biodiversity commitments. Advises on opportunities and threats for biodiversity. |
| TCPA: Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities (2004) | The development process should consider ecological potential of all areas including both greenfield and brownfield sites. Local authorities and developers have a responsibility to mitigate impacts of development on designated sites and priority habitats and species and avoid damage to ecosystems. |
| National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) | The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development.<br>The NPPF includes guidance on promoting the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. It requires the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local |

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| | environment by:<br>• protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;<br>• recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;<br>• minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;<br>• preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and<br>• remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate |
| Natural England: Securing Biodiversity: A New Framework for Delivering Priority Species and Habitats in England | The guide sets out a framework which has been developed to enhance the recovery of priority habitats and species in England (published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006).<br>The Strategy seeks to:<br>• encourage the adoption of an ecosystem approach and better embed climate change adaptation principles in conservation action;<br>• achieve biodiversity enhancements across whole landscapes and seascapes;<br>• achieve our priority habitat targets through greater collective emphasis on habitat restoration and expansion;<br>• enhance the recovery of priority species by better integrating their needs into habitat-based work where possible, and through targeted species recovery work where necessary;<br>• support the restoration of designated sites, including by enhancing the wider countryside in which they sit;<br>• support the conservation of marine biodiversity, inside and outside of designated sites; |

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| | • establish and implement a delivery programme, with agreed accountabilities, for priority species and habitats in England;<br>• improve the integration of national, regional and local levels of delivery;<br>• improve the links between relevant policy-makers and biodiversity practitioners; strengthen biodiversity partnerships by clarifying roles at England, regional and local levels. |
| Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network (2010) | The Making Space for Nature report, which investigated the resilience of England's ecological network to multiple pressures, concluded that England's wildlife sites do not comprise of a coherent and resilient ecological network. The report advocates the need for a step change in conservation of England's wildlife sites to ensure they are able to adapt and become part of a strong and resilient network. The report summarises what needs to be done to improve England's wildlife sites to enhance the resilience and coherence of England's ecological network in four words; more, bigger, better, and joined. There are five key approaches which encompass these, which also take into account of the land around the ecological network:<br>(i) Improve the quality of current sites by better habitat management.<br>(ii) Increase the size of current wildlife sites.<br>(iii) Enhance connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones'.<br>(iv) Create new sites.<br>(v) Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites.<br>To establish a coherent ecological network 24 wide ranging recommendations have been made which are united under five key themes:<br>(vi) There is a need to continue the recent progress in improving the management and condition of wildlife sites, particularly our SSSIs. We also make recommendations for how these should be designated and managed in ways that enhance their resilience to climate change.<br>(vii) There is a need to properly plan ecological networks, including restoration areas. Restoration needs to take place throughout England. However, in some areas, both the scale of what can be delivered to enhance the network, and the ensuing benefits for wildlife and people, will be very high. These large areas should be formally recognised as Ecological Restoration Zones. |

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| | (viii) There are a large number of surviving patches of important wildlife habitat scattered across England outside of SSSIs, for example in Local Wildlife Sites. We need to take steps to improve the protection and management of these remaining wildlife habitats. 'Protection' will usually be best achieved through incentive-based mechanisms, but at times may require designation.<br>(ix) There is a need to become better at deriving multiple benefits from the ways we use and interact with our environment. There are many things that society has to do that may seem to have rather little to do with nature conservation, but could have, or even should have if we embrace more radical thinking; flood management by creating wetlands is an obvious example. We need to exploit these 'win-win' opportunities to the full. Being better at valuing a wider range of ecosystem services would help this process.<br>(x) It will not be possible to achieve a step-change in nature conservation in England without society accepting it to be necessary, desirable, and achievable. This will require strong leadership from government and significant improvements in collaboration between local authorities, local communities, statutory agencies, the voluntary and private sectors, farmers, landowners and other land-managers and individual citizens |
| DEFRA England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy (2007) | The England's Trees, Woods, and Forest Strategy (2007) aims to:<br>(i) provide, in England, a resource of trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations<br>(ii) ensure that existing and newly planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to the impacts of climate change and also contribute to the way in which biodiversity and natural resources adjust to a changing climate<br>(iii) protect and enhance the environmental resources of water, soil, air, biodiversity and landscapes (both woodland and non-woodland), and the cultural and amenity values of trees and woodland<br>(iv) increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to the quality of life for those living in, working in or visiting England<br>(v) improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and promote the development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products and ecosystem services where this will deliver identify able public benefits, nationally or locally, including the reduction of carbon emissions. |

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| The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature. The Natural Environment White Paper. (HM Government 2011) | Published in June 2011, the Natural Environment White paper sets out the Government's plans to ensure the natural environment is protected and fully integrated into society and economic growth. The White Paper sets out four key aims:<br>(i) Protecting and improving our natural environment<br>There is a need to improve the quality of our natural environment across England, moving to a net gain in the value of nature. It aims to arrest the decline in habitats and species and the degradation of landscapes. It will protect priority habitats and safeguard vulnerable non-renewable resources for future generations. It will support natural systems to function more effectively in town, in the country and at sea. It will achieve this through joined-up action at local and national levels to create an ecological network which is resilient to changing pressures.<br>(ii) Growing a green economy<br>The ambition is for a green and growing economy which not only uses natural capital in a responsible and fair way but also contributes to improving it. It will properly value the stocks and flows of natural capital. Growth will be green because it is intrinsically linked to the health of the country's natural resources. The economy will capture the value of nature. It will encourage businesses to use natural capital sustainably, protecting and improving it through their day-to-day operations and the management of their supply chains.<br>(iii) Reconnecting people and nature<br>The ambition is to strengthen the connections between people and nature. It wants more people to enjoy the benefits of nature by giving them freedom to connect with it. Everyone should have fair access to a good-quality natural environment. It wants to see every child in England given the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural environment. It wants to help people take more responsibility for their environment, putting local communities in control and making it easier for people to take positive action.<br>(iv) International and EU leadership<br>The global ambitions are:<br>• internationally, to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth, together with food, water, climate and energy security; and<br>• to put the EU on a path towards environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient growth, which is resilient to climate change, provides jobs and supports the wellbeing of citizens. |

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| UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011) | The UK National Ecosystem Assessment is the first analysis of the UK's natural environment and the benefits it provides to society and economic prosperity. The assessment leads on from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) and analyses services provided by ecosystem set against eight broad habitat types. The ecosystem services provided by these habitat types have been assessed to find their overall condition. The assessment sought to answer ten key questions:<br>1) What are the status and trends of the UK's ecosystems and the services they provide to society?<br>2) What are the drivers causing changes in the UK's ecosystems and their services?<br>3) How do ecosystem services affect human well-being, who and where are the beneficiaries, and how does this affect how they are valued and managed?<br>4) Which vital UK provisioning services are not provided by UK ecosystems?<br>5) What is the current public understanding of ecosystem services and the benefits they provide?<br>6) Why should we incorporate the economic values of ecosystem services into decision-making?<br>7) How might ecosystems and their services change in the UK under plausible future scenarios?<br>8) What are the economic implications of different plausible futures?<br>9) How can we secure and improve the continued delivery of ecosystem services?<br>How have we advanced our understanding of the influence of ecosystem services on human well-being and what are the knowledge constraints on more informed decision making? |
| DEFRA Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing Biodiversity Duty (2007) | The Duty is set out in Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, and states that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". Particular areas of focus include: Policy, Strategy and Procurement; Management of Public Land and Buildings; Planning, Infrastructure and Development; and Education, Advice and Awareness. |
| CABE Making Contracts Work for Wildlife: How to Encourage Biodiversity in Urban Parks (2006) | Advises on how to make the most of the potential for biodiversity in urban parks and it shows how the commitment of individuals and employers can make the difference between failure and inspiring success. |

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| Forestry Commission & West Midlands Conservancy: West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework (2004) and Delivery Plan (2005/06) | Aims to inspire and guide those involved in the management of trees, woodlands and forests in the region to secure the sustainable development of this resource. |
| West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership: Restoring the Region's Wildlife - Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands (2005) | Key challenges include: maintaining and improving the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems; developing an area based approach to restoring wildlife; monitoring the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems; re-connecting and integrating action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity; and coping with the impacts of climate change. |
| West Midlands Regional Sustainability Forum: Enriching Our Region - An Environmental Manifesto for the West Midlands (2005) | Proposals for environmental improvements which will benefit the people of the West Midlands and help the region to play its part in revitalising urban areas, protecting natural environment and heritage. |
| Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull BAP Group: Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Biodiversity Action Plan (2006) | The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan outlines how landowners, land-managers and policy makers should protect the characteristic wildlife and landscapes in the sub-region. The LBAP provides a local response to the UK Government's National Action Plans for threatened habitats and species.<br>The plan contains 26 Species Action Plans and 24 Habitat Action Plans. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | Multiple policies within the Core Strategy address biodiversity issues, these include:<br>• Sustainable development;<br>• Green belt;<br>• Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;<br>• Landscape;<br>• Natural environment; and<br>• Green Infrastructure.<br>The policy with the most relevance to biodiversity is the natural environment which states that |

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| | 'development proposals should aim wherever possible to bring about a net gain in biodiversity'. This should be done by:<br>1. Safeguarding existing habitats<br>2. Creating new habitats |
| Climate Change | |
| UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) | Sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. |
| IPCC Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997) | Commits member nations to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, or engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases. |
| EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme 2002-2012 (2002) | Climate change has been identified as one of four priority areas for Europe. The EAP's main objective is a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases without a reduction in levels of growth and prosperity, as well as adaptation and preparation for the effects of climate change. |
| EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) | This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and "underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified". Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed. |

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| UK Climate Change Act 2008 (2008) | The 2008 Climate Change Act seeks to manage and respond to climate change in the UK, by:<br>• Setting ambitious, legally binding targets;<br>• Taking powers to help meet those targets;<br>• Strengthening the institutional framework;<br>• Enhancing the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change; and<br>• Establishing clear and regular accountability to the UK Parliament and to the devolved legislatures.<br>Significantly, the Act sets a legally binding target of at least an 80 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and at least a 34 per cent cut by 2020. These targets are against a 1990 baseline. |
| UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) | The UK has committed to sourcing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 – an increase in the share of renewables from about 2.25% in 2008. The Renewable Energy Strategy sets out how the Government will achieve this target through utilising a variety of mechanisms to encourage Renewable Energy provision in the UK. This includes streamlining the planning system, increasing investment in technologies as well as improving funding for advice and awareness raising. |
| The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009) | The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan sets out how the UK will meet the Climate Change Act's legally binding target of 34 per cent cut in emissions on 1990 levels by 2020. It also seeks to deliver emissions cuts of 18% on 2008 levels.<br>The main aims of the Transition Plan include the following:<br>• Producing 30% of energy from renewables by 2020;<br>• Improving the energy efficiency of existing housing;<br>• Increasing the number of people in 'green jobs'; and<br>• Supporting the use and development of clean technologies. |
| National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) | The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development. |

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| | The NPPF includes guidance on climate change, flooding, and coastal change. Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. New development should be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure.<br>To support the move to a low carbon future, local planning authorities should:<br>• plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions;<br>• actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings; and<br>• when setting any local requirement for a building's sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards.<br>Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change, by:<br>• applying the Sequential Test;<br>• if necessary, applying the Exception Test;<br>• safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management;<br>• using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding; and<br>• where climate change is expected to increase flood risk so that some existing development may not be sustainable in the long-term, seeking opportunities to facilitate the relocation of development, including housing, to more sustainable locations.<br>Local planning authorities should reduce risk from coastal change by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas or adding to the impacts of physical changes to the coast. They should identify as a Coastal Change Management Area any area likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast, and:<br>• be clear as to what development will be appropriate in such areas and in what circumstances; |

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| | and<br>• make provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be relocated away from Coastal Change Management Areas. |
| DfT An Evidence Base Review of Public Attitudes to Climate Change and Transport Behaviour (2006) | Summary report of the findings of an evidence base review investigating the research base on public attitudes towards climate change and transport behaviour. |
| Carbon Trust: The Climate Change Challenge: Scientific Evidence and Implications (2005) | This report summarises the nature of the climate change issue. It explains the fundamental science and the accumulating evidence that climate change is real and needs to be addressed. It also explains the future potential impacts, including the outstanding uncertainties. |
| Energy Saving Trust: Renewable Energy Sources for Homes in Urban Environments (2005) | Provides information about the integration of renewable energy sources into new and existing dwellings in urban environments. It covers the basic principles, benefits, limitations, costs and suitability of various technologies. |
| Sustainability West Midlands: The Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the West Midlands (2004) | The aim of the study was to set out the overall picture of issues, challenges and priorities regarding the likely impact of climate change in the West Midlands for the first time, with the intention of feeding into key regional strategies. |
| Warwickshire County Council: Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy (June 2006) | The document sets out the Climate Change Strategy for the county of Warwickshire. The overarching aim of this strategy is:<br>"To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Warwickshire to at least the level set out by Government policy, 15%-18% reduction by 2010 and a 60% reduction by 2050 (against 1990 levels). We will achieve this whilst maintaining and improving the quality of life of Warwickshire residents through the implementation of a policy of sustainable development".<br><br>The objectives of the Strategy are as follows:<br>o To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improving energy efficiency, minimising waste and increasing the use of renewable sources of energy.<br>o To reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transport (particularly road transport) both |

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| | through effective consideration and promotion of the public transport, car sharing, home working and other interventions, as well as encouraging walking and cycling.<br>○ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through better waste management, including waste minimisation and increased recycling, more efficient use of resources and more environmentally aware procurement (including infrastructure).<br>○ For organisations to educate their employees and as a result, the wider communities of Warwickshire, on their responsibilities and actions required to limit the effects of climate change in our county. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The Core Strategy includes a policy on climate change and sustainable energy. Within this policy it specifically mentions climate change and advises that all residential and non-residential development should be built to allow for adaptation to Climate Change. In addition it is suggested that the methods and materials used to renovate existing buildings should also encourage adaptation, by:<br>• Directing development to sustainable locations;<br>• Locating development which minimizes the need to travel and encourages other forms of sustainable transport such as cycling, walking and the use of public transport;<br>• Development which reduce carbon emissions and make efficient use of natural resources;<br>• The promotion of decentralized low carbon and renewable energy schemes, where appropriate. |
| Economic Factors | |
| EU European Employment Strategy (1997, revised 2005) | The EES is designed as the main tool to give direction to and ensure co-ordination of the employment policy priorities to which Member States should subscribe at EU level. |
| EU The Lisbon Strategy (2000, revised 2005) | The Lisbon Strategy was adopted in March 2000 and aims to make the EU the most dynamic and competitive economy by 2010. This strategy involves a range of policy areas, from research and education to environment and employment. |
| DfES 14-19 Education and Skills White Paper (2005) | Sets out proposals, which build on the strengths of the existing education system, designed to ensure that every young person masters functional English and maths before they leave education. |

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| HM Treasury: Science & innovation investment framework 2004-2014 (2004) | Describes how the UK should attract the highest-skilled people and companies which have the potential to innovate turn innovation into a commercial opportunity. |
| DEFRA Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy (2005) | Sets a broad-ranging policy agenda for achieving sustainable development in the UK. This includes topics related to helping people make better choices; sustainable consumption and production; climate change and energy; protecting natural resources and enhancing the environment; and creating sustainable communities. |
| DfES Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners (2005) | Sets out the DfES skills and education strategy, seeking to address historic weaknesses and put a clear focus on children, learners, parents and employers, promoting personalisation and choice. |
| DfES Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances (2005) | Seta out a commitment to develop a new approach to funding for 14-19 year-olds and to move to a position where more funding is driven directly by employer and learner choice. |
| DTI Technology Strategy - Developing UK Capability (2006) | Key goals are to: help leading sectors and businesses maintain their position in the face of global competition; stimulate those sectors and businesses with the capacity to be among the best in the world to fulfil their potential; ensure that the emerging technologies of today become the growth sectors of tomorrow; and combine all these elements in such a way that the UK becomes a centre for investment by world-leading companies. |
| National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) | The NPPF sets out that planning should proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving places that the country needs. It advises that every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of the area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth.<br><br>This approach is underpinned by the presumption in favour of sustainable development. For planmaking this means that local planning authorites should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs in their areas, and that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed development needs with, sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless the adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, or other policies in the Framework indicate that development should be restricted. For decision-making it means that development proposals that accord with the development plan should be approved without delay |

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| | When drawing up Local Plans, local planning authorities should:<br>• Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for their area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth;<br>• Set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period;<br>• Support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting, and where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in [the] area. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan and to allow a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances<br>• Plan positively for the location, promotion and expansion of clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries;<br>• Identify priority areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement;<br>• Facilitate flexible working practices such as the integration of residential and commercial uses within the same unit. |
| Warwick District Council (2013) Warwick District Employment Land Review Update | The Warwick District Employment Land Review deals principally with local employment land issues, rather than regional or sub-regional employment land provision. The Update to the Employment Land Review has been prepared to:<br>1. Take account of the revised economic outlook/ forecasts and current market conditions;<br>2. Consider the alignment between housing and employment land provision;<br>3. Consider and advise on the strategy for employment land provision.<br>The update concludes that the overall strategy for employment land provision within the Local Plan needs to respond to national policy which emphasises providing a supply of good quality employment sites to meet the needs of the business community and supporting existing and growing sectors within the local economy.<br>Ensuring a supply of good quality, well located employment sites is maintained will help to support investment by existing business and growth in the business base in these sectors. The focus of demand for additional floorspace is expected to be towards B1 activities, however a continuing supply of land suitable for B2 manufacturing uses will be equally important in retaining and supporting investment by higher value-added manufacturing employers. |

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| | The employment land review supports a strategy for employment land provision which:<br>• Seeks to improve the quality of the overall employment land portfolio, through a strategy of:<br>o Protecting existing well-located and well-performing sites from competing development pressures, and continues to encourage investment in these sites;<br>o Focused allocation of additional well-located employment land at locations which are accessible by a range of means of transport;<br>o Selected redevelopment of existing poor quality small and constrained employment sites where there is clear evidence that these no longer remain suitable to meet current occupier and business needs.<br>• Recognises and seeks to continue to support economic growth at Stoneleigh Park and Abbey Park in agricultural and related activities and research and development;<br>• Ensure a balanced provision of employment land across the District, with appropriate additional provision linked to supporting the economic health of all of the District's key settlements;<br>• Seeking to maintain, through a plan, monitor and manage approach, a supply of land and floorspace which is capable of meeting the requirements of a range of businesses of different sizes and in different sectors. There is no evidence of significant gaps in the land or property portfolio at the time of this assessment, but this should be kept under review;<br>• Includes policies which provide the flexibility to respond to significant opportunities for economic and business growth and investment when these arise. |
| GL Hearn (2011) Stratford-on-Avon District Employment Land Study | The Employment Land Study, prepared by GL Hearn, assesses the amount and type of employment land that is required in the District to assist in maintaining the economic health of the area and in supporting a supply of job opportunities for its residents.<br>The Study focuses on the provision of land for Class B uses, as defined in the Town & Country Planning (Use Classes) Order, which cover office, industrial, and warehouse/distribution floorspace.<br>An appropriate strategy for economic development should look to create the conditions to allow businesses to prosper and grow. This will require a combination of measures addressing skills and labour supply; the commercial property offer; wider infrastructure; business support measures; ICT infrastructure and cluster and supply-chain development. The study advised that innovation will be critical to maintaining and improving performance of both the manufacturing and service sectors. Research and innovation, business-to-business collaboration and knowledge sharing are critical to this.<br>It is likely that the District's geography and quality of life will support further growth of small and |

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| | home-based businesses, including within rural areas. There is potential for both home and remote working to increase and for growth of home-based businesses over the plan period. It is important that the local authority works to provide support to the small business base in these areas. Many embryonic businesses will be run from home and may require little in the way of physical infrastructure or premises. However access to tailored support, business-to-business networking and key facilities will be important if these businesses are to thrive and grow. It will also be important that good quality telecommunications infrastructure is provided, particularly high-speed broadband.<br><br>The employment land study also discusses the needs of Stratford-upon-Avon. It suggests that the focus should be firmly on attracting higher value-added employment. They recommend that an additional 5-10 ha of land is allocated at Stratford-upon-Avon for B1 uses for development within the 2008-28 plan period.<br><br>National planning policy supports focusing high trip-generating uses, including office development, within town centres. However, the study advises in the case of Stratford-upon-Avon, physical and heritage constraints mean that there is very little scope for providing large-scale office developments in the town centre itself. They consider that there is potential for selective release of existing poorer quality employment land in Stratford-upon-Avon. |
| Stratford-on-Avon Destination Tourism Strategy 2011 – 2015 Revised Draft | The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for tourism in the District from 2011 to 2015, and based on evidence, research and consultation, outlines the vision, targets, aims and objectives that the destination aspires to address through a new Tourism partnership approach. The resulting priorities therefore reflect the most urgent needs as seen by stakeholders to address in order to deliver tourism effectively.<br><br>There are six key priority areas:<br><br>1. To form a representative Tourism Steering Group to lead for the destination: The move towards partnership working through a Destination Steering Group. It is essential for the group to consist of the right people in an independent, robust and impartial body, all working and delivering to a clear strategy and vision. This group will have control and necessary powers to do so and will be supported by Stratford District Council.<br>2. To promote and raise awareness of the world class nature of the destination at all levels: To effectively realise and develop the marketing of the destination; to understand, draw together and define the offer as well as the key audiences to reach, providing an overarching identity and communications platform that all stakeholders can use and buy into and encourage partnership in its delivery. |

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| | 3. To improve digital communication: Minimising duplication of effort across the digital space and ensuring a clear and effective presence at all levels, from destination information down to ensuring high quality in individual offers, as well as developing methods of working in concert.<br>4. Improve Provision of Visitor Information: Developing clear, consistent and relevant information on all aspects of the destination and ensuring it is easily accessible at all stages of the visitor journey.<br>5. Improve visitor facilities and experience: Having a clear understanding of visitor needs and supporting improvement of the key facilities and activities to meet those needs.<br>6. Improve visitor welcome: Developing understanding of the visitor experience, and identifying objectives to improve all aspects, from customer service, to visual impact. |
| Stratford-On-Avon District Council Stratford-On-Avon District Retail Study June 2008 | The principal focus of the study was to provide the Council with robust evidence and advice on the need for additional convenience goods floorspace given current national and regional policy and in the light of demographic and economic trends.<br>Regional retail policy states that Stratford-upon-Avon is the 'preferred location' for major retail development within Stratford-on-Avon District, whilst the network of smaller town, district and local centres should provide for day-to-day needs. Regional policy further states local authorities should be pro-active in encouraging appropriate retail development in these smaller centres in order to maintain and enhance their function. The main focus should be on meeting local needs, in particular the provision of convenience goods shopping.<br>In summary, the study's recommended retail strategy for the Council is to actively plan for additional food store provision within Stratford-on-Avon District, but in a way that not only meets the sustainability objectives of reducing expenditure leakage (and trips) to centres outside of the District, but also reduces the need to travel longer distances by car for main food shopping within the District. |
| Stratford-on-Avon Draft Business and Enterprise Strategy 2012 - 2015 | The vision of the strategy is that with the support of partners the Council enables Stratford-on-Avon District to become a place where business and enterprise can flourish.<br>The strategy includes three objectives which were developed to address issues and concerns arising from the national, regional and local context. These objectives are to:<br>1. Create an environment for businesses to start, locate and thrive;<br>2. Facilitate growth of the local economy through targeted support; and<br>3. Create new jobs and improve skills. |

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| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The Core Strategy has a policy on Economic Development, this policy states that development which provides for a wide range of business and commercial activity will be promoted in order to support and foster the growth and competitiveness of the District's economy, provide more jobs and improve the vitality of the local business environment.<br><br>The Core Strategy also includes provision for employment land, with support given to the expansion of firms in their existing locations, as well as encouraging workspaces within residential development to increase the scope for home-based working. |
| Health | |
| EC Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013 (2007) | Building on current work, this Strategy aims to provide an overarching strategic framework spanning core issues in health as well as health in all policies and global health issues. |
| National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) | The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development.<br>The NPPF includes guidance on promoting healthy communities.<br>The NPPF requires local planning authorities to aim to achieve places which promote:<br>• opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity;<br>• safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. |
| DCMS: Playing to win: a new era for sport. (2008) | The Government's vision for sport and physical activity for 2012 and beyond is to increase significantly levels of sport and physical activity for people of all ages and to achieve sustained levels of success in international competition.<br>The ambition is for England to become –a truly world leading sporting nation. |

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| | The vision is to give more people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality competitive sport. |
| DoH: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England White Paper (2010) | Sets out the Governments approach to tackling threats to public health and dealing with health inequalities. It sets out an approach that will:<br>1) protect the population from health threats – led by central government, with a strong system to the frontline;<br>2) empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone's health and wellbeing, and tackle the wider factors that influence it;<br>3) focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework;<br>4) reflect the Government's core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier; and<br>5) balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a 'ladder' of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation. |
| DoH & Department for Work and Pensions. Improving health and work: changing lives: The Government's Response to Dame Carol Black's Review of the health of Britain's working-age population (2008) | This sets out the Governments response to a review into the health of Britain's working age population conducted by Dame Carol Black.<br>The vision is to: "create a society where the positive links between work and health are recognised by all, where everyone aspires to a healthy and fulfilling working life and where health conditions and disabilities are not a bar to enjoying the benefits of work".<br>To achieve the vision three key aspirations have been identified:<br>1. creating new perspectives on health and work;<br>2. improving work and workplaces; and<br>3. supporting people to work.<br>Through these three aspirations Britain's working population will fulfil their full potential, create stronger communities and help relive the financial burden of health problems on the economy. |

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| DoH: Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services (2005) | Puts emphasis on moving healthcare into the community and will therefore have an impact on sustainable development considerations, including supporting local economies and how people travel to healthcare facilities. |
| Forestry Commission: Trees and Woodlands - Nature's Health Service (2005) | Provides detailed examples of how the Woodland Sector (trees, woodlands and green spaces) can significantly contribute to people's health, well-being (physical, psychological and social) and quality of life. Increasing levels of physical activity is a particular priority. |
| Countryside Agency: The Countryside in and Around Towns – A vision for connecting town and country in the pursuit of sustainable development (2005) | A vision for the landscape of urban/rural fringe environments and how to better manage these areas and make improvements. Key functions for the environment include: a bridge to the country; a gateway to the town; a health centre; a classroom; a recycling and renewable energy centre; a productive landscape; a cultural legacy; a place for sustainable living; an engine for regeneration; and a nature reserve. |
| English Nature: Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A Review and Toolkit for their Implementation (2003) | Aims to help Local Authorities develop policies which acknowledge, protect and enhance the contribution natural spaces make to local sustainability. Three aspects of natural space in cities and towns are discussed: their biodiversity; their ability to cope with urban pollution; ensuring natural spaces are accessible to everyone. The report aims to show how size and distance criteria can be used to identify the natural spaces which contribute most to local sustainability. |
| Warwickshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy<br>2012-2015 | The overall vision of the strategy is to ensure that "In Warwickshire people will live longer, in better health and be supported to be independent for as long as possible. We will see the people of Warwickshire free from poverty, have a decent standard of living and no child will start their lives at a disadvantage or be left behind."<br>To achieve this vision everything needs to be based on some core principles. These are:<br>• We will help keep people well and independent for as long as possible<br>• We will ensure that the people of Warwickshire have a greater say in how services are provided<br>• We will recognise that many public services have direct impacts on people's health and wellbeing and we will work with these services to maximise this positive impact<br>• We will help people be cared for in their own home wherever possible<br>• We will identify social problems or illness as early as possible to prevent situations getting worse |

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| | • We will look for new ways to help people help themselves by using available technologies<br>• We will integrate health and social care services and other public sector services wherever possible to improve the quality of care people receive<br>• We will integrate health and social care services and other public sector services wherever possible to improve the quality of care people receive<br>The local priorities are:<br>o Children and Young People<br>• Educational attainment<br>• Looked after children<br>o Lifestyle factors affecting health and wellbeing<br>o Vulnerable Communities<br>• Reducing health and wellbeing inequalities<br>• Disability<br>• Safeguarding<br>o Ill Health<br>• Long-term conditions<br>• Mental wellbeing<br>o Old Age<br>1. Dementia<br>2. Aging and frailty |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council Active Communities Strategy 2008 2012 | The Active Communities Strategy seeks to ensure the effective planning and coordination of an integrated range of opportunities for participation in Sport and Active Recreation to meet the needs and aspirations of the District's residents, and in support of the Council's Corporate Objectives.<br>If Stratford District is to achieve its long term vision of increasing levels of participation by 1% per annum by 2020, it is crucial that local people are able to access adequate and affordable facilities within a reasonable distance from where they either live or work.<br>The Active Communities Strategy includes four strategic themes, these are:<br>• Encouraging Active Communities<br>• Enhance and Sustain Facilities |

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| | • Community Sport<br>• Raising the Profile of Sport and Active Recreation |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The Core Strategy discusses the benefits of exercise on health and wellbeing through promoting access and provision of open and green spaces across the document. There is also a policy on healthy communities which suggests the provision of new and enhanced community, cultural, sport and leisure facilities will be encouraged as a way of promoting healthy, inclusive communities. |
| Historic Environment and Landscape | |
| UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972) | Aims of the Convention are: defining cultural and natural heritage; recognising the protection and conservation; understanding the value; and establishing 'the World Heritage fund'. |
| Council of Europe: Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985) | Aims for signatories to protect their architectural heritage by means of identifying monuments, buildings and sites to be protected; preventing the disfigurement, dilapidation or demolition of protected properties; providing financial support by the public authorities for maintaining and restoring the architectural heritage on its territory; and supporting scientific research for identifying and analysing the harmful effects of pollution and for defining ways and means to reduce or eradicate these effects. |
| Council of Europe: The Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Valetta Convention) (1992) | The convention defines archaeological heritage and identifies measures for its protection. Aims include integrated conservation of the archaeological heritage and financing of archaeological research and conservation. |
| Council of Europe: European Landscape Convention (2006) | Aims to promote the protection, management and planning (including active design and creation of Europe's landscapes, both rural and urban, and to foster European co-operation on landscape issues. |
| DCMS Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) | An act to consolidate and amend the law retain to ancient monuments, to make provision of matters of archaeological or historic interest, and to provide grants by secretary of state to the Architectural Heritage fund. |
| National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) | The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development. |

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| | The NPPF includes guidance on conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It seeks to ensure local authorities plan recognise heritage assets as an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner that reflects their significance.<br>Local planning authorities should take into account:<br>• the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;<br>• the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;<br>• the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place. |
| Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990) | An act to consolidate certain enactments relating to special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest with amendments to give effect to recommendations to give effect to recommendations of the Law Commissions. |
| English Heritage and CABE: Buildings in Context: New Development in Historic Areas (2002) | Aims to stimulate a high standard of design when development takes place in historically sensitive contexts by showing 15 case studies in which achievement is far above the ordinary and trying to draw some lessons both about design and about the development and planning process, particularly regarding building in sensitive locations. |
| Office of the Deputy Prime minister (ODPM) Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act (2004) | Amends the Building act, and others, with regard to sustainable construction practices and conservation of historic buildings. Also states the general nature of security provisions which should be in place at the construction stage and beyond. |
| English Heritage: Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment | This English Heritage document sets out the framework for the sustainable management of the historic environment. This is presented under the following six headline 'principles':<br>Principle 1: The historic environment is a shared resource<br>Principle 2: Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment<br>Principle 3: Understanding the significance of places is vital<br>Principle 4: Significant places should be managed to sustain their values<br>Principle 5: Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent |

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| | Principle 6: Documenting and learning from decisions is essential. |
| English Heritage and CABE: Guidance on Tall Buildings (2007) | Provides advice and guidance on good practice in relation to tall buildings in the planning process and to highlight other related issues which need to be taken into account, i.e. where tall buildings would and would not be appropriate. |
| English Heritage Guidance on Setting of Heritage Assets (2011) | This document sets out English Heritage guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes1. It provides detailed advice intended to assist implementation of Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment and its supporting Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide, together with the historic environment provisions of the National Policy Statements for nationally significant infrastructure projects |
| Stratford-On-Avon District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2011) | The landscape sensitivity study found that there is some capacity for development adjacent to the study settlements when assessed from the perspective of landscape sensitivity, although most zones in the vicinity are considered areas of constraint with high or high/medium sensitivity.<br>These areas have tended to be those of intrinsically higher value, and should be considered and protected:<br>1. those in open countryside not closely associated with a settlement;<br>2. those acting as settings to Conservation Areas or listed buildings;<br>3. those located in valley corridors, in floodplains or on steep or prominent slopes; or<br>4. those forming gaps within or between settlements.<br>There is also a need to protect the valley bottoms and maintain green fingers of open space penetrating into settlements. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The Core Strategy includes policies for both historical assets and landscape. In addition, the protection of these assets is continued throughout the document. The landscape character and quality of the District will be maintained by ensuring that development takes place in a manner that minimises and mitigates its impact and, where possible, incorporates measures to enhance the landscape.<br>It advises that development should have regard to the local distinctiveness and historic character of the District's diverse landscapes by protecting and supporting historic and archaeological settings, sense of place and the distinctive landscape and character of the District; |

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| | The Core Strategy requires that the historic character of Stratford-on-Avon District will be maintained and enhanced. Sites of historic importance will be protected from inappropriate development and applications for development that are contrary to policy will not be granted. This includes protection, enhancement and management of current historical assets as well as ensuring high quality and sensitively designed new development.<br>Priority will be given to protecting and enhancing the wide range of heritage assets that contribute to the historic significance and identity of the District, including:<br>a) Designated sites such as Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, the Battle of Edgehill Historic Battlefield, Scheduled Monuments, and sites of archaeological importance, and their settings;<br>b) non-designated sites and historic features of local importance, and their settings;<br>c) Features that reflect the historic interaction of human activity on the landscape, including historic farmsteads;<br>d) The international importance of Stratford-upon-Avon and sites associated with William Shakespeare;<br>e) The distinctive character of the market towns, villages and hamlets, including their settings, historic streets, spaces and built form;<br>f) The distinctiveness of local vernacular building styles and materials; and<br>g) Features associated with canals and navigations and other forms of transportation. |
| Housing | |
| EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) | This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and "underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified". Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed. |

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| DTI Draft Strategy for Sustainable Construction (2006) | "Themes for Action" include: re-use existing built assets; design for minimum waste; aim for lean construction; minimise energy in construction; minimise energy in building use; avoid polluting the environment; preserve and enhance bio-diversity; conserve water resources; respect people and their local environment; and set targets (benchmarks & performance indicators). |
| HM Treasury: Barker Review of Housing Supply, Delivering Stability: Securing our Future Housing Needs (2004) | Government objectives include: to achieve improvements in housing affordability in the market sector; a more stable housing market; location of housing supply which supports patterns of economic development; and an adequate supply of publicly-funded housing for those who need it. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Housing Strategy 2009 – 2014 Review 2012 | The strategy sets out a clear agenda and actions to tackle the important housing issues facing the District. The Homelessness Strategy will also be incorporated into the next review of this Strategy. Until then, this Housing Strategy sets out the principal issues and areas of action for preventing and responding to homelessness.<br>The vision of the housing strategy is "A District of sustainable communities offering more people the opportunity to live in good quality housing of their choice, with the support they need". This is broken down into four aims which include:<br>1. To increase the supply and choice of good quality affordable housing for local people<br>2. To improve existing housing and help people live as independently as possible<br>3. To prevent homelessness and the harm caused by it<br>4. To strengthen the support to local communities |
| From Empty Properties to New Homes<br>2012 - 2015 | The vision of the empty properties strategy is to "reduce the number of empty properties across the district, utilising funding effectively to bring empty properties back into use and provide affordable housing for those in housing need". The aim is to bring empty properties back into use and create affordable housing solutions. The strategy incorporates a corporate strategy target of bringing 75 empty properties back into use by 2015.<br>To do this the strategy identifies three objectives, these are:<br>• Identify empty homes across Stratford-on-Avon District<br>• Develop effective pathways to bring empty properties back into use<br>• Create good quality, affordable housing for local people in housing need |

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| Stratford-on-Avon District Council Tenancy Strategy October 2012 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Tenancy Strategy sets out who should get what social housing tenancy and for how long, and what happens when a tenancy is due to end. The Strategy also deals with related matters such as Affordable Rents and the disposal of existing stock.<br>The purpose of this Strategy is to make the best use of affordable housing stock in Stratford-on-Avon District and help create stable and cohesive communities. The Council expects that Registered Providers (mainly housing associations) will have regard to this Tenancy Strategy, when formulating their policies relating to the:<br>• Type and length of tenancies that they grant.<br>• Circumstances in which they will grant a tenancy of a particular type.<br>• Circumstances in which they will grant a further tenancy at the end of an existing tenancy.<br>The overarching strategic objectives are:<br>• To help local households to meet their current and future housing needs.<br>• To encourage Registered Providers to invest in the District and provide affordable housing, as well as the associated economic benefits.<br>• To create sustainable communities and support vulnerable households.<br>• To provide clarity of the approach we are taking for Registered Providers and customers. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | There are multiple strategic objectives within the Core Strategy which relate to housing. The Core Strategy plans to introduce additional dwellings across the district; these include additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers.<br>The Core Strategy includes a policy on the distribution of development which advises that The distribution of development in Stratford-on-Avon District during the plan period 2008-2028 will be based on a pattern of balanced dispersal, in accordance with the distinctive character and function of the wide range of settlements across the District,<br>The Core Strategy also recommends a mix of size and tenure in order to cater for the full range of different household types:<br>• Across the District all new residential development, including that proposed to meet specialised needs, on sites of 0.2 hectares or more or comprising 5 or more self-contained units, excluding replacement dwellings, will contribute to the provision of affordable housing. The affordable housing will comprise a minimum of 35% of the units, subject to viability |

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| | • Schemes proposing housing that meets the needs of vulnerable people, including extra care accommodation, will be supported<br>• All residential development must be designed and built to encourage sustainable and flexible living and provide accommodation that can be easily adapted to suit changing household needs and circumstances |
| Material Assets | |
| EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme 2002-2012 (2002) | Natural resources and waste (in particular recycling) has been identified as one of four priority areas for Europe. The EAP requires member states to achieve 22% of electricity production from renewable energies by 2010; to significantly reduce the volumes of waste generated and the quantity going to disposal; and to give preference to waste recovery and especially to recycling. |
| EC Waste Framework Directive (1975, updated 2006) | Objective is the protection of human health and the environment against harmful effects caused by the collection, transport, treatment, storage and tipping of waste. Particular focus is placed on the re-use of recovered materials as raw materials; restricting the production of waste; promoting clean technologies; and the drawing up of waste management plans. |
| EC Landfill Directive (1999) | Aims to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, from the landfilling of waste, during the whole lifecycle of the landfill. |
| Cabinet Office: Waste Not, Want Not, A Strategy for tackling the waste problem (2002) | A study into how England's current waste management practices could be improved to reduce the current, and growing, waste problem. |
| DEFRA Waste and Emissions Trading Act (2003) | Sets out legislative provisions for waste (including waste sent to landfill, waste management in England and Wales, and recycling plans), and about penalties for non-compliance with schemes for the trading of emissions quotas. |
| DECC Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge (2007) | Sets out Government's long term energy policy, including requirements for cleaner, smarter energy; improved energy efficiency; reduced carbon emissions; and reliable, competitive and affordable supplies. The White Paper sets out the UK's international and domestic energy strategy, in the shape of four policy goals: |

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| | 1) aiming to cut $CO_2$ emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020;<br>2) maintaining the reliability of energy supplies;<br>3) promoting competitive markets in the UK and beyond; and<br>4) ensuring every home is heated adequately and affordably. |
| DECC Sustainable Energy Act (2010) | Aims include increasing the use of renewable energy; cutting the UK's carbon emissions; maintaining the reliability of the UK's energy supplies; promoting competitive energy markets in the UK; and reducing the number of people living in fuel poverty. |
| DEFRA Waste Strategy for England (2007) | Aims are to reduce waste by making products with fewer natural resources; break the link between economic growth and waste growth; re-use products or recycle their materials; and recover energy from other wastes where possible. Notes that for a small amount of residual material, landfill will be necessary. |
| DTI Micro Generation Strategy (2006) | Acknowledges that local authorities can be pro-active in promoting small-scale, local renewable energy generation schemes through "sensible use of planning policies". |
| Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006 | The main objective of the Strategy is to provide a sustainable framework for managing waste, working the way up the waste hierarchy while reducing the reliance on landfill as the primary means of waste disposal.<br>The strategy has identified key strategic objectives which have provided the direction for the development of the Waste Strategy. These are summarised below:<br>• To manage our waste in order to move up the waste hierarchy and work towards resource management rather than waste management.<br>• To minimise the amount of waste generated in Warwickshire.<br>• To maximise the amount of material recycled and composted in Warwickshire and to meet and exceed our statutory recycling targets.<br>• To limit the amount of waste disposed of to landfill and to ensure that we meet our landfill diversion targets.<br>• To make use of existing waste treatment infrastructure in Warwickshire.<br>• To contribute to the generation of energy from a non-fossil source. |

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| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The policy on large rural brownfield sites in the Core Strategy assesses re-use and redevelopment on previously developed land in the countryside against factors to ensure that adverse impacts are minimised:<br>a) The extent to which the nature of the proposed development would be in the national or local interest.<br>b) Whether the form and scale of the proposed development could reasonably be provided elsewhere in the District in a manner that is consistent with the overall development strategy.<br>c) The extent to which the nature of the proposed development would be beneficial compared with the current use and condition of the site.<br>d) The scale and nature of impacts, including visual, noise and light on the character of the local area and local communities.<br>e) The extent to which features that are statutorily protected or of local importance are affected and any impact on them can be mitigated.<br>f) The scope to minimise the need to travel and promote the use of transport other than the private car.<br>Overall the Core Strategy prioritises the re-use of brownfield land and existing buildings |
| Population and quality of life | |
| EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) | This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and "underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified". Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed. |
| UN The Aarhus Convention (1998) | Links environmental rights and human rights. It establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders and links government accountability and environmental protection. |

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| National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) | The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development.<br>The NPPF includes guidance promoting healthy communities. It encourages planning policies and decisions, to aim to achieve places which promote:<br>• opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity;<br>• safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and<br>• safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.<br>In order to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:<br>• plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;<br>• guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;<br>• ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and<br>• ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services. |
| ODPM Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (2003) | Sets out a long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in both urban and rural areas. It aims to tackle housing supply issues in the South East, low demand in other parts of the country, and the quality of our public spaces. |

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| Social Exclusion Unit: Preventing Social Exclusion (2001) | The primary aims are to prevent social exclusion, and reintegrate people who have become excluded. Improvement is required in the areas of truancy, rough sleeping, teenage pregnancy, youth at risk and deprived neighbourhoods. |
| DCLG Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable (2007) | The Housing Green Paper outlines plans for delivering homes; new ways of identifying and using land for development; more social housing- ensuring that a decent home at an affordable price is for the many; building homes more quickly; more affordable homes; and greener homes - with high environmental standards and flagship developments leading the way. |
| ODPM & Home Office: Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention (2004) | Practical guide to designs and layouts that may help with crime prevention and community safety, including well-defined routes, places structured so that different uses do not cause conflict, places designed to include natural surveillance and places designed with management and maintenance in mind. |
| Cabinet Office: Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion (2006) | Sets out an action plan to improve the life chances of those who suffer, or may suffer in the future, from disadvantage. Guiding principles for action include: better identification and earlier intervention; systematically identifying 'what works'; promoting multi-agency working; personalisation, rights and responsibilities; and supporting achievement and managing underperformance. |
| Stratford-On-Avon District Council Corporate Strategy 2011-2015 | The corporate strategy advises that the quality of life enjoyed in Stratford-on-Avon District makes it one of the top places to live in the country. This is not to say that residents enjoy a consistently high standard of living. A significant number of people are vulnerable for a variety of reasons. The Council believes that communities are at their strongest when they work together, providing mutual support and identifying their own solutions to local issues. The council therefore intends to work with the community to ensure that local challenges are addressed and risks faced by vulnerable people are reduced.<br>The strategy includes four aims, with each aim having some outcomes sought:<br>o Addressing local housing need<br>o More housing is available at a price local people can afford<br>o Residents feel they have more influence over the development that takes place in their area<br>o A District where Business and Enterprise can flourish<br>1. An increased proportion of residents are able to find work in the District<br>2. Increased economic vitality across the District |

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| | ○ Improving access to services<br>○ An increase in the percentage of residents who find it easy to access local services<br>○ An increase in the number of vulnerable residents who are supported to live independently in their own homes<br>○ An increase in the proportion of people who feel they can influence decisions in their local area<br>○ Minimising the impacts of climate change<br>• A reduction in the Council's carbon footprint<br>• A reduction in the District's carbon footprint<br>• A reduction in the risk of flooding |
| Stratford-On-Avon District Council Well-Being Strategy 2007 | The major strategic purpose within the well-being strategy is twofold:<br>• To improve the economic, environmental and social well-being of the district where evidence demands action.<br>• To maintain the economic, environmental and social well-being of the district where evidence demonstrates high quality.<br>These include three aims, relating to the economic, environmental and social well-being:<br>○ The overall aim and challenge is to maintain, and strive to improve, the quality of life and economic well-being in the district.<br>○ The overall aim and challenge is to maintain, and strive to improve, the high quality of life and environmental well-being in the district.<br>○ The overall aim is to maintain and improve the District's social well-being/ quality of life. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The Core Strategy addresses population and quality of life from a number of angles. Improving quality of life through tackling employment, affordable housing, as well as design and distinctiveness which incorporates safety, accessibility and a reduction of crime. |

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| Soil | |
| DEFRA: Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009) | The Soil Strategy for England outlines the Government's approach to safeguarding our soils for the long term. It provides a vision to guide future policy development across a range of areas and sets out the practical steps that are needed to take to prevent further degradation of our soils, enhance, restore and ensure their resilience, and improve understanding of the threats to soil and best practice in responding to them.<br>Key objectives of the strategy include:<br>• Better protection for agricultural soils;<br>• Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon;<br>• Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate;<br>• Preventing soil pollution;<br>• Effective soil protection during construction and development; and<br>• Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land |
| Soils Lead Coordination Network: Soils and the Natural Heritage: a Vision by the Soils LCN for the Protection of the UK Soil Resource and Sustainable Use of Soils (2007) | This document sets out the Soils Lead Coordination Network's vision for soil conservation.<br>The "desired outcomes" of the vision are as follows:<br>(i) Maintaining the diversity and biodiversity of UK soils;<br>(ii) Controlling and when appropriate reversing loss of soil carbon and water-holding capacity;<br>(iii) Reducing accelerated soil erosion and sediment transport into watercourses; and<br>(iv) Ensuring appropriate status of soils in mitigation and remediation scenarios to control the impact of climate change. |
| Stratford-on-Avon Contaminated Land Strategy 2007 | The Environmental Protection Act, 1990, Part 11A, requires that all local authorities inspect their areas for the purpose of identifying contaminated land. Stratford-on-Avon District Council adopted a strategy in 2001 setting out how it would undertake this task and in what timescale.<br>There are four possible grounds that determine if land is contaminated:<br>• Significant harm is being caused; |

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| | • there is significant possibility of significant harm being caused;<br>• pollution of controlled waters is being caused;<br>• pollution of controlled waters is likely to be caused.<br>Land may only be determined as 'contaminated' if:<br>o it contains a source of contamination - the source; and<br>o someone (or something) could be affected by the contamination - the receptor; and<br>o the contamination can get to the receptor - the pathway.<br>These three elements together are known as the pollutant linkage. Some typical uses of land in our area with potential for causing contamination are:<br>• Landfills<br>• Gasworks<br>• Filling Stations<br>• Scrap yards<br>• Agriculture - storage and use of chemicals<br>• Industry<br>In 2007 the Rogers Review was a carried out to set the national enforcement priorities for local authorities. Amongst its many recommendations was that investigating potentially contaminated land was not a national consideration.<br>Therefore the Council will continue to:<br>• recommend full site investigation as appropriate at planning application stage for new development,<br>• provide advice on request<br>• respond to specific enquiries about sites following receipt of the appropriate fee.<br>However, the Council will not, in the foreseeable future carry out any proactive site investigations. |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The Core Strategy discusses the impact of solar energy on agricultural activities and disturbances to agricultural land. The Core Strategy advises that development should be avoided on the best and most versatile agricultural land. |

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| Water | |
| Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC | This provides an overarching strategy, including a requirement for EU Member States to ensure that they achieve 'good ecological status' by 2015. River Basin Management Plans were defined as the key means of achieving this. |
| HM Government Strategy for Sustainable Construction (2008) | Encourages the construction industry to adopt a more sustainable approach towards development; identifies eleven Themes for targeting Action, which includes conserving water resources. |
| National planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012) | The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development.<br>The NPPF includes guidance on responding to climate change, flooding and coastal change. With regard to flooding it advises that development should be directed away from high risk areas. If there development is necessary in high risk areas measures should be employed to make development safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.<br>The NPPF states "Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change, by":<br>• applying the Sequential Test;<br>• if necessary, applying the Exception Test;<br>• safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management;<br>• using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding; and<br>• where climate change is expected to increase flood risk so that some existing development may not be sustainable in the long-term, seeking opportunities to facilitate the relocation of development, including housing, to more sustainable locations.<br>In addition to addressing flood risk the NPPF provides guidance on coastal change. It states "Local planning authorities should reduce risk from coastal change by avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas or adding to the impacts of physical changes to the coast. They should identify as a Coastal Change Management Area any area likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast, and: |

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| | • be clear as to what development will be appropriate in such areas and in what circumstances; and<br>• make provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be relocated away from Coastal Change Management Areas." |
| DEFRA The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2003) | Requires all inland and coastal waters to reach "good status" by 2015. It mandates that:<br>• development must not cause a deterioration in status of a waterbody; and<br>• development must not prevent future attainment of 'good status', hence it is not acceptable to allow an impact to occur just because other impacts are causing the status of a water body to already be less than good<br>This is being done by establishing a river basin district structure within which demanding environmental objectives are being set, including ecological targets for surface waters. |
| Environment Agency: Water for people and the environment: A Strategy for England and Wales (2009) | Looks at the steps needed, in the face of climate change, to manage water resources to the 2040s and beyond, with the overall aim of improving the environment while allowing enough water for human uses. |
| Environment Agency: Building a Better Environment: A Guide for Developers (2006) | Guidance on addressing key environmental issues through the development process (focusing mainly on the issues dealt with by the Agency), including managing flood risk, surface water management, use of water resources, preventing pollution. |
| Severn Trent Water: Water Resources Management Plan (2010) | The Water Industry Act 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003, places a requirement on all water companies to prepare a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP).<br>The Water Resources Management Plan sets out how Severn Trent Water proposes to meet demand in the period to 2035 in as efficient and sustainable a way as possible, whilst complying with environmental legislation and regulatory requirements. The company's strategic objectives for water supply demand planning are as follows:<br>• Adopt the overall least financial, social and environmental cost strategy for achieving and maintaining target headroom throughout the planning period to 2035;<br>• Comply with environmental legislation and meet environmental obligations Continue to promote water efficiency programmes and water recycling for businesses and consumers; |

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| | • Accelerate the installation of water meters and more sophisticated tariffs<br>• Continue to drive down the level of leakage from the network;<br>• Reinforce the network to avoid interruptions to supply;<br>• Design and maintain water resources and supply systems with the aim of having no more than three hosepipe bans in 100 years;<br>• Increase the scope for water transfers across the region and between water companies;<br>• Develop new water resources when required;<br>• Ensure no failures in water quality |
| Environment Agency: Catchment Area Management Strategies.<br>The DIstrict is covered by the following CAMS:<br>• The Warwickshire Avon CAMS; and<br>• The Tame, Anker and Mease CAMS. | Catchment Area Management Strategies (CAMS) are six year strategies developed by the Environment Agency for managing water resources at the local level. These documents guide water supply and use in the city and the wider area.<br><br>The CAMS documents contains maps and descriptions of the local Water Management Units (WMUs), groundwater and surface water, and an assessment of water availability at times of low flow – normally mid to late summer. CAMS also classify each WMU into one of four categories: 'over-abstracted'; 'over-licensed'; 'no water available'; or 'water available'. |
| Halcrow 2008 Stratford-on-Avon District Council<br>Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework | The purpose of this SFRA is to assess and map all forms of flood risk from groundwater, surface water, sewer and river sources, taking into account future climate change predictions, and use this as an evidence base to locate future development primarily in low flood risk areas. The outputs from the SFRA will help the Councils to prepare sustainable policies for the long-term management of flood risk and improve existing emergency planning procedures.<br>• ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Where new development is necessary in such areas, exceptionally, the policy aims to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible, reducing flood risk overall. 'Safe' in the context of this study means that dry pedestrian access to and from the development is possible without passing through the 1 in 100 year plus climate |

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| | change floodplain, and emergency vehicular access is possible during times of flood. It also means that the development includes flood resistance and resilience measures to ensure it is safe. |
| URS Stratford-on-Avon<br>Water Cycle Study Update<br>Final Report<br>September 2012 | The objective of the WCS update is to identify any constraints on housing growth planned in the Local Service Villages and other villages in the Stratford-on-Avon District up to 2028 that may be imposed by the water cycle and how these can be resolved i.e. by ensuring that appropriate Water Services Infrastructure (WSI) can be provided to support the proposed development. Furthermore, it should provide a strategic approach to the management and use of water which ensures that the sustainability of the water environment in the district is not compromised.<br>The strategy is to:<br>• maximise the sustainable use of existing resources, by increasing strategic distribution links;<br>• use aquifer storage and recovery to utilise spare resource and treatment capacity during periods of low demand;<br>• provide some new groundwater source development;<br>• continue to reduce leakage; and,<br>• carry out measures to help customers become more water efficient and reduce their demand |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy | The Core Strategy highlights the importance on water; both water quality and flooding issues. All development proposals should take into account the predicted impact of climate change on the district's water environment. Measures should include sustainable use of water resources, minimising water consumption, protecting and improving water quality, and minimising flood risk from all sources as set out in the most up-to-date Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:<br>a) There is a presumption against development in flood risk areas; all development proposals should be located in Flood Risk Zone 1 (Low Probability Flood Risk).<br>b) Development which increases the risk of flooding elsewhere will not be permitted unless satisfactory mitigation measures accompany the proposal.<br>c) Where a development proposal lies adjacent to a river corridor or tributary, a natural sinuous river channel should be retained, or where possible, reinstated.<br>d) In accordance with the Water Framework Directive's objectives, development proposals should not affect the water bodies' ability to reach good status or potential as set out in the Rivers Severn, Humber and Thames River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). |

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