

# Great Horwood Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

---

Produced by Great Horwood Neighbourhood Planning Team and  
Aylesbury Vale District Council

February 2014

# Table of contents

	Page
Non-technical summary	3
<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>	4
Purpose	4
Neighbourhood Plan area	6
Report structure	7
<b>Chapter 2: Sustainability Appraisal Methodology</b>	8
Introduction	8
Best practice guidance	8
Stages of sustainability appraisal	8
<b>Chapter 3: Policy Context</b>	11
European	11
National	11
District	13
Local	18
<b>Chapter 4: Sustainability Context</b>	19
Review of baseline data:	19
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	19
Soil geology	22
Climate change	25
Water	26
Landscape and topography	27
Historical environment and townscape	30
Transport and air quality	33
Population and quality of life	34
Housing and services	37
Economic factors	39
Strengths and weaknesses	42
<b>Chapter 5: Developing a Sustainability Appraisal Framework</b>	43
Purpose of the SA framework	43
Great Horwood SA framework	43
<b>Chapter 6: Next Steps</b>	47
<b>Appendices</b>	48
Appendix A: Audit of meetings held and comments received from consultation bodies	48

<b>Figures</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure 1: Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan Area with Great Horwood village	6
Figure 2: Local biodiversity designations	20
Figure 3: Fauna and flora in Great Horwood	21
Figure 4: Agricultural land classifications in Great Horwood	23
Figure 5: Potential land contamination areas	25
Figure 6: Great Horwood flood plain	27
Figure 7: Great Horwood landscape character types and sensitivity	29
Figure 8: Great Horwood historic environment	32
Figure 9: Population change	35
Figure 10: Completed and committed housing development	38
Figure 11: Average house prices	38
Figure 12: Net employment floorspace for B uses	40

<b>Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
Table 1: The different stages in the sustainability appraisal process	8
Table 2: Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	11
Table 3: Strengths and weaknesses of Great Horwood neighbourhood area	42
Table 4: Great Horwood Sustainability Appraisal Framework	43
Table 5: Comments received from statutory consultation bodies	46
Table 6: Story of developing the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	48

## **Non-technical summary**

The purpose of the scoping report is to establish the sustainability framework for appraising the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan. The Scoping Report initially reviews the European, national and local policy context in which the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will sit. This includes the emerging Vale of Aylesbury Plan. It then outlines the sustainability context and baseline data for key environmental characteristics in Great Horwood, such as biodiversity and water. As a result the report then identifies thirteen sustainability appraisal objectives to assess the Neighbourhood Plan against to ensure it delivers sustainable development.

## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

### **Purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

- 1.1 This document is the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan, containing the settlements of Great Horwood, Singleborough and former Little Horwood airfield plus several farms (see figure 1). Great Horwood village is the main settlement for the Neighbourhood Plan, with considerable tracts of rolling countryside surrounding the settlement, which includes the hamlet of Singleborough.
- 1.2 This SA Scoping Report has been produced in order to comply with the requirements of the European directive 2001/42/EC concerning Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It incorporates Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

### **What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan**

- 1.3 A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP or 'Neighbourhood Plan') is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work which was introduced by the Localism Act 2011<sup>1</sup>. It seeks to enable local communities to take a more active role in the development of planning policies at a neighbourhood level and the preparation of development proposals, reflecting local need and aspirations. Once adopted a NDP is a material consideration and has the same weight in decision making as the district local plan.

### **Those involved in writing the Neighbourhood Plan**

- 1.4 In March 2012, DCLG announced that Great Horwood had been selected as one of a number of areas in the country to take part in the Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners scheme. Since then the development of the Neighbourhood Plan has been led by a small neighbourhood planning team of seven local residents to represent the community, with the support of Aylesbury Vale District Council as the Local Planning Authority. This process enables the Parish Council and the wider community to build on previous engagement with the local community including the 'Community View' consultation on future development carried out for the Vale of Aylesbury Plan (2011) and Great Horwood Parish Plan (2006). All meetings are minuted and guidelines for the Neighbourhood Planning Team are contained in Terms of Reference lodged on the Great Horwood Parish Council website<sup>2</sup>. Further information will be included in the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement.

### **How the Neighbourhood Plan fits within the Local Development Framework**

- 1.5 Neighbourhood plans will form a key part of the Aylesbury Vale Local Development Framework (LDF). The Neighbourhood Plan will be in conformity with national planning

---

<sup>1</sup> Localism Act <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bucksvoice.net/greathorwoodpc/neighbourhood-plan/>

policies and the Vale of Aylesbury Plan, which sets the strategic planning context and policies for the District. The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will therefore draw on neighbourhood planning principles, set out in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan, developing more detailed policies specific to Great Horwood.

- 1.6 Following a finding by the Planning Inspectorate that certain aspects of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan were unsound, the Plan was withdrawn on 5 February 2014. As the finding concerned the duty to cooperate and the overall provision for housing and jobs, it did not cast any view on the validity of the sustainability evidence base. That evidence base is therefore retained in this present version (February 2014) of the Great Horwood Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

### A Brief Overview of the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan

<b>Name of Responsible Authority</b>	Aylesbury Vale District Council
<b>Title of plan</b>	Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan
<b>What prompted the plan (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)</b>	The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared to reflect the introduction of the Localism Bill and is being developed following the successful application for Neighbourhood Planning Frontrunner Status in March 2012.
<b>Period covered by the plan</b>	2011 to 2031
<b>Frequency of updates</b>	When required.
<b>Area covered by the plan</b>	The area covered is the parish of Great Horwood (Figure 1).
<b>Purpose and/ or objectives of the plan</b>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will guide future development in Great Horwood parish. It will provide further guidance and designations based on the Vale of Aylesbury Plan strategic policies and to address residents' concerns in the area. Specifically the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and allocate sites for housing, employment, retail, infrastructure and cultural developments</li> <li>• Identify the phasing of development</li> <li>• Provide local development management polices</li> </ul>
<b>Plan contact point</b>	<p>Great Horwood Neighbourhood Planning Team: John Gilbey, Chairman Email: john@gilbey98.freeserve.co.uk</p> <p>Aylesbury Vale District Council: David Broadley, Senior Planner (Forward Plans) Telephone number: 01296 585866 Email: DBroadley@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk</p>

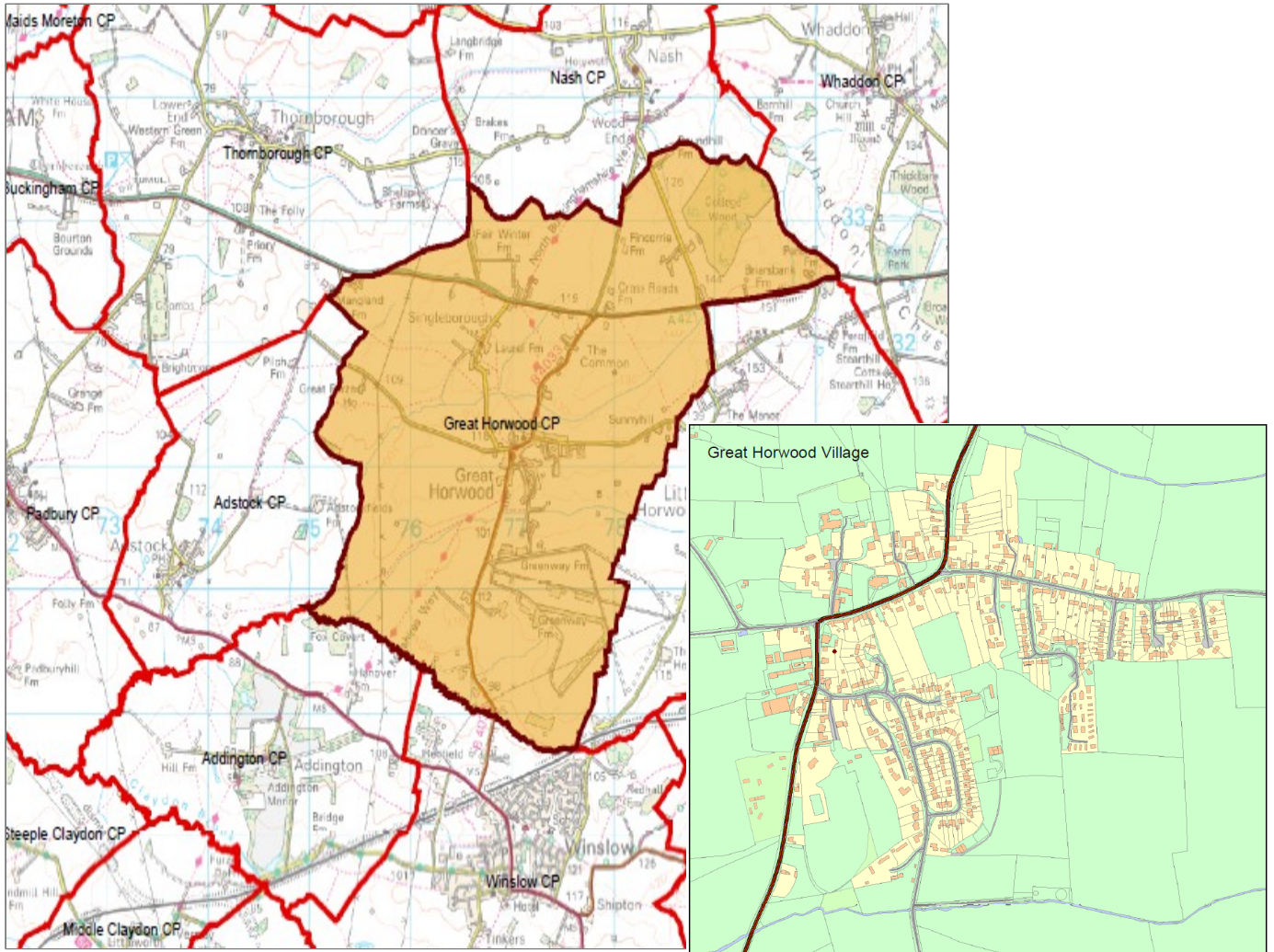
## Key Facts

- 1.7 Great Horwood is a rural village located in the north of Aylesbury Vale, five miles southeast of Buckingham town and two miles north of Winslow town. The village lies on an important route connecting the A413 and A421. To the southwest of the village are the North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way strategic footpaths. The parish of Great Horwood comprises 1,025 people (2001 census) with 422 homes (AVDC Monitoring, March 2012). The size of the population has remained relatively consistent over the last 40 years. The central part of the village was first designated as a Conservation Area in 1989.
- 1.8 This report, where possible, uses the most up to date information available and this can be updated as the plan progresses and new information is made available. Where it has not been possible to use Great Horwood specific information, either ward level (Great Horwood ward) or Aylesbury Vale district wide data has been used.

## Extent of the Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 1.9 As part of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, a separate consultation on the location and extent of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is required in order to identify a neighbourhood area<sup>3</sup>. The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan Area is coincident with the Great Horwood parish boundary and is depicted at Figure 1 by the area in orange.

*Figure 1: Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan Area with Great Horwood village*



## **Report structure**

1.10 The remaining sections of the Scoping Report cover the following:

Chapter 2: Identifies the methodology for the Sustainability Appraisal

Chapter 3: Describes the policy context (Schedule 2(a) and (e) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004)

Chapter 4: Describes the environmental and sustainability context (Schedule 2(b) – 2(d))

Chapter 5: Describes development of the Sustainability Appraisal framework

Chapter 6: Outlines the monitoring, review and next steps for the Sustainability Appraisal



## Chapter 2: Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

### Introduction

- 2.1 Great Horwood Neighbourhood Planning Team have worked together with Aylesbury Vale District Council to produce the Great Horwood Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. In addition the statutory consultees will be engaged in the SA process at different times. This chapter sets out the broad approach to the SA process, the stages involved, and highlights where the relevant information can be found.

### Best Practice Guidance

- 2.2 The approach for carrying out the SA of the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan is based on current best practice and the following guidance:
- Riki Levett-Therivel (August 2011) ‘DIY’ Sustainability Appraisal for neighbourhood plans;
  - Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (September 2005): A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive;
  - Planning Advisory Service (December 2007): Local Development Frameworks Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal; and
  - Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG; September 2009): CLG Plan Making Manual: Sustainability Appraisal.

### Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.3 The main stages for the Great Horwood SA are set out in Table 1 which describes the process for development plans. It will be adapted accordingly to make it appropriate for a Neighbourhood Plan. This Scoping Report represents tasks in Stage A.

*Table 1: The different stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process*

<b>Stage A: Setting context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</b>
A1 Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives
A2 Collecting baseline information
A3 Identifying sustainability issues and problems
A4 Developing the SA framework
A5 Consulting on the scope of the SA
<b>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</b>
B1 Testing the NP objectives against the SA framework
B2 Developing the NP options
B3 Predicting the effects of the draft NP
B4 Evaluating the effects of the draft NP
B5 Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6 Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the NP

<b>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report</b>
C1 Preparing the SA report
<b>Stage D: Consulting on the draft Sustainability Appraisal report</b>
D1 Public participation on the SA report and the draft NP D2 Assessing significant changes
<b>Stage E: Sustainability Appraisal and Publication/Submission</b>
E1 The Sustainability Appraisal report E2 Consulting on the draft plan and sustainability appraisal report E3 Making significant changes E4 The sustainability appraisal report at submission stage
<b>SA and Examination</b>
Examination and adoption Monitoring significant effects

- 2.4 **Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives.** The development of the Great Horwood NP may be influenced by other plans or programmes and by external environmental objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. Therefore as part of this baseline review a description of the policy context has been included in order to enable potential synergies to be highlighted and any inconsistencies and constraints to be identified. This stage forms chapter 3 of this SA Scoping report.
- 2.5 **Stage A2: Collecting baseline information.** The early stages of the Great Horwood NP have included a review of the existing evidence base, collecting information from a variety of sources including the AVDC Vale of Aylesbury Plan Evidence Base. Baseline data has been collected for the criteria required by the SEA Directive and the UK SEA Regulations. The criteria are: landscape and townscape; biodiversity, flora and fauna; air quality; archaeology and cultural heritage; soils and geology; water; population; human health; material assets; and climatic factors. This is identified in chapter 4 of this SA scoping report.
- 2.6 **Stage A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.** Within the parish of Great Horwood, certain sustainability issues are more significant than others, e.g. high house prices could be a particular socio-economic constraint. These issues will need to be highlighted as areas of concern within the sustainability appraisal. Chapter 4 starts this process by setting out issues, problems and trends. These were identified through:
- review of relevant regional and local plans and programmes; and
  - analysis of baseline data and trends.
- 2.7 **Stage A4: Developing the SA framework.** A sustainability framework has been developed to test options and the draft Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan. The starting point for identifying a set of draft SA objectives specific to Great Horwood were those SA objectives considered in the Sustainability Appraisal of AVDC Vale of Aylesbury Plan.

2.8 **Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.** This report will be sent to statutory consultees (Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England). Feedback from the consultation will be taken into account.

## Chapter 3: Policy Context

3.1 The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will be influenced in various ways by other policies, plans or programmes, or by external sustainability objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. To identify these influences a summary of the policies, plans and programmes relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan is identified below in Table 2. Only the plans and programmes relevant to Great Horwood are identified as the Neighbourhood Plan is proposing future development in line with the district planning policy – the Vale of Aylesbury Plan. The district wide SA scoping report has already identified the majority of plans or programmes covering Great Horwood parish, the relevant plans and programmes are listed in the table below.

3.2

**Directive requirement:**

“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes” – Annex 1(a)

“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation” – Annex 1(e)

*Table 2: Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan relationship with other relevant plans and programmes*

Plan or Programme	Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Implications for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area
<b>European Policy</b>		
European Water Framework Directive, December 2000 (transposed into English and Welsh law in December 2003)	The Water Framework Directive (WFD) aims to improve the quality of water through the establishment of river basin districts, for which environmental objectives will be set, including ecological targets for surface waters. The Water Framework Directive will help protect and enhance the quality of; surface freshwater (including lakes, streams and rivers); groundwaters; groundwater dependant ecosystems estuaries and coastal waters out to one mile from low-water.	There are two river tributaries in the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area. The plan will need to ensure that it does not conflict with the aims of the Water Directive.
<b>National Policy</b>		
Floods & Water Management Act 2010	Floods & Water Management Act seeks to “localise” responsibility for flood risk, particularly from ordinary watercourses. Key policies within the act include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>providing the Environment Agency with an overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management and unitary and county councils to</li> </ul>	The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act and accompanying evidence

Plan or Programme	Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Implications for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area
	<p>lead in managing the risk of all local floods;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encouraging the uptake of sustainable drainage systems and providing for county councils to adopt Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for new developments and redevelopments;</li> </ul>	<p>documents through working closely with the Environment Agency and Water companies where development might affect flood risk. The Neighbourhood Plan will also need to take into account the findings of the Aylesbury Vale Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2012) and Buckinghamshire County Council's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (2011).</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)</p>	<p>The NPPF replaces previous planning policy guidance (set out in Planning Policy Statements) and provides a consolidated statement of national planning policy. A significant component of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This is principally a means of ensuring that plans, both local and neighbourhood, are positively prepared to achieve the best social, economic and environmental outcomes for an area.</p> <p>The NPPF includes a set of 12 core planning principles. Those of particular relevance to the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood plans should set out a positive vision for the future of the area.</li> <li>• Support thriving rural communities, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</li> <li>• Seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity</li> <li>• Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources.</li> <li>• Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution, reusing land that has been previously developed.</li> <li>• Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance and always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity.</li> <li>• Manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and</li> </ul>	<p>The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with national policy.</p>

Plan or Programme	Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Implications for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area
	<p>cycling, recognising that different approaches will be needed in rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.</li> </ul> <p>The NPPF also sets out specific guidance for rural areas. Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. This includes support for the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings; promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses; support for sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, and which respect the character of the countryside. This should include supporting the provision and expansion of rural service centres and promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.</p> <p>In relating to rural housing, plans need to be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. For example, where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby. New isolated homes in the countryside should be avoided unless there are special circumstances.</p>	
<b>District Policy</b>		
The Vale of Aylesbury Plan (emerging) 2011 – 2031	<p>The Vale of Aylesbury Plan forms the emerging district wide planning policy for Aylesbury Vale. The objectives of the Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision will be made for new jobs to increase the opportunities to live and work locally to minimise dependence on out-commuting.</li> </ul>	The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with the objectives of the plan and strategic policies.

Plan or Programme	Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Implications for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council, working with its partners, will secure timely and well located provision of the infrastructure, services and facilities needed to sustain and enhance existing and new communities</li> <li>• Provision will be made for the housing needs of the new and existing residents</li> <li>• The Council will promote enhancement of the District's town and local centres and village facilities, with a focus on quality design and development</li> <li>• The Council will manage development in a way that ensures the protection and enhancement of the built, natural, and historic environment, and landscape and biodiversity in Aylesbury Vale.</li> <li>• The Council will manage development in a way that ensures that climate change is adapted to and mitigated against</li> <li>• The Council will promote provision of, and support for, measures and initiatives that strengthen the quality of life for new and existing residents of the District and address pockets of deprivation and health inequalities especially within Aylesbury town.</li> </ul>	
Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan 2004 – 2011	<p>The Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (saved policies) forms the current district wide planning policy for Aylesbury Vale. The objectives of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect and enhance the District's environmental heritage.</li> <li>• To make provision for an enhanced range and diversity of homes, jobs and other facilities for the existing and future resident population of the District and redress the impact of "disadvantage".</li> <li>• To facilitate the creation and maintenance of conditions which provide for a healthy, dynamic, diverse and robust economy.</li> </ul>	The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to be general conformity with the overall objectives of the plan and saved strategic policies.
Aylesbury Vale Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2026	<p>The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets out the long term vision for the district and the key local priorities. Its aim is to develop a sustainable community in Aylesbury Vale where people want to live and work now and in the future. The SCS has five themes, these are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thriving Economy: Building business and</li> </ul>	Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to consider the objectives and vision for the neighbourhood area in line with the Aylesbury Vale Sustainable Communities

Plan or Programme	Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Implications for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area
	<p>enterprise, developing skills and employment, supporting strategic infrastructure requirements and promoting investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Environment: Tackling climate change, enhancing and protecting the local environment, reducing waste, re-using resources, increasing recycling and energy recovery and efficiently managing the transport network.</li> <li>• Safe Communities: Reducing the level and fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, improving the safety of local people and promoting safe development.</li> <li>• Health and Wellbeing: Promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing health inequalities, improving the quality of life, reducing homelessness and providing well-connected communities</li> <li>• Cohesive and Strong Communities: Sustained growth of a thriving voluntary community sector, increasing the confidence of communities and reducing social exclusion.</li> </ul>	Strategy.
<p>Aylesbury Vale Economic Development Strategy (2008 -2026) and Action Plan (2011-2014)</p>	<p>The Economic Development Strategy sets out a vision for Aylesbury Vale as a vibrant dynamic business location by 2026.</p> <p>The plan sets out to transform Aylesbury, and create a vibrant dynamic business location by 2026. The key issues identified within this Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the need to build a thriving enterprise culture, that encourages businesses to start up, and grow within the Vale;</li> <li>• the imperative to build a strong coordinated inward investment strategy for the Vale, that is capable of attracting new employers to the area;</li> <li>• the provision of excellent underpinning infrastructure, which, as well as providing excellent road and rail linkages, needs to include the provision of world class ICT communications;</li> <li>• The need to ensure that skills levels within the existing and future workforce are appropriate for the needs of the 21st century global marketplace.</li> </ul>	<p>Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to consider the objectives and vision for the neighbourhood area in line with the Economic Development Strategy especially if there are policies about employment provision in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)</p>	<p>The Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy sets the framework for the creation and management of Green Infrastructure (GI) in the Aylesbury Vale District. The first part sets out the vision and key aims and principles for the creation and management of GI. The second part is the delivery element, focusing on</p>	<p>Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to take account of the principles and objectives within the Vale’s Green Infrastructure Strategy and</p>



Plan or Programme	Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Implications for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area
	<p>flagship projects which give a flavour of the range of potential GI project and benefits they will offer. These projects help to contribute to GI required for new housing and help to address deficits in GI across the District.</p>	<p>ensure that policies are in line with the adopted Strategy. Great Horwood is not specially mentioned in the strategy, but falls within part of the north of the district where GI deficit for areas around Buckingham has been identified. Great Horwood could provide a useful contribution to GI.</p>
<p>Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan (2009)</p>	<p>The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan(BAP) describes how the wildlife of Bucks &amp; Milton Keynes is going to be enhanced and protected.</p> <p>The BAP is divided into sections called Habitat Action Plans - each one details a specific habitat that is found in the county. Each Habitat Action Plan contains Targets which are designed to contribute towards Targets in the UK Biodiversity Plan. These Targets fall into 4 broad categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintaining Extent</li> <li>2. Achieving Condition</li> <li>3. Restoration of degraded habitat</li> <li>4. Creation of new habitat</li> </ol> <p>The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership also identifies a number of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) (23 across Buckinghamshire). These areas are identified due to their nature conservation importance and are areas of opportunity for enhancement, expansion and buffering. The 23 areas are included in the South East Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>The objectives and targets, protection of habitats (and opportunities for improvement and expansion) and impact of any development on these needs to be considered by the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan. There are no specific BAP or BOAs areas within Great Horwood neighbourhood area.</p>
<p>Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) (April 2011)</p>	<p>The Local Transport Plan 3 sets out transport strategy and policies for the period 2011-2016. The Plan is accompanied by an implementation and sets out five key themes. For each theme, the Local Transport Plan 3 has a number of objectives:</p> <p><i>Thriving Economy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain or improve reliability of journey times on key routes;</li> <li>• Improve connectivity and access between key centres;</li> <li>• Deliver transport improvements to support and facilitate sustainable housing and employment</li> </ul>	<p>The strategy and objectives that are within the new Local Transport Plan need to inform any transport related objectives set for the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan. Including the importance of reduction in the need to travel, use and access to public transport and sustainable modes of travel (specifically improvements to walking and</p>

Plan or Programme	Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Implications for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area
	<p>growth;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure local transport networks are resilient and adaptable to shocks and impacts.</li> </ul> <p><i>Sustainable Environment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the need to travel;</li> <li>• Increase the proportion of people travelling by low emission modes of transport;</li> <li>• Protect, improve and maintain the local environment;</li> <li>• Reduce carbon emissions and waste associated with the Transport Authority;</li> </ul> <p><i>Safe Communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the risk of death or injury on the county's roads;</li> <li>• Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour on the transport network;</li> </ul> <p><i>Health and Well-Being</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve health by encouraging walking and cycling;</li> <li>• Reduce the negative impact of poor air quality;</li> </ul> <p><i>Cohesive and Strong Communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable disadvantaged people to access employment sites and opportunities;</li> <li>• Enable disadvantaged people to access key services and facilities;</li> <li>• Encourage and support the delivery and planning of local transport services by local groups, communities and individuals.</li> </ul>	<p>cycling links) and to provide transport connections that meet the needs of young and old residents (with an ageing population identified). The Plan will need to consider its implications on the Transport Plan with the objectives of improving road safety, parking provision and tackling congestion hotspots.</p>
<p>Waste Strategy for Buckinghamshire 2001-2021</p>	<p>This sets out key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aim to improve waste minimisation, recovery, recycling and composting from Buckinghamshire household waste in line with the Government's national targets and local Best Value targets;</li> <li>• where appropriate jointly research, fund, develop and implement detailed proposals for this purpose and develop, implement, support and continue to enhance, such schemes as are decided upon;</li> <li>• explore other partnership opportunities in the pursuit of these aims and objectives;</li> <li>• work within a common framework and approach to waste related education and awareness issues;</li> <li>• to develop and promote existing joint initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to support sustainable waste management where possible.</p>

<b>Plan or Programme</b>	<b>Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators</b>	<b>Implications for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan area</b>
	such as real nappies, home composters and the glass recycling consortium.	
Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (MWCS) 2012	The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (MWCS) provides the strategic policy framework and provisions until 2026 for minerals and waste planning within Buckinghamshire.	The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to ensure any waste and mineral allocations in the strategy are taken account of.
Water Framework Directive Catchment Management Plans	The Water Framework Directive Catchment Framework Management Plans. River Basin Management Plans are plans for protecting and improving the water environment. They contain the main issues for the water environment and the actions we all need to take to deal with them.	The Anglian catchment covers the north of the District including Great Horwood. The catchment management plan identifies pressures from urban and transport and recreation pressures. These concerns need to feed in to the Plan's environmental objectives.
<b>Local Policy</b>		
Great Horwood Parish Plan	Great Horwood parish plan seeks to address issues relating to Regional, strategic and structural planning, development and planning, environment and footpaths, recreation, the village hall, public transport, traffic and community issues. The vision state 'Great Horwood and Singleborough will seek to remain an independent, distinctive rural community, conserving and enhancing its rich architectural and environmental heritage for the benefit of current villagers and for future generations.'	The Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan will need to take into account in particular the issues identified for 'development and planning', 'environment and footpaths', 'traffic' and 'public transport'. The Neighbourhood Plan will need to have regard to the parish plan vision.

## Chapter 4: Sustainability context

- 4.1 This chapter fulfils the requirements of the Environment Assessment Regulations Schedule 2 (points 2, 3, and 4).

**Directive requirement:**

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without the implementation of the plan or programme”

“the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected”

- 4.2 It sets out the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme; the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected; and likely existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly relating to designated sites. An assessment of the effects of the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan on the environment will be undertaken during the next stage of the SA.
- 4.3 The sections below cover each of the themes identified as part of stage A2. Evidence is mostly drawn from the Great Horwood ‘Fact-Pack’ (FP) produced by the District Council to describe the baseline environment for the Vale of Aylesbury Plan but also from the 2001 Census and AVDC monitoring information.

### Review of Baseline Data

#### Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- 4.4 Plans and programmes 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. Emphasis is also placed on the ecological importance of brownfield sites, geodiversity, and enhancing areas of woodland and other important habitats. The integration of biodiversity considerations into all environmental and socio-economic planning is strongly advocated.

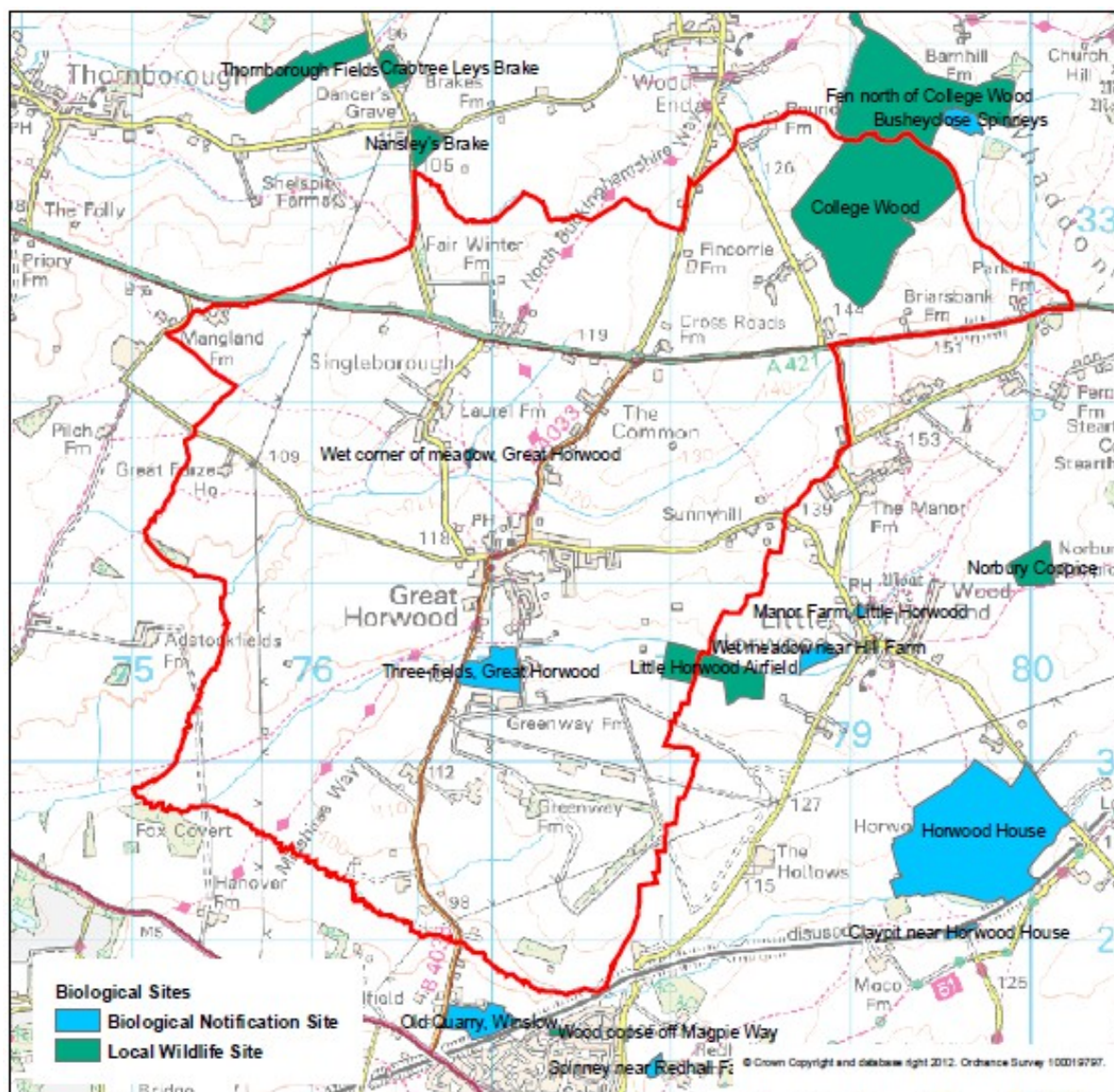
#### The Current State

- 4.5 There are no national nature designations within the Great Horwood Parish area. Within the Aylesbury Vale District there are several national designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, however none of these lie close to the Great Horwood neighbourhood area so development in Great Horwood is unlikely to have a negative impact upon these designations.
- 4.6 The “appropriate assessment” for Aylesbury Vale has scoped out any impact on European designated sites close to Great Horwood.

#### Local level designations

- 4.7 Within Great Horwood parish there are two Local Wildlife Sites(LWS) called Little Horwood Airfield and College Wood as identified in Figure 2. College Wood has been identified as a LWS due to its woodland habitat, which is also classified as an Ancient Woodland. Little Horwood Airfield is a LWS due to its grassland habitat. Both of these sites are located outside of the village area, therefore any development is not expected to have an adverse impact.
- 4.8 There is one Biological Notification area in Great Horwood parish known as the ‘Three-fields’, located just south of the settlement as identified on Figure 2. Potentially development on this area of land would have an adverse impact on biodiversity. Further investigation work would be required if this site is considered for development.

Figure 2: Map to Local Biodiversity Designations

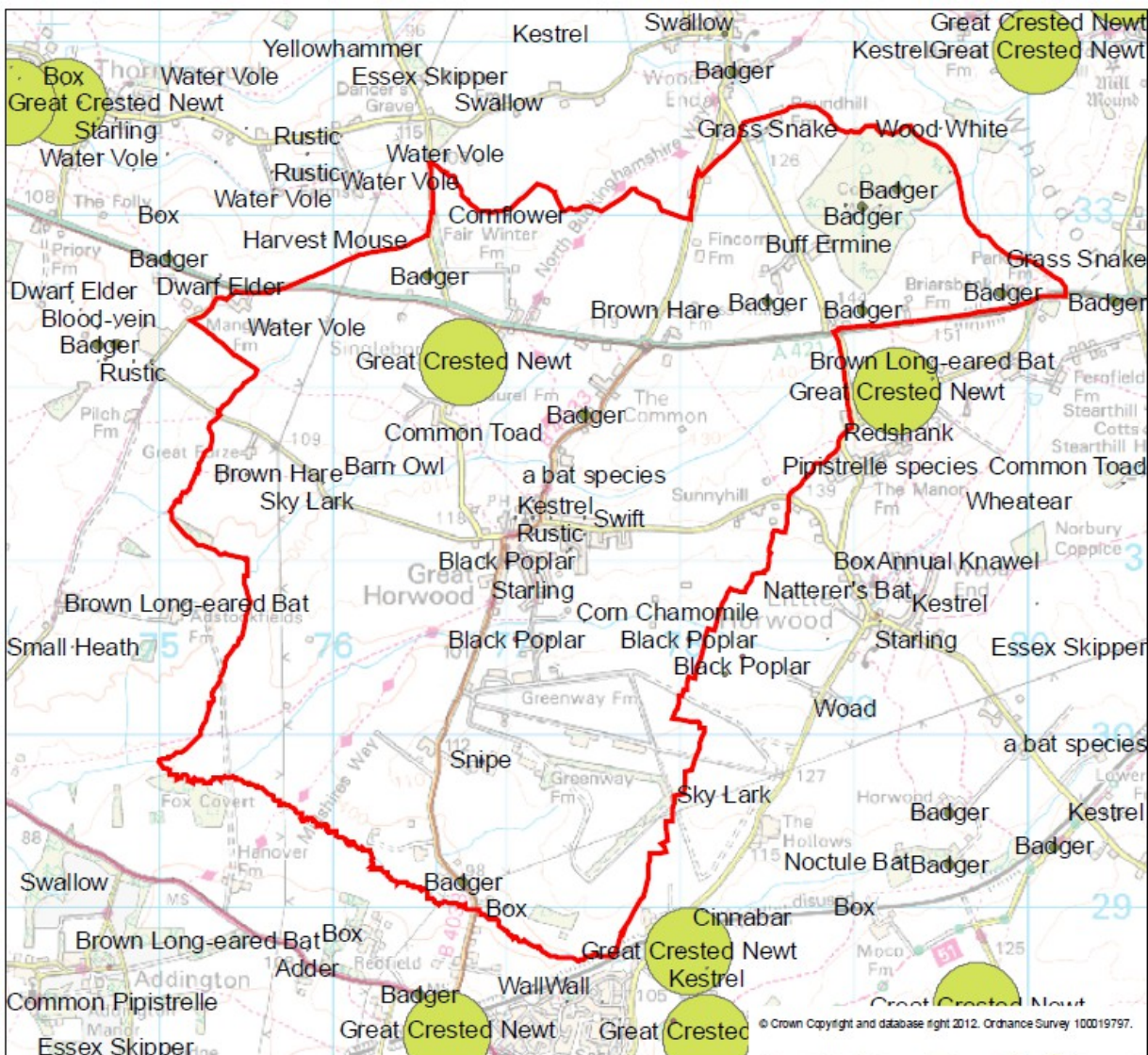


- 4.9 The dominant habitats for Great Horwood are arable and grasslands. Amongst the improved grassland in the west and south, areas of neutral pasture are present along with lowland meadow and some acidic grassland which is uncommon in the surrounding area.

These areas of priority and broad habitat types increase the biodiversity interest of the area.

4.10 Within Great Horwood there are a number of birds which are on the amber or red list which appear to be thriving locally. Two in particular, Yellowhammer and Green Woodpecker are commonly seen in the fields and hedgerows in the vicinity of Great Horwood and Singleborough. There are also other important wildlife located in Great Horwood including Great Crested Newts and species of Bats. Although not a designation there are also important species of fauna, such as Black Poplar trees. Figure 3 below identifies important fauna and flora in Great Horwood.

*Figure 3: Fauna and Flora in Great Horwood*



Tree coverage

4.11 The woodland cover is predominantly of oak and ash. Hedgerow trees, willow scrub and some black poplar along streams and ditches are also found within the neighbourhood area.

### **Box 1: Key Biodiversity Issues for Great Horwood**

Although there are no national biodiversity designation in the Great Horwood neighbourhood area, there are a number of local designations and important biodiversity assets. This include:

- One Biological Notification Site – ‘Three Field’ to the south of Great Horwood Village
- Two Local wildlife sites – North and west outside of Great Horwood village
- Black poplar trees
- Important wildlife including Great Crested Newts, bats, toads, kestrel, barn owls and starlings

## **Soil and Geology**

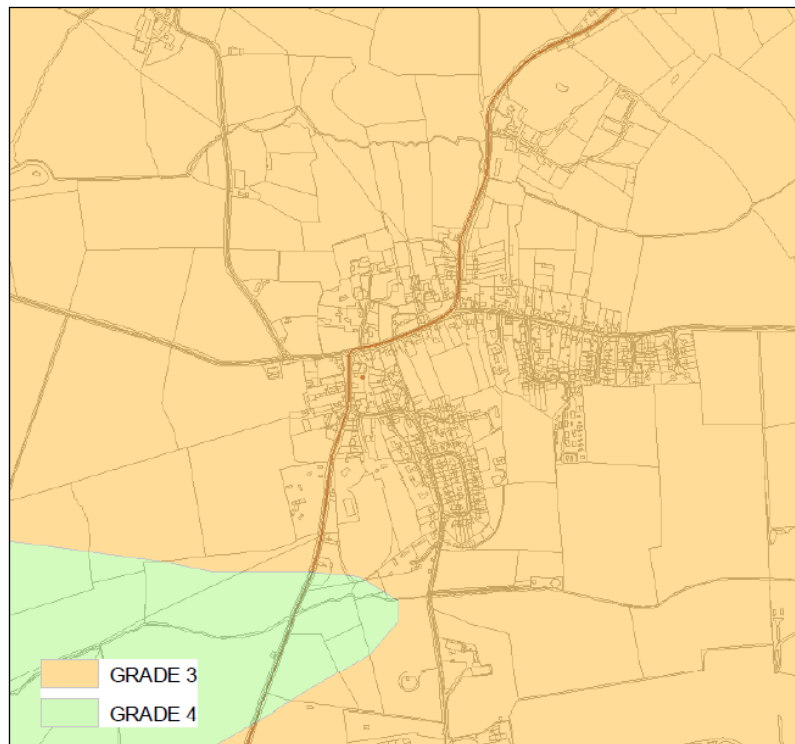
### Agricultural Land Classification

- 4.12 National policy (NPPF) states that local planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a). Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land. Further investigation may be required to determine whether the areas of grade 3 is grade 3a or grade 3b if the plan wants to allocate sites for development.

### The Current State

- 4.13 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. For Great Horwood village all of the settlement is considered to be Grade 3, with land to the southwest of the village identified as Grade 4.
- 4.14 Grade 3: good to moderate quality agricultural land. Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.
- 4.15 Grade 4: poor quality agricultural land. Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very dry arable land.

Figure 4: Agricultural Land Classifications in Great Horwood



#### Brownfield Land

- 4.16 National planning policy (NPPF) states that Plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in the Framework. Planning policies and decisions should encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value.

#### The Current State

- 4.17 Within Great Horwood and Singleborough there are no brownfield sites of a large enough size to be used for redevelopment, although there is one site located just outside of Great Horwood at Spring Lane where there is a disused mill.

#### Geology

- 4.18 Geology is the collective term describing the geological variety of the Earth's rocks, fossils, minerals, soils, and landscapes together with the processes that form them. Geodiversity underpins biodiversity by providing diversity of habitat and ecosystems, with soil being linked between them. It also embraces the built environment by providing the basis for neighbourhood character and local distinctiveness through building stone and material.

#### The Current State

- 4.19 AVDC Landscape Character Assessment (2008) identified the geology in Great Horwood as Glacial till overlain by a mixture of undifferentiated glacial and head deposits. There is



exposure of calcareous mudstone (West Walton Formation) in the east and in the incised valley to the southwest (Stewartby and West Walton Formations).

#### Contaminated Land and Unstable Land

- 4.20 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides a regime for the identification and remediation of contaminated land. Land contamination is not restricted to previously developed industrial land but can also occur on greenfield sites and from natural sources as well as human activities.
- 4.21 National planning policy (NPPF) states that planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development is appropriate for its location to prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability. Where a site is affected by contamination or land stability issues, responsibility for securing a safe development rests with the developer and/or landowner.

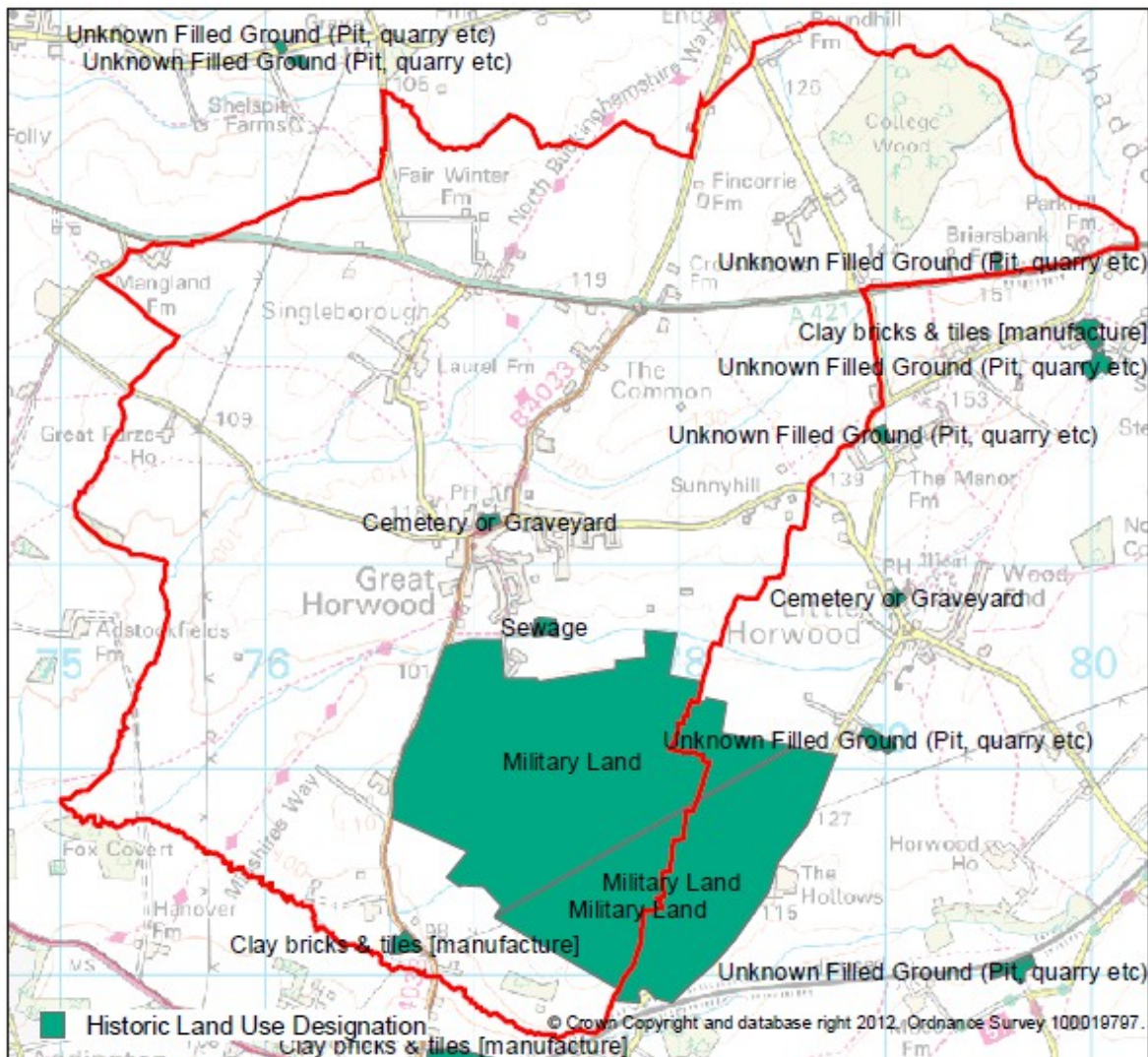
#### The Current State

- 4.22 In Great Horwood there is no land identified as being contaminated. However there are areas which have a historic land use that potentially there could be some contamination as shown in Figure 5 (on the next page, after Box 2). Further investigation of these areas may be required if development is to be located in these area.

#### **Box 2: Key issues for Soil and Geology**

There are limited issues for the soil and geology in Great Horwood. The soil quality is moderate. If future development is located in areas of grade 3 further investigation will be required to be identified if the land is grade 3a or 3b. There are no geological issues which would prevent future development. Potentially there are areas of contamination but further investigation needs to confirm this if development is to take place in the identified locations.

Figure 5: Map to Show Potential Land Contamination Areas



### Climate change

- 4.23 The NPPF requires planning to support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy).
- 4.24 Climate-related plans and programmes focus on both mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to the effects of climate change. Commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions range from the international level to the regional level. The plans and programmes 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 plans and programmes 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.

#### The Current State

No specific issues have currently been identified for Great Horwood.

#### **Box 3: Key Climate Change Issues for Great Horwood**

No specific issues have been identified for Great Horwood but there are some general trends which may affect the south east region including:

- Higher temperatures and increased number of storm events and flooding could result in an increased incidence of heat related illnesses and injuries during the summer from. In Great Horwood there are two water courses so the risk of flooding might increase.
- 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.
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence.
- Development will need to support climate change mitigation through seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions e.g. by improving energy efficiency and reducing the need to travel.
- Development will need to incorporate climate change adaptive features e.g. improving flood risk management.

#### **Water**

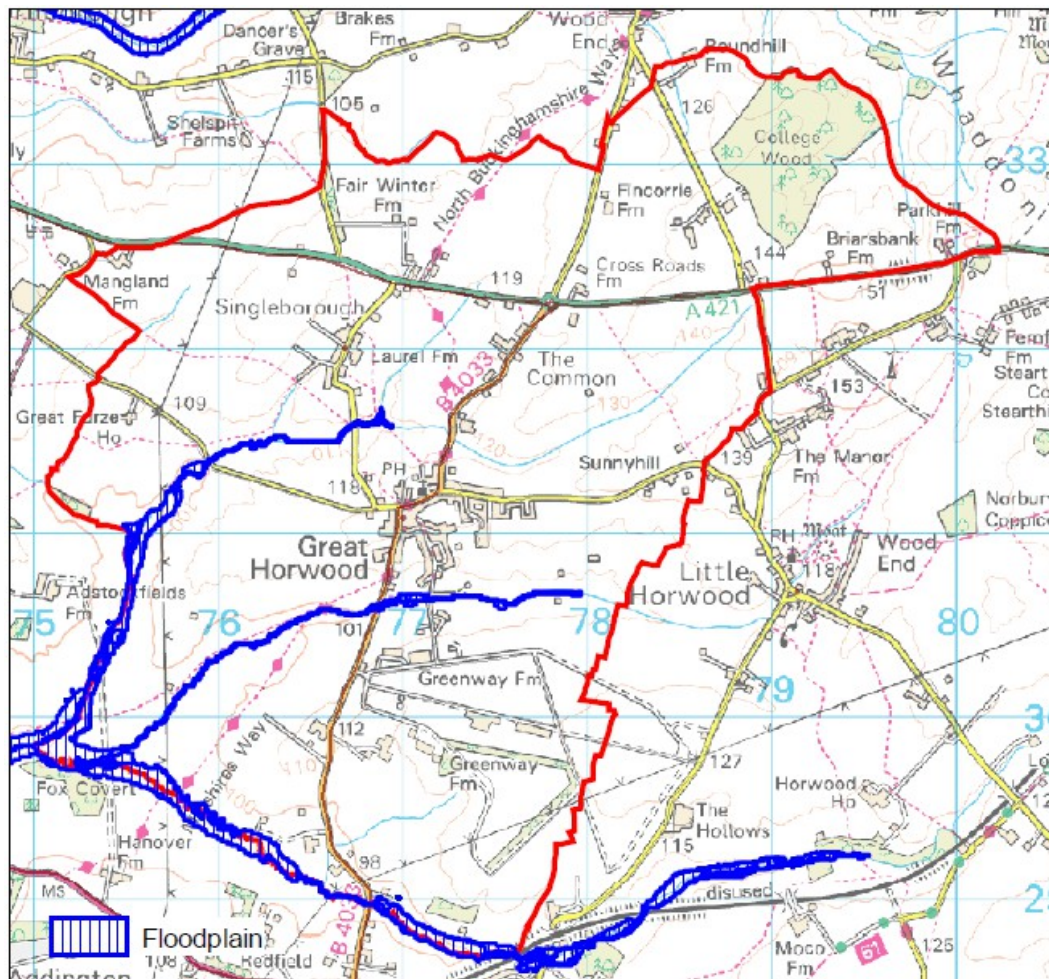
4.25 National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EC Water Framework Directive, as translated into national law by the Water Framework Regulations 2003. Key objectives include improving the quality of rivers and other water bodies to 'good ecological status' by 2015; considering flood 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 Current State

4.26 Great Horwood's hydrology drains westward into the Claydon Brook and the Great Ouse catchment. There are three river tributaries within the Great Horwood neighbourhood area, two of which have areas of floodplain near to the built form, with the other along the southern boundary of the parish and identified on Figure 6. These areas of floodplain should be avoided for future development, and any development near to the areas of floodplain will need to ensure the risk of flooding is not increased as a result of development.

4.27 Aylesbury Vales Water Cycle Strategy 2012 identifies there is capacity at the sewerage treatment works for additional development. The waste water network infrastructure is at the lower end of capacity however these constraints can be overcome. There are no water quality issues within Great Horwood neighbourhood area.

Figure 6: Floodplain in Great Horwood



© Crown Copyright and database right 2013. Ordnance Survey 100019797.

**Box 4: Key Water issues for Great Horwood**

There are no significant issues for Great Horwood, areas of floodplain are primarily located away from the village in locations where future development is unlikely to occur. There are no water quality issues currently for Great Horwood. Some limited constraints have been identified for the waste water network infrastructure which will need to be overcome for future development.

**Landscape and Topography**

4.28 The NPPF requires the planning system to protect and enhance valued landscapes. developments that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on protected landscapes, should not take place.

4.29 Landscape and Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs) have become a central component to the spatial planning process. LCAs can inform policy and decisions regarding the location and design of development and the capacity of the landscape to accept change; with the aim of reinforcing local distinctiveness.

#### The Current State

4.30 There are no national or local level landscape designations within Great Horwood. A Landscape Character Assessment was produced in 2008 for Aylesbury Vale, including the area of Great Horwood. The assessment identified 79 landscape character areas and 13 landscape character types covering landscape, visual, historic and ecological considerations.

4.31 The Landscape Character Assessment for Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan is identified as Horwood Claylands (LCA 4.8). The Horwood Claylands covers the villages of Great Horwood and Little Horwood situated southwest of Milton Keynes, and south of the A421.

4.32 Horwood Claylands Landscape character: An undulating landform with mixed agricultural use. The area is drained by a number of local streams draining towards the southwest. There are varying field sizes particularly in the east with smaller paddocks adjacent to settlements in the west. There are also some larger fields covering the arable area between the two settlements. Small copses and fragments of woodland located to the northeast boundary of the area relate to the original Whaddon Chase (Hunting Forest).

4.33 Horwood Claylands key characteristics

- Rolling clay landform
- Shallow valley and ridges
- Two distinctive water courses draining to the Claydon Brook
- Mixed farmland
- Irregular field pattern around settlements
- Loss of field pattern structure to east of the area

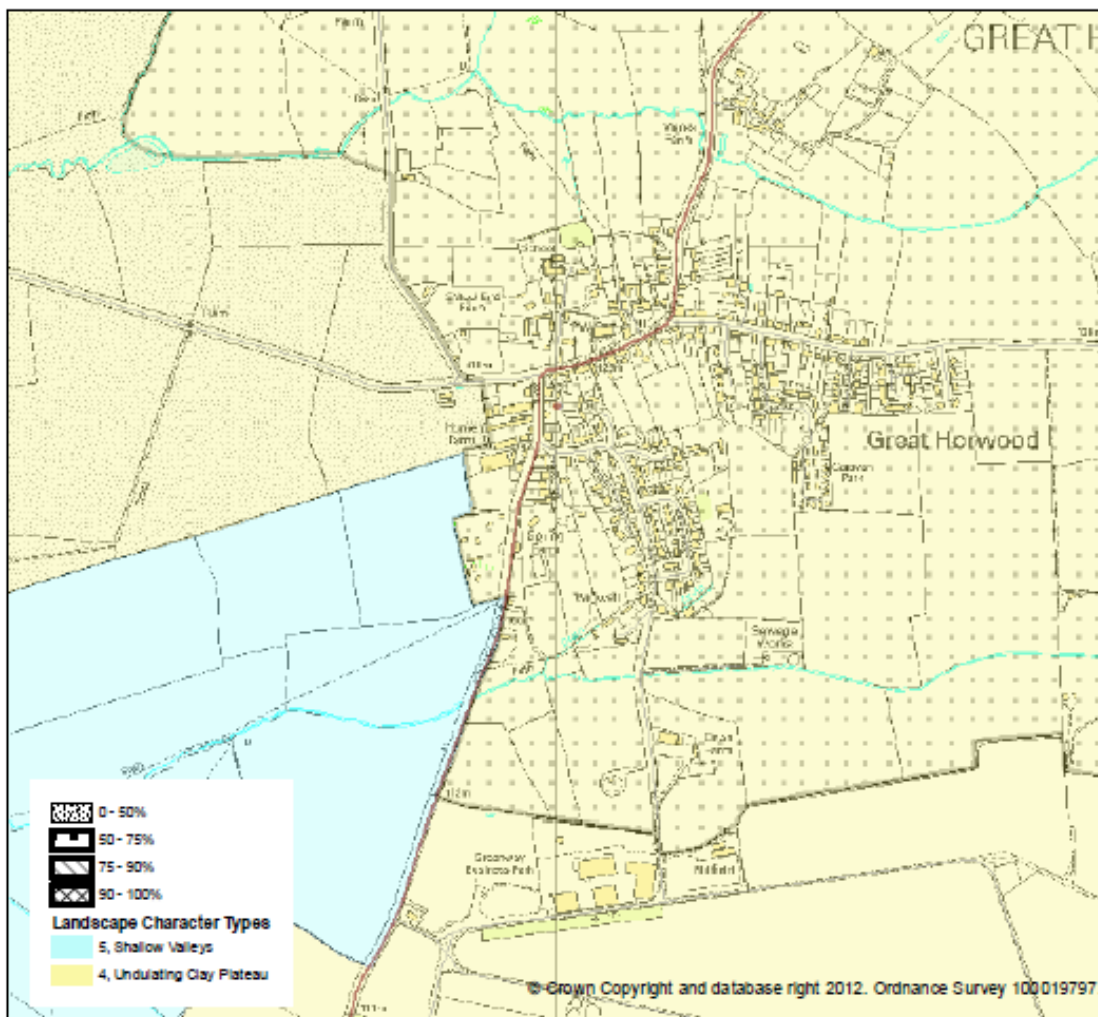
4.34 There is also a relatively small area of land falling into a different landscape area known as 'shallow valleys' (LCA 4.6). The landscape characteristics identify a shallow ridge with steeper slopes on the northern side and shallower slopes and eroded valleys on the southern side, lying between two tributaries to the Padbury Brook. The area is intrinsically rural and sparsely settled. Smaller scale grazing parcels to the north with mature hedgerows and scattered mature trees. Small woodland copses are frequent. General intensification of arable land use in the southwest. The settlement of Nash lies at north eastern end of area.

4.35 The Areas of Sensitive Landscape study (2008) has also been produced which looked specifically at how sensitive areas are to change and new development. The following criteria determine how sensitive a landscape is; landscape quality, scenic quality, rarity, representativeness, conservation interests, wildness, associations and tranquillity. The report classifies landscape sensitivity into 5 groups with '0%' having the lowest sensitivity and '100%' having the highest landscape sensitivity:

- 1) No landscape sensitivity
- 2) 0% - 50% landscape sensitivity
- 3) 50% -75% landscape sensitivity
- 4) 75% - 90% landscape sensitivity
- 5) 90% - 100% landscape sensitivity

4.36 The landscape sensitivity identified for the majority of Great Horwood has a landscape sensitivity between 50–75%. The area of land surrounding Pilch Lane on towards the west of the village has a lower landscape sensitivity between 0%–50%.

*Figure 7: Great Horwood Landscape Character Types and Sensitivity*



4.37 Topography: the A421 (Roman Road) follows the high ground, running at a level of 150m AOD north of Little Horwood. The ground falls away gently towards the southwest dropping to a level of 100m AOD to the west of Great Horwood. The natural drainage of the area has eroded the clay into a network of shallow valleys and gently rounded ridges.

#### **Box 5: Key Landscape and Topography issues for Great Horwood**

- Ensuring any new development has a minimal impact on landscape sensitivity. Great Horwood has a landscape sensitivity between 50%-75%, which is of a moderate level.
- New development should seek to retain and enhance the key landscape characteristics.
- There is a need to ensure that the rural quality of what makes the countryside surrounding Great Horwood tranquil and to some extent remote are retained and enhanced while providing appropriately for the needs of local communities and visitors for recreation activities such as walking.
- Ensuring that Great Horwood remains relatively free of types of elements which detract from landscape character such as new major roads, derelict land and neglected building and electricity pylons/overhead wires.

#### **Historical Environment and Townscape**

4.38 The National planning policy Framework (NPPF) recognises the importance and value of the historic environment to local character and ‘sense of place’. It encourages a positive approach to the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. Plans should consider putting heritage assets to viable uses consistent with their conservation and mindful of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring. New development should make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

#### **The Current State**

- 4.39 Much of the village dates from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when there was extensive rebuilding after a fire, and largely comprises brick and tiled cottages, some white or colour washed. There are, however, some older timber-framed dwellings with brick or plaster infill and thatched roofs. There has been some fairly extensive development in recent years to the east, off Little Horwood Road, and to the south, off Spring Lane, but the centre of the village has remained largely unaltered. The modern areas of the village have been developed for housing from the 1930s onwards. The fields surrounding the village still retain much of the traditional ridge and furrow pattern, with enclosure being granted as late as 1841 by a private Act of Parliament, the Great Horwood (Buckinghamshire) Inclosure Act, 4 & 5 Vict. c.22.
- 4.40 The Historic Town Assessment Report divides the village into two zones, the Great Horwood historic settlement and the Modern Village. It states:

*This zone comprises the whole of the historic village. Much of it lies within the Great Horwood Conservation Area and contains over 30 listed buildings. The village-core lies along a west-east ridge, roughly skirted by the 120 metre contour, and between streams to the*

*north and south. The raised setting of the church makes it a landmark from the surrounding countryside. Piecemeal redevelopment or new building has been incorporated alongside historic buildings so there is a significant number of modern buildings in this zone, but the overall character remains that of an historic village.*

#### National Designations

- 4.41 Many important features and areas for the historic environment in Great Horwood are recognised through historic environment designations. These include listed buildings and Conservation Areas which are nationally designated. There are 39 listed buildings in Great Horwood, all Grade II except for two at Grade II\*, St James Church and Manor Farm. In Singleborough there are 5 listed buildings which are grade II listed. Conservation Areas in both Great Horwood and Singleborough have been designated since 1989.
- 4.42 The Conservation Area in Great Horwood was reviewed and extended in late 2012 as depicted in Figure 8 (on the next page), and was approved by the AVDC Cabinet in December 2012. In particular, the conservation area now includes the former crofts south of the High Street (to reflect historic boundaries) and other parts of house-curtilages previously excluded. The area historically called Wigwell, between the Winslow Road and the modern Wigwell Gardens (including 24 and 26 Spring Lane), is also now within the conservation area.

#### Local Designations

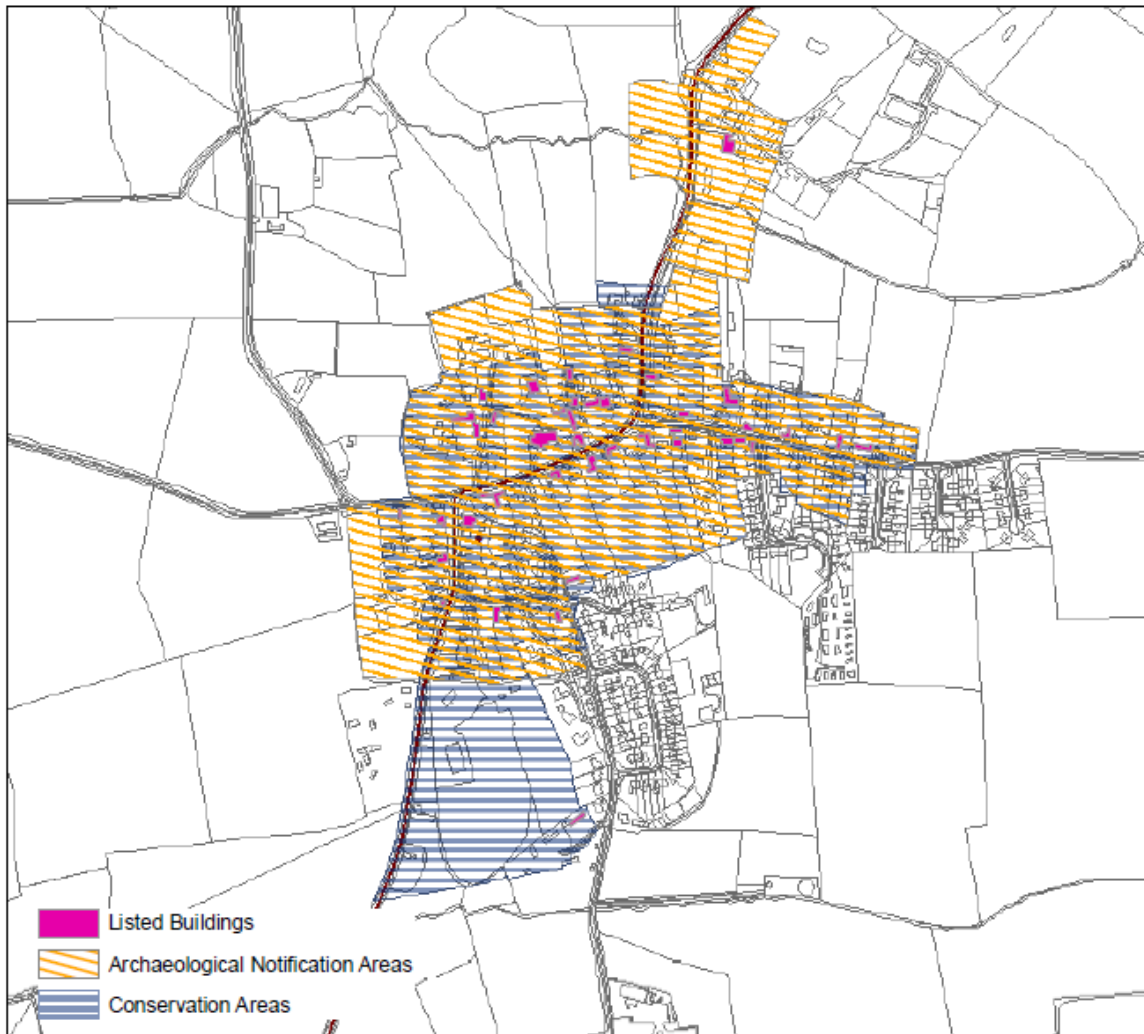
##### *Archaeological Notification Areas*

- 4.43 The majority of the village core around Winslow Road, High Street, Little Horwood Road and The Green is an Archaeological Notification Area. These are areas within which there is specific evidence recorded on the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record indicating the existence, or probable existence, of heritage assets of archaeological interest.
- 4.44 The Conservation Area as reviewed in late 2012 identifies the following:

*‘that the archaeological notification area be extended to cover the whole of Zone 1, the Great Horwood Historical Settlement. In particular the area called Wigwell ..... which shows traces of ridge and furrow, has an interesting morphology with historic buildings surviving on the western and southern edges of the open space. The survival of RAF Nissen huts on the west side of Winslow Road is increasingly rare. As World War II history receives greater public interest, investigation and recording of this area assumes more importance’.*



Figure 8: Great Horwood Historic Environment



#### Box 6: Key Historic Environment issues for Great Horwood

- Conserve and retain the historic character of Great Horwood village and its surroundings.
- Great Horwood has a number of historic buildings. Their quality and character can easily be destroyed by unsympathetic or inappropriate renovation, repair, extension, and redevelopment or simply by neglect.
- To ensure Archaeological Notification Areas are fully explored to ensure historic features are not lost to future development. To ensure the conservation area continues to protect the village from change that is harmful to the historic qualities of the village and ensure that listed buildings are maintained and their historic settings are not adversely impacting upon from new development.
- Encouraging the use of sustainable building methods including careful siting, layout, design and choice of materials (including using more reuse of materials and local materials) to minimise the impact on heritage assets and improve cultural heritage.

## Transport and Air Quality

- 4.45 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.
- 4.46 The plans and programmes highlight that congestion and poor air quality resulting from transport are key issues. Local plans should therefore focus on appropriate design, location and layout of development, increasing investment in infrastructure, improving the quality and accessibility of public transport, supporting walking and cycling, and enhancing road safety.

### The current state

- 4.47 Traffic often occurs within Great Horwood village from local journeys as well as through-traffic along the B4033 which provides a scenic route connecting to the A421, a road which links Buckingham and Milton Keynes. Public transport is limited. The nearest railway stations all being 8-15 miles away are in Bletchley, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury respectively. This situation will change very significantly in 2017 with the planned opening of the East-West rail link and a station at Winslow just 2 miles away, and connecting Great Horwood could be significant in the Plan's options.
- 4.48 Bus users are reliant on just a few services, none of which run in the evening. There are the following bus services:
- The principal bus service is No.50 which connects the village to Winslow and Milton Keynes.
  - There are three services each way per day to Winslow on Monday-Friday, more on a Saturday but none on a Sunday.
  - A Friday and Saturday morning scheduled return service to Aylesbury,
  - A service to the Wednesday Winslow market every week,
  - A return service to Buckingham and Buckingham Tesco's on the first Tuesday of the month
  - A service to and from Westcroft on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. All of this in addition to being available for hire by affiliated groups.
  - Bus stops are located in the High Street and Little Horwood Road.
- 4.49 The following forms of community transport are also available in Great Horwood:
- Aylesbury Vale Dial A Ride (bus service) - 48hrs notice required. Suitable for wheelchair users

- Winslow and District Community Bus – available to hire for community groups – 24hrs notice required
- Doctor’s Surgery Car Service to Winslow and elsewhere.
- A hospital Car Service is based in Buckingham covers the Great Horwood area

#### Travel to school

4.50 Travel to school can have large traffic implications on a town and can often account for a large number of journeys made at peak times. Within Great Horwood there is one primary school. Primary school children have the shortest distance to travel to school, when compared to secondary school due to smaller catchment areas. However a significant number of these journeys are made by car. The Great Horwood C of E Combined School is located at the end of School Lane, as such this is a congestion hotspot at school opening and closing times.

#### Air Quality

4.51 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. Clean air is an essential prerequisite for a good quality of life and people have the right to expect that the air they breathe will not harm them. An emphasis is placed on reducing emissions of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>), particularly from the transport sector.

#### The Current State

4.52 Air quality in the Buckinghamshire is generally good, but there are still occasional unacceptably high levels of pollution originating mainly from vehicle emissions on busy roads. These areas are designated as Air Quality Management Areas. For Great Horwood there are no Air Quality Management Areas and air quality is not seen as an issue.

#### **Box 7: Key transport and air quality issues for Great Horwood**

- Public transport is the biggest issue for Great Horwood due to its rural nature. A more regular service would make the service more usable.
- Congestion through the village is a concern.
- There is no train station or nearby station within Great Horwood, although this will change with the opening of East-West rail providing a train station at Winslow.
- There are no off road surfaced cycling links in the neighbourhood area.
- There are no air quality issues for Great Horwood.

#### **Population and Quality of Life**

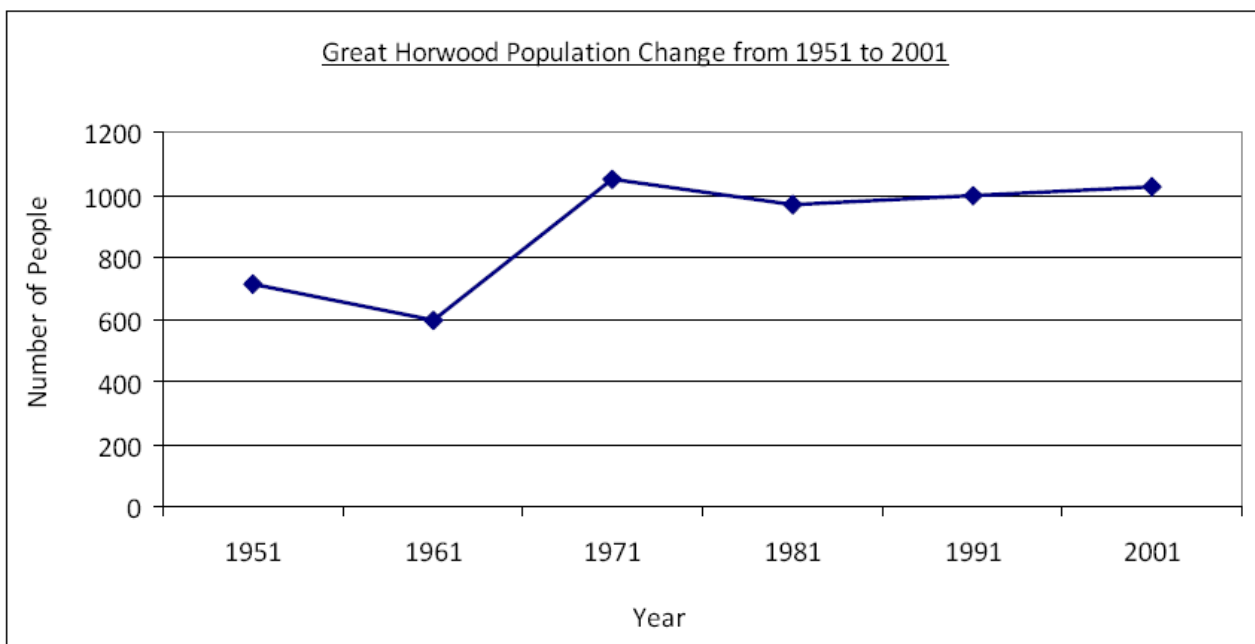
4.53 Plans and programmes on population include a range of different objectives, including tackling social exclusion, improving human rights and public participation, improving health,

and ensuring every child has the chance to fulfil 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.

### The Current State

4.54 According to the 2001 Census, Great Horwood has a population of 1,025 people and 422 homes (AVDC Monitoring, March 2012). The population constitutes 0.6% of the overall District population. An updated population figure for the parish is 1,100 (estimated 2011 total) of which Singleborough has 75. This is based on 15 new houses/caravans over the period with 3 people per household and then an added 30 people to allow for ageing population but continuing birthrate. There are some 415 households (2001 Census figure was 398). The graph below shows that after a fall in population of the parish to 1961 there was an increase of around 400 people to 1971 and thereafter the population has remained steady at around 1000 people.

*Figure 9: Great Horwood population change*



2001 Census, <http://www.ons.gov.uk>, © Crown copyright

### Index of Multiple Deprivations

4.55 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) provide an analysis of the levels of deprivation according to seven key indicators: income, employment, health, education, housing, crime and living environment (ONS, 2007). The table below shows a scoring result out of 20 for each category of deprivation where 20 would be the most deprived and 1 the least.

<b>Overall Deprivation</b> <b>Measures the following seven key indicators:</b>	<b>2/20</b>
1) Income Deprivation Measures wages	2/20
2) Employment Deprivation Measures unemployment levels and access to jobs	3/20
3) Health Deprivation Measures population's health	3/20
4) Education Deprivation Measures skill levels and access to education	3/20
5) Barrier to Housing and Services Measure access to affordable housing and services	10/20
6) Crime Measures levels of burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence	1/20
7) Living Environment Deprivation Measures both indoor and outdoor living conditions including condition of housing, air quality, road traffic accidents	8/20

4.56 The table above shows that, relative to all communities nationally, Great Horwood is not deprived. This is particularly the case with the issue of Crime and Income deprivation. However, on certain issues including Barrier to Housing and Services and Living Environment, Great Horwood does show high levels of deprivation.

#### Social Groups

4.57 A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (ACORN) developed by the Bucks Strategic Partnership shows the distinct groups of people that live within Buckinghamshire. The county is made up of 10 groups of households whose residents all have very different demographic characteristics and lifestyles, which generally means that each group has different service needs. The different ACORN group types are explained at [http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/research/bucks\\_acorn.page](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/research/bucks_acorn.page)

4.58 Great Horwood has a significantly more wealthy population than the district average. The most common ACORN social group is 'Villagers with wealthy commuters' (33 %). 25 % of the total are 'Well Off Managers, Larger Houses' and 18% 'Secure Families'. Of the latter group, the majority are 'Mature Families in Suburban Semis' (10%) followed by 'Middle Income Home Owning Areas' (5%). Of the 'Flourishing Families' group, half are 'Larger Families, Prosperous Suburbs'.

### **Box 8: Key Population and Quality of Life Issues**

- Great Horwood has a relatively old population structure and therefore an ageing population. This will have implications in terms of housing, employment and health needs.
- In terms of access to housing and services Great Horwood is moderately deprived.
- In terms of the living environment Great Horwood is moderately deprived. This includes both indoor and outdoor living conditions including condition of housing, air quality and road traffic accidents.

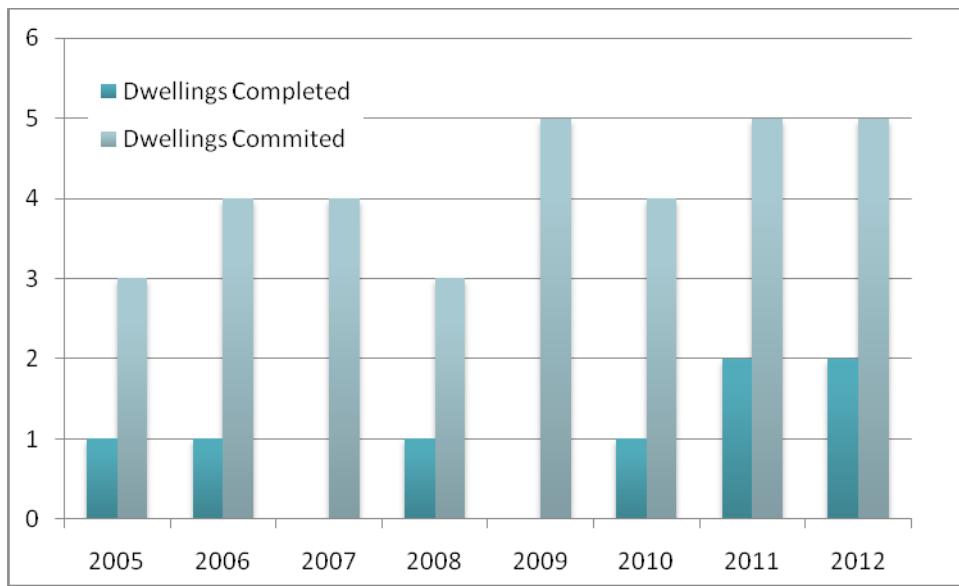
### **Housing and Services**

- 4.59 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.
- 4.60 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 national, regional and local policies.

### **The Current State**

- 4.61 The predominant house type in the parish is a detached house or bungalow. In the parish the average household size is 2.6 persons (district-wide is 2.5) the most common (almost one third) household type is couples living with children. More than three quarters of households in the parish are owner occupied, rather than any form of renting. The overwhelming majority of household space is occupied.
- 4.62 Vacant households account for 3.1% of the households in Great Horwood parish, with a further 3.6% of unoccupied household space. For clarification a 'vacant' household space is an unoccupied space which is not a household's usual residence and is not a second residence or holiday accommodation. A very small percentage (0.5%) accounts for holiday accommodation or second working residences. There is also a temporary gypsy and traveller site located on land opposite Causter Farm, Nash Road, which accommodates approximately eleven pitches.
- 4.63 There has been very little housing development in recent years, with an increase of seven homes since 2004. There are no recorded affordable housing completions in the Great Horwood neighbourhood area over the last ten years or rural exception schemes. As such the community has remained largely unchanged since 2001.

Figure 10: completed and committed housing development

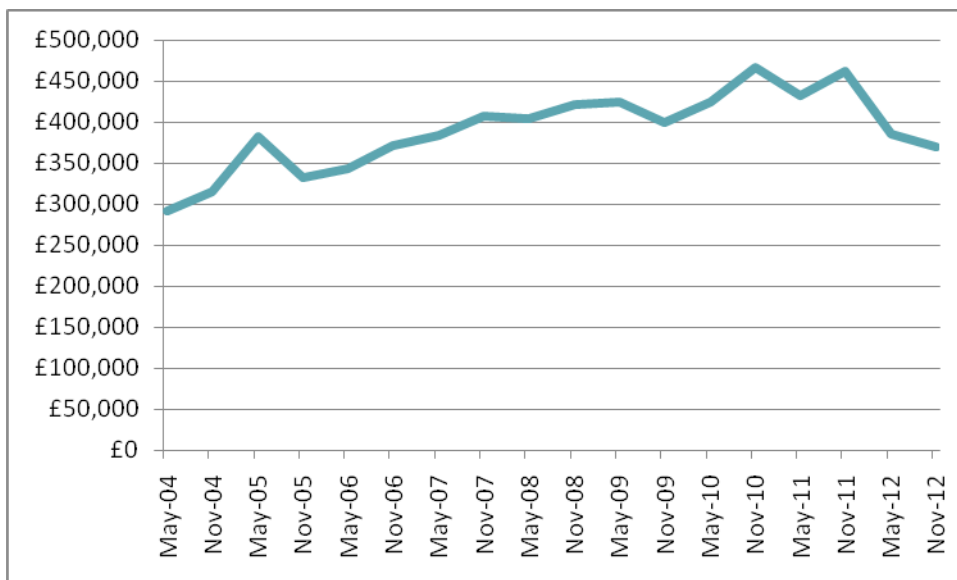


Source AVDC, 2012

### Affordability

4.64 Great Horwood has a higher than average house price when compared nationally. In recent years house prices have been falling. Currently the average house is £352,000.

Figure 11: national average house prices



(Source: Hometrack, April, 2012)

### Housing Need

4.65 In the Great Horwood Ward, there are 19 households on the waiting list for affordable housing (AVDC, December 2010).

## Services

4.66 There is little in terms of local provision of services and local residents rely on journeys to higher order settlements (i.e. Winslow, Buckingham or Milton Keynes). There is no shop, village post office, bank or cash machine or fresh food outlet, but the village does nonetheless support The Crown PH, The Swan Inn, a motor vehicle service station and two other businesses. There is no library or mobile library in Great Horwood. There is however a mobile post office in the village hall one morning per week. There are no health facilities (i.e. doctor's surgery, dentist or pharmacy) in the village. There are two allotment areas in Great Horwood village and no waiting list at present. The social and pastoral infrastructure includes a church, village hall, cricket and football club as well as a small assortment of clubs and societies, including youth club, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows and Brownies. Great Horwood is well served with children's play facilities.

### **Box 9: Key Housing and Service Issues**

- Great Horwood is within the top 50% of most deprived areas in terms of barrier to housing and services due to high house prices and rural characteristics.
- There is a limited number of services within the village.
- Although the income to house price ratio has reduced in the last couple of years, there is still a significant gap between house prices and average income.
- Affordability of housing is a key issue within Great Horwood.
- Demand for all types of housing, but particular homes for first buy, shared ownership and smaller family homes.
- Community views have indicated that growth of up to 40 dwellings is supported by local people.

## **Economic Factors**

4.67 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; and improved productivity and innovation, particularly with regards to technology. 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.

### The Current State

#### Employment and Jobs

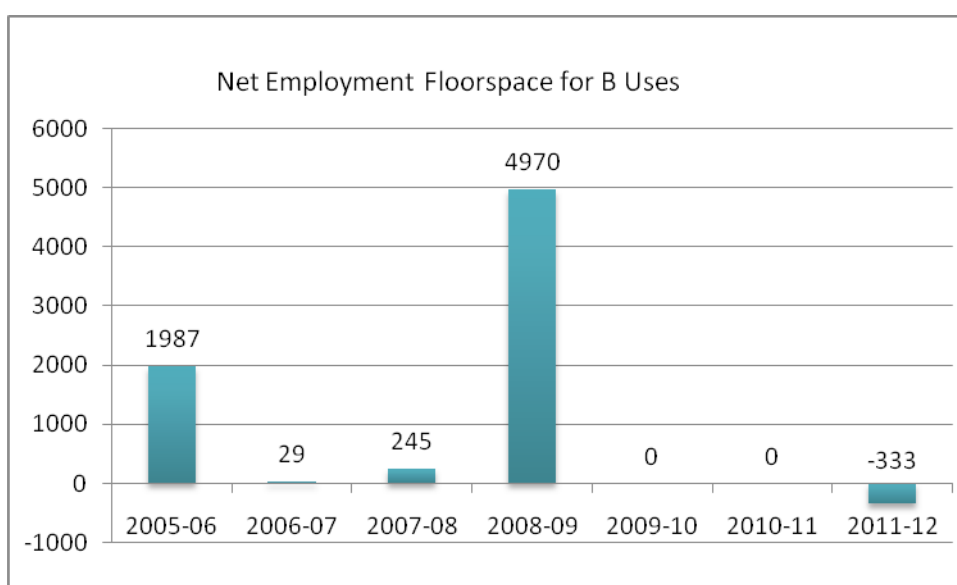
4.68 According to the 2001 Census, the three biggest areas of employment for Great Horwood residents are real estate, renting and business activities, followed by wholesale and retail, and finally manufacturing industry. Almost three-quarters of people were employed in some form of work and only 1% of the population in Great Horwood were unemployed.



4.69 In 2011 the Great Horwood Community Survey identified 46 businesses in the parish located on several sites the largest of which being the Greenway industrial estate. As such although Great Horwood is a small rural village, there is some local employment.

4.70 The graph below shows net employment completions which are identified as B1, B2, and B8 use classes. This includes offices, research and development, light industry, general industry, warehousing and distribution. Net floorspace (sq m) takes into account demolitions and losses of B class uses. Please note that B use employment is likely to only contribute around 50% of parish employment with the other employment generating uses being non-B use.

Figure 12: net employment floorspace for B uses



### Education and Skills

4.71 Great Horwood Church of England Combined School is currently operating with an age of admission of 3+ (admission of children in the term following the third birthday). The change of admission from 4 to 3 is under emergency arrangement (as at January 2011) due to a need for the places but has not been confirmed by the Statutory Process but this would follow completion of the Early Years and School Places Planning Area Plan and subject to continued evidence of need.

4.72 This school is a Voluntary Controlled mixed school for ages 4-11. In January 2005 there were 128 pupils attending. This has dropped to 124 in January 2013 (latest Ofsted report). The school has spare capacity to accommodate prospective pupils from the proposed potential 40 new dwellings over the next 20 years. Secondary School provision is good as the parish is in the catchment of 2 schools in Buckingham and one at Waddesdon. A new secondary school has now opened in Winslow. Secondary schools in Buckingham and Waddesdon are:

- Buckingham School (an Upper school) – 1166 places is capacity. In 2009/10 there were 932 places(spare capacity 234 places – 20%)
- Royal Latin, Buckingham (a Grammar school) – 1226 places is capacity. In 2009/10 there were 1262 places (no spare capacity – 3% oversupply)
- Waddesdon CE – 960 places is capacity. In 2009/10 there were 970 places (no spare capacity – 1% oversupply)

4.73 The parish is well served for Early Years and Childcare Services with travel to Buckingham, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury for care. There is one Early Years Centre within the Great Horwood School Catchment Area – The Brambles, Singleborough, MK17 0RF. They are registered to take 37 children up to 8 years old with a maximum of 26 under 2 years old and are open for 51 weeks per year.

**Box 10: Key Economic Issues**

- There is a high level of employment of the parish’s population.
- There are 46 local businesses in the parish, this current level of businesses and employment should aim to be at least maintained
- There is possible competition from nearby employment sites at Buckingham and Milton Keynes
- Adequate infrastructure to support local businesses needs to be provided.

## Strengths and Weaknesses

4.74 The table below shows the strengths and weakness of the Great Horwood neighbourhood area.

*Table 3: Strengths and weaknesses of Great Horwood*

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good road links to surrounding towns</li> <li>• Winslow town two miles away with good amenities and Buckingham town five miles away</li> <li>• Town of Milton Keynes 9 miles away with all the major shopping and culture facilities available. Mainline railway station. Fast trains to south and north</li> <li>• County town of Aylesbury with the administrative offices for the county and AVDC and town facilities 13 miles away</li> <li>• M1 and M40 motorways easily accessible.</li> <li>• East-West Rail to be opened in 2017</li> <li>• Good footpath network for short and long distance walking</li> <li>• Access to doctors' car service to reach doctors in Winslow</li> <li>• Charity supported bus service including trips out. "Winslow Bus"</li> <li>• Rural location</li> <li>• Well defined conservation area with many listed buildings (39 in total)</li> <li>• Selection of old and new homes</li> <li>• Housing and commercial development possible</li> <li>• Reasonable amount of social housing</li> <li>• Commercial property available</li> <li>• Church of England church</li> <li>• C of E combined school</li> <li>• A good selection of groups and societies for all age groups</li> <li>• Community spirit</li> <li>• Range of clubs including football club, cricket club</li> <li>• Low crime rate</li> <li>• A mix of social groups within the village</li> <li>• Very good playground Horwode Pece in Spring lane</li> <li>• Village hall</li> <li>• No environmental issues, some local biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B4033 through the village causes traffic, speed and noise problem as it can be used by all classes of vehicles. It forms a short cut between the A413 and A421, to avoid Buckingham</li> <li>• Limited public transport to the main towns around the village</li> <li>• No footpath/cycle path to Winslow</li> <li>• Only one bridle way</li> <li>• Lack of housing available for purchase or rent</li> <li>• Lack of available affordable housing</li> <li>• Limited land available for housing and commercial development</li> <li>• No mains gas supply to the village</li> <li>• Broadband speed is relatively low</li> <li>• No "village shop"</li> <li>• Only one day a week travelling post office</li> <li>• No doctor or dental surgery</li> </ul>

## Chapter 5: Developing a Sustainability Appraisal Framework

### Purpose of the SA Framework

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Development Plan will be assessed through a SA Framework of objectives, decision-making criteria, indicators and targets.
- 5.2 The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability issues 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. These can also be utilised in monitoring the implementation of the NDP.
- 5.3 The purpose of the SA Framework is to provide a way of ensuring the proposed plan's policies consider the sustainability needs of the area in terms of their social, environmental and economic effects. 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.

### Great Horwood SA Framework

- 5.4 The SA Framework below aims to test how the plan objectives and policies impacts on the social, environmental and economic characteristics of Great Horwood.

*Table 4. Great Horwood Sustainability Appraisal Framework*

<p><b>1. Community wellbeing</b></p> <p>Maximise the benefits and minimise the negative impacts of development on new and existing communities, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• improving access to housing, jobs, health and education and social opportunities</li></ul>
<p><b>2. Design</b></p> <p>Through development, create sustainable communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• championing high quality sustainable design;</li><li>• encouraging creation of place; and</li><li>• ensuring development is locally distinctive reflecting historical character.</li></ul>
<p><b>3. Access and provision of services</b></p> <p>Through development, aim to ensure there are opportunities for people to obtain access to services and facilities that are appropriate to their needs by helping to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• appropriate facilities and services, recreation and green infrastructure</li></ul>

- in appropriate locations; at the appropriate times.

#### **4. Village centres**

Support and enhance the role of the village centre, by:

- encouraging vitality and viability;
- maximising potential to meet the needs of the community;
- enabling improvements to the village centre;
- enable opportunities for retail provision

#### **5. Employment, workforce and skills**

Through development, encourage and maintain an available and skilled workforce which:

- meets the needs of existing and future employers and improves opportunities and facilities for all types of learning;

Through development, aim to ensure there are opportunities for all employers to access facilities and services that are appropriate to their needs including:

- different types and sizes of accommodation;
- flexible employment space;
- high quality communications and infrastructure.

#### **6. Housing**

Through development, provide:

- appropriate types of homes;
- in appropriate locations;
- at the appropriate times;

And in doing so aim to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a home that:

- is appropriate to their needs;
- they can afford;
- and of high quality design, and residents feel safe in.

#### **7. Best use of land**

Make the best use of land, through:

- re-using existing buildings;
- developing on previously developed land (PDL); and
- minimising development on high quality agricultural land.
- In addition, avoid development on contaminated land where remediation is not possible.

#### **8. Transport and travel**

Enable improvements to transport infrastructure and transport choice, by:

- reducing the need to travel through encouraging more sustainable patterns of land use and development;
- encouraging modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel;
- and reducing the negative effects of transport on the environment and communities.

## **9. Air quality**

Through development, reduce the negative impacts development brings on air quality by:

- reduce emissions of transport to help achieve national and international standards for air quality;
- using sustainable construction methods

## **10. Landscape and heritage**

Through development, maintain, conserve and enhance the landscape, heritage and built character of the villages and countryside by:

- protecting and enhancing designated and undesignated heritage and landscape assets;
- protecting areas of sensitive landscape and minimising adverse impacts of development;
- maintaining historical, archaeological and cultural value and potential of assets; and
- increasing access to, enjoyment and understanding of, these assets, where this will not cause harm.

## **11. Biodiversity**

Conserve and enhance biodiversity, including the need to avoid or mitigate the potential impacts of new development in the long term, by:

- managing natural habitats and wildlife;
- enabling opportunities for greater biodiversity;
- protecting the integrity of European sites and other designated sites for nature conservation;
- increasing access to, enjoyment and understanding of, these assets, where this will not cause harm; and
- encouraging the creation of new (or replacement) habitats and features for wildlife.

## **12. Flooding**

Through development, reduce the risk of flooding in the villages, by:

- minimising the risk of flooding to people and property;
- reducing the risk to those areas susceptible to flooding;
- managing flood risks appropriately both now and in the long-term; and
- ensuring provision of sustainable urban drainage.

## **13. Water, energy and climate change**

Through development, maintain, and where possible enhance, water quality & avoid water stress, by:

- meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive;
- encouraging reduction of water consumption;
- protecting groundwater resources and abstractions;
- providing adequate water infrastructure to ensure the sustainable supply of water and the disposal of sewerage; and

- ensuring adaptation and reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
- Through development, reduce contributions to climate change by:
- encouraging sustainable, low carbon building practices and design;
  - maximising the potential for renewable energy and reduce CO2 emissions through energy conservation;
  - reducing emissions of greenhouse gases; and
  - maximising opportunities for recycling and minimising waste.

### **Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Statutory Consultation**

5.5 As part of the requirements when developing an SA scoping report three organisations must be consulted. These are Natural England; English Heritage and the Environment Agency, all of which were contacted as summarised below:

*Table 5: comments received from statutory consultation bodies*

<b>Date comment was received</b>	<b>Who sent the comment</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>How we responded to the comment</b>
1 Jan 1900	Natural England	(to be entered)	(to be entered)
1 Jan 1900	English Heritage	(to be entered)	(to be entered)
1 Jan 1900	Environment Agency	(to be entered)	(to be entered)

## **Chapter 6.0 Next steps**

### Next Steps

- 6.1 The next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal is to test the SA framework against the Neighbourhood Plan options. This will include appraisal of site options, development of management policy options and consultation.



## Appendix A:

Audit of meetings held and comments received from consultation bodies

*Table 6: story of developing the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report*

<b>Date</b>	<b>What we did</b>	<b>Who was involved</b>	<b>Problems that we faced</b>
15 Mar 12	Initial meeting of the GH NPT to discuss SA methodology	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, D Trigg	Concern about insufficient Team members
26 Apr 12	2nd meeting of the GH NPT which discussed the Neighbourhood Plan Scoping document and way forward for the SA	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, D Trigg, M Vincent, M Hobday, J West	None
2 Jul 12	3rd meeting of the GH NPT which discussed the Neighbourhood Plan Scoping document and the Workstrand Tracker, an EXCEL workbook which summarises all of the tasks and action	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, D Trigg, M Vincent, M Hobday	Obtaining the necessary detailed and specific mapping for historical and environmental sustainability work
Jul 12	Ongoing GH NPT work	All	Limitation of baseline data eg no access to 2011 Census data
19 Sep 12	4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT which discussed the Great Horwood Conservation Area review, Neighbourhood Plan Scoping document and the Workstrand Tracker with attendant work	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, D Trigg, M Vincent, M Hobday, A Hearsey	Delays in obtaining data and limitations thereof
7 Nov 12	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT which discussed the Neighbourhood Plan Scoping document, the Workstrand Tracker, the draft Sustainability Appraisal and the Rationale for choice of development sites document	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, M Vincent, M Hobday, A Hearsey	Difficulties in obtaining all the information we need from external agencies, and inaccuracies in information supplied to us
14 Jan 13	Extraordinary meeting to approve planned expenditure of up to £500 for work to be undertaken by AVDC Forward Plans to assist the GH NPT	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, M Vincent, M Hobday, D Trigg	None
19 Mar 13	6 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT which discussed and agreed the SA Scoping report, and discussed the SA Framework document and the Workstrand Tracker with attendant work	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, D Trigg, M Vincent, M Hobday, A Hearsey	Achieving all of the necessary work within our desired timescales

<b>Date</b>	<b>What we did</b>	<b>Who was involved</b>	<b>Problems that we faced</b>
24 Apr 13	7 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT which agreed wording of leaflet to be circulated, and planned the format of public meeting on 18 May	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, D Trigg, M Hobday	Arranging distribution of leaflet to all homes in the parish
18 May 13	Public meeting in Village Hall	More than 70 residents	Oposition to the fact that both proposed sites were at the eastern end of the village
21 May 13	8 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT which reviewed feedback from the public meeting on 18 May and considered possible alternative sites for development	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, M Hobday	Strong request from some residents to consider a site that will not satisfy the NPPF
Jul 13	Article published in village magazine "Focus" proposing alternative sites	J Scholtens	
2 Jul 13	9 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT which considered adverse comments from several residents to the alternative proposal	J Scholtens, J Gilbey, D Saunders, D Trigg, M Hobday, R Jenkins	Four members of the GH NPT resigned
9 Sep 2013	GH Parish Council agrees that work on a Neighbourhood Plan should continue	Parish Councillors	
21 Nov 13	10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT with new membership, which approved the appointment of a planning consultant	J Gilbey, D Saunders, R Jenkins, D Mayne, J Waggott	Need to consider proposal from a major developer for large-scale development on one of the sites considered earlier
10 Dec 13	11 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT considered the consultant's action plan, and alternative development sites	J Gilbey, D Saunders, R Jenkins, D Mayne, J Waggott	Timetable constraints
12 Jan 14	Residents' meeting in Village Hall to discuss proposed large-scale development	Over 70 residents	
14 Jan 14	12 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT considered report of residents meeting, agreed to continue with Neighbourhood Plan, and continued to consider alternative development sites	J Gilbey, D Saunders, R Jenkins, D Mayne, J Waggott	Vale of Aylesbury deemed unsound at examination
30 Jan 14	Consultation meeting held by developer in Village Hall		

<b>Date</b>	<b>What we did</b>	<b>Who was involved</b>	<b>Problems that we faced</b>
5 Feb 14	13 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GH NPT reconsiders possible development sites and agrees to commission a housing needs survey	J Gilbey, D Saunders, R Jenkins, D Mayne, J Waggott, N Homer (planning consultant)	Timetable constraints; proposal from second developer for large-scale development on a different site
10 Feb 14	GH Parish Council agrees to submit updated SA Scoping Report for formal consultation	Parish councillors	