



Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Bramley Neighbourhood Plan



Scoping Report

March 2015

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Images from top to bottom:

Top Left: Ironmums (Christopher Hawkins)

Top Right: Green Farm (Bramley Parish Council)

Middle Right: Field in Bramley (Bramley Parish Council)

Bottom Left: St James’ Church in Winter (Charles D P Miller)

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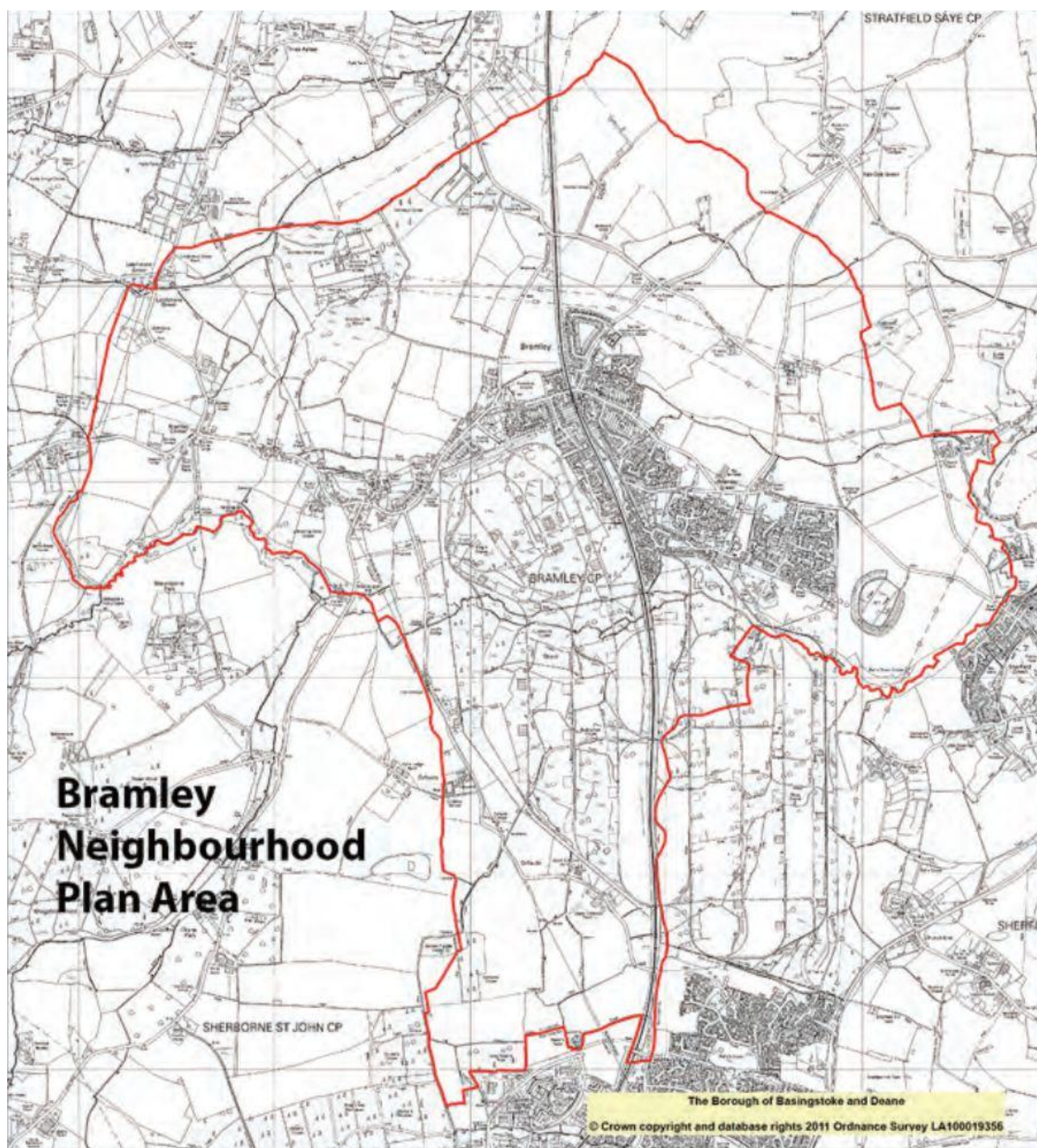


Figure 1.1: Map of the Bramley Neighbourhood Area

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of Bramley's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.1.2 The Bramley Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared by the Parish Council under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. The plan will be in conformity with the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan – see Box 1.1. Both plans will cover the period to 2029.

Box 1.1: The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan

The Local Plan is currently undergoing Examination and is anticipated to be adopted in 2016. The Local Plan is set to require the delivery of approximately 200 dwellings in Bramley by 2029, with sites to be allocated through the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 1.1.3 The plan will set out a vision, broad strategy and range of policies for the plan area. Box 1.2 below presents the vision and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan

Box 1.2: Aims and objectives of the Bramley Neighbourhood Plan

Development

- BSA1: To make provision for new housing development which satisfies local strategic growth requirements, fulfills local housing needs, and enables locally needed infrastructure to be delivered.
- BSA2: To ensure that all new developments are proportionate in size and complement and enhance the rural character of the village.
- BSA4: To protect the rural character of the village and its setting and minimize the environmental impact of new development.

Community services

- BAS3: To maintain and enhance the range of community and recreational amenities, services and facilities appropriate for Bramley.

Getting around

- BSA5: To improve pedestrian & cycle connections within Bramley and to surrounding destinations.
- BSA6: To resolve problems of on street parking, congestion and safety associated with the railway station level crossing and nearby shops and businesses.

Working

- BAS7: To provide opportunities for suitable new employment development in Bramley.

The following vision has also been established -

'In 2029 Bramley will be an attractive village with a strong rural character, excellent and conveniently located community facilities, a range of high quality homes fulfilling local needs, safe and convenient access to transport services and green spaces, and good opportunities for locally based employment.'

1.2 SEA explained

- 1.2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is being developed alongside a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), a legally required process that aims to ensure that the significant effects of an emerging draft plan (and alternatives) are systematically considered and communicated.¹
- 1.2.2 It is a requirement that SEA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the European SEA Directive.²
- 1.2.3 In-line with the Regulations, a report (the ‘Environmental Report’) must be published for consultation alongside the draft plan that essentially presents information on the likely significant effects of implementing the plan, and reasonable alternatives.³ The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.
- 1.2.4 Presenting the required information in the Environmental Report essentially means answering the following four questions -
1. What’s the scope of the SEA?
 2. What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?
 - Preparation of the draft plan must have been informed by at least one earlier plan-making / SEA iteration. ‘Reasonable alternatives’ must have been assessed.
 3. What are the SEA findings at this stage?
 - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
 4. What happens next (including monitoring)?

1.3 This scoping report

- 1.3.1 Scoping is the first stage in the SEA process. There is a need to determine the scope of the SEA before actual assessment work can commence.
- 1.3.2 The purpose of the scoping stage is essentially to set parameters, in terms of environmental (and wider ‘sustainability’) issues. In other words, the aim is to establish those sustainability issues that will and will not be a focus of subsequent assessment work. The aim is to ensure assessment work that is appropriately focused and therefore effective and efficient.
- 1.3.3 Scoping involves -
- Context review – i.e. review of sustainability issues and objectives established by national and local government, as well as other influential organisations.
 - Baseline review – i.e. a review of available data-sets and sources of qualitative evidence to establish the situation locally, in terms of the issues/objectives established through context review.

¹ SEA is not an automatic requirement for all Neighbourhood Plans. Rather, SEA is a requirement where there is the potential for the plan to result in significant effects. Basingstoke and Deane Council has advised that there is the potential for significant effects, i.e. the Council advises that the plan should be ‘screened-in’ as requiring SEA.

² Directive 2001/42/EC

³ Schedule 2 of the Regulations lists the information that must be presented in the Environmental Report.

- Establishment of the SEA ‘framework’ – i.e. refinement of the issues / objectives established through context and baseline review, with a view to developing a concise list that can be used as a methodological framework for structuring subsequent assessment work.
- Consultation with the ‘statutory bodies’, i.e. Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

1.3.4 **This Scoping Report** relates to the final bullet point. It presents the outcomes of context/baseline review and issues/objectives analysis, with the aim of gathering the view of stakeholders so that they might be taken on-board prior to assessment work commencing.

Structure of this report

1.3.5 Information on context/baseline/issues/objectives is presented below under the following series of ‘topic’ headings:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Air quality | • Population and community |
| • Biodiversity | • Health and wellbeing |
| • Climate change (including flood risk) | • Transportation |
| • Land, soil and water resources | • Economy and enterprise |
| • Historic environment and landscape | |

1.3.6 The selected topics reflect those suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive.⁴

1.3.7 Readers will also note that the topics cover all three dimensions of sustainable development, i.e. the environmental, social and economic pillars. This is appropriate given that sustainable development is a stated objective for neighbourhood plans.⁵ Extending the scope of an SEA in this way does not mean that environmental issues are less likely to achieve prominence in plan-making.

⁴ The SEA Directive is ‘of a procedural nature’ (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on ‘the environment, **including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors**’ [our emphasis]

⁵ At Examination all neighbourhood plans must demonstrate that they meet the ‘basic condition’ of contributing to sustainable development.

2 AIR QUALITY

SEA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution sources • Air quality hotspots • Air quality management

2.1 Headline sustainability issues

- Air quality in the parish is currently good, with no significant issues identified. However, there is some anecdotal evidence of possible issues.
- New housing and employment provision in the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to have adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide.
- The plan can have a bearing on the need to travel by the private car / the degree to which people choose to use sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. The location of housing has a bearing, and there is also the potential for the plan to facilitate the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, including new and improved pedestrian and cycle links and enhancements to public transport networks.

2.2 Sustainability context

2.2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- ‘Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan.’
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

2.2.2 In terms of the local context, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is required to monitor air quality across the borough, report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area. No AQMA have been declared in the Bramley Neighbourhood Area, and it is not thought likely that growth at Bramley could impact AQMA elsewhere.

2.3 Sustainability baseline

Current

- 2.3.1 The main input to air pollutants in Bramley is road traffic and, at some times of the year, burning of agricultural crops. However, air quality is generally good in the parish with no significant issues. No locations in the parish are known to be at risk of exceedences of air pollutants and, as such, no locations are currently subject to air quality monitoring.
- 2.3.2 Anecdotal evidence suggests that air quality may be less than ideal in the village centre when heavy traffic (i.e. a situation whereby there are cars queuing back from the level crossing) coincides with the time when children are walking to or from school (past all of the idling cars).

Future

- 2.3.3 Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist in the Neighbourhood Area, new housing and employment provision both within the parish and outside of the parish has the potential to have adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide. Areas of particular sensitivity to increased traffic flows are likely to be within the more congested parts of the village and the routes with highest traffic flows, such as queuing at the C32 railway crossing in Bramley village and lanes around the north side of the village used as “rat runs” to bypass the level crossing and avoid queues. The car is set to remain the most dominant form of transport for residents of Bramley and housing development is likely to add more cars to an already congested road network. This may be offset in part by factors such as measures implemented through the Hampshire Local Transport Plan to encourage modal shift from the private car and the improved fuel economy and efficiency of vehicles.

2.4 Key issues / objectives

- 2.4.1 The following objective is proposed –
- Minimise air pollution and maintain good air quality*
- 2.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –
- Minimise air pollution resulting from traffic congestion
 - Minimise air pollution from other sources
 - Consider ‘sensitive receptors’ including children

3 BIODIVERSITY

SEA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats • Species • Nature conservation designations • Geological features

3.1 Headline sustainability issues

- There are several sites of important nature conservation (SINCs), ancient deciduous woodland, mixed woodland and floodplain grazing marsh within the plan area. There is also a need to consider the SSSI Impact Risk Zone from a SSSI (Pamber Forest and Silchester Common) outside the plan area. Other features of biodiversity value will include individual trees, hedgerows and meadows.
- The plan has a role to play in conserving areas of biodiversity value, and might also look to deliver targeted enhancements to biodiversity through measures (e.g. 'Green Infrastructure') to enhance ecological connectivity.

3.2 Sustainability context

3.2.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁶ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to 'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'.

3.2.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively planning for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

⁶ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

- 3.2.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁷ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:
- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
 - Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
 - Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
 - Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.
- 3.2.4 At the local level the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Hampshire reviews the status of wildlife in Hampshire and sets out a framework for action in two parts.
- 3.2.5 Volume One, *the Strategic Plan*, sets out the objectives of the Partnership, describes Hampshire's biodiversity, and identifies habitats and species of priority concern. It also presents a strategy for information, data and raising awareness of biodiversity. Volume Two contains individual action plans for priority habitats and species and topics that have a considerable influence on the conservation of biodiversity.
- 3.2.6 Also of note is Basingstoke and Deane's Landscape and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, which provides guidance on the minimum distance between new development and the edge of woodland (20m).

3.3 Sustainability baseline

Current

- 3.3.1 No sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest are present in the Neighbourhood Area. The closest European designated site is the River Itchen SAC, which is approximately 11km to the south of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.3.2 In terms of nationally designated nature conservation sites, there are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) present in the Neighbourhood Area. The closest designated site is the Pamber Forest and Silchester Common SSSI, which is approximately 1km to the north-east of the plan area.

⁷ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

- 3.3.3 The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of ‘priority habitats’ that are characteristic of Hampshire and for which Hampshire makes a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Bramley parish contains part of the Biodiversity Priority Area identified in the Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013. Bow Brook, a tributary of the River Loddon, forms the core of the area identified. The plan area however contains no classified key areas of BAP Priority Habitat, but contains numerous areas of priority habitat including Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, and Deciduous Woodland.
- 3.3.4 The local countryside supports a wide range of habitats and species, owing to the differing geological influences and important river systems which run through the area. In particular this includes the River Loddon - a high quality chalk river which is in part an EU salmonid river containing Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. The River Loddon crosses the eastern edge of the plan area at the confluence of the Bow Brook tributary, which flows from west to east across the plan area.
- 3.3.5 Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are sites locally designated for their habitat and/or species interest by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) against a set of agreed criteria.
- 3.3.6 The village of Bramley is adjoined at its southern side by enclosed MOD land used as a training area. This covers approximately 375 Ha of which 229Ha lie within the Parish of Bramley. This is a relatively undisturbed area of deciduous woodland and scrub. As such it is an important home to wildlife and includes several SINCs.
- 3.3.7 To the north west of the village lies 42 Ha of ancient deciduous woodland (Frith Wood and Davenage Copse), although this woodland is being "hollowed out" by the National Grid who operate a power distribution centre at the site. Close by lies 3.4 Ha of Withy Copse and Little Holdens Copse. These are also designated SINCs, with the area also associated with nearby waterways and seasonal ponds.
- 3.3.8 To the south east of the village lies the wooded area of Bullsdown Iron age fort. This is a scheduled Ancient Monument and is also a designated SINC. Another designated SINC lies to the west of the Bramley 13 (route13) right of way (locally known as the Cinder Path) and north of Beckett Gardens, mainly of mainly silver birch and brambles. Half of this site was lost to create a play area for the German Road site.
- 3.3.9 The numerous ancient hedgerows in the neighbourhood area provide important habitat for wildlife. They also provide links between the various wooded areas. The railway line running north/south with wooded fringes is another important landscape feature. The hedgerows are mainly ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, willow, sycamore, oak and hazel with significant bramble undergrowth, often with mature trees.
- 3.3.10 In relation to geodiversity, the underlying rocks of the parish form part of the Hampshire Basin, a geological feature in which the rocks slope gently from the north to the south. The oldest rock in the Neighbourhood Area is Cretaceous chalk which was formed over 65 million years ago. This chalk is a porous, porous, fine grained limestone which is generally highly permeable and alkaline.⁸

⁸ Natural England , Hampshire's Geodiversity [online] available at:
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/geodiversity/englands/counties/area_ID16.aspx

Future

- 3.3.11 Sites of biodiversity importance have the potential to come under increasing pressures from an increase in the plan area's population and associated development. As outlined many of the SINCs are sensitive and have suffered a loss of habitats with impacts on biodiversity networks due to a reduction in size due to development pressure. This may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.
- 3.3.12 Biodiversity in the plan area has the potential to continue to be affected by the economic necessity for intensive farming in the area (as facilitated by the presence of high quality of agricultural land in the plan area). There is however the potential for gains for biodiversity in the farmed landscape to arise as a result of the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS), which is currently being implemented.
- 3.3.13 Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within forward planning in Basingstoke and Deane and Hampshire and efforts to improve green infrastructure networks in the area.

3.4 Key issues / objectives

- 3.4.1 The following objective is proposed –

Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features

- 3.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –
- Protect and enhance the integrity of the SINCs present in the plan area
 - Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats
 - Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species
 - Achieve a net gain in biodiversity.

4 CLIMATE CHANGE

SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse gas emissions by source Greenhouse gas emissions trends Effects of climate change Climate change adaptation Flood risk

4.1 Headline sustainability issues

- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions for Basingstoke and Deane borough continue to be higher than for Hampshire, South East and England averages, and are also falling at a lower rate; and domestic sources are an increasing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions borough-wide.
- Groundwater and, to a lesser extent, fluvial flooding is a climate change adaptation issue for the Neighbourhood Area.

4.2 Sustainability context

4.2.1 In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.⁹ In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.

4.2.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008¹⁰. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
 - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
 - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
 - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
 - positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
 - encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.

⁹ Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

¹⁰ The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development ‘not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding’. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

4.2.3 The Flood and Water Management Act¹¹ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retrofitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion ; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)¹²

4.2.4 Further guidance is provided in the document Planning for SuDs.¹³ This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of ‘contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure’.

4.3 Sustainability baseline

4.3.1 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team¹⁴. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

4.3.2 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario¹⁵ are likely to be as follows:

- the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.8°C; and
- the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 16% and summer mean precipitation is –19%.

¹¹ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

¹² N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will come into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

¹³ CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDs – making it happen [online] available at: <http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

¹⁴ The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

¹⁵ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290> (accessed 11/2014)

4.3.3 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Bramley Neighbourhood Area. These include:

- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- effects on water resources from climate change;
- reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- a need to upgrade flood defences;
- soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- changes to global supply chain;
- increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- increased demand for air-conditioning;
- increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- flooding of roads.

4.3.1 In terms of flood risk, groundwater and fluvial flooding are issues for the Neighbourhood Area. The Basingstoke and Deane Strategic Flood Risk Assessment¹⁶ summarises flood risk in Bramley as follows:

‘Development in Greenfield areas to the south of the town could be at risk of fluvial flooding from Bow Brook. Within the town there are several areas of localised flooding, at least one of which (B068) may be related to backing up from Bramley Green Stream, although the floodplain itself is not expected to affect Bramley.’

¹⁶ Halcrow (January 2010) Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework

- 4.3.2 Potential development areas have the potential to have a further effect on neighbouring watercourses in Bramley as the additional properties will cause an increase in foul water, after treatment, being discharged from the water treatment plants into the rivers. will have a further effect on neighbouring watercourses as the additional properties will cause an increase in foul water, after treatment, being discharged from the water treatment plants into the rivers.¹⁶
- 4.3.3 Several instances of localised flooding have been recorded by the Parish Council on the north side of Bramley village in recent years due to inadequate drainage. In January and February 2014 the Parish Council undertook a survey of flooding in and around the village of Bramley, which recorded flooding of the surrounding country roads, particularly Minchens Lane, Cufau de Lane and Olivers Lane. It also noted waterlogged ground at Strawberry Fields, Oakmead and Minchens Field, and of the stream north of Clift Meadow at maximum capacity where it flows under the railway bridge.
- 4.3.4 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change¹⁷ suggests that Basingstoke and Deane borough has had consistently higher per capita emissions than for Hampshire, the South East and England since 2005. The borough has also seen smaller reductions in emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (16.5%) compared to Hampshire (23.3%), the South East (18.3%) and England (a 17.7% reduction).

¹⁷ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> (accessed on 05/11/2014)

Table 4-1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita 2005-2012

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Road and Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
Basingstoke and Deane				
2005	3.3	2.5	3.9	9.7
2006	3.2	2.6	3.8	9.7
2007	3.1	2.5	3.8	9.5
2008	3.0	2.4	3.6	9.1
2009	2.7	2.2	3.4	8.4
2010	2.8	2.3	3.4	8.6
2011	2.5	2.0	3.3	7.9
2012	2.6	2.2	3.2	8.1
Hampshire				
2005	3.5	2.5	3.0	9.0
2006	3.2	2.5	2.9	8.7
2007	3.3	2.4	2.9	8.7
2008	3.2	2.4	2.7	8.3
2009	2.9	2.2	2.6	7.7
2010	2.9	2.3	2.6	7.8
2011	2.1	2.0	2.5	6.6
2012	2.2	2.2	2.5	6.9
England				
2005	3.7	2.5	2.3	8.5
2006	3.7	2.5	2.2	8.4
2007	3.5	2.4	2.2	8.2
2008	3.4	2.4	2.1	8.0
2009	2.9	2.1	2.0	7.1
2010	3.0	2.3	2.0	7.3
2011	2.7	2.0	1.9	6.7
2012	2.9	2.2	1.9	7.0

- 4.3.5 In relation to CO₂ emissions by end user, between 2005 and 2012 the proportion of emissions originating from industrial and commercial sources in the borough rose slightly from 34% to 32%. In the same period the proportion of total emissions from domestic sources increased slightly from 25% to 27% and road transport remained the same.

Future

4.3.6 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including surface water flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

4.3.7 In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However road transport and domestic sources are likely to be increasing contributors proportionally.

4.4 Key issues / objectives

4.4.1 The following objectives are proposed –

Promote climate change mitigation in Bramley

Support the resilience of Bramley to the potential effects of climate change

4.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –

- Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the plan area from population growth
- Support reduced car dependency and increased walking, cycling and public transport use
- Reduce the need to travel
- Increase number of new developments meeting sustainable design criteria
- Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources.
- Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change
- Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into the likely effects of climate change into account
- Sustainably manage water run-off, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk.

5 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE

SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Historic environment and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated and non-designated sites and areas • Setting of cultural heritage assets • Landscape and townscape quality • Archaeological assets

5.1 Headline sustainability issues

- There are numerous features and assets that are highly valued by local people, and some which are valued more widely.
- Inappropriate scale, design and layout of development in the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to affect the integrity of the historic environment. Traffic congestion is also an issue.

5.2 Sustainability context

5.2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an ‘irreplaceable resource’ that should be conserved in a ‘manner appropriate to their significance’, taking account of ‘the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits’ of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a ‘positive strategy’ for the ‘conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment’, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt ‘proactive strategies’ to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

5.2.2 The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England¹⁸ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

5.2.3 The Consultation Draft of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 sets out a wide ranging vision for the AONB, incorporating aspects such as landscape quality and tranquillity; the protection and enhancement of the historic environment; the conservation and improvement of biodiversity, water and soil quality; the development of vibrant economy based on the area’s environmental qualities; thriving rural communities; and sustainable tourism. The Management Plan subsequently presents a series of policies and objectives to achieve this vision in the AONB, and proposes a Delivery Plan of actions.

¹⁸ HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx

5.3 Sustainability baseline

Current

- 5.3.1 The Neighbourhood Area has a rich historic environment. A number of features and areas for the historic environment in the plan area are recognised through historic environment designations. These include listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated, and conservation areas, which are designated at the local level. English Heritage is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms.
- 5.3.2 There is one conservation area located within the plan area: the Bramley and Bramley Green Conservation Area, which was designated in 1983 in recognition of its special architectural interest. The Conservation Area is divided into two – the main village centre of Bramley and Bramley Green, the latter is one mile east of the centre but is considered part of the village. The historic village centre developed around the distinctive shape of a horseshoe that skirts around the Grade I listed 12th Century Church of St. James. To the eastern end of the village is Bramley Green, which has developed along the edge of the common and has now been joined to the historic village of Bramley by residential development around the railway station.
- 5.3.3 The Neighbourhood Area contains numerous listed buildings. In this context Bramley Village includes a number of notable historic buildings, eleven of which are included in the national list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Bramley Green was more sparsely developed and contain two listed buildings: Beech Farm Cottages and the Granary at Green Farm. Three other listed buildings are located around the junction of The Street and Minchens Lane in the vicinity of Stocks Farm.
- 5.3.4 The old centre of Bramley around the church still has an atmosphere of “Old Bramley” with the Grade II listed buildings in the area of St James' Church , which is Grade I listed. Bramley Green to the east still gives the atmosphere of a village with open spaces. Developments along the linear village bordering the C32 are hidden from view with trees and do not interfere with the open protected views out of the Green to open countryside and the protected views surrounding the Church.
- 5.3.5 The historic village of Bramley and Bramley Green are characterised by a range of building materials typical of this part of Hampshire. The palette of historic building materials comprises red brick walls, with some older properties being timber framed with brick infill; others have tile hung facades with scalloped bands and rendered or painted brickwork. Roof materials are red clay tiles, thatch or slate. Casement windows are more prevalent than sash windows; a few buildings have cast iron casements with geometrical patterns. Large corbelled and fluted chimney stacks are a feature of some of the more prominent older buildings.
- 5.3.6 Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England, there are two scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Area, comprising the Bullsdown camp to the immediate south east of the village, and the Moated site west of Cufaude Farm.

- 5.3.7 Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The 2013 Heritage at Risk Register¹⁹ highlighted that there are no features or areas deemed to be at risk in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.3.8 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. For example, although not listed, many buildings and areas are of historic interest, and which are seen as important by local communities. Examples of these in the plan area are likely to include parks and the wider historic landscape. Undesignated actual or potential archaeological finds in the area are also of significance.
- 5.3.9 The village is located between contrasting landscapes. To the north there is an area of open clay farmland which rises gently towards an area of farmland and woodland. To the south there is a mosaic landscape of irregularly shaped fields, used for grazing in the lower lying areas and mixed farming on the higher, drier ridges and slopes, and woodland including semi-natural and forestry plantations. Bramley Green is an open area, which reinforces the rural, low density character of the village.
- Future**
- 5.3.10 New development areas in the Neighbourhood Area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.
- 5.3.11 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. There are also likely to be potential effects on landscape/townscape character and quality in the vicinity of the road network due to an incremental growth in traffic flows.
- 5.3.12 There are likely to be small scale and incremental changes in tranquillity in and around the plan area, affected by changes in the levels of light and noise pollution.

¹⁹ Heritage at Risk Register (2013), <http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx> [accessed 10/12/14]

5.4 Key issues / objectives

5.4.1 The following objectives are proposed –

Protect, maintain and enhance Bramley's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.

Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.

5.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –

- Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets
- Support the integrity of the Bramley and Bramley Green Conservation Area
- Preserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest
- Protect the historic settlement pattern of the villages and hamlets in the plan area
- Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness
- Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment.
- Protect and enhance landscape and townscape features.

6 LAND, SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils resource • Soil quality • Waste management • Watercourses • Water availability • Water quality

6.1 Headline sustainability issues

- There is a lack of availability of previously developed land in the parish.
- A significant area of land classified as moderate quality agricultural land (Grade 3b) is present in the in the south of Neighbourhood Area around Chineham, Basingstoke.
- Developers should be encouraged to adopt sustainable construction practices, including handling waste arisings, recycling, and disposal in a sustainable manner as part of a life cycle approach to resource use.
- Water conservation and reuse should be supported in lieu of potential future issues linked to the regional availability of water.
- Sewage infrastructure in the plan area will need to be updated to accompany new development areas.

6.2 Sustainability context

6.2.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy²⁰ presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

6.2.2 The Water Framework Directive drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is currently seeking to establish 'Significant Water Management Issues' within catchments with a view to presenting second River Basin Management Plans to ministers in 2015. The plans will seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

²⁰ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm (accessed 28/02/2014)

6.2.3 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
- Prevent new or existing development from being ‘adversely affected’ by the presence of ‘unacceptable levels’ of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate ‘despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate’.
- Encourage the effective use of land’ through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, ‘provided that this is not of high environmental value’. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to ‘set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances’.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply
- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.

6.2.4 Other key documents at the national level include *Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England*²¹, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper²², which sets out the Government’s vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the *Government Review of Waste Policy in England*²³ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials

6.3 Sustainability baseline

Current

6.3.1 The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into five grades (plus ‘non-agricultural’ and ‘urban’), where Grades 1 to 3a are the ‘best and most versatile’ land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In terms of the location of classified agricultural land, Grade 3b land of moderate quality is located around Chineham at the southern edge of the plan area. Most of the agricultural land in the parish is graded as Good to Moderate in quality in DEFRA’s Classification of Agricultural Land²⁴. There are some areas of Very Good quality agricultural land just to the north east of the village south of Olivers Lane and east of Folly Lane. Bramley village has agricultural land on its northern, western and eastern side, with the MoD-owned Bramley Camp on its southern side. This land south of Bramley village is classified as non-agricultural land. To the north of the village there is an area of open clay farmland which rises gently towards an area of farmland and woodland.

6.3.2 There is no Household Waste and Recycling Centre in the plan area. The nearest is located in Basingstoke off Wade Road.

²¹ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf> (accessed 28/02/2014)

²² Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

²³ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

²⁴ Department for Farming and Rural Affairs Agricultural Land Classification Map - London and the South East 2010

- 6.3.3 The main watercourse in the parish is the Bow Brook, a tributary of the River Loddon, running from west to east through the village. Strategic development in Bramley, as identified in policy SS5 of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, would drain to the Sherfield-on-Loddon sewage treatment works, which would discharge into Bow Brook which flows into the River Loddon downstream from Bramley Village.
- 6.3.4 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The northern edge of the plan area is designated as a total catchment (Zone 3) SPZ.
- 6.3.5 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. In this context the north eastern edge of the plan area is designated as a surface water NVZ.

Future

- 6.3.6 In the absence of the plan, a higher proportion of development has the potential to take place on greenfield land. This is especially the case given the greater availability of such land in the plan area and the likely growth in the local population and economy which will make such development attractive. Development in the plan area also has the potential to lead to the loss of some areas of good to moderate agricultural land, including Grade 3a and 3b agricultural land.
- 6.3.7 Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates.
- 6.3.8 In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality is also likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.
- 6.3.9 Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

6.4 Key issues / objectives

6.4.1 The following objectives are proposed –

Ensure the more efficient use of land.

Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.

Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.

6.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –

- Promote the use of previously developed land
- Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, in particular on Grade 3a agricultural land.
- Reduce the amount of waste produced
- Move waste up the waste hierarchy
- Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside
- Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction.
- Support improvements to water quality
- Minimise water consumption
- Protect groundwater resources
- Achieve a net gain in biodiversity.

7 POPULATION AND COMMUNITY

BRAMLEY NP SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Population and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population size Population density Age structure Deprivation House prices and affordability Homelessness Education and skills

7.1 Headline sustainability issues

- Population growth in the plan area will need to be appropriately managed to minimise potential impacts and maximise accessibility to services, facilities and amenities.
- An ageing population has the potential to lead to implications for service provision in the plan area.
- New community and employment provision in the plan area should reflect existing and future needs.

7.2 Sustainability context

7.2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- To ‘boost significantly the supply of housing’, local planning authorities should meet the ‘full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing’ in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating ‘sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities’ authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.

- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

7.2.2 The Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report *Ready for Ageing?*²⁵ warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report says that '*longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises*'. The report says that the housing market is delivering much less specialist housing for older people than is needed. Central and local government, housing associations and house builders need urgently to plan how to ensure that the housing needs of the older population are better addressed and to give as much priority to promoting an adequate market and social housing for older people as is given to housing for younger people.

7.3 Sustainability baseline

Current

7.3.1 According to the most recent census data available, in 2011 the total population of the parish of Bramley was 4,233²⁶. This was an increase of 885 from the 2001 census, or a 26.4% population growth (see Table 7.1). The rate of growth in Bramley parish is significantly higher than borough, regional and national comparators.

Table 7.1 – Population growth, 2001-2011²⁷

Date	Bramley	Basingstoke & Deane	South East	England
2001	3,348	152,573	8,000,645	49,138,831
2011	4,233	167,799	8,634,750	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	26.4%	9.98%	7.93%	7.88%

²⁵ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) *Ready for Ageing?* [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/>

²⁶ Office for National Statistics (2011) *Neighbourhood Statistics* [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

²⁷ ONS (2011) *Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (UV02)*

- 7.3.2 Table 7.2 highlights the age structure of Bramley parish compared with Basingstoke & Deane, South East and England averages. Adapted from statistics compiled by the ONS, the data indicates the total population of each age group, and the percentage of that group within the total population of each area.

Table 7.2: Age structure (2011)²⁸

Age group	Bramley	Basingstoke & Deane	South East	England
0-15	1045 (24.7%)	33,852 (20.2%)	1,642,084 (19%)	10,022,836 (18.9%)
16-24	334 (7.9%)	16,339 (9.7%)	969,055 (11.2%)	6,284,760 (11.9%)
25-44	1325 (31.3%)	48,548 (29%)	2,289,335 (26.5%)	14,645,152 (27.5%)
45-59	906 (21.4%)	34,720 (20.7%)	1,716,857 (19.9%)	10,276,902 (19.4%)
60+	623 (14.7%)	34,340 (20.6%)	2,017,419 (23.3%)	11,832,806 (22.3%)
Totals	4,233 (100%)	167,799 (100%)	8,634,750 (100%)	53,012,456 (100%)

- 7.3.3 The Neighbourhood Area has a significantly higher proportion of individuals across the 0-15 age range than all other comparators, while a lower proportion in the 16-24 age range. There is a higher proportion of the 45-59 age group within the plan area than national, regional and borough averages, and a significantly lower proportion of residents aged 60 and over when compared to Basingstoke and Deane, the South-East and England. There are 623 people aged 60 or over living in the plan area, which is 14.7% of the population.
- 7.3.4 Census statistics which measure deprivation across the four 'dimensions' of deprivation²⁹ including: any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick; education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or 'very bad' or has a long term health problem); and housing (household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating), show that the parish of Bramley has deprivation levels that are significantly lower than borough, regional and national averages (see Figure 7.1).

²⁸ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Age structure (KS108EW)

²⁹ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Households by Deprivation Dimesions, 2011 (QS119EW)

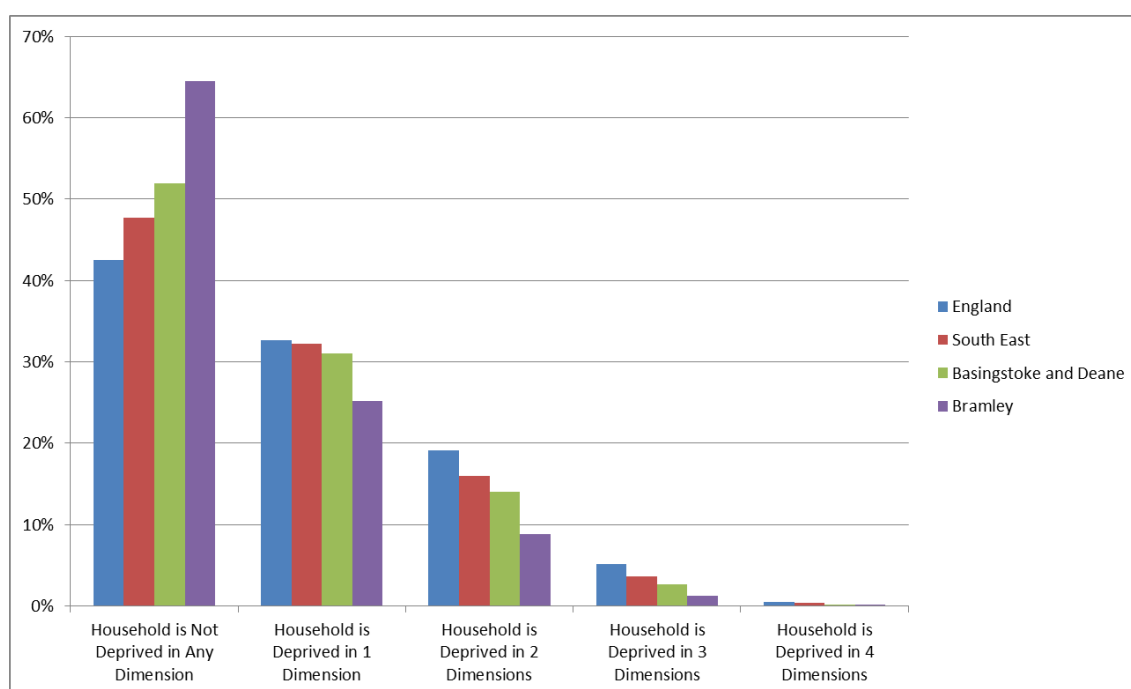


Figure 7.1 – Relative deprivation dimensions

- 7.3.5 Data from the DCLG indicates that the median selling price of property³⁰ in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane in the fourth quarter of 2012 was £253,337, higher than the 2012 England-wide median of £242,127, but lower than the Hampshire County median of £271,537. The median house selling price in Basingstoke & Deane increased from £225,000 to £254,000 from 2008 to 2011.
- 7.3.6 In terms of the house price to income ratio, which illustrates the multiple of the average income in the area to average house price, the affordability ratio for Basingstoke & Deane in 2013 was 6.89, a decrease from 7.36 in 2010. This is higher than the ratio of 6.72 for England.³¹
- 7.3.7 Figure 7.2 shows the tenure of households³² in Bramley parish in comparison with those in Basingstoke & Deane, the South East, and England. A significantly higher proportion of Bramley residents live in housing owned either outright or with a mortgage (73.7% in total), than borough (67.7%), regional (67.6%) or national (63.3%) averages. Conversely Bramley has a significantly lower proportion of people that rent (7.2%) than tenure values at borough and national level.
- 7.3.8 The plan area has similar proportions of social rented tenures as borough and national averages, which are significantly higher than the regional level.

³⁰ Government Statistics, Live tables on housing market and house prices, Table 581 Housing market: mean house prices based on Land Registry data, by district, from 1996 (quarterly), [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (accessed 06/11/2014)

³¹ Government Statistics, Live tables on housing market and house prices, Table 577: ratio of median house price to median earnings by district, from 1997, [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (accessed 06/11/2014)

This data is not available at ward or parish level.

³² ONS (2011) Census 2011, Tenure - Households, 2011 (QS405EW)

- 7.3.9 In 2013 there were 6,673 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Basingstoke and Deane, an increase of 595 since 2010.³³ There has been a decrease of 409 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Hampshire as a whole from 2010 to 2013.

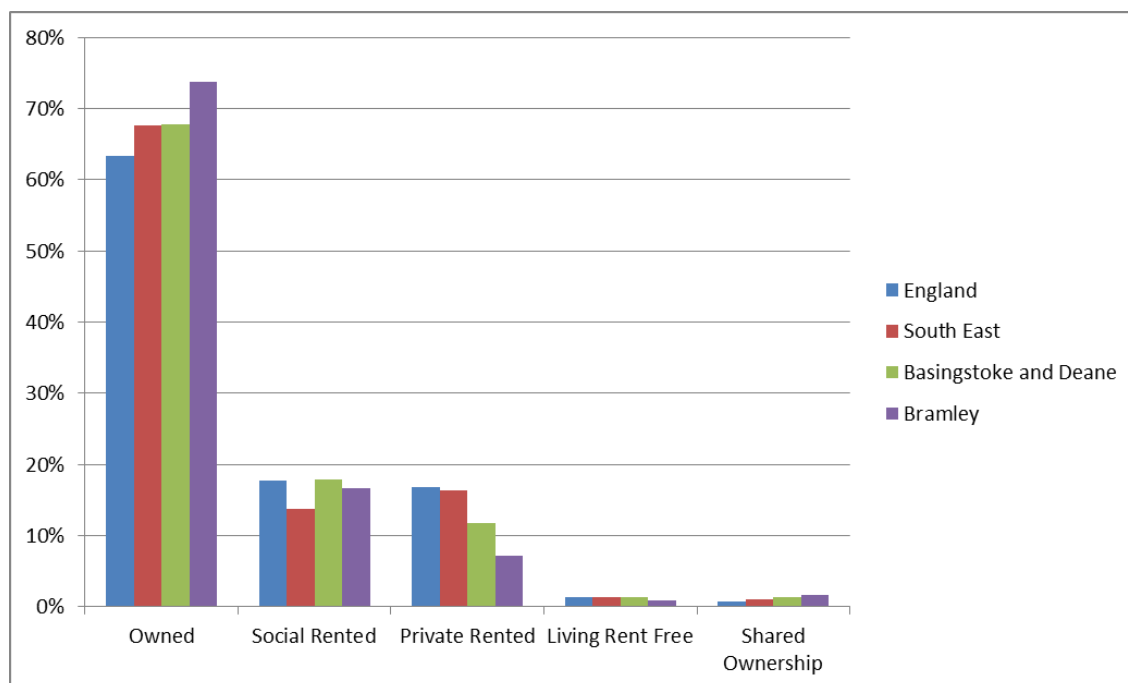


Figure 7.2 – Tenure by household

- 7.3.10 The population of the plan area is generally well qualified, with 41.3% of residents aged 16 and above having at least a Level 4 Qualification³⁴, as shown in Figure 7.3. This is significantly higher than the borough level (30.5%), regional (29.9%) and national (27.4%) averages³⁵. Significantly less people have no qualifications (10.5%) than borough (17.3%), regional (19.1%) and national values (22.5%) averages.

³³ DCLG (2012) Statistical data set Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies. Table 600: numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, by district: England 1997 to 2013.

³⁴ Level 4 and above qualifications cover: Degree (BA, BSc), Higher Degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level, Professional Qualifications (Teaching, Nursing, Accountancy).

³⁵ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Qualifications and Students (KS501EW)

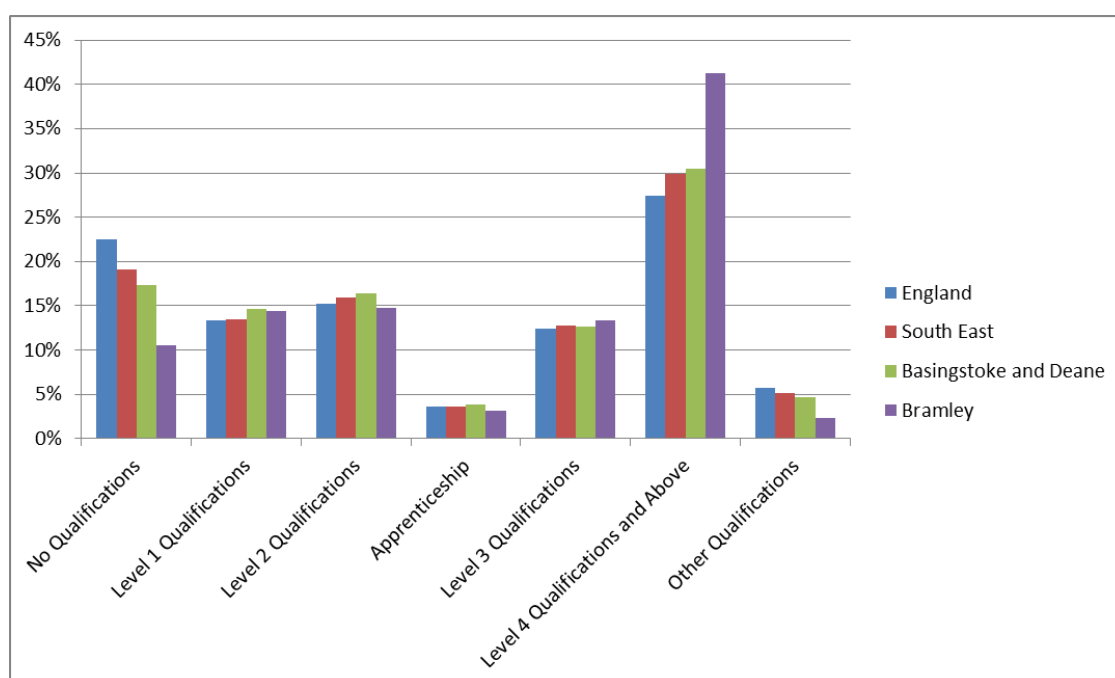


Figure 7.3: Highest Level of Qualification, 2011 (KS501EW)

Future

- 7.3.11 The population of the Neighbourhood Area is likely to continue to grow and age.
- 7.3.12 The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.
- 7.3.13 The adult population across the plan area is largely well educated, with a significant number of people with degree level qualifications resident above the borough, regional and national average. Increasing economic activity rates are likely to increase demand for new housing and employment opportunities in the area.

7.4 Key issues / objectives

7.4.1 The following objectives are proposed –

Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve equality of access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.

Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.

Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.

7.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –

- Tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation
- Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities
- Increase the ability of 'hard-to-reach' groups to influence decisions
- Minimise fuel poverty
- Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents
- Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities
- Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people.
- Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing
- Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes
- Meet the needs of all sectors of the community
- Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs
- Ensure that best use is made of the existing housing stock
- Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction
- Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities
- Achieve minimum housing requirements.

8 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

BRAMLEY NP SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health indicators • Healthcare inequalities • Sport, fitness and activity levels

8.1 Headline sustainability issues

- General health in Bramley parish as reported through the 2011 census is slightly more favourable than Basingstoke and Deane Borough averages.
- The Neighbourhood Area, in common with many other areas, is experiencing an ageing population. This will have implications for health service provision and the provision of other services, facilities and amenities.
- Health, leisure and recreational facilities should be expanded to reflect population growth in the Neighbourhood Area.
- Investment in open space, sports facilities and walking and cycling infrastructure should be supported in order to encourage increased physical activity.

8.2 Sustainability context

8.2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.
- A core planning principle is to ‘take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all’.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities’
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.
- Planning policies should aim to avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life.

8.2.2 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*³⁶ (‘The Marmot Review’) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: *‘overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities’*.

³⁶ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedialive/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

- 8.2.3 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in producing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent Government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transfers responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government³⁷, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

8.3 Sustainability baseline

Current

- 8.3.1 As highlighted in Table 8.1, general health across the parish is broadly favourable compared to regional and national averages, and slightly less favourable than Basingstoke and Deane averages. In this context 56.1% of people reported that they were in 'very good' health³⁸, which is significantly higher than borough, regional and national averages. Likewise the proportion of people in 'very bad health' is slightly lower than borough, regional and national averages.

Table 8.1: General health

	Bramley	Basingstoke and Deane	South East	England
Very Good Health	56.1%	50.7%	49%	47.2%
Good Health	33.3%	35.1%	34.6%	34.2%
Fair Health	8.2%	10.8%	12%	13.1%
Bad Health	1.9%	2.7%	3.4%	4.2%
Very Bad Health	0.5%	0.7%	1 %	1.2%

- 8.3.2 4.4% of residents of Bramley parish reported that they were limited 'a lot' with day to day activities due to long-term health problems or disabilities, with 6% of people limited 'a little'. The levels of long term health and disability³⁹ in Bramley are significantly lower than borough, regional and national averages.
- 8.3.3 No data exists for the plan area for life expectancy and health indicators; however at the borough level the 2013 Health Profile⁴⁰ shows that life expectancy in Basingstoke and Deane is 80.8 for men and 83.0 for women; above the national average of 73.8 and 79.3, respectively. Life expectancy is 6.7 years lower for men and 4.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Basingstoke and Deane than in the least deprived areas. Local priorities in Basingstoke and Deane include lifestyle risks, healthy ageing, and mental health.

³⁷ Upper tier and unitary local authorities

³⁸ ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

³⁹ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Long-Term Health Problem or Disability, 2011 (QS303EW)

⁴⁰ Public Health England (2013) Health Profile 2013 [online] available at:

<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=50215&SEARCH=basingstoke%20and%20deane&SPEAR=> (accessed 6/11/2014)

Future

- 8.3.4 The population of the plan area is predicted to grow and age in the future. This will place pressure on existing health and community facilities that are likely to face greater demand from residents.
- 8.3.5 Obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

8.4 Key issues / objectives

- 8.4.1 The following objective is proposed –
- Improve the health and well-being of Bramley's residents.*
- 8.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –
- Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups
 - Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities
 - Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with national standards
 - Improve access to the countryside for recreation.

9 TRANSPORTATION

ONP SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation infrastructure • Traffic flows and congestion • Accessibility • Car ownership • Travel to work

9.1 **Headline sustainability issues: Transportation**

- Frequent congestion issues exist on the C32 at the railway level crossing in the village.
- New development areas should be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by the private car.
- New development should seek to support improvements in bus routes.
- Continued enhancements to public transport and walking and cycling networks should be promoted.

9.2 **Sustainability context**

- 9.2.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth. The Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011-31 presents a long term strategy for the area and an implementation plan for the county.

9.3 **Sustainability baseline**

Current

Rail network

- 9.3.1 The Neighbourhood Area is well connected by rail. The parish is served by Bramley railway station and has a regular half hourly service connecting it to the two major settlements nearby. Basingstoke station, which has a wider range of rail services, is located c. 8km from Bramley village. Bramley station is located on the Reading to Basingstoke line with direct services every half hour.
- 9.3.2 Basingstoke station is located on the main London Waterloo to Southampton / Bournemouth / Weymouth line, the London Waterloo to Salisbury / Exeter line and the Cross Country Trains line to Oxford, Birmingham and the north of England. Direct services include to Winchester (15 minutes), Reading (16 minutes), Andover (16 minutes), Woking (18 minutes), Southampton (33 minutes), Salisbury (35 minutes), Oxford (46 minutes), London Waterloo (46 minutes), Bournemouth (1 hour) and Birmingham (c.2hrs).

Bus network

- 9.3.3 Branley is connected by bus route 14 to Basingstoke, Chineham Centre, Little London, Pamber Heath, Sherfield Park, Sherfield on Loddon, Silchester and Tadley. Journey times to Basingstoke are approximately 30 minutes from Bramley, approximately every hour. There is no service on Sundays or public holidays.

Road network and congestion

The main route through the Neighbourhood Area is the C32, which connects the plan area with Pamber East, Little London and the A340 to the west and Sherfield-on-London and the A33 to the east.

Availability of cars and vans

- 9.3.4 Figure 9.1 highlights the availability of cars and vans in the Neighbourhood Area. The proportion of households with no access to a car/van is significantly lower than borough, regional and national averages, whilst the proportion of the population with two or more cars/vans is significantly higher. The proportion of households with three or more vehicles is largely in line with all comparators. High car ownership in the Neighbourhood Area reflects the relative affluence of the plan area and its rural nature.

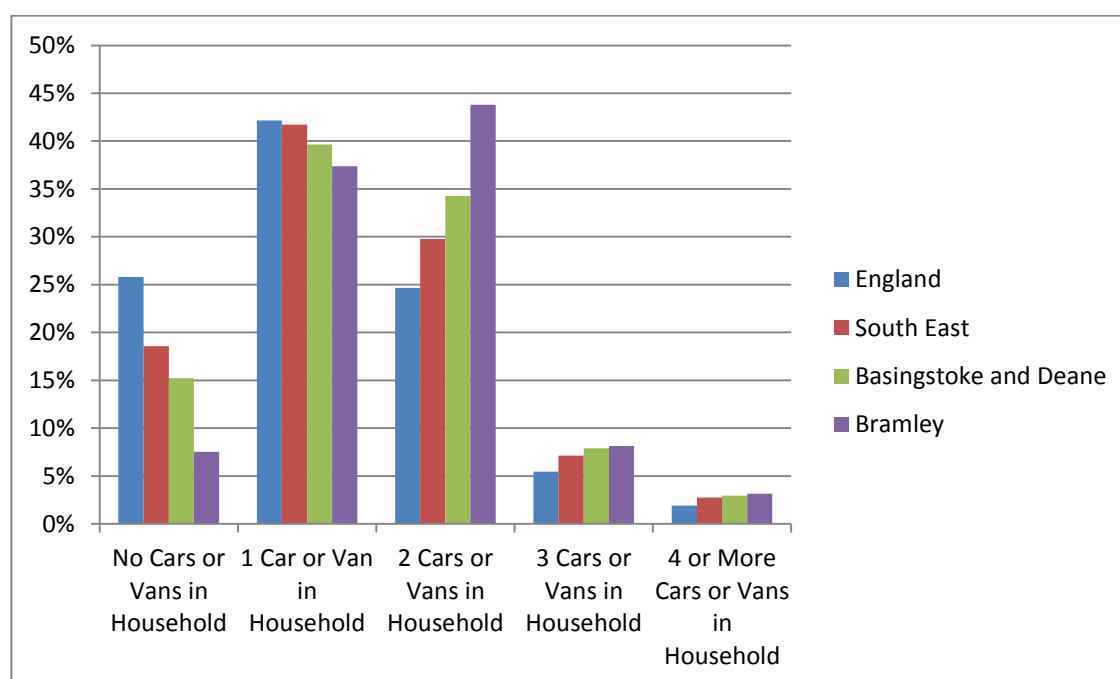


Figure 9.1: Car and van ownership⁴¹

⁴¹ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Car or Van Availability (QS416EW)

Travel to work

- 9.3.5 Figure 9.2 shows the method of travel to work for residents in the plan area, compared with borough, regional and England averages. As highlighted by the figure, the proportion of people who travel to work by foot in Bramley is lower than all comparators. Conversely, a higher proportion of people travel to work by train than all comparators. Fewer proportions of people travel to work by bus or bicycle than all other comparable areas. A significantly higher proportion of people travel to work by car or van than borough, regional or national averages. More people in Bramley work from home than other comparators.

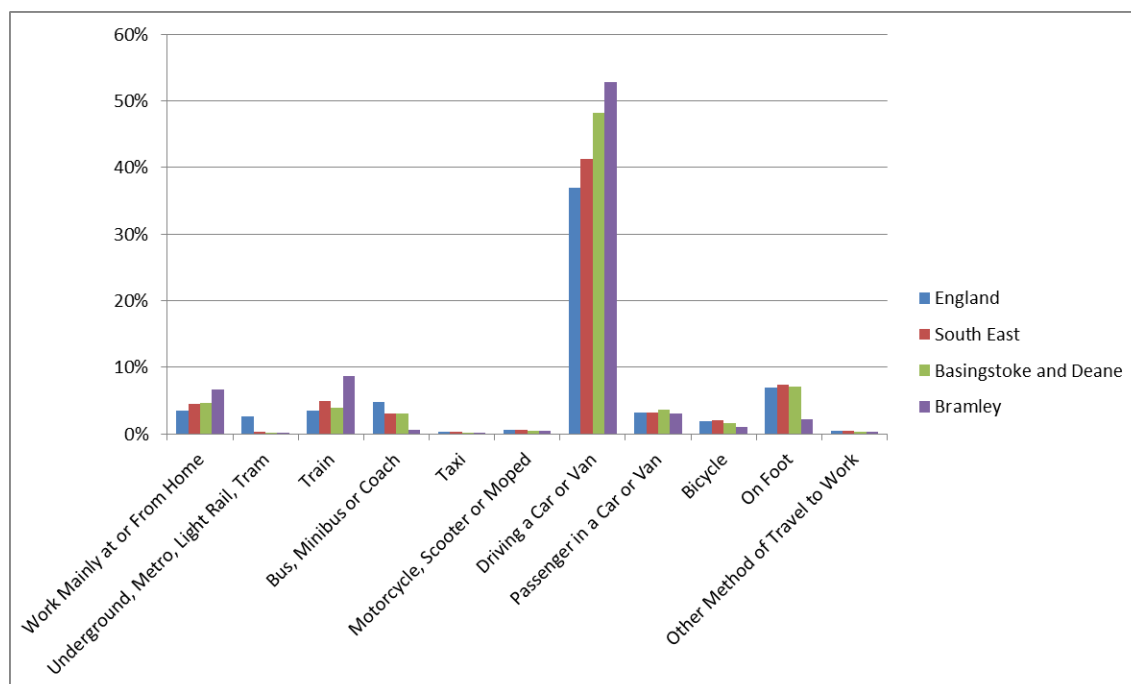


Figure 9.2: Method of Travel to Work⁴²

Future

- 9.3.6 An increase in the Neighbourhood Area's population has the potential to lead to increased traffic and congestion. This has the potential to be at least in part mitigated by measures outlined in the Local Plan and the Hampshire Local Transport Plan.
- 9.3.7 There is a concern that the down time of the barrier is likely to increase, with more freight traffic, subsequent to electrification of the line. This could mean worsened traffic congestion.

⁴² ONS (2011) Census 2011, Method of Travel to Work (QS701EW)

9.4 Key issues / objectives

9.4.1 The following objective is proposed –

Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel

9.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –

- Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development
- Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel
- Enable transport infrastructure improvements.

10 ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE

BRAMLEY NP SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Economy and enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic sectors Skills and qualifications Employment sectors Sites, premises and travel to work

10.1 Headline sustainability issues

- Economic activity rates in the parish are above those for Basingstoke and Deane.
- The vitality and viability of Bramley as a key local centre should be maintained and enhanced.
- Employment provision should be accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes.

10.2 Sustainability context

10.2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- The planning system can make a contribution to building a strong, responsive economy by ‘ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure’.
- Capitalise on ‘inherent strengths’, and to meet the ‘twin challenges of global competition and of a low carbon future’.
- Support new and emerging business sectors, including positively planning for ‘clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries’.
- Support competitive town centre environments.
- Edge of town developments should only be considered where they have good access. This should be followed with an impact assessment to ensure the town centre remains viable in the long term.
- Enhance and retain markets is also outlined.
- Support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas and promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.

10.3 Sustainability baseline

Current

10.3.1 As Figure 10.1 illustrates, economic activity rates in the plan area are slightly higher than borough, regional and national averages.

10.3.2 Rates of full-time employment in Bramley (49.7%) are higher than across Basingstoke and Deane (47.9%), both being significantly higher than regional (40.5%) and national (38.6%) rates. Rates of part-time employment in Bramley are also higher than comparators.⁴³

10.3.3 Rates of self-employment (with employees) are broadly in line with borough, regional and national level, with a higher percentage of part time sole traders (3.2%) in the Neighbourhood Area than other comparable areas. The proportion of full time sole traders (5.2%) is largely in line with borough values, but below regional and national values. The proportion of residents who are unemployed is lower than borough, regional and national averages. The proportion of people retired (10.3%) in the plan area is significantly lower than borough (12.6%), regional (13.7%) and national (13.7%) averages.

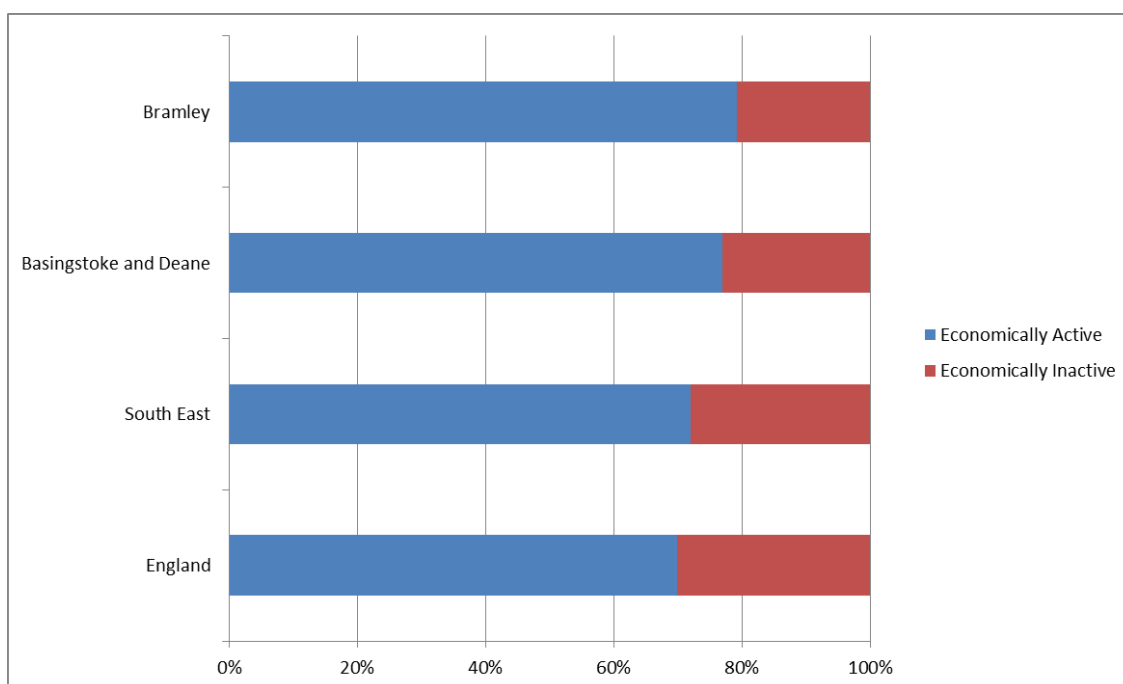


Figure 10.1 – Percentage Economic activity of residents aged 16-74

10.3.4 Figure 10.2 shows the highest level of qualification attained by residents in Bramley, compared with Basingstoke and Deane, South East and England averages. In this context the plan area has a highly qualified population compared to borough, regional and national averages, with 41.3% of working-age residents of the plan area qualified to NVQ level four or above.⁴⁴ Likewise, there are a significantly lower proportion of residents in Bramley parish (10.5%) that have no qualifications, when compared with borough (17.3%), regional (19.1%) and national averages (22.5%).

⁴³ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Economic Activity (QS601EW)

⁴⁴ Level 4 qualifications include bachelors degrees, NVQs at Level 4, HNDs and HNCs.

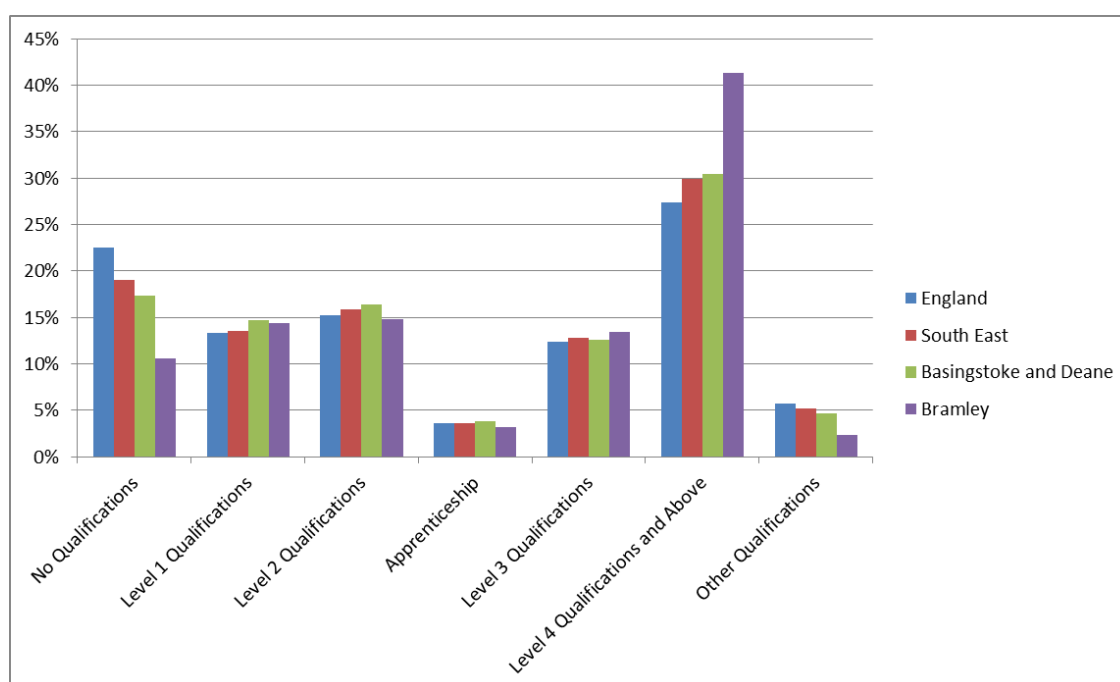


Figure 10.2 – Highest Level of Qualification⁴⁵

10.3.5

Figure 10.3 shows the occupation of working-age residents. Overall, the occupation profile for Bramley is largely similar to borough, regional and national averages, with some notable exceptions. The plan area has larger proportions of people working in ‘financial and insurance activities’, ‘information and communications’, ‘public administration and defence; compulsory social insurance’ and ‘professional, scientific and technical activities’. Conversely, the plan area has lower proportions of workers in ‘arts, entertainment and recreation’, ‘wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles’, and ‘construction’.

⁴⁵ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Highest Level of Qualification (QS501EW)

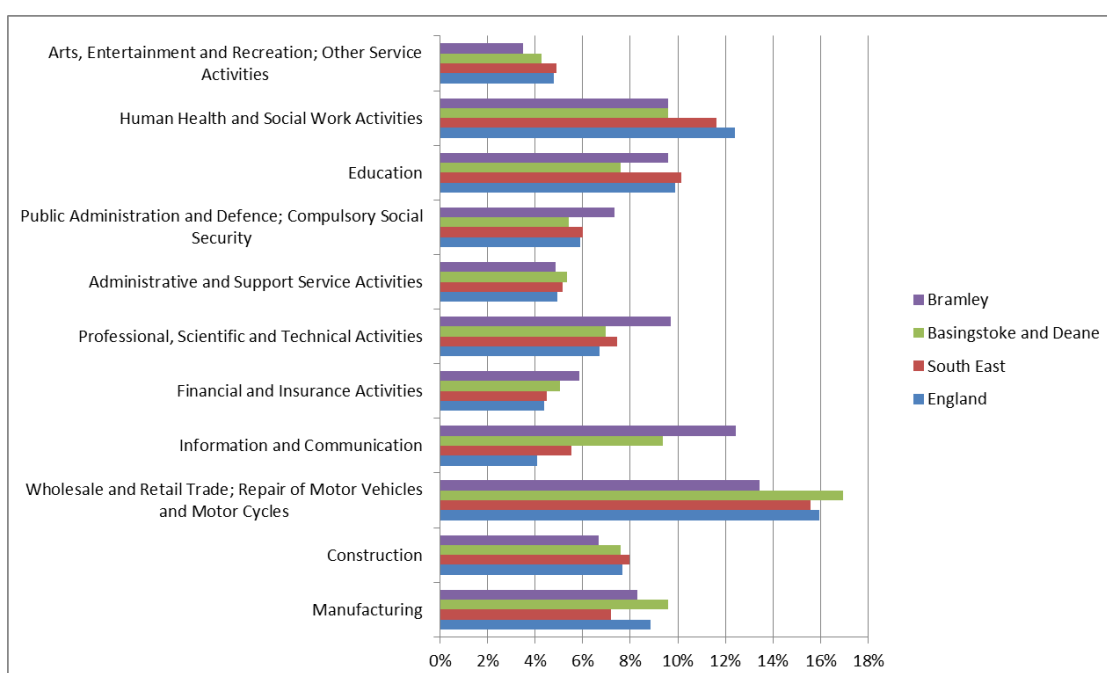


Figure 10.3: Employment amongst residents aged 16 to 74⁴⁶

Summary of future baseline

- 10.3.6 There will be an increased demand for services and facilities in the plan area with population growth. Increased economic activity in Basingstoke may provide economic opportunities for those living in the Neighbourhood Area.

10.4 Key issues / objectives

- 10.4.1 The following objective is proposed –

Enhance the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Area

- 10.4.2 Policy proposals can be assessed (against the baseline) in terms of this objective, and the following sub-objectives can also be drawn-upon –

- Support the economy of the Neighbourhood Area and provide access to employment opportunities, recognising that there is a need to avoid additional cars on the local roads.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ ONS (2011) Industry 2011 (QS605EW)

⁴⁷ A survey of workers at the different employment sites in Bramley indicated that a very low proportion of live in Bramley. Of those that do live and work in Bramley, the majority work in the care home.

11 NEXT STEPS

- 11.1.1 SA scoping (the current stage) is the first stage in a four-stage SEA process
- 1) Scope
 - 2) Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan
 - 3) Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation
 - 4) Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring')
- 11.1.2 Subsequent to this scoping consultation, the SEA scope will be updated.
- 11.1.3 The next stage (**Stage 2**) will involve assessing 'reasonable alternatives' for the Neighbourhood Plan. It is suggested that in practice this should involve considering alternative approaches to housing growth policy.
- 11.1.4 The findings of the alternatives assessment of these options will be fed back to the Parish Council so that they might be taken into account when preparing the Draft Plan. Once the draft ('pre-submission version') plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it (**Stage 3**).
- 11.1.5 Subsequent to consultation on the Draft Plan / Environmental Report the plan will be finalised and submitted to the Council for Examination.
- 11.1.6 Eventually, the Council will be in a position to adopt the plan, i.e to make it part of the Local Plan. At the time of Plan adoption an 'SEA Statement' will be prepared. The role of the SEA Statement is essentially to explain the plan-making / SEA process, all the way up to the point of adoption. In doing so, it must demonstrate how environmental / sustainability considerations have been addressed. There is also a requirement to present 'measures decided concerning monitoring'.