

Submission Cherwell Local Plan (January 2014) Proposed Modifications (October 2014)

Addendum to Topic Paper 2: Housing Village Categorisation Update 2014

Introduction

1. This addendum explains how in preparing Proposed Modifications to the Submission Local Plan updated information on village services and facilities, on population and on public transport services has been taken into account in reviewing village categorisation and Policy Villages 1. Further minor updates were made in October 2014 following representations received to the proposed modifications.
2. Topic Paper 2: *Housing* was prepared to assist the Examination of the Submission Local Plan (January 2014) and explained the process of preparing the Local Plan's policies for housing including those on village categorisation (Policy Villages 1) and on distributing housing growth across the rural areas (Policy Villages 2). A Technical Note on Village Categorisation and Village Clustering was included in the Topic Paper as Appendix 3. The Technical Note explains how Policy Villages 1 of the Submission Local Plan was prepared and how Cherwell's villages were categorised having regard to the following considerations:
 - Rural issues In Cherwell
 - Sustainability criteria including the provision of services and facilities, the distance to urban areas having regard to the availability of bus services, population size and the availability of potential sources of employment (established employment areas)
 - The weighting of different services and facilities as important amenities
 - Village clustering – the relationship between larger, service centre villages and 'satellite' villages
 - The Cherwell Rural Areas Integrated Transport and Land Use Study (CRAITLUS) – which assessed the transport sustainability of villages
 - The final balancing of services and facility provision against transport considerations
3. Policy Villages 1 of the Submission Local Plan included a proposed categorisation of villages having regard to the above considerations. It also proposed that different levels or types of 'windfall', residential development be 'allowed' for the three categories of villages identified. The assessment was also used as the starting point for Policy Villages 2 – Distributing Growth Across the Rural Areas before land availability considerations were taken into account.
4. The Category A villages in the Submission Local Plan (January 2014) are listed below in Table 1. In these villages, minor development, infilling and conversions were permitted within built-up limits.

Table 1 - A: Category A Villages in the Submission Local Plan, Jan 2014, Policy Villages 1

Adderbury	Ambrosden
Begbroke	Bloxham
Bodicote	Cropredy
Deddington	Fritwell
Hook Norton	Kidlington
Kirtlington	Launton
Steeple Aston	Sibford Ferris/Gower
Weston-on-the-Green (outside Green Belt)	Yarnton

5. The Category B villages in the Submission Local Plan (January 2014) are listed below in Table 2. In these villages, infilling and conversions were permitted within built-up limits. Satellite villages with a relationship with a larger service village were also included within category B:

Table 1 - B: Category B Villages in the Submission Local Plan, Jan 2014, Policy Villages 1

Arcott	<i>Satellite Villages</i>
Bletchington	Blackthorn
Chesterton	Claydon
Finmere	Clifton
Fringford	Great Bourton
Islip	Hempton
Middleton Stoney	Lower Heyford
Milcombe	Middle Aston
Wroxton	Milton
	Mollington
	South Newington
	Wardington

6. All other villages were considered to be category C villages in which only conversions were permitted within the built-up limits of villages.
7. The categorisation in Policy Villages 1 of the Submission Local Plan sought to ensure that unplanned, small-scale development within villages is directed towards those villages that are best able to accommodate limited growth. The Policy sought to ensure that unanticipated development within the built-up limits of a village would be of an appropriate scale for that village, would be supported by services and facilities and would not unnecessarily exacerbate travel patterns that are overly reliant on the private car and which incrementally have environmental consequences. Policy Villages 1 sought to manage small scale development proposals (typically but not exclusively for less than 10 dwellings) which come forward within the built-up limits of villages. It also informed Policy Villages 2.
8. The information presented in this addendum explains the reasons for the changes to village categorisation in the Proposed Modifications (August 2014) to the Submission Local Plan (January 2014). The revised categorisation has been used to inform the study area for the 2014 Update of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

National Policy

9. The Local Plan is informed by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The paragraphs in the NPPF most pertinent to village policy are as follows:

'To promote sustainable development in rural areas, 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. Local planning authorities should avoid new isolated homes in the countryside unless there are special circumstances.' (Paragraph 28)

'To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should: 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.' (Paragraph 55)

10. The NPPG advises:

- It is important to recognise the particular issues facing rural areas in terms of housing supply and affordability, and the role of housing in supporting the broader sustainability of villages and smaller settlements.
- A thriving rural community in a living, working countryside depends, in part, on retaining local services and community facilities such as schools, local shops, cultural venues, public houses and places of worship. Rural housing is essential to ensure viable use of these local facilities.
- Assessing housing need and allocating sites should be considered at a strategic level and through the Local Plan and/or neighbourhood plan process. However, all settlements can play a role in delivering sustainable development in rural areas – and so blanket policies restricting housing development in some settlements and preventing other settlements from expanding should be avoided unless their use can be supported by robust evidence.

Housing Needs

11. The 2014 SHMA identifies a need for 1,140 homes per annum to be provided in Cherwell from 2011-2031. Housing is needed in rural areas to help meet local needs but also to make a sustainable contribution in meeting overall housing need. Village categorisation and village clustering helps ensure that development is located so that it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities in accordance with the NPPF and NPPG.

Updated Surveys of Village Services and Facilities

12. To help update the categorisation, new village surveys of services and facilities were undertaken in June 2014. The same criteria were used as for the previous survey in 2007:

- children's nurseries;
- primary schools;
- retail/services/businesses
- retail outlets (food);
- post offices;
- public houses;
- recreational facilities;
- community facilities;
- other services

13. Table 3 below provides the results of the new village surveys:

Table 3: Village Survey Results

Village Name	Nursery	Primary School	Retail Service (outlet)	Food Shop	Post Office	Public House	Recreational Facilities	Village/Community Hall	Other Services
Adderbury	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Library
Alkerton	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Ambrosden	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Doctor's Surgery (not full time)
Ardley	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Arcott	0	0	√	√	0	√	√	√	0
Balscote	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Barford St John	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barford St Michael	0	0	0	√	√	√	0	√	0
Begbroke	√	0	√	√	0	√	√	√	0
Blackthorn	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0
Bletchington	0	√	√	0	0	√	√	√	0
Bloxham	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Dental Practice, Doctor's Surgery, Secondary School
Bodicote	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	0

Broughton	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Bucknell	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	√	0
Caulcott	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Caversfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0
Charlton on Otmoor	√	√	0	0	√	√	√	√	0
Chesterton	√	√	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Claydon	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0
Clifton	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0	0
Cottisford	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0
Cropredy	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	GP Surgery
Deddington	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Health Centre, Dentist, Library,
Drayton	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	√	0
Duns Tew	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Enslow	0	0	√	0	0	√	0	0	0
Epwell	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Fencott	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fewcott	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Finmere	0	√	√	0	0	√	√	√	0
Fringford	√	√	√	0	0	√	√	√	0
Fritwell	√	√	0	√	√	√	√	√	0
Godington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Bourton	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Hampton Gay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton Poyle	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Hanwell	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Hardwick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heathfield	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0	0
Hempton	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0
Hethe	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Hook Norton	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	GP Surgery, Library, Dentist
Horley	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Hornton	√	√	0	0	0	√	√	√	0

Horton-cum-Studley	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Islip	√	√	√	√	0	√	√	√	Medical Practice
Juniper Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0
Kirtlington	√	√	0	√	√	√	√	√	0
Launton	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Private GP
Little Bourton	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0	0
Lower Heyford	0	0	√	0	0	√	√	0	0
Merton	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0
Middle Aston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middleton Stoney	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Milcombe	0	0	0	√	0	√	√	√	0
Milton	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Mixbury	√	0	√	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mollington	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Murcott	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Newton Purcell	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Noke	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0
North Aston	0	0	√	0	0	0	√	0	0
North Newington	0	√	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Oddington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piddington	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0
Prescote	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shenington	√	√	0	0	0	√	0	√	GP Surgery
Shipton on Cherwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	0
Shutford	0	0	√	0	0	√	√	√	0
Sibford Ferris	0	0	0	√	√	0	√	0	0
Sibford Gower	√	√	0	0	0	√	√	√	GP Surgery in Burdrip
Somerton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	√	0
Souldern	0	0	√	0	0	√	√	√	0

South Newington	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Steeple Aston	√	√	0	√	√	√	√	√	0
Stoke Lyne	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0	0
Stratton Audley	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	0	0
Swalcliffe	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	√	0
Tadmarton	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Thrupp	0	0	0	0	0	√	0	0	0
Upper Heyford	0	0	√	0	0	√	√	√	0
Wardington	0	0	√	0	0	√	√	√	0
Wendlebury	0	0	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Weston on the Green	√	0	√	√	√	√	√	√	0
Wigginton	0	0	0	0	√	0	√	√	0
Williamscot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wroxton	0	√	0	0	0	√	√	√	0
Yarnton	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	Medical Practice

14. There has been little change to the services and facilities in Cherwell since the last survey was undertaken. Nearly all category A villages still have a primary school and/or shop, which are considered to be particularly important in determining the level of sustainability. There have also been no new shops or new primary schools since 2007.
15. The villages identified as having the most services and facilities in the Submission Local Plan have generally retained these services and facilities. A re-examination of the capacity of village primary schools was also undertaken which showed that some schools remain near capacity in the rural areas. In general terms, the information collected for villages confirms the fact that the District has, in sustainability terms, a few large, well-served villages, some villages with some services and facilities and many less well-served, smaller villages. There are differences between villages, but with the exception of Kidlington, there are no small towns or large villages that are significantly more sustainable than other settlements.

Population

16. The village categorisation included in the Submission Local Plan has regard to parish population figures from the 2001 census. In reviewing Policy Villages 1,

consideration has been given to parish populations from the 2011 census as set out in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Parish Populations

Parish	Population
Adderbury	2819
Ambrosden	2248
Ardley with Fewcott	751
Arncott	1738
Barford St John and Barford St Michael	549
Begbroke	783
Blackthorn	317
Bletchington	910
Bloxham	3374
Bodicote	2126
Bourton	614
Broughton	286
Bucknell	260
Caversfield	1788
Charlton-on-Otmoor	449
Chesterton	850
Claydon with Clattercote	306
Cottisford	216
Cropredy	717
Deddington	2146
Drayton	242
Duns Tew	478
Epwell	285
Fencott and Murcott	285
Finmere	466
Fringford	602
Fritwell	736
Godington (included in Stratton Audley)	
Gosford and Water Eaton	1323
Hampton Gay and Poyle	141
Hanwell	263
Hardwick with Tusmore (included in Cottisford).	
Hethe	275
Hook Norton	2117
Horley	336
Hornton	328
Horton-cum-Studley	455
Islip	652
Kidlington	13723
Kirtlington	988
Launton	1204
Lower Heyford	492
Merton	424
Middle Aston (included in North Aston)	
Middleton Stoney	331
Milcombe	613
Milton	192
Mixbury	370

Parish	Population
Mollington	479
Newton Purcell with Shelswell Parish Meeting : included in Mixbury Parish Meeting figure.	
Noke	117
North Aston	316
North Newington	324
Oddington	129
Piddington	370
Prescote (included in Cropredy)	
Shenington with Alkerton	425
Shipton-on-Cherwell and Thrupp	493
Shutford	476
Sibford Ferris	476
Sibford Gower	508
Somerton	305
Souldern	370
South Newington	285
Steeple Aston	947
Stoke Lyne	218
Stratton Audley	434
Swalcliffe	254
Tadmarton	541
Upper Heyford	1295
Wardington	602
Wendlebury	421
Weston-on-the-Green	523
Wigginton	194
Wroxton	546
Yarnton	2545

17. The population of villages has changed slightly since 2001 but in most cases this is minimal. For example at Cropredy the population has only increased by 5 people. At Adderbury the population has increased by about 300 people since the 2001 census. There have been some larger increases, for example at Ambrosden the population has increased by about 500 people. Changes to population alone do not necessitate a change in village categorisation.

Village Bus Services and Distance to Urban Centre (2014)

18. The following table shows the updated information used for bus services in each village and for the distance of each village to an urban centre.

Table 5: Bus Services & Accessibility to an Urban Centre

Village Name	Distance to nearest urban centre	Bus services
Adderbury	5.3km (Banbury)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 2ThF 4Sa

Village Name	Distance to nearest urban centre	Bus services
		OCC Special Transport Services Banbury-Upper Heyford 2 Th Stagecoach S4 Banbury-Oxford 28 MTuWThF 25 Sa 8 Su
Alkerton	9.7km (Banbury)	None
Ambrosden	5.3km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 94 Bicester-Oxford 5 MTuWThF Stagecoach S5 Arncott-Oxford 25 MTuWThF 26 Sa 4Su Charlton Services 94 Bicester/Ambrosden-Oxford 8 MTuWThF 2 Sa
Ardley	15.4km (Bicester)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 4TThF 5Sa
Arncott	7.9km (Bicester)	Stagecoach S5 Arncott-Oxford 25 MTuWThF 26 Sa 4Su
Balscote	7.7km (Banbury)	Johnsons Coaches 270 Banbury- Stratford-upon-Avon 8 MTuWThF
Barford St John	9.3km (Banbury)	None
Barford St Michael	9.3km (Banbury)	OCC Special Transport Services Banbury-Upper Heyford 2 Th
Begbroke	5km (Kidlington)	goride K2 Kidlington circular 8 MTuWThFS goride K3 Kidlington circular 3 MTuWThF Stagecoach S3 Chipping Norton-Oxford 80 MTuWThF 66 Sa 44Su
Blackthorn	5.3km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 94 Bicester-Oxford 3 MTuWThF Charlton Services 94 Bicester/Ambrosden-Oxford 2 MTuWThF 2 Sa
Bletchington	8.8 (Kidlington)	Thames Travel 25/25A Bicester-Oxford 37 MTuWThF
Bloxham	5.6km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 488/489 Banbury-Chipping Norton 29 MTuWThF 26 Sa
Bodicote	2.9km (Banbury)	Stagecoach S5 Arncott-Oxford 25 MTuWThF 26 Sa 4Su Stagecoach B2 Banbury-Bodicote circular 24 MTuWThF 25 Sa 5 Su
Broughton	4.2km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 50A Stratford-upon-Avon-Oxford 14 MTuWThF
Bucknell	4.5km (Bicester)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 4Tu 4ThF 5Sa
Caulcott	9.2km (Bicester)	None
Caversfield	2.7km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 22 Bicester circular 14 MTuWThF Thames Travel 23 Bicester circular 10 MTuWThF
Charlton on Otmoor	9.7km (Kidlington)	Thames Travel 94 Bicester-Oxford 5 MTuWThF Charlton Services 94 Bicester/Ambrosden-Oxford 8 MTuWThF 2 Sa
Chesterton	4.2km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 25/25A Bicester-Oxford 12 MTuWThF
Claydon	10.8km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 277 Banbury-Lighthorne Heath 4 MTuWThF
Clifton	12.2km (Banbury)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 2ThF 4Sa
Cottisford	9.7km (Bicester)	Stagecoach 8 Northampton-Bicester 9 MTuWThFSa
Cropredy	7.2km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 277 Banbury-Lighthorne Heath 4 MTuWThF
Deddington	9.7km (Banbury)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 2ThF 4Sa OCC Special Transport Services Banbury-Upper Heyford 2 Th Stagecoach S4 Banbury-Oxford 28 MTuWThF 25 Sa 8 Su

Village Name	Distance to nearest urban centre	Bus services
Drayton	2.9km (Banbury)	Johnsons Coaches 270 Banbury- Stratford-upon-Avon 11 MTuWThF
Duns Tew	13.8km (Banbury)	OCC Special Transport Services Banbury-Upper Heyford 2 Th Stagecoach S4 Banbury-Oxford 9 MTuWThF 9 Sa
Enslow	3 km (Kidlington)	Thames Travel 25/25A Bicester-Oxford 6 MTuWThF
Epwell	11.6km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 50A Stratford-upon-Avon-Oxford 2 MTuWThF
Fencott	10.5 km (Kidlington)	None
Fewcott	(15.8km) (Bicester)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 4TThF 5Sa
Finmere	12.2km (Bicester)	Heyfordian Travel 37 Finmere-Bicester 4 Tu Redline 132/133 Brackley-Buckingham 6 MTWThF Redline 132/133 Brackley-Buckingham-Banbury 7 Sa
Fringford	7.1km (Bicester)	Stagecoach 8 Northampton-Bicester 9 M-S
Fritwell	10.6km (Bicester)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 4TThF 5Sa
Godington	9.7km (Bicester)	None
Great Bourton	5.5km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 277 Banbury-Lighthorne Heath 4 MTuWThF
Hampton Gay	3.5 km (Kidlington)	None
Hampton Poyle	3.7km (Kidlington)	Thames Travel 25/25A Bicester-Oxford 33 MTuWThF
Hanwell	4.8km (Banbury)	Catterrall's Coaches 503 Long Itchington-Banbury 2 Th
Hardwick	8km (Bicester)	Heyfordian Travel 37 Finmere-Bicester 4 Tu
Heathfield	4km (Kidlington)	None
Hempton	11.9km (Banbury)	OCC Special Transport Services Banbury-Upper Heyford 2 Th
Hethe	9.0km (Bicester)	Stagecoach 8 Northampton-Bicester 9 MTuWThFS
Hook Norton	15.1km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 488/489 Banbury-Chipping Norton 22 MTuWThF 23 Sa
Horley	6.4km (Banbury)	Heyfordian Travel 504 Banbury-Hornton 2 Th
Hornton	10.3km (Banbury)	Heyfordian Travel 504 Banbury-Hornton 2 Th
Horton-cum-Studley	17.9km (Kidlington)	Heyfordian Travel 118 Oxford-Brill 2 MTTh 6 WFSa
Islip	4.5km (Kidlington)	Thames Travel 94 Bicester-Oxford 5 MTuWThF Charlton Services 94 Bicester/Ambrosden-Oxford 8 MTuWThF 2 Sa
Juniper Hill	11.0km (Bicester)	None
Kirtlington	8.5km (Kidlington)	Thames Travel 25/25A Bicester-Oxford 33 MTuWThF
Launton	3.5km (Bicester)	Langston & Tasker 18 Bicester-Aylesbury 10 MTuWThF Stagecoach S5 Arncott-Oxford 24 MTuWThF 22 Sa
Little Bourton	3.9km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 66 Banbury-Leamington Spa 10 MTuWThF Stagecoach 277 Banbury-Lighthorne Heath 4 MTuWThF
Lower Heyford	11.1km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 25/25A Bicester-Oxford 29 MTuWThF OCC Special Transport Services Banbury-Upper Heyford 2 Th
Merton	7.7km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 94 Bicester-Oxford 5 MTuWThF Charlton Services 94 Bicester/Ambrosden-Oxford 8 MTuWThF

Village Name	Distance to nearest urban centre	Bus services
		2 Sa
Middle Aston	14.5km (Bicester)	None
Middleton Stoney	5.6km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 25/25A Bicester-Oxford 29 MTuWThF
Milcombe	8.2km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 488/489 Banbury-Chipping Norton 28 MTuWThF 24 Sa
Milton	7.2km (Banbury)	OCC Special Transport Services Banbury-Upper Heyford 2 Th
Mixbury	16.1km (Bicester)	None
Mollington	7.7km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 66 Banbury-Leamington Spa 10 MTuWThF Stagecoach 277 Banbury-Lighthorne Heath 4 MTuWThF
Murcott	12.9km (Bicester)	None
Newton Purcell	9.5km (Bicester)	Heyfordian Travel 37 Finmere-Bicester 4 Tu
Noke	7.1km (Kidlington)	None
North Aston	13.7km (Banbury)	None
North Newington	4.2km (Banbury)	Johnsons Coaches 269 Banbury- Stratford-upon-Avon 2 MTuWThF
Oddington	7.9km (Kidlington)	Thames Travel 94 Bicester-Oxford 5 MTuWThF Charlton Services 94 Bicester/Ambrosden-Oxford 8 MTuWThF 2 Sa
Piddington	9.0km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 94 Bicester-Oxford 3 MTuWThF Charlton Services 94 Bicester/Ambrosden-Oxford 2 MTuWThF 2 Sa
Prescote	8km (Banbury)	None
Shenington	9.7km (Banbury)	Johnsons Coaches 269 Banbury- Stratford-upon-Avon 11 MTuWThF
Shipton on Cherwell	3.9km (Kidlington)	goride W10 Woodstock-Water Eaton Park and Ride 9 MTuWThFSa Stagecoach S4 Banbury-Oxford 26 MTuWThF 24 Sa 8 Su
Shutford	7.9km (Banbury)	Johnsons Coaches 269 Banbury- Stratford-upon-Avon 2 MTuWThF
Sibford Ferris	12.0km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 50A Stratford-upon-Avon-Oxford 14 MTuWThF
Sibford Gower	12.2km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 50A Stratford-upon-Avon-Oxford 14 MTuWThF
Somerton	15.3km (Banbury)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 4TThF 5Sa
Souldern	14.2km (Banbury)	Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 4TThF 5Sa
South Newington	9.2km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 488/489 Banbury-Chipping Norton 8 MTuWThF 4 Sa
Steeple Aston	13.2km (Bicester)	Stagecoach S4 Banbury-Oxford 28 MTuWThF 25 Sa 8 Su
Stoke Lyne	7.6km (Bicester)	Heyfordian Travel 37 Finmere-Bicester 4 Tu Heyfordian Travel 81/81A Banbury-Ardley-Souldern-Bicester 3ThFSa
Stratton Audley	5.6km (Bicester)	Stagecoach 8 Northampton-Bicester 9 MTuWThFSa
Swalcliffe	9.3km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 50A Stratford-upon-Avon-Oxford 14 MTuWThF

Village Name	Distance to nearest urban centre	Bus services
Tadmarton	7.9km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 50A Stratford-upon-Avon-Oxford 14 MTuWThF
Thrupp	1.2km (Kidlington)	goride W10 Woodstock-Water Eaton Park and Ride 9 MTuWThFSa
Upper Heyford	9.2km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 25/25A Bicester-Oxford 29 MTuWThF OCC Special Transport Services Banbury-Upper Heyford 2 Th
Wardington	8.9km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 200 Daventry-Woodford Halse-Banbury 16 MTuWThF 14 Sa
Wendlebury	4.8km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 25 Bicester-Oxford 9 MTuWThF
Weston on the Green	8.4km (Bicester)	Thames Travel 25 Bicester-Oxford 9 MTuWThF
Wigginton	10.6km (Banbury)	Stagecoach 488/489 Banbury-Chipping Norton 4 MTuWThF 3 Sa
Williamscot	8 km (Banbury)	None
Wroxton	8.9km (Banbury)	Johnsons Coaches 270 Banbury- Stratford-upon-Avon 11 MTuWThF
Yarnton	6.0km (Bicester)	goride K2 Kidlington circular 8 MTuWThFSa goride K3 Kidlington circular 3 MTuWThF Stagecoach S3 Chipping Norton-Oxford 80 MTuWThF 66 Sa 44Su

19. There has been some significant reduction in bus services since the last review. For example at Shutford there were four services previously but now there is only one, and there is now no service at Barford St John. However, there remains a bus service at all the category A villages.

Updating Sustainability Conclusions

20. As explained in Appendix 3 of Topic Paper 2, a range of criteria was used to establish the level of 'sustainability' for villages in land use terms. The criteria needed to capture an understanding of access to services and facilities, the availability of employment opportunities, the village's population, and the village's location. Table 6 below explains why these criteria were considered relevant in determining the sustainability of a village (reproduced from Appendix 3 of Topic Paper 2).

Table 6: Village Categorisation – Sustainability Criteria

Criteria	Commentary
Children's Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides local education potentially accessible to the residents of a village or nearby village It provides a social focus for the community It can be multi-functional in terms of hosting other events such as fitness classes and meetings It may provide employment for local people
Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides local education potentially accessible to the residents of a village or nearby village It provides a social focus for the community It can be multi-functional in terms of hosting other events such

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as fitness classes and meetings It may provide employment for local people
Retail/services/businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will provide a service It could provide employment for local people
Food Shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides essential items (food and drink) for residents, in particular for those not able to travel longer distances It provides a social focus for the community Provides potential employment
Post Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides a postal service particularly for older people who may require assistance and support with matters such as pension collections It provides a social focus for the community Provides potential employment
Pubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides food and drink for local people and visitors
Recreation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas provide facilities for local people, particularly for young people to play and socialise
Community Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It provides a social focus for the community
Bus Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bus service means that people are provided with the opportunity to travel by means other than the private car to the urban centres and possibly elsewhere.
Distance to Urban Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a village is close to a town this increases the opportunities for the use of public transport and walking and cycling to the town. It also means that car journeys made to the town will be shorter contributing to reducing carbon emissions.
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A village is more sustainable if it has a higher population as this population is more likely to provide custom, helping to maintain a service or facility.
Employment Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could provide employment for local people

21. Having regard to the above criteria and the updated information on services, population and bus services, the conclusions of the village review were that there was little overall material change to the relative differences between villages despite there being some changes in service provision and population size. However, within those villages considered to be more sustainable, it was determined that the relative 'ranking' of Middleton Stoney needed to change having regard to less availability of sources of employment (only a single company) and food shops.

Policy Implications

22. The preparation of Proposed Modifications entailed a review of Policy Villages 1 in the context of national policy requirements and guidance, the updated review of villages and the need to meet objectively assessed housing needs as identified in the 2014 SHMA.
23. It was considered that in the interests of meeting housing needs positively and sustainably, there was justification to 'merge' the previously identified category B

villages with the previously identified Category A villages. This would provide more opportunities for 'minor development' within villages and would also inform the review of Policy Villages 2, i.e. the villages to which larger scale development outside existing built-up limits would be directed. In merging the category A and category B villages, it was considered that while the village of Islip would 'score' sufficiently highly to be included as a category A village, it could not be categorised as such due to it being completely within (i.e. 'washed-over' by) the Green Belt.

24. It was also considered, again in the interest of meeting higher levels of housing need, that the identified satellite villages, with their relationship with larger service villages, would be appropriate locations for minor development within built-up limits (in addition to infilling and conversions) but should remain in a second 'B' category. The satellite villages do not 'score' highly enough in their own right to be included as category A villages but are considered to be appropriate for minor development because of the benefits of access to a service centre within a village cluster. For example, Claydon, Great Bourton, Mollington and Wardington benefit from their relationship with Cropredy. As smaller settlements, they would not be suitable for larger scale development provided for by Policy Villages 2.
25. All other villages should be category C villages (including Middleton Stoney because of its lowered, relative sustainability 'score'), but again, in the interest of meeting higher levels of housing need, it was considered that the scope of residential development permitted within category C villages should be broadened beyond conversions (as in the Submission Local Plan) to including infilling.

Conclusion

26. In preparing Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan, to meet the objectively assessed housing needs identified in the 2014 SHMA, the relative sustainability of Cherwell's villages has been updated with new surveys of village services and facilities, current census information on population size and the availability of bus services. The relative sustainability of villages has not materially changed for the purpose of village categorisation other than in the case of Middleton Stoney. The reviewed categorisation informs Proposed Modifications to Policies Villages 1 and Villages 2, the latter providing for larger scale rural housing distribution (see Main Modifications 139 and 147).
27. In policy terms, having regard to the NPPF and NPPG and the higher level of housing need identified in the 2014 SHMA, it was concluded that the Proposed Modifications needed to provide a broader scope of opportunity for residential development within the built up limits of villages. It is therefore proposed that all villages should now be permitted to consider infilling development and conversions, and that a wider range of villages should be allowed to consider minor development. The policy approach is set out in the table below:

Category	Villages by Category	Type of Development
A	<i>Service Villages</i> <i>Adderbury, Ambrosden, Arncott, Begbroke, Bletchington (*), Bloxham, Bodicote, Chesterton, Cropredy, Deddington, Finmere, Fringford, Fritwell, Hook Norton, Kidlington, Kirtlington, Launton, Milcombe, Sibford Ferris/Sibford Gower, Steeple Aston, Weston -on -the-Green (*), Wroxton, Yarnton</i>	<i>Minor Development Infilling Conversions</i>
B	<i>Satellite Villages</i>	<i>Minor</i>

	<i>Blackthorn, Claydon, Clifton, Great Bourton, Hempton, Lower Heyford, Middle Aston, Milton, Mollington, South Newington, and Wardington.</i>	<i>Development Infilling Conversions</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>All other villages</i>	<i>Infilling Conversions</i>