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Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review

Proposed Submission Sustainability Appraisal Report

Non Technical Summary

Prepared by LUC
June 2017



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Planning & EIA
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Ecology
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Introduction

- 1.1 Cherwell District Council commissioned LUC in October 2015 to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Cherwell District Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review, as well as the Local Plan Part 2.
- 1.2 An initial SA Report relating to the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Options Paper was prepared and consulted upon with the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Options Paper in November 2016.
- 1.3 This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) SA Report summarises the full SA Report accompanying the Proposed Submission Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan (June 2017) including the potential significant sustainability effects of the options and the Council's reasons for selecting and discounting options. This SA report replaces the initial SA Report.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.4 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents, it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC). Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.
- 1.5 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance¹), whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive through a single integrated SA process. From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive'.
- 1.6 The SA for the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review focuses on the quantum and locational options for accommodating Cherwell's portion of Oxford's unmet housing need within Cherwell District only. The SA also assesses the Plan vision, objectives, and planning policies.
- 1.7 The SA considers how options for delivering additional housing development within Cherwell District's boundaries perform in sustainability terms, particularly in respect to their relationship with Oxford City, considering the requirement to meet Oxford's unmet housing needs.
- 1.8 The SA only informs the Council's decision-making process. The Council has also undertaken work including an assessment of options considering matters such as representations received, deliverability, and viability in order to help determine the most sustainable and suitable options for development. A summary is presented in **Chapter 9** in the Full SA Report.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.9 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans, including Development Plan Documents, are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.
- 1.10 The HRA for the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review has been undertaken separately to the SA. The HRA considers the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the Oxford Meadows SAC alone and in combination with development proposed in the Local Plan Part 1 Review, the adopted Local Plan Part 1 and neighbouring authorities' Plans. The conclusions of the HRA have been taken into account in the SA where relevant.

¹ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal-and-how-does-it-relate-to-strategic-environmental-assessment/>

The Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review & Policy Context

- 1.11 Cherwell District Council formally adopted the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 on 20th July 2015. The Local Plan Part 1 sets out the strategic planning policy framework and strategic site allocations for the District to 2031. It forms part of the statutory development plan and provides the basis for decisions on land use planning affecting Cherwell District.
- 1.12 In the Local Plan, the Council committed to work that seeks to address the unmet objectively assessed housing need from elsewhere in the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area (HMA), particularly from Oxford City. All of Oxfordshire's rural district Councils, together with the County Council, have accepted that Oxford cannot fully meet its own housing needs principally because the city is a compact, urban area surrounded by designated 'Green Belt'.
- 1.13 The Oxfordshire Councils collectively committed to consider the extent of Oxford's unmet need and how that need might be sustainably distributed to the neighbouring districts, so that this can be tested through their respective Local Plans. In order to achieve this joint working, the Oxfordshire Growth Board (comprising representatives of the County and District Councils of Oxfordshire, the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the Universities of Oxford and business leaders) was established and a strategic work programme developed. The programme comprises a number of inter-related projects and milestones relating to the preparation and appraisal of long-term strategic development options for the county and the identification of associated infrastructure requirements. This joint strategic work programme called the Post SHMA Strategic Work Programme, is informing local plan reviews (including Cherwell's) including by identifying and appraising strategic spatial options for accommodating Oxford City's unmet housing need.
- 1.14 The Post SHMA Strategic Work Programme has at a high level and using a common basis, identified each District's ability to absorb additional growth to meet a share of Oxford's unmet need. It will be for each of the districts through their normal Local Plan processes to explore how to accommodate their proposed share of Oxford's unmet need under the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate.
- 1.15 Cherwell District Council has been apportioned 4,400 dwellings by the Growth Board, which equates to just less than 30% of Oxford's unmet housing need up to 2031.
- 1.16 The Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review is a Development Plan Document that will effectively be an addendum to the Local Plan Part 1 – it will sit alongside it and form part of the statutory Development Plan for the District. The Partial Review has a specific focus and it is not a wholesale review of Local Plan Part 1. The vision, aims and objectives, spatial strategy and the policies of the Local Plan Part 1 will guide development to meet Cherwell's needs to 2031. The Partial Review focuses specifically on how to accommodate additional housing and associated supporting infrastructure within Cherwell in order to help meet Oxford's housing need.

Other relevant policies, plans and programmes

- 1.17 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires:
 - (a) *"an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and*
 - (e) *"the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"*
- 1.18 **Chapter 2** and **Appendix 1** of the Full SA Report set out the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international, national, regional and local policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review.

Characteristics of the Plan Area Likely to be Affected

- 1.19 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:
 - (a) *the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;*

(b) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;

(c) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'].

- 1.20 **Chapter 3** of the Full SA Report sets out a detailed environmental, social and economic baseline for Cherwell District and Oxford City.
- 1.21 Cherwell is situated in north Oxfordshire and lies between London and Birmingham, immediately north of Oxford and south of Warwick / Leamington Spa. Cherwell District has an area covering approximately 228 square miles. The M40 runs through the District and there are good rail connections to Birmingham, London and beyond.
- 1.22 The District's settlement hierarchy is dominated by the towns of Banbury and Bicester in the north and south respectively. Banbury is the administrative centre for the District and fulfils a role as a regional centre. The third largest settlement is Kidlington. Kidlington is both an urban centre and a village and is surrounded by the Oxfordshire Green Belt but is excluded from it. The District has over 90 smaller villages and hamlets.
- 1.23 The District shares boundaries with Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Oxfordshire, Aylesbury Vale, South Northamptonshire and Stratford upon Avon Districts, but it is the relationship with Oxford City to the south that is of particular importance for this SA, as the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review is focussing on meeting a proportion of Oxford City's unmet housing needs.

Landscape

- 1.24 Cherwell is largely rural in character with much of the northern part of the District consisting largely of soft rolling hills. The southern half of the District particularly around Bicester has constraints but is much flatter. The northwest of the District lies at the northern edge of the Cotswolds. The river Cherwell passes through the District. While there are no National Parks within the District, the Cotswolds AONB lies within the north-west, as shown in **Figure 1.1: Landscape Designations**. Furthermore, approximately 14% of the District lies within the Oxford Green Belt to the south, which surrounds the urban area of Kidlington.

Ecology and Geology

- 1.25 Cherwell District contains many areas of high ecological and geological value including sites of international and national importance, as shown in **Figures 1.2: Biodiversity Designations** and **1.3: Geological Designations**.
- 1.26 Cherwell contains one site of European importance; part of Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC) located in the south west corner of the District (the rest of the SAC lies within Oxford's boundary, approximately 1.5km to the north west of Oxford city). The SAC is also designated as a SSSI, one of 18 in the District.

Historic Environment

- 1.27 There are many heritage designations within the District as shown in **Figure 1.4: Heritage Designations**, including 60 Conservation Areas, over 2,300 Listed Buildings, 36 Scheduled Monuments, ten Historic Parks and Gardens and one Historic Battlefield. **Figure 1.5** illustrates the **Historic Landscape Classifications** mapped across the District.
- 1.28 Southern areas of the District sit within the setting of historic Oxford, protected by the Oxford Green Belt. Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site lies directly to the west of the Cherwell District boundary within West Oxfordshire.

Air Quality

- 1.29 Air quality throughout the District is generally good. However, the Council has designated four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)s²:
- AQMA 1 is an area around Hennef Way, Banbury.
 - AQMA 2 is an area between Southam Road and Oxford Road, Banbury, including some of High Street.
 - AQMA 3 is an area of Bicester Road, Kidlington.
 - AQMA 4 is an area around Kings End, Queens Avenue, Field Street and St Johns, Bicester.
- 1.30 Furthermore, all of Oxford City to the south sits within an AQMA.

Water and Flood Risk

- 1.31 There are a number of water courses in Cherwell as shown in **Figure 1.6: Hydrology** and Cherwell District falls within four major river catchments being: The River Thames, The River Great Ouse, The River Cherwell and The Warwickshire Avon Catchment. The District's major urban and rural development areas are within the Upper Thames catchment. The predominant risk of flooding within Cherwell is due to flooding from rivers and watercourses³.
- 1.32 The latest Thames River Basin Management Plan⁴ identifies the priority issues in the Cherwell catchment to be diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off, pollution from wastewater (including from sewage treatment works) and heavily modified channels.
- 1.33 The District is underlain by Principal, Secondary A and Secondary (undifferentiated) Aquifers. 23 river water bodies and one lake within the Cherwell catchment. Two are artificial or heavily modified. Over a half (58%) of the water bodies currently achieve moderate or better ecological status/potential. Only 10 water bodies in the Cherwell catchment currently achieve poor ecological status/potential. The main reasons for less than good status are due to pollution from wastewater, pollution from rural areas and physical modifications⁵.
- 1.34 Cherwell District Council's Water Cycle Study⁶ assesses proposed future development with regards to water supply capacity, wastewater capacity and environmental capacity. The Study identifies three Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW) at Cassington, Oxford and Bicester which do not currently have sufficient capacity to accept wastewater from all future development proposed within the plan period. Additionally, future discharges from a further six WwTWs (Banbury, Bloxham, Hook Norton, RAF Upper Heyford, Cassington and Woodstock) could potentially result in significant water quality impacts on receiving water if the treatment capacity is utilised due to the currently planned levels of growth. One WwTW was considered to have no capacity to accommodate any of the additional demand as a result of new development within its catchment: Oxford WwTW.

Soils

- 1.35 The majority of land within Cherwell is Grade 3 Agricultural Land (good to moderate) and in the north of the District Grade 2 (very good) as shown in **Figure 1.7: Agricultural Land Classification**. The two urban centres of Banbury and Bicester are classified as non-agricultural land as they are in urban use. Additionally, there are four pockets of non-agricultural use that is classified as 'other land primarily in non-agricultural use'. The remaining areas of land within the District are classified as grade 4 (poor quality). There are no areas of grade 1 (excellent) or grade 5 (very poor) within Cherwell.
- 1.36 A local survey of agricultural land has been undertaken where six grades have been identified (the same as before, but grade 3 is split into grade 3a and grade 3b), however, only limited areas

² See locations and monitoring reports at: <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/airqualitymanagement>

³ Sequential Test and Exception Test (Flooding): Strategic Sites. (2014). Cherwell District Local Plan. (<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=9637>)

⁴ Thames River Basin Management Plan 2009. Environment Agency. (Updated 2015) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thames-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan>)

⁵ Cherwell. Catchment Data Explorer. (2015) (<http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/OperationalCatchment/3079>) Accessed 14th February 2017

⁶ Cherwell Water Cycle Study, AECOM, April 2017

have been surveyed in Cherwell as shown in **Figure 1.8: Local Agricultural Land Classification**.

Population

- 1.37 In 2015, the population of Cherwell was approximately 145,600 and was almost evenly split between females (50.4%) and males (49.5%)⁷. The population is expected to increase to 166,000 by 2039⁸.
- 1.38 The 2011 Census data indicates that Cherwell's population is mainly concentrated in the three urban centres: Banbury which has a population of 46,853 representing 33% of the total population of Cherwell; Bicester which has a population of 30,854 (22%); and Kidlington with a population of 13,723 (10%). The remaining population of 50,438 live in rural villages of varying sizes and makes up around 35% of the total population of Cherwell.
- 1.39 The proportion of older people aged 65 and over in Cherwell was 15.3%. Banbury and Bicester had a below average proportion of older people and Kidlington was above average at 18.6%. ONS projections indicate that by 2033 the population of those aged over 65 in Cherwell will increase to 24%, which is likely to have planning and resources implications.

Housing

- 1.40 In 2011, Cherwell had around 56,728 dwellings⁹. The Cherwell Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)¹⁰ states that the market is seeking a more mixed delivery of houses and developers agree that the market in Cherwell is mostly for two, three and four bedroom units on two storeys as the market for flats is low.
- 1.41 The District is within the Oxfordshire housing market area, which is a high value market. In 2012, the median house price in Cherwell was £216,000; which, although higher than the England median (£190,000), is lower than in Oxford and the rural areas.
- 1.42 The Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment¹¹ (SHMA), published in April 2014, identified a need of between 24,000 and 32,000 homes up to 2031. Oxford published a city-wide SHLAA and an unmet need assessment¹² in December 2014. The study concluded that the City had potential to accommodate 6,422 dwellings on sites deemed to be suitable, available and achievable, alongside an estimated 180 windfall dwellings per year, resulting in a total capacity between 2011 and 2031 of 10,212 dwellings and a shortfall of between 13,788 and 21,788.
- 1.43 Oxford has overtaken London as the least affordable housing location in the UK with the average cost of buying a house in Oxford being more than 11 times the average salary of an Oxford worker¹³. The average price of a home sold in Oxfordshire in January 2013 was £260,000, which was over 70% above the national average. As such, there is a high demand for affordable housing within Oxford and the Oxfordshire SHMA¹⁴ projections indicate that 1,029 affordable homes are needed per year in the city. This is a key issue and could lead to more people living outside the City including the south of Cherwell District and working in either Cherwell or Oxford, but benefiting from more affordable residential accommodation in Cherwell.

⁷ Nomis Labour Market Profile: Cherwell (2015).

(<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157323/report.aspx?town=cherwell#tabrespop>) Accessed 14th February 2017

⁸ ONS 2014-based Subnational Population Projections with Components of Change (Births, Deaths and Migrations) for Regions and Local Authorities in England.

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/componentschangebirthsdeathsandmigrationforregionsandlocalauthoritiesinenglandtable5>)

⁹ ONS (2011) Table KS402EW Tenure, local authorities in England and Wales. (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata/2011censusdatacatalogue>)

¹⁰ Cherwell Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2014) Peter Brett Associates (<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=10056>)

¹¹ Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (April 2014) GL Hearn Ltd

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/communityandliving/ourworkwithcommunities/oxfordshirepartnership/spatialplanninginfrastructure/SHMA%20Key%20Findings%20Summary.pdf>

¹² Oxford's Housing Land availability and Unmet Need Assessment, URS, December 2014.

¹³ Oxford Growth Strategy (2013) and strategic joint working to meet Oxford's housing needs. Oxford Strategic Partnership. (<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decP/OxfordGrowthStrategy.htm>)

¹⁴ Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014) GL Hearn Limited.

(https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20201/oxford_growth_strategy/762/strategic_housing_market_assessment)

Health

- 1.44 The health of the population in Cherwell is generally the same or better than the England average. The main health priorities for Cherwell are reducing obesity in children and adults, increasing physical activity, and improving access to screening programmes.¹⁵
- 1.45 The Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment¹⁶ estimates 60% of people aged 16 or over in Oxfordshire are classified as overweight or obese. Between 2007 and 2015, the number of deaths of older people (aged 75 and over) for circulatory diseases in Oxfordshire declined by 15%, while deaths from dementia more than doubled. Furthermore, the number and rate of people in Oxfordshire with depression or anxiety appears to have increased significantly in recent years. Oxfordshire has seen a significant increase in hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions in the 40-64 age group.

Social Inclusion and Deprivation

- 1.46 For Local Authority areas, Cherwell is ranked 251st and Oxford is 166th for the multiple deprivation score (rank of average score) out of the 326 local authority areas in England (where 1 is most deprived and 326 is least deprived)¹⁷. This means that compared with the rest of the country, Cherwell and Oxford are in the 35% least deprived areas. There is however evidence of disparity between the different parts of Cherwell District when looking at the assessment at small area level. There are no LSOAs in Cherwell that are in the top 10% least deprived, however the highest ranking (therefore most deprived) in Cherwell ranks 4,701 (approximately 14%) in the Banbury Grimsbury & Castle ward (Cherwell 004A).
- 1.47 Similarly, Oxford has areas of deprivation with 10 of Oxford's 83 neighbourhood areas among the 20% most deprived areas in England. These areas include the Leys, Rose Hill and Barton areas of the city¹⁸.

Education

- 1.48 The most recent statistics¹⁹ show that Cherwell has a higher proportion of residents that have no qualifications (6.5%) than that of the South East region (6.3%), but below the national average (8.6%).
- 1.49 During 2015/16, 58.7% of key stage 4 pupils in Oxfordshire achieved 5 GCSEs grades A-C, down from 59.7% in 2014/15.²⁰ The proportion of adults in Cherwell who have attained qualification levels equivalent to NVQ level 4 (HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent) and above (36.0%) is slightly below the regional and national averages of 39.8% and 37.1% respectively²¹.

Economy

- 1.50 The District's largest employment sectors are: distribution, manufacturing, office, retailing and other services, and public sector employment including in health, defence and education. The District has a clear social and economic relationship with Oxford and to a lesser extent with Northamptonshire.
- 1.51 Banbury is principally a manufacturing town and service centre while Bicester is a garrison town with a military logistics, storage and distribution and manufacturing base. Both towns are important economic locations for the District. Kidlington functions as a village service centre but

¹⁵ Public Health England. Health Profile 2016 – Cherwell. (<http://fingertipsreports.phe.org.uk/health-profiles/2016/e07000177.pdf>)

¹⁶ Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Oxfordshire county Council, 2017.

¹⁷ The English Indices of Deprivation (2015), DCLG: File 10: Local authority district summaries. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>)

¹⁸ Poverty and deprivation statistics. Oxford City Council.

http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decC/Poverty_and_deprivation_statistics_occw.htm Accessed 15th February 2017.

¹⁹ Nomis Labour Market Profile – Cherwell. (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157323/report.aspx?town=cherwell#>) Accessed 15th February 2017.

²⁰ GCSE and equivalent results: 2015 to 2016 (provisional). Department for Education. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gcse-and-equivalent-results-2015-to-2016-provisional>)

²¹ Nomis Labour Market Profile – Cherwell. (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157323/report.aspx?town=cherwell#>) Accessed 15th February 2017.

has a larger, varied employment base benefiting from its proximity to Oxford, its location next to the strategic road network, and the location of Oxford London Airport immediately to the north.

- 1.52 Oxford's economy is the primary economy within Oxfordshire with over 4,600 businesses providing 114,000 jobs and seven million tourists who visit the city each year²². Seven of the ten largest employers in Oxfordshire are based in Oxford. Almost 90% of employees work in services, including approximately a fifth in retail, hotel and catering. Oxford's economic profile is famous for academic (Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University), motor manufacturing and tourism sectors. Other key features of the local economy include the bioscience sector; IT, software and creative media businesses; and research and development businesses developed by Oxford's universities.

Transport

- 1.53 The M40 runs north-south through the District passing to the east of Banbury and to the west of Bicester providing good links to London and Birmingham. There are also a number of A-roads within the District as shown in **Figure 1.9: Transport Links**.
- 1.54 Cherwell residents travel further to work than people in the rest of the south east and nationally. It is estimated that 23,629 people commute from Cherwell with the majority (7,543) commuting into Oxford²³. Evidence also suggests that 57,451 people commute into Oxford with significant flows deriving from the other Oxfordshire districts with the Vale of White Horse being the most prominent (16,563)²⁴.
- 1.55 The District has high levels of car ownership and residents living in rural areas in particular are highly dependent on cars resulting in a number of congestion hotspots in the District including in the centres of Banbury, Bicester and to some extent Kidlington²⁵.
- 1.56 There are five railway stations in Cherwell as illustrated in **Figure 1.9**. Banbury station is served by Chiltern Railways connecting Banbury with London Marylebone, Oxford and Birmingham, Cross Country linking the town with Manchester, Bournemouth, Newcastle and Reading. The station has four platforms and 795 car parking spaces.
- 1.57 Bicester has two train stations; Bicester North (the larger) and Bicester Village. Bicester North station is on the Chiltern Main Line running south to London Marylebone and north to Birmingham.
- 1.58 Oxford Parkway Station is also served by Chiltern Railways and is located between Kidlington and Oxford, near the A34. In October 2015, a new line was introduced to London Marylebone from this station and is now extended to Oxford, which is anticipated to bring significant economic benefits to those living along the route²⁶. The proposed HS2 route passes through small sections of the District's eastern boundary. Cherwell District Council along with other councils in the South East and Midlands has opposed the Government's high-speed rail project²⁷.
- 1.59 London Oxford Airport is situated north-west of Kidlington. The airport is home to the Oxford Aviation Academy training student commercial pilots. The airport is mainly used for private and recreational aviation activity as well as operating a small number of private and chartered flights. It is also one of Kidlington's main employment areas.
- 1.60 Cherwell District Council's Local Plan Part 1 Review Transport Assessment²⁸ acknowledges the necessity for the development of 4,400 homes in close proximity to Oxford to contribute to such transport improvements, particularly in light of the fragility of the existing highway network, which are already susceptible to high levels of traffic congestion and delay. The Study concludes

²² Economic Profile of Oxford (2016). Oxford City Council.

(https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/2343/oxford_profile_2016_key_facts)

²³ Commuting flows from the Annual Population Survey, Great Britain, 2011.

(http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/Commute_APS_Map/Index.html) Accessed 15th February 2017.

²⁴ Commuting flows from the Annual Population Survey, Great Britain, 2011.

(http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/Commute_APS_Map/Index.html) Accessed 15th February 2017.

²⁵ 2014 Air Quality Progress Report for Cherwell District Council. (2014) (<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleID=4080>)

²⁶ October 2015 Timetable (<http://www.chilternrailways.co.uk/october-timetable>) Accessed 15th February 2017.

²⁷ Cherwell District Council - High speed 2 rail link(<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8118>) Accessed 15th February 2017.

²⁸ Local Plan Part 1 Review Transport Assessment, ITP, 2017.

that the closer the additional 4,400 homes are located to Oxford the better, so as to minimise the impact of vehicle trips on the already congested highway network and increase the effectiveness of non-motorised (walk/cycle) and public transport travel options, safety measures, air quality measures and journey time reductions, particularly around the A34/A40/A44/A4260 interchanges. The Study raises the importance of effectively:

- Improving sustainable transport (walk, cycle, public transport) connectivity between Kidlington/Yarnton/Begbroke and employment sites north of Oxford (notably Langford Lane and the proposed Northern Gateway site), Oxford City centre jobs/retail/cultural facilities, and local shops and community facilities.
- Managing increases in commuter trips on the A44/A4144 and A4026 /Oxford Rd corridors – particularly where they cross the A34 and A44 – which will impact on existing trip demands along these corridors.
- Managing the increases in traffic along the A44 and A4026 as a result of development along the corridor west of Kidlington.

Key Sustainability Issues

- 1.61 Drawing on the key characteristics of Cherwell District and Oxford City set-out above, **Table 1.1** sets out the key sustainability issues relevant to the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review and considers the likely evolution of the environment if the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review was not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in **Table 1.1**, in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.
- 1.62 The information in **Table 1.1** shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting Cherwell (and where relevant Oxford) would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review although the policies in the adopted Local Plan Part 1 will go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the emerging Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review offers opportunities to directly and strongly affect existing trends in a positive way, building on the adopted Local Plan Part 1 policies. These issues may also be addressed in Local Plan Part 2.

Cherwell Local Plan

Figure 1.1

Landscape Designations

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Oxfordshire Wildlife & Landscape Study

- Alluvial Lowlands
- Clay Vale
- Estate Farmlands
- Farmland Hills
- Farmland Plateau
- Farmland Slopes and Valley Sides
- Lowland Village Farmlands
- Pasture Hills
- Rive Meadowlands
- Rolling Clayland
- Rolling Farmland
- Rolling Village Pastures
- Uprstanding Village Farmlands
- Vale Farmland
- Wooded Estate Slopes and Valley Sides
- Wooded Estatelands
- Wooded Farmland
- Wooded Hills
- Wooded Pasture Valleys and Slopes

Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000

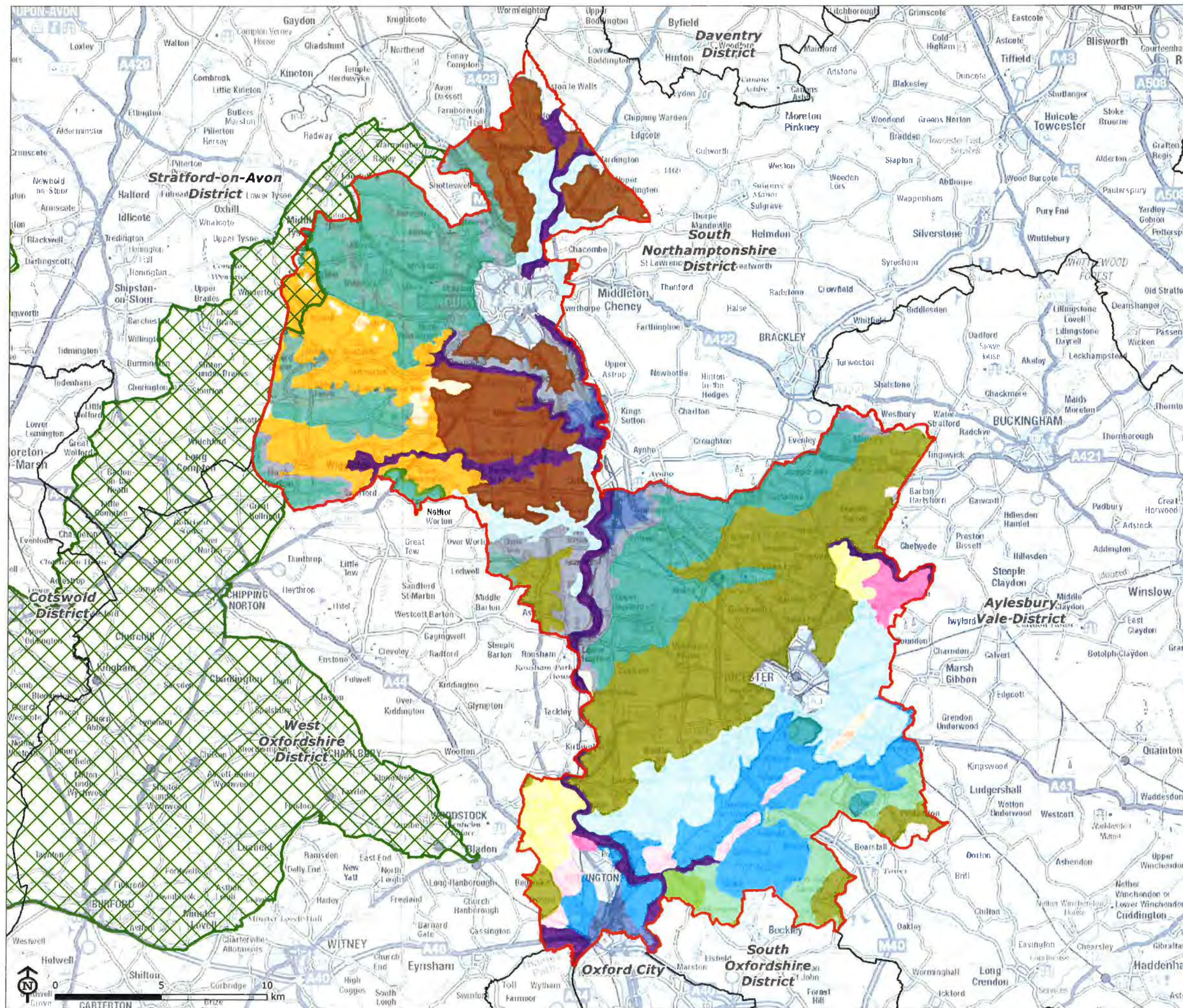
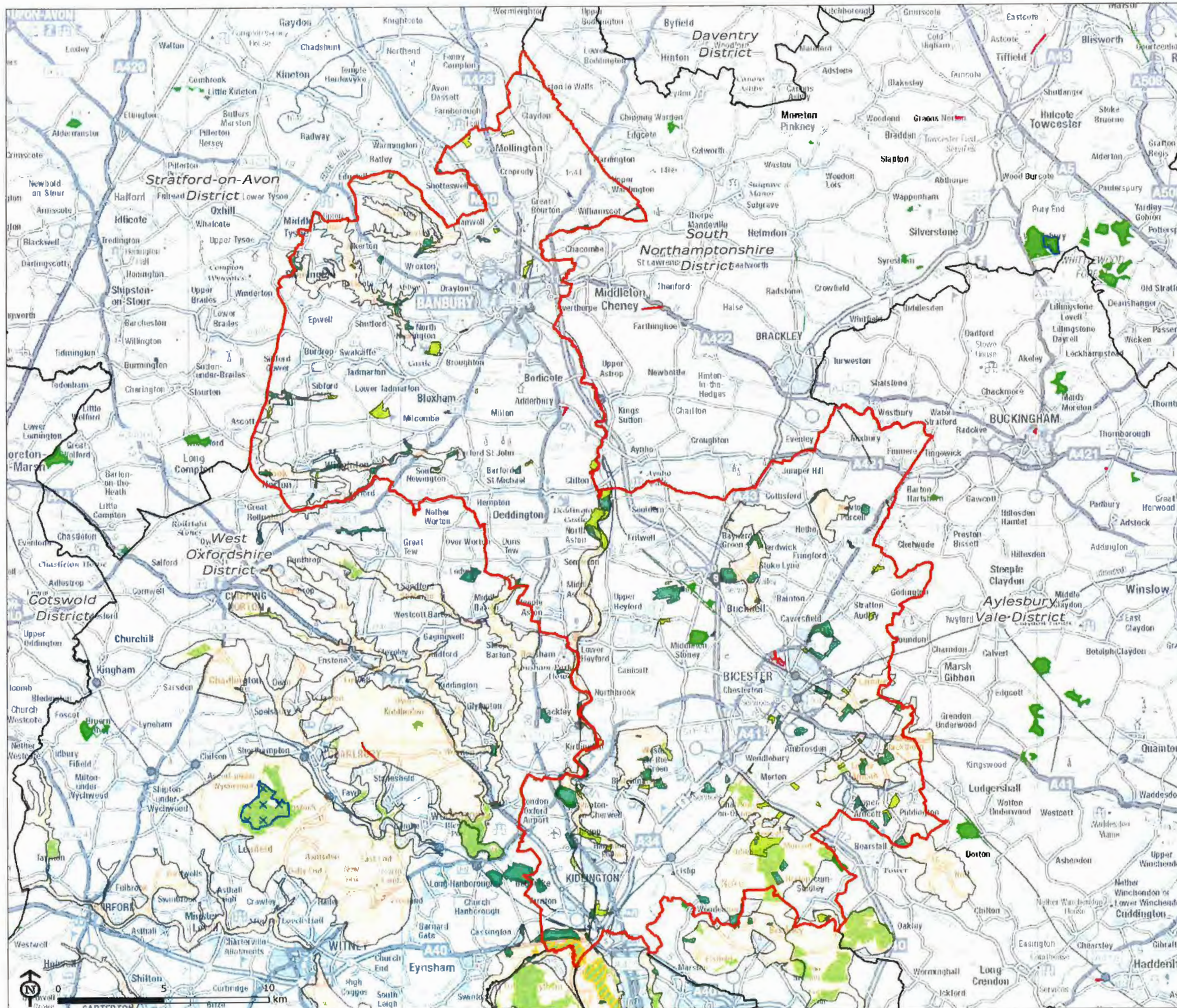


Figure 1.2

Biodiversity Designations

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Local Designations**
- Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
- District Wildlife Site (DWS)
- Conservation target areas

Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000

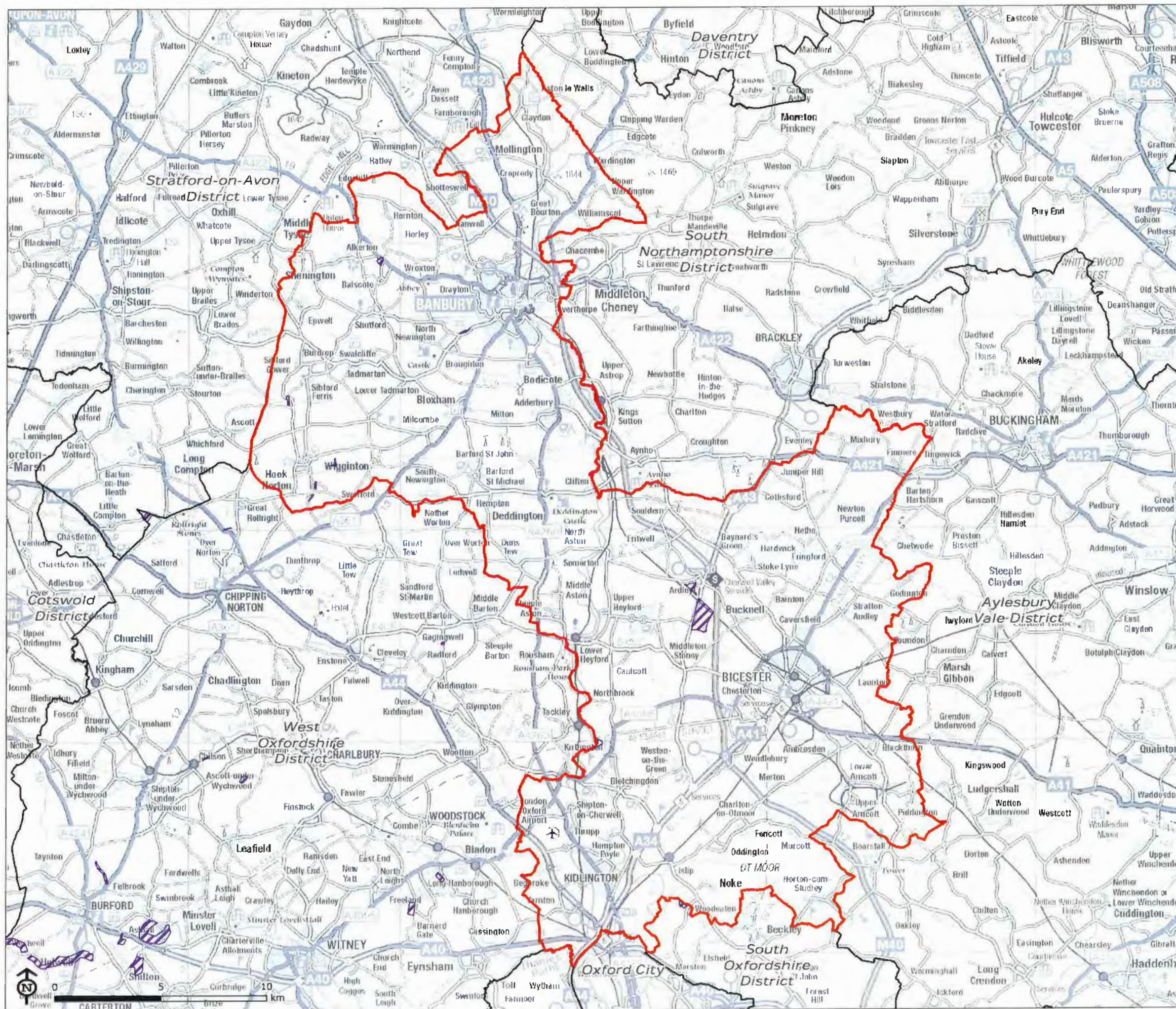


Cherwell Local Plan

Figure 1.3

Geological Designations

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries
- Local geological site



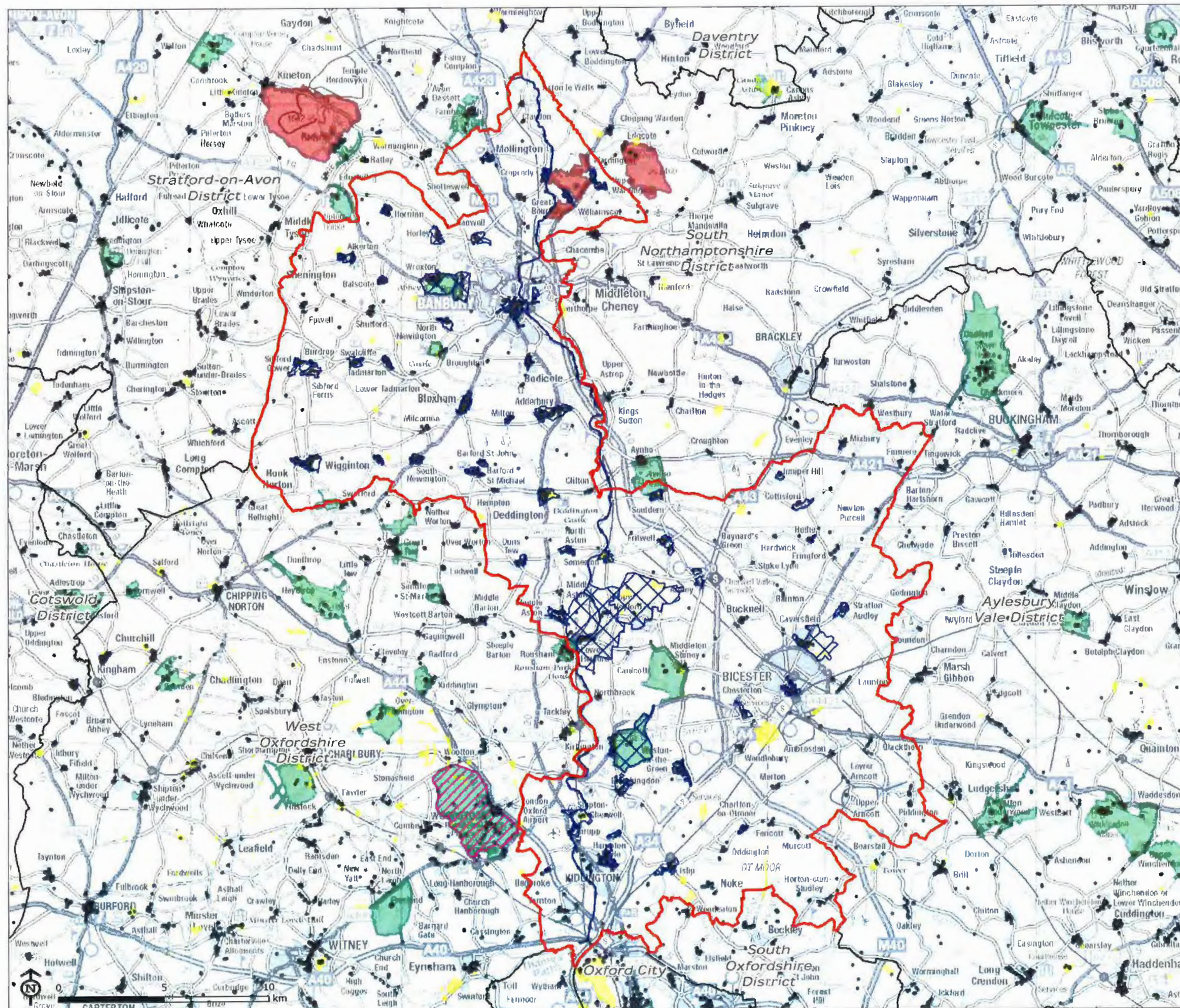
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Figure 1.4

Heritage Designations

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries
- Listed buildings
- World Heritage Site (WHS)
- Scheduled monument
- Registered park and garden
- Registered battlefield
- Conservation areas



Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000



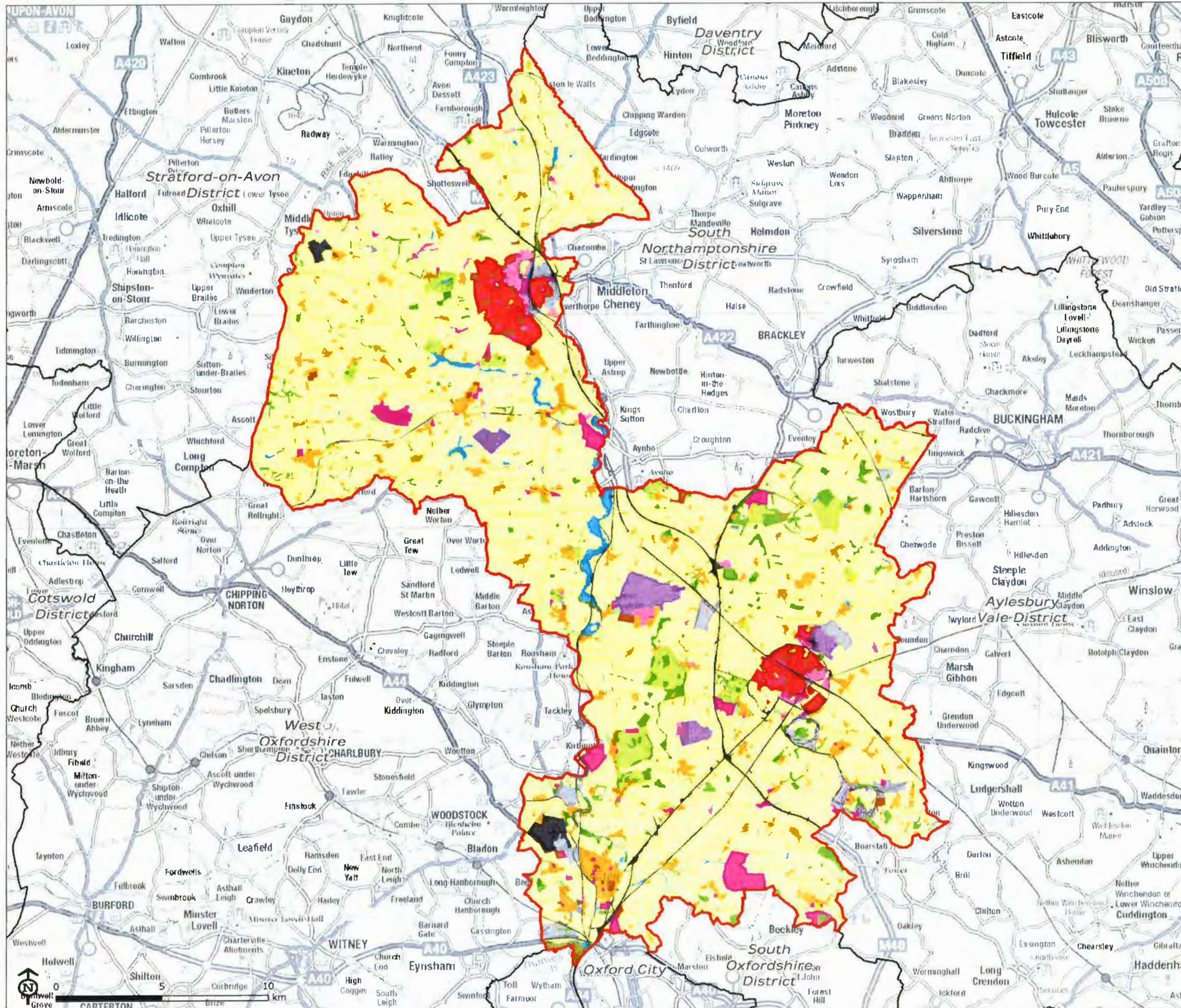
Cherwell Local Plan

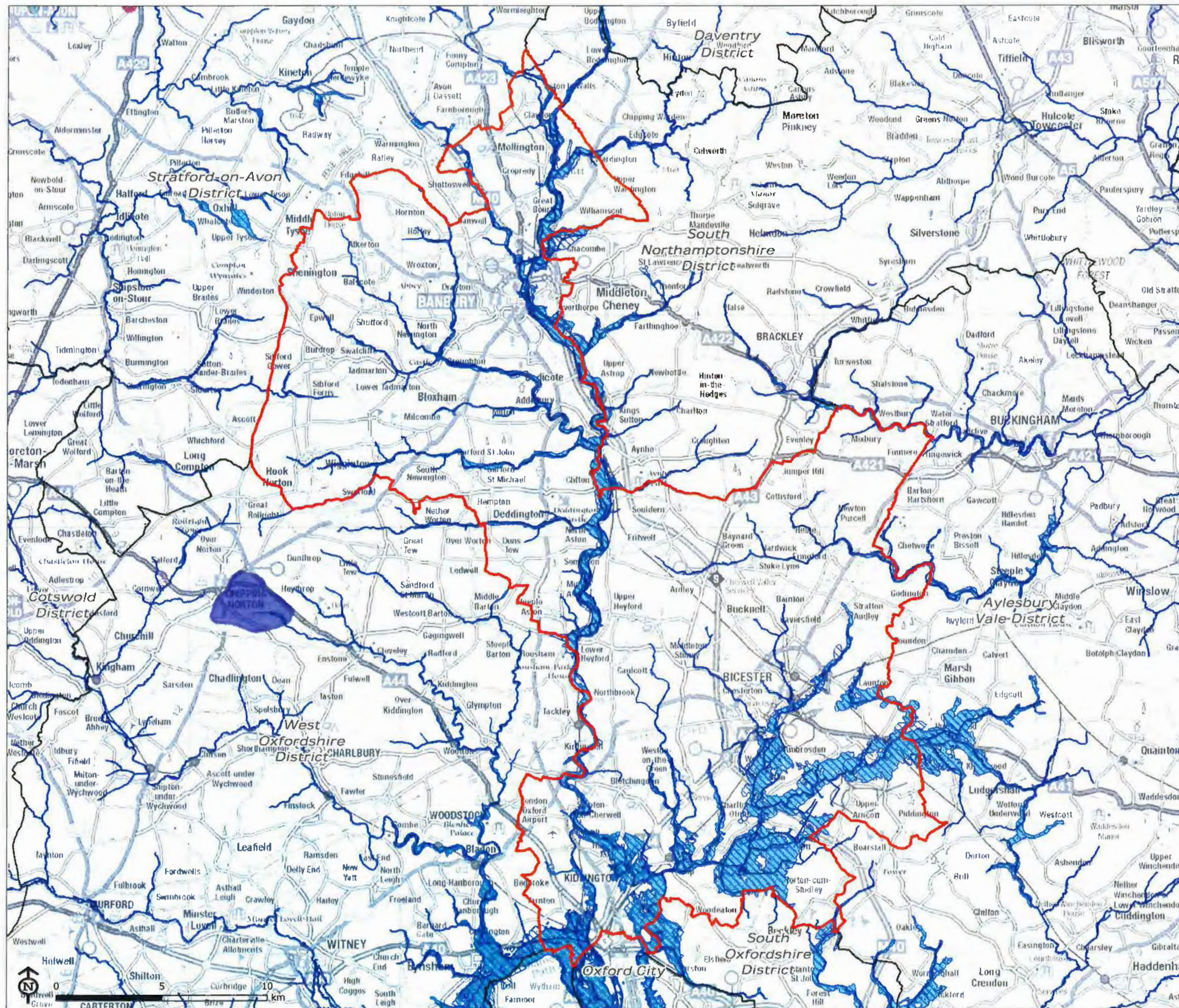
Figure 1.5

Historic Landscape Classification (HLC)

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries
- HLC broad type
- Civic Amenities
- Civil Provision
- Commercial
- Communication
- Enclosure
- Industry
- Military
- Orchards and Horticulture
- Ornamental
- Recreation
- Rural Settlement
- Unenclosed Land
- Urban Settlement
- Water and Valley Floor
- Woodland

Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000





Cherwell Local Plan

Figure 1.6

Hydrology

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3

Ground Water Source Protection Zone (GWSPZ)

- 1
- 1c
- 2c
- 3

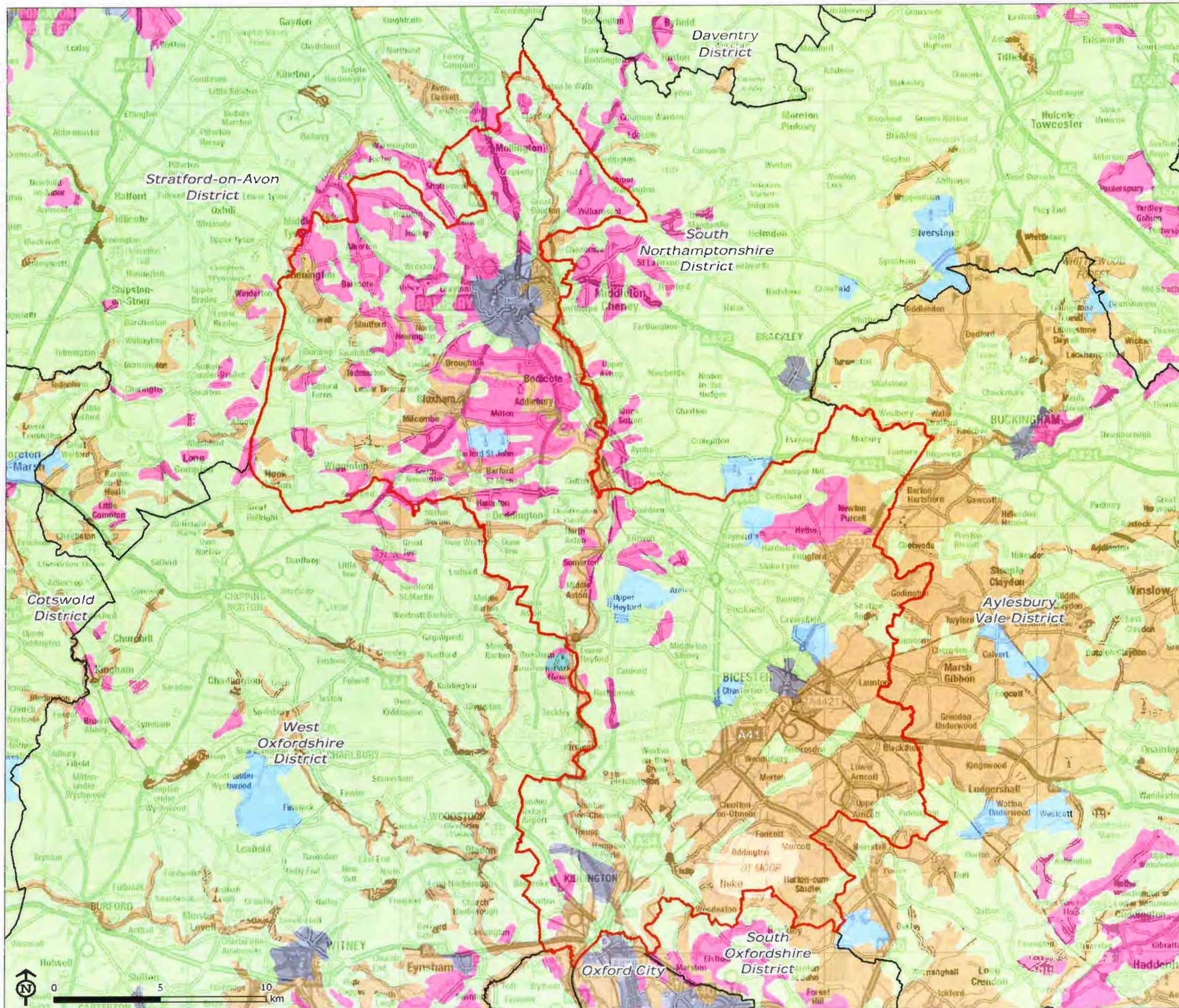
Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000

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Figure 1.7

Agricultural Land Classification

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries
- National Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)
 - Grade 1
 - Grade 2
 - Grade 3
 - Grade 4
 - Grade 5
 - Non Agricultural
 - Urban (Indicative)



Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000



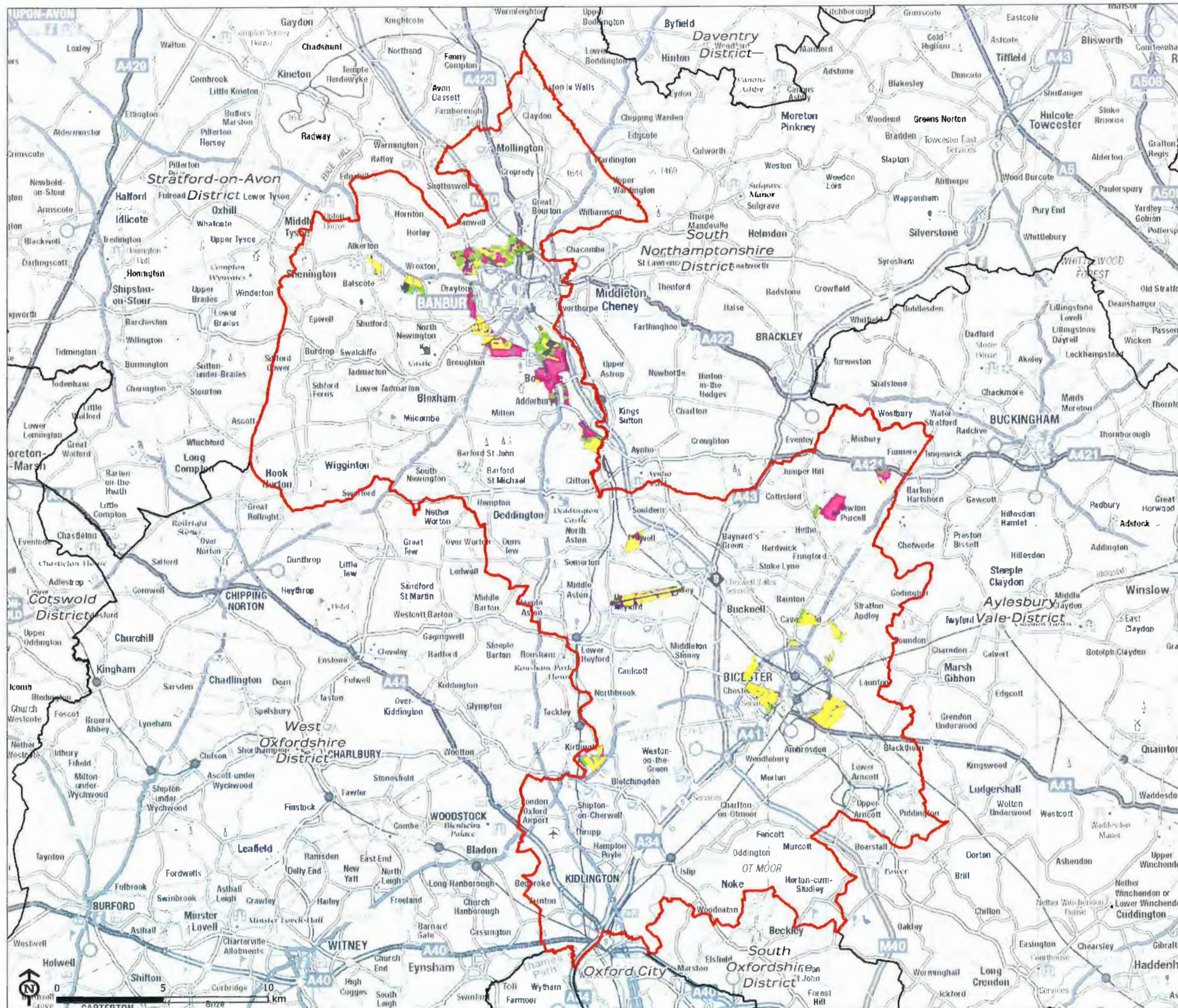
Figure 1.8

Local Agricultural Land Classification

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries

Local Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3a
- Grade 3b
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Other
- Not Surveyed



Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000

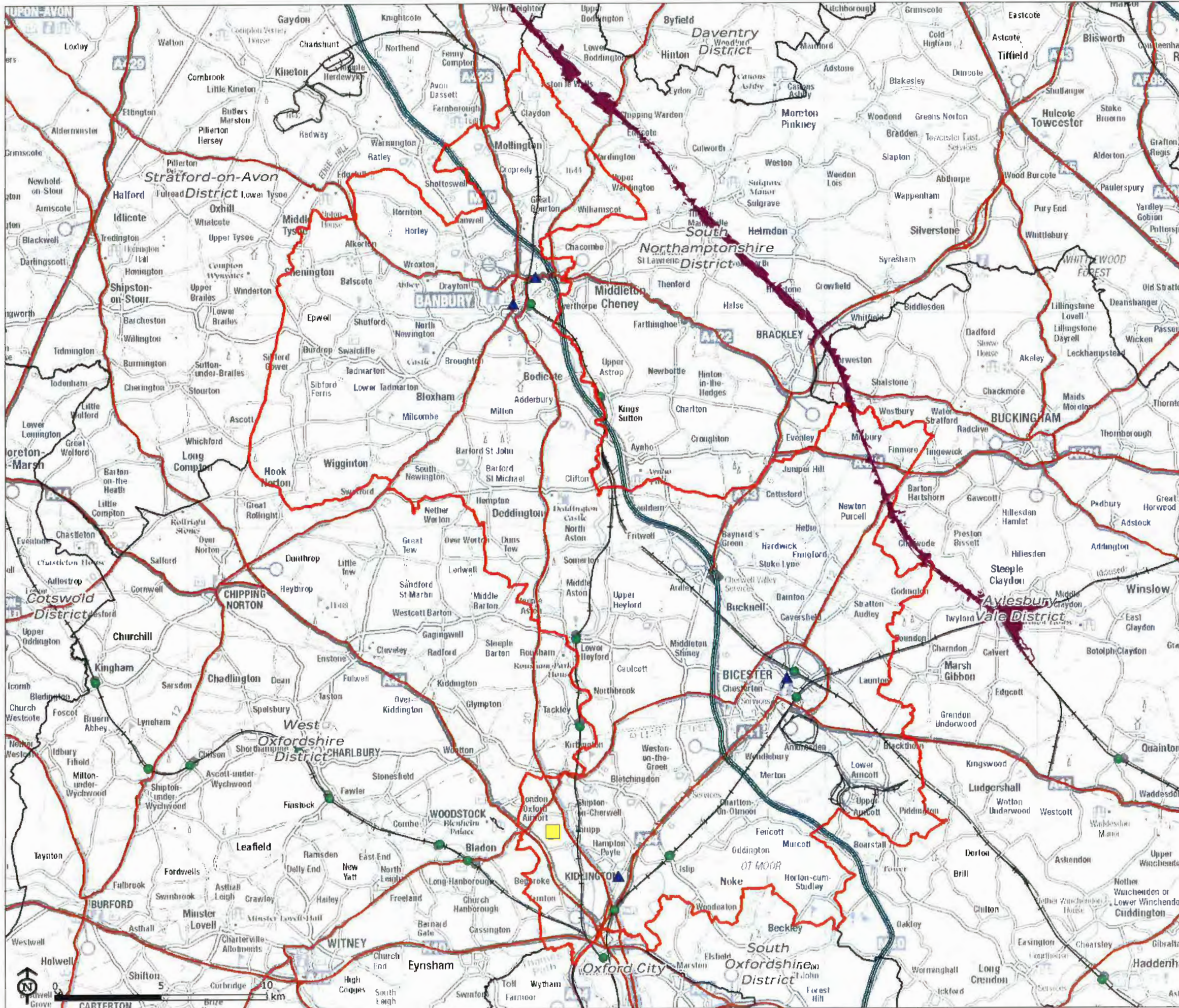


Cherwell Local Plan

Figure 1.9

Transport Links

- Cherwell District boundary
- Other district boundaries
- Motorway
- A Road
- Railway track
- Railway station
- London Oxford Airport
- ▲ Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)
- Proposed HS2 route and safeguarding zones



Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000



Table 1.1: Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell (and Oxford where relevant) and Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Part 1 Review

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell and Oxford	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review
Climate change is likely to affect biodiversity, increase hazards from fluvial flooding, increase the problem of low flow rivers during the summer and also affect the social and economic aspects of life.	Climate change is likely to have ongoing effects regardless of the adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review, although the adopted Local Plan Part 1 already includes policies seeking to address this issue, and these could continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review. These policies include ESD 1: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change, which requires development to be located in sustainable locations, maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport, be resilient to climate change, minimise the risk of flooding and reduce the effects on the microclimate; ESD 2: Energy Hierarchy and Allowable Solutions, which encourages reducing energy, supplying energy efficiently and making use of renewable energy; ESD 3: Sustainable Construction, which states that all new development must contain sustainable design and construction technology including high levels of water efficiency, meets or exceeds BREEAM 'Very Good' rating. The Local Plan Part 2 offers the opportunity to build on these policies through other development management policies.
Cherwell District contains many areas of high ecological value including sites of international and national importance (in particular Oxford Meadows SAC, which spans the border between Cherwell District and Oxford City). These are under threat from urban pressures, including disturbance and damage from recreational use.	Pressures on the natural environment in Cherwell are likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review, although the adopted Local Plan Part 1 already includes policies seeking to address these pressures, including ESD 10: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment, ESD 11: Conservation Target Areas which requires proposed development within or adjacent to a Conservation Target Area to provide biodiversity surveys and a report will be required to identify constraints and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement; and ESD 9: Protection of the Oxford Meadows SAC. Without the site allocations to be made in the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review for meeting Oxford's housing needs, further development may not come forward in the most appropriate locations and impacts on biodiversity could be inappropriate.
The countryside is continuously under pressure from urban influences and the demand for new development is strong.	Pressures on the countryside are likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review, although the adopted Local Plan Part 1 already allocates large scale development sites which will focus much of the new development in the District in those areas which have been subject to SA through the preparation of the Local Plan Part 1 and selected by the Council as the most appropriate locations for development at the time. Without the site allocations to be made in the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review for meeting Oxford's housing needs, further development may not come forward in the most appropriate locations and impacts on the countryside could be inappropriate.

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell and Oxford	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review
The District has significant areas of landscape importance, including the Cotswolds AONB, and Oxfordshire Character Areas.	The adopted Local Plan Part 1 already includes policies seeking to protect and enhance the landscape, including ESD 12: Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which seeks to protect and enhance the AONB; and ESD 13: Local Landscape Protection and Enhancement, which aims to enhance the character and appearance of Cherwell's landscape. The Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review builds on these overarching policies through new strategic and site allocation policies selected following consideration of their impacts on the landscape through the SA. Without the site allocations to be made in the Local Plan Part 1 Review, further development may not come forward in the most appropriate locations and impacts on the landscape could be inappropriate.
Development in the south of Cherwell District and Oxford is constrained by the Oxford Green Belt.	The adopted Local Plan Part 1 already includes policies seeking to protect the Green Belt, specifically ESD 14: Oxford Green Belt, which requires development to maintain the boundaries of the Green Belt and to be within the character of the designation. As part of the Local Plan Part 1 Review, the findings of the countywide Green Belt Study (2015) and District-wide Green Belt Study (2017) will be taken into account, when considering locational options for meeting Oxford's unmet need within Cherwell District. Green Belt land is planned for removal from the Green Belt to accommodate development, but without the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review unmet housing need would not be met. The Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review identifies strategic and site allocation policies following consideration of their impacts through the SA.
Conserving and enhancing designated and non-designated heritage assets, such as historic Oxford and the Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site, and the contribution made by their settings and addressing heritage assets at risk from neglect, decay, or development pressures.	The adopted Local Plan Part 1 already includes policies seeking to protect and enhance the historic environment, including ESD 15: The Character of the Built and Historic Environment, which requires development in the vicinity of any distinctive natural or historic assets, to deliver high quality design that complements the asset. While that policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review, the Part 1 Partial Review builds on this overarching policy through new strategic and site allocation policies following consideration of their impacts on the historic environment through the SA.
There are a series of rivers that pass through the area that can cause serious flooding.	The adopted Local Plan Part 1 already includes policies seeking to reduce flood risk in the District including ESD 6: Sustainable Flood Risk Management, which seeks to reduce flood risk in the District and safeguarding floodplains and not increasing flood risk

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell and Oxford	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review
	elsewhere; ESD 7: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), which requires all development to use SuDS for the management of surface water run-off. The policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review. New development can increase the risk of flooding but the Part 1 Partial Review builds on this overarching policy through strategic and site allocation policies selected following consideration of their impacts on the risk of flooding through the SA.
The amount of water abstracted for Banbury and for agricultural purposes has resulted in low flows. This is adversely affecting the biological and ecological statuses of watercourses in the District.	As the Part 1 Review seeks to meet a portion of Oxford's unmet housing need within Cherwell, it is likely to increase demand for water resources. However, the adopted Local Plan Part 1 includes policies to protect water courses in the District including ESD 8: Water Resources, which will only permit development where adequate water resources exist and that do not adversely affect the water quality. The policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review. New development may contribute towards issues relating to water quantity and quality but the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review builds on this overarching policy through strategic and site allocation policies selected following consideration of their impacts on the water environment through the SA.
The water environment suffers from degraded physical habitat, localised low flows and diffuse pollution. The Oxford Meadows SAC is potentially adversely affected by changes to water quality and quantity.	The adopted Local Plan Part 1 already includes policies seeking to protect and enhance water quality including ESD 8: Water Resources, which seeks to maintain water quality, ensure of adequate water resources and promote sustainability in water use; ESD 9: Protection of the Oxford Meadows SAC, which requires development to have no adverse effects on the water quality or quantity of any adjacent or nearby watercourses. The policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review. New development may contribute towards issues relating to the water environment but the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review builds on this overarching policy through strategic and site allocation policies selected following consideration of their impacts on the water environment through the SA.
There are increasing demands for energy provision predicted for the future. Some parts of the community experience fuel poverty.	Although the District's energy consumption is decreasing, the 1,142 additional homes per annum or a total of 22,840 dwellings in the plan period could increase demand for and energy consumption in Cherwell. In addition, the Part 1 Partial Review seeks to meet a portion of Oxford's unmet housing need within Cherwell, therefore it is likely to further increase demand for energy.

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell and Oxford	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review
	However, the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review builds on this overarching policy through new strategic and site allocation policies selected following consideration of their impacts in the SA.
Poor air quality is experienced in some parts of Cherwell due to high concentrations of Nitrogen Oxide. There are already three AQMAs designated in the District, with a fourth recommended for designation. The Oxford Meadows SAC has the potential to be adversely affected by air pollution.	Although Policy ESD10 requires air quality assessment for development proposals likely to have significant negative impacts on biodiversity, there are no dedicated policies in Local Plan Part 1 that address AQMAs (Air Quality Management Areas). The adoption of the emerging Local Plan Part 2 would offer an opportunity to include a policy that could help to reduce the degradation of air quality in the District, and the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review identifies new strategic and site allocation policies selected following consideration of their impacts on air quality through the SA.
Increasing urbanisation and the demand for further travel has resulted in a loss of tranquillity and increased light pollution .	The adopted Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review seeks to meet a portion of Oxford's unmet housing need within Cherwell, therefore it could increase the need to travel and levels of light pollution and the trend could be exacerbated. However, the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review identifies strategic and site allocation policies selected following consideration of their impacts on light pollution and tranquillity through the SA.
The age structure of the population currently shows a significantly below average representation of retired people, however this is predicted to increase significantly. This will have implications for the economy, service provision, accommodation and health.	The adopted Local Plan Part 1 (Policy BSC4) expects new development to provide for a mix of homes, which responds to both housing need and market conditions. It addresses specifically the need to respond to an aging population by requiring large housing sites to provide specialist housing for older people. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review, the Review builds on this overarching policy through strategic and site allocation policies selected following consideration of their impacts through the SA.
House prices in the area are higher than the national average and wages below the regional average. There is a shortfall in the supply of new housing in both Cherwell District and Oxford City and a need for affordable homes .	The proportion of new housing that will be affordable was determined through the adopted Local Plan Part 1 through policy BSC 3: Affordable Housing, which requires a minimum of 30% of housing to be affordable at Banbury and Bicester and 35% at Kidlington and elsewhere. Without the implementation of policies and proposals in the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review there may be less certainty about the delivery of that affordable housing. The acute lack of affordable homes in Oxford will be more difficult to address especially as between 24,000 and 32,000 houses are needed in the city between 2011 and 2031 and the house prices are around 50% more than the national average and 11 times more

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell and Oxford	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review
	than the average salary of an Oxford worker. It is estimated that 1,029 affordable homes are needed per year in Oxford. Student accommodation is also a consideration in Oxford's housing supply as between the two universities, over 6,000 students live outside of university accommodation.
The District's Strategic Economic Growth Study highlights that Cherwell benefits from high economic activity , driven by the presence of key high value sectors that have settled in this area, combined with an ageing population presents challenges to developing the local economy.	Local Plan Part 1 contains policies and proposals, including for employment development, which will help to consolidate and expand the growing high value economic activity in the District between Oxford and Milton Keynes. The proportion of new housing that will be affordable was determined through the adopted Local Plan Part 1 through policy BSC 3: Affordable Housing, which requires a minimum of 30% of housing to be affordable at Banbury and Bicester and 35% at Kidlington and elsewhere. The increased provision of new and affordable homes within the District through the allocation of housing developments to meet Cherwell and Oxford's housing needs will make it easier for younger generations to live and work in the District, helping to feed the growing economy.
Cherwell and Oxford on average are not generally deprived. However, particular pockets of deprivation exist.	Both Cherwell and Oxford are in the 35% least deprived areas in England, however they both have parcels of deprivation. Oxford has 10 neighbourhood areas that are among the 20% most deprived areas in England. The adopted Local Plan Part 1 contains policies and proposals, including for employment development, which will help to address deprivation. The Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review builds on this and enables opportunities to access employment.
The health and well being of the population in Cherwell is generally the same or better than the England average. However, as at the national-level, the main health priorities for Cherwell are reducing obesity in children and adults, increasing physical activity, and improving access to screening programmes.	New development may increase congestion and air pollution to the detriment of the local population's health and well being. However, the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review allocates new housing sites in close proximity to existing centres of services and facilities as well as establishes new sustainable transport links and recreation areas to encourage physically active and healthier lifestyles. Without the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review this issue may be less well addressed.
Car ownership in the area is high, and there are serious congestion problems in key locations, including around Kidlington and the approach into Oxford.	New development may increase congestion but the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review allocates new housing sites that encourage the use of sustainable transport and are allocated following consideration of their impacts on transport patterns through the SA. Without the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review this issue may be less well addressed.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework for Assessment of Options

- 1.63 The SA framework that was developed for the Local Plan Part 1 has been used as the starting point for the SA framework for the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review. It has been reviewed in light of the revised and updated review of plans, policies and programmes, baseline information and key sustainability issues for Cherwell (as presented above and in **Chapters 2, 3 and 4** of the Full SA Report) and amendments have been made to a number of the objectives to ensure that they are appropriate for the SA of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review. A small number of changes have been made to some of the sub-objectives in the SA framework in order to ensure that they provide a robust and appropriate basis for the SA and cover only those issues that a Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review can actually influence.
- 1.64 All of the topics specifically required by the SEA Regulations are clearly addressed by the headline SA objectives. The total number of SA objectives has decreased from 19 to 17, and they have been re-ordered to highlight the SA objectives, which relate directly to meeting Oxford's unmet needs and the SA objectives with a particular spatial relevance to Oxford.
- 1.65 The principal driver for the Part 1 Partial Review is to accommodate some of Oxford's unmet housing need. Part 1 of Cherwell's Local Plan already makes provision for Cherwell's housing and employment needs over the Plan period. Therefore, SA objectives relating to the provision of housing and economic growth development have been appraised mainly for effects on the City of Oxford. However, it is recognised that economic effects will be wider and/or consequential.
- SA Objective 1 – To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.
 - SA Objective 16 – To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the District and Oxford and Oxfordshire.
 - SA Objective 17 – To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District and Oxford and Oxfordshire.
- 1.66 Furthermore, SA objectives considered to be of particular spatial relevance to Oxford as well as Cherwell have been appraised for effects in relation to both the City of Oxford and Cherwell District:
- SA Objective 3 – To reduce poverty and social exclusion.
 - SA Objective 6 – To improve accessibility to all services and facilities.
 - SA Objective 10 – To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and road congestion.
- 1.67 The remaining SA objectives in Cherwell District's SA Framework relate to sustainability issues in Cherwell, which generally relate to the natural and historic environment in Cherwell, and have therefore only been appraised for effects on Cherwell District.
- 1.68 Following the consultation on the initial SA Report relating to the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Options Paper in November 2016, a few minor changes were made to the SA Framework. These changes largely represented clarifications and simplifications to wording in response to consultation responses (see **Appendix 4** in the Full SA Report).
- 1.69 The SA framework for the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review is presented in **Table 1.2** below. The final column in the table demonstrates which SA objective addresses each of the topics that are required by the SEA Directive to be covered (set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations).

Table 1.2: SA Framework for the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Review²⁹

SA Objective	Sub Objective	SEA Topic
SA Objectives related to meeting Oxford's Needs (Oxford Effects Recorded)		
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.	1. Will it contribute to meeting Oxford's unmet housing requirements? 2. Will it increase the supply of affordable homes, including for the homeless? 3. Will it encourage a mixed use and range of housing tenure, including meeting affordable housing needs?	Population and Human Health
16. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the District and Oxford and Oxfordshire.	1. Will it promote accessible employment opportunities? 2. Will it contribute to reducing short and long-term unemployment?	Population and Human Health and Material Assets
17. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of Oxford and Oxfordshire.	1. Will it encourage new business start-ups and opportunities for local people? 2. Will it improve business development and enhance productivity? 3. Will it enhance the image of Oxford as a business location? 4. Will it encourage inward investment? 5. Will it make land and property available for business development? 6. Will it assist in increasing the viability of the rural and farming economy? 7. Will it promote development in key sectors? 8. Will it promote regeneration; reducing disparities with surrounding areas? 9. Will it promote development in key clusters? 10. Will it increase business opportunities in the tourism sector?	Population and Human Health and Material Assets

²⁹ The SA Framework does not consider Green Belt. However, the effects of options on the openness of the countryside and the wider landscape are addressed through the consideration of effects on the landscape (SA objective 8), the effects of options on the setting and special character of historic Oxford are considered under the appraisal of effects on the historic environment (SA objective 9) and the efficient use of land through the consideration of effects on SA objective 13.

The principle of the loss or use of Green Belt as a policy designation is a matter considered by the Council independently from the SA process. However, it is recognised that exceptional circumstances will need to be demonstrated (in compliance with the NPPF) in order to release any land from the Green Belt.

SA Objective	Sub Objective	SEA Topic
SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford (Oxford and Cherwell Effects Recorded)		
3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion.	1. Will it assist in reducing poverty and social exclusion in Cherwell and Oxford? 2. Does the spatial option provide opportunities to contribute towards the regeneration of more deprived neighbourhoods?	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
6. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities.	1. Will it promote compact, mixed-use development, with good accessibility to local facilities (e.g. employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure, green spaces and culture) that improves accessibility and decreases the need to travel? 2. Will it provide convenient access to the cultural offer of Oxford via existing transport links?	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
10. To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and road congestion	1. Will it address any particular air quality impacts arising from specific operational and/or construction related development activities? 2. Will it improve air quality particularly within identified AQMAs? 3. Will it promote more sustainable transport patterns and reduce the need to travel, particularly in areas of high congestion, including public transport, walking and cycling? 4. Will it promote more sustainable transport patterns in rural areas? 5. Will it reduce journey times between key employment areas and key transport interchanges?	Air, Climatic Factors, and Human Health
Other Social and Economic SA Objectives (Cherwell Effects Recorded)		
2. To improve the health and well-being of the population & reduce inequalities in health.	1. Will it improve access to doctors' surgeries and health care facilities? 2. Will it encourage healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for sport and recreation?	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
4. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	1. Are the principles of good urban design in reducing crime promoted as part of the proposal? 2. Will it assist in reducing actual levels of crime? 3. Will it assist in reducing the fear of crime?	Population and Human Health
5. To create and sustain vibrant communities	1. Will it improve residential amenity (including potential to reduce light, smell and noise pollution) and sense of place? 2. Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live and encourage ownership?	Population, Human Health and Material Assets

SA Objective	Sub Objective	SEA Topic
Environmental SA Objectives (Cherwell Effects Recorded)		
7. To conserve and enhance and create resources for biodiversity	1. Will it, protect, enhance or restore a locally or nationally designated site of nature conservation importance (including those in Oxford that may be affected by new development in Cherwell)? 2. Will it assist Cherwell District Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and/or the Oxfordshire BAP achieves its targets? 3. Will it conserve or enhance biodiversity assets or create new habitats? 4. Will it minimise the fragmentation of existing habitats and enhance, restore or create networks of habitats? 5. Will it conserve and enhance species diversity; and in particular avoid harm to protected species? 6. Will it encourage protection of and increase the number of trees?	Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora
8. To protect and enhance landscape character and quality and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside.	1. Will it protect, enhance and restore the District's natural environment assets (e.g. the countryside, parks and green spaces, common land, woodland and forest reserves, AONBs etc.)? 2. Will it promote the accessibility of the District's countryside in a sustainable and well-managed manner? 3. Will it improve the landscape, ecological quality and character of open spaces? 4. Will it enhance the townscape and public realm? 5. Will it prevent coalescence between settlements?	Landscape, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
9. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the historic environment.	1. Will it protect, enhance and restore Cherwell's cultural and heritage assets (e.g. World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas) and the setting of historic Oxford? 2. Will it promote the accessibility of the District's historic environment in a sustainable and well-managed manner? 3. Will it help preserve and record archaeological features?	Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
11. To maintain and improve the water quality of rivers and to achieve sustainable water resources management	1. Will it improve the water quality of the District's rivers and inland water? 2. Will it enable recycled water to be used? 3. Will it promote sustainable water resource management, provision of new facilities/ infrastructure or water efficient measures?	Water, Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

SA Objective	Sub Objective	SEA Topic
12. To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	1. Will it reduce the risk of flooding from rivers, watercourses and sewer flooding to people and property? 2. Will it result in inappropriate development in the flood plain? 3. Will it increase the provision of sustainable drainage in new developments?	Water, Soil, Climatic Factors and Human Health
13. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.	1. Will it maximise the provision of housing development on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites? 2. Will it maximise the provision of employment development on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites? 3. Will it maximise housing densities to make efficient use of land? 4. Will it ensure land is remediated where appropriate? 5. Will it reduce the loss of soil and high grade agricultural land to development?	Soil, Climatic Factors
14. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products.	1. Will it promote the adoption of sustainable design in construction practices and the use of recycled materials? 2. Will it promote the use of locally and sustainably sourced, and recycling of materials in construction and renovation? 3. Will it lead to an increase in the proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources? 4. Will it promote the incorporation of small-scale renewable in developments?	Climatic Factors
15. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste	1. Will it promote sustainable waste management practices through a range of waste management facilities? 2. Will it reduce hazardous waste? 3. Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?	Soil and Climatic Factors

- 1.70 The findings of the SA of the areas of search and potential site allocations for the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review are presented in SA matrices, which include a colour coded symbol showing the score for the site against each of the SA objectives along with a concise justification for the score given. The detailed SA matrices are presented in **Appendices 4, 5, 6 and 7** of the full SA Report.
- 1.71 The use of colour coding in the matrices allows for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in the key below.

Key to SA scores

++	Significant positive effect likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
?	Likely effect uncertain
+/-	Mixed effect likely
++/-	
+/--	
++/--	

- 1.72 In carrying out the SA use has been made of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) which provide mapped data of key factors of relevance to the identification of significant effects such as:
- Landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage designations.
 - Agricultural land classifications.
 - Areas at risk of flooding.
 - Mineral deposits.
 - Areas of social deprivation.
 - Location of employment, retail, community facilities (e.g. schools and hospitals), neighbourhood centres.
 - Transport network including public transport (bus, rail).
- 1.73 It has also been informed by the most recent technical studies, such as the Transport Assessment and Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Assessment.

Assumptions, Limitations and Difficulties Encountered

- 1.74 SA involves the judging of the effects of a range of reasonable options. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the areas of search and site options, detailed sets of assumptions have been developed, and were initially presented in the SA Scoping Report. For each of the SA objectives in the SA framework, a clear set of decision-making criteria and assumptions for determining significance of the effects are set out. These assumptions, which have largely been applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data, are presented in **Appendix 2** of the full SA Report.
- 1.75 It is recognised that in some cases site promoters have specified the location of development within promoted sites and this has been considered by the Council in selecting and or allocating land use distribution on sites. However, not all site options have detailed development plans; therefore, in order to ensure that all options have been appraised to the same level of detail in the SA, all options have been appraised at a high level based on the potential capacity of each site and the Council's most up-to-date objectively assessed evidence base.

- 1.76 A separate set of assumptions were devised for the appraisal of open space site options, reflecting the fact that new and improved open spaces could affect some of the SA objectives in different ways to the residential site options. The assumptions for the appraisal of open space options are also presented in **Appendix 2** of the full SA Report.
- 1.77 The assumptions presented in **Appendix 2** have been amended since they were proposed in the SA Scoping Report, in order to reflect the latest SA framework, to ensure that they are appropriate for the Local Plan Part 1 Review, and to take into account evidence and information that has become available since 2015, improving the robustness of the site appraisals. In particular, the assumptions were tailored for the appraisal of both the broad areas of search and site options.
- 1.78 Following the consultation on the initial SA Report relating to the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Options Paper in November 2016, four assumptions were rewritten to draw on Cherwell District Council's new Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (2017) work. Three of the assumption revisions related to the assumptions used in the SA of residential site options:
- SA Objective 7 – To conserve and enhance and create resources for biodiversity.
 - SA Objective 8 – To protect and enhance landscape character and quality and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside.
 - SA Objective 9 – To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the historic environment.
- 1.79 The assumption used in the SA of the open space site options was also revised to draw on the Landscape work for SA Objective 8 – To protect and enhance landscape character and quality and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside.
- 1.80 When applying the assumptions to inform the SA of areas of search and site options, distances were measured from the nearest point of a site to the nearest point of the feature(s) in question, which may not always accurately reflect the distance to features for the whole of a site, particularly large sites. This is to ensure a consistent approach for the SA. The Council has examined site options and the evidence to supplement the SA process in selecting preferred development locations and policies.
- 1.81 The sheer number of strategies, plans, programmes, policy documents, advice and guidance produced by a range of statutory and non-statutory bodies means that it has not been possible within the resources available to consider every potentially relevant document in detail (see **Chapter 2** and **Appendix 1** in the full SA Report). However, we have drawn out the key generic messages relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan and the SA.
- 1.82 Similarly, with regard to the evidence base set out in **Chapter 3** of the full SA Report upon which effects have been identified, every effort has been made to ensure that the SA Report reflects the latest baseline information.

Vision and Strategic Objectives Appraisal

- 1.83 The Vision of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review is:
- "To provide new development that meets Oxford's agreed, identified housing needs, supports the city's world-class economy, universities and its local employment base, and ensures that people have convenient, affordable and sustainable travel opportunities to the city's places of work, study and recreation, and to its services and facilities. This development will be provided so that it:*
- i. creates balanced and sustainable communities*
 - ii. is well connected to Oxford*
 - iii. is of exemplar design which responds distinctively and sensitively to the local built, historic and environmental context*
 - iv. is supported by necessary infrastructure*
 - v. provides for a range of household types and incomes reflecting Oxford's diverse needs*

- vi. *contributes to improving health and well-being, and*
- vii. *seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment."*

- 1.84 The vision needs to be read in addition to the existing vision for Cherwell set out at paragraphs A.8 to A.27 of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031.
- 1.85 The council proposed four Strategic Objectives for the purposes of achieving the Vision:
- **SO16** – *To work with Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council, and other neighbouring authorities as required, in delivering Cherwell's contribution to meeting Oxford's unmet housing needs with its required infrastructure by 2031.*
 - **SO17** – *To provide Cherwell's contribution to meeting Oxford's unmet housing needs so that it supports the projected economic growth which underpins the agreed Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 and the local economies of Oxford and Cherwell.*
 - **SO18** – *To provide housing for Oxford so that it substantively provides affordable access to new homes for those requiring 'affordable' housing, new entrants to the housing market, key workers and those requiring access to Oxford's key employment areas, and to provide well designed development that responds to both needs and the local context.*
 - **SO19** – *To provide Cherwell's contribution to meeting Oxford's unmet housing needs in such a way that it complements the County Council's Local Transport Plan, including where applicable, its Oxford Transport Strategy and so that it facilitates demonstrable and deliverable improvements to the availability of sustainable transport for access to Oxford.*
- 1.86 During an initial stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process, a draft vision and strategic objectives were appraised. The proposed vision and strategic objectives were informed by the initial sustainability appraisal, other plan evidence and by the outcome of cooperation, consultation and engagement.
- 1.87 The existing Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 provides fifteen strategic objectives for Cherwell (SO1 to SO15) in the interest of developing a sustainable local economy, for building sustainable communities and for ensuring sustainable development. Although tailored to meeting Cherwell's needs, all of the objectives remain relevant in planning for the additional housing to meet Oxford's unmet needs. In shaping the vision the Council has been careful not to harm the adopted Cherwell Local Plan strategy.

Summary of Significant Effects

- 1.88 The preferred Vision and four Strategic Objectives have been appraised against each SA Objective in the SA Framework. The effects are summarised in **Table 1.3** below.

Table 1.3: Summary of effects of Vision and Strategic Objectives

Vision and Strategic Objectives	SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA2: Improving Health and Social Inequality	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA4: Reducing Crime	SA5: Creating Vibrant Communities	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flooding Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities	SA17: Creating Economic Growth
Vision	++	+	+	0	+	++	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	++/-?	0	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	+	++
SO16 – Contribute to meeting Oxford’s unmet need	++	+	+	0	+	+	-?	-?	-?	+/-?	0	-?	-?	0	0	+	+
SO17 – Support economic growth	++	+	+	0	+	+	-?	-?	-?	+/-?	0	-?	-?	0	0	+	++
SO18 – Provide affordable, well-designed dwellings	++	+	+	0	+	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	0	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	+	+
SO19 – Improve sustainable transport links	++	+	+	0	+	++	-?	-?	-?	++/-?	0	-?	-?	0	0	+	+

- 1.89 The Vision focusses on the delivery of affordable, well-designed and well-located (i.e. in close proximity to Oxford) homes to contribute towards fulfilling Oxford's unmet housing need. Therefore, a significant positive effect has been identified for SA Objective 1 which promotes the building of sustainable and affordable homes. Significant positive effects have also been identified for SA Objectives 6 and 17 because the Vision emphasises the importance of convenient and sustainable access to Oxford's places of work, study and recreation, as well as its services and facilities. The close proximity of new homes to Oxford, as well as convenient access via sustainable modes of transport has the potential to have a significant positive effect on reducing road congestion and air pollution from transport (SA Objective 10). However, overall, this effect is recorded as mixed and uncertain due to the potential for some minor adverse effects associated with increased construction rates in the short term and population growth in the medium and long term increasing the number of private vehicles on the road network.
- 1.90 Strategic Objectives 16 and 18 are broadly considered to have the same effects as the Vision, with the exception that more minor positive effects are recorded under SA Objectives 6, 10 and 17. This is because SO16 and SO18 focus on the delivery of affordable homes rather than their proximity and sustainable accessibility to Oxford.
- 1.91 Strategic Objective 17 is broadly considered to have the same effects as the Vision, with the exception that more minor positive effects are recorded under SA Objectives 6 and 10. This is because SO17 focuses on the delivery of affordable homes with express purpose of supporting the economic growth of Oxford and Cherwell, rather than convenient and sustainable access to Oxford. Consequently, the significant positive effect on SA Objective 17 is retained.
- 1.92 Strategic Objective 19 is broadly considered to have the same effects as the Vision, with the exception that a more minor positive effect is recorded under SA Objective 17. This is because SO19 focuses on the need for new residential developments to complement the County Council's Local Transport Plan and the Oxford Transport Strategy, so that the developments facilitate improvements sustainable transport network, particularly to and from Oxford, rather than economic growth. Consequently, the significant positive effects on SA Objectives 6 and 10 are retained.

Areas of Search Appraisal

- 1.93 The identification of the areas of search enables the Council to consider potential development options at a broad area level before considering specific sites within the selected sustainable areas. It has sought to establish a strategic location for growth; one on which to pursue site identification and to identify the specific options that would sustainably deliver the Partial Review's vision and objectives.
- 1.94 The areas of search have been identified having regard to the location of urban areas, the potential opportunities to develop on previously developed land, received site submissions and 'focal points' or nodes that might be developable.
- 1.95 Nine areas of search covering the whole of Cherwell have been identified and appraised:
- Option A – Kidlington & Surrounding Area
 - Option B – North & East of Kidlington
 - Option C – Junction 9, M40
 - Option D – Arncott
 - Option E – Bicester and Surrounding Area
 - Option F – Former RAF Upper Heyford & Surrounding Area
 - Option G – Junction 10, M40
 - Option H – Banbury & Surrounding Area
 - Option I – Remainder of District / Rural Dispersal

- 1.96 The location of each area is shown in **Figure 1.10: Areas of Search**.
- 1.97 As the purpose of the Partial Review is to meet Oxford's unmet housing need, options close to Oxford, including within the Green Belt cannot be considered to be unreasonable.
- 1.98 The Council has consulted on the Areas of Search through formal consultation on an Options Paper and through stakeholder and parish engagement.
- 1.99 The feedback received is documented in the Council's Statement of Consultation and summarised in **Chapter 7** of the full SA Report.
- 1.100 Each area of search was appraised against the SA Framework on the assumption that housing growth could be located in any part of each the areas. However it is recognised that strategic development may not be appropriate in all locations within the areas of search. The detailed assumptions for appraising the effects of housing development within the areas of search are set out in **Appendix 2** of the full SA Report.

Summary of Significant Effects on the City of Oxford and Cherwell District

- 1.101 **Table 1.4** presents the areas of search effects on the City of Oxford. **Table 1.5** presents the areas of search effects on Cherwell District. All the effects are summarised and outlined in more detail in **Chapter 7** and **Appendix 4** of the full SA Report.
- 1.102 The Council has considered the SA findings alongside the Plan's key issues, its vision and objectives, the evidence base and the outcome of cooperation, consultation and engagement to identify the most sustainable and suitable locations in which to accommodate Oxford's housing needs.
- 1.103 In summary, the likely significant effects of areas of search are:
- Areas of Search B and A score the most significant positive effects (++).
 - Areas of Search A and B score the most significant positive effects in relation to meeting Oxford's needs.
 - Areas of Search B, H, A and E score the most positive significant effects on Cherwell.
 - All Areas of Search record some significant negative effects (--) overall.
 - Areas of Search B, A, E, C and F score the least significant negative effects in relation to meeting Oxford's needs.
 - Areas of Search H, A, E and C score the least significant negative effects on Cherwell.
- 1.104 In terms of meeting Oxford's needs and meeting SA objectives of particular relevance to Oxford, Areas of Search A and B perform best in sustainability terms; that Options C, E, F, and H perform less well; and that Options D, G, I perform most poorly. SA objectives related to sustainable transport and access to Oxford's employment areas are most influential in the differences between options. Areas A and B benefit from sustainable transport factors and access to services and facilities and jobs.

Reasons for not selecting Areas of Search C to I

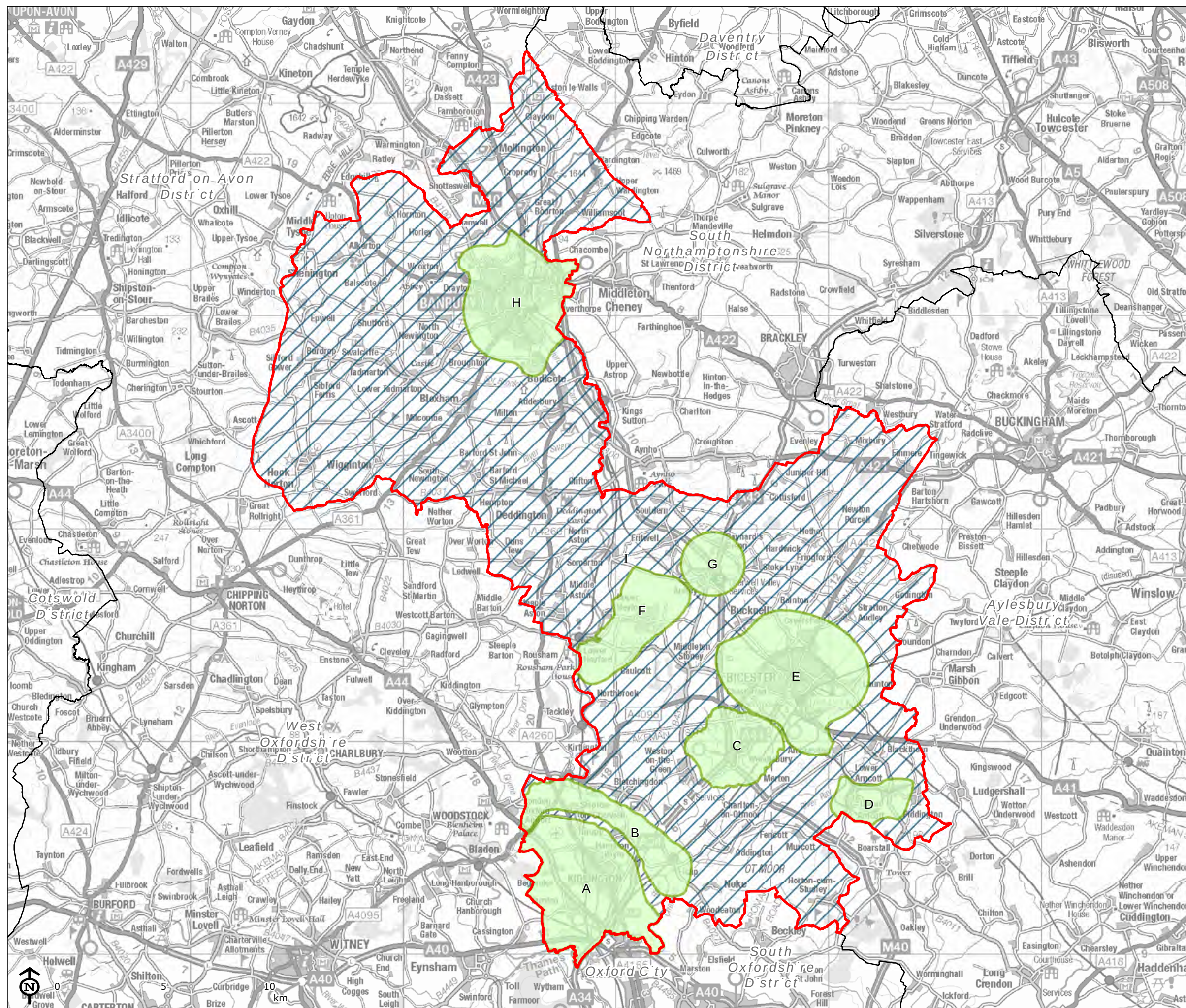
- 1.105 The Council advises that having regard to the SA, the rest of its evidence base and the outcome of consultation, engagement and cooperation, Areas of Search C to I are not considered to be suitable for accommodating housing to help meet Oxford's unmet housing needs. This is for the following reasons:
1. They are less well situated to build communities associated with Oxford.
 2. They are less well situated to assist with the delivery of the Oxford Transport Strategy, in terms of existing sustainable travel connectivity and the opportunity for sustainable commuter travel behaviour.
 3. They are more likely to result in a higher level of commuting to Oxford by private motor vehicle.

Cherwell Local Plan

Figure 1.10

Areas of Search

-  Cherwell District boundary
-  Other district boundaries
- Areas of search
-  A to H
-  I



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Table 1.4: Summary of areas of search effects on the City of Oxford

SA Objectives of Relevance to Oxford	B – North and East of Kidlington	A – Kidlington and surrounding area	E – Bicester and surrounding area	C – Junction 9, M40	F – Former RAF Upper Heyford and surrounding area	H – Banbury and surrounding area	D – Arncott	G – Junction 10, M40	I – Remainder of District / Rural dispersal
SA Objectives related to meeting Oxford's Needs									
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
16. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the District and Oxford and Oxfordshire	++	++	+/-	+	+/-	--	+/-	+/-	-?
17. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District and Oxford and Oxfordshire	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford (only Oxford effects recorded here)									
3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities	++	++	++	+	+	+	--	--	--
10. To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and road congestion	++	++/-	++	+	+	+	--	--	--

Table 1.5: Summary of areas of search effects on Cherwell District

SA Objectives	B – North and East of Kidlington	H – Banbury and surrounding area	A – Kidlington and surrounding area	E – Bicester and surrounding area	F – Former RAF Upper Heyford and surrounding area	C – Junction 9, M40	D – Arncott	G – Junction 10, M40	I – Remainder of District / Rural dispersal
SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford (<i>Cherwell effects recorded here</i>)									
3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities	++	++	++	++	++?	++	+	--	--?
10. To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and road congestion	++	++/-	++/-	++/-	+	+	+	-	-
Other Social and Economic SA objectives (<i>effects only relate to Cherwell District</i>)									
2. To improve the health and well-being of the population & reduce inequalities in health.	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	+	+
4. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. To create and sustain vibrant communities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental SA objectives (<i>effects only relate to Cherwell District</i>)									
7. To conserve and enhance and create resources for biodiversity	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?

SA Objectives	B – North and East of Kidlington	H – Banbury and surrounding area	A – Kidlington and surrounding area	E – Bicester and surrounding area	F – Former RAF Upper Heyford and surrounding area	C – Junction 9, M40	D – Arncott	G – Junction 10, M40	I – Remainder of District / Rural dispersal
8. To protect and enhance landscape character and quality and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside.	--?	-?	-?	-?	--?	-?	--?	-?	--?
9. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the historic environment.	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?
11. To maintain and improve the water quality of rivers and to achieve sustainable water resources management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well- being, the economy and the environment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	-?	--?	--?
14. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products.	-	-?	-	-?	0	0	0	-?	-?
15. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-

4. They are likely to result in less affordable transport options for accessing Oxford for potential occupiers of affordable and low cost housing.
 5. More dispersed options provide less opportunity for strategic infrastructure investment (e.g. transport and education).
 6. It is likely that significant additional development could not be built at Bicester, Banbury and RAF Upper Heyford by 2031, in addition to that in the existing Local Plan.
- 1.106 For these reasons, the Council considers that Areas of Search C to I, or a combination of any options including C to I, would not sufficiently deliver the Partial Review's vision and objectives.
- 1.107 The Council also considers that a development strategy focused on any of Areas of Search C to I, or any combination of those areas, would have a greater detrimental impact on the existing development strategy for Cherwell set out in the existing Local Plan.

Reasons for selecting Areas of Search A and B

- 1.108 The Council considers that only Option A (Kidlington & Surrounding Area) and Option B (North & East of Kidlington) are suitable for meeting Oxford's unmet needs.
- 1.109 It advises that this is due to the:
1. Proximity to Oxford, the existing availability of public transport and the opportunity to maximise the use of sustainable and affordable transport in accessing Oxford's key employment areas and services and facilities.
 2. Opportunity to achieve an overall, proportionate reduction in reliance on the private motor vehicle in accessing Oxford's key employment areas and services and facilities and to achieve further investment in sustainable transport infrastructure.
 3. Deliverability of sustainable transport improvements in comparison to other Areas of Search.
 4. Relationship of existing communities to Oxford.
 5. Existing economic relationship between the Areas of Search and Oxford
 6. Opportunity to provide affordable homes to meet Oxford's identified need close to the source of that need.
- 1.110 The Council notes that Areas of Search A and B would be inconsistent with the existing Local Plan strategy of mostly avoiding development in the Green Belt. However, it considers that development in the Green Belt does not in itself interfere with the delivery of growth at Bicester, Banbury and Former RAF Upper Heyford or the management of sustainable levels of growth in the rural areas. It notes that the Green Belt in Cherwell has not previously been considered for additional development. The Council also considers that the remit of the Partial Review is such that the Green Belt could not be ruled out as a location for additional development to meet Oxford's needs and that this was recognised by the Planning Inspector who endorsed the Partial Review commitment.
- 1.111 The Council is of the view Options A and B could deliver the vision and objectives which underpin the Partial Review without significantly undermining the delivery of the development strategy for meeting Cherwell's needs set out in the existing Local Plan.
- 1.112 The Council considers that the unsuitability of other options and the lack of urban capacity within the administrative boundary of Oxford, means that there are exceptional circumstances to consider options that affect the Green Belt. In the absence of other suitable options, Areas A and B were taken forward.

Quantum of Additional Development

- 1.113 On the 26th September 2016, the Growth Board decided on an apportionment of 14,850 homes to the district and city councils.

Table 1.6: Oxfordshire Growth Board apportionment of Oxford's Unmet Housing Needs

District	Apportionment Number of Homes (Net)
Cherwell	4,400
Oxford	550
South Oxfordshire ³⁰	4,950
Vale of White Horse	2,200
West Oxfordshire	2,750
Total	14,850

- 1.114 It is for each of the Oxfordshire districts through their statutory Local Plan processes to explore how to accommodate their apportioned share of Oxford's unmet need under the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate.
- 1.115 Cherwell's apportionment of 4,400 dwellings equates to just under 30% of Oxford's agreed unmet housing need up to 2031. The SA is testing this figure in the interest of ensuring it is a sustainable requirement in the context of alternatives.
- 1.116 The District Council has advised that there is no evidence for a justified, specific alternative to 4,400 homes. However, a significantly lower or higher figure are reasonable alternatives in the context of the high level of development already committed in Cherwell and the high level of housing need faced by Oxford.
- 1.117 Three options are therefore appraised for quantities of additional housing growth:
- 4,400 homes (the Growth Board figure).
 - Significantly less than 4,400 homes.
 - Significantly more than 4,400 homes.
- 1.118 An initial high-level appraisal was undertaken of each growth option against the SA Framework on the assumption that the growth could be located anywhere within Cherwell District.
- 1.119 Following this high-level appraisal, each quantum option was appraised against the SA Framework on the assumption that the growth would all be located within areas of search A and B. This was because, following consideration of the potential effects of accommodating the quantum options within and across all areas of search on Cherwell District and the City of Oxford, areas of search A and B are identified by the Council as the most sustainable locations for accommodating additional housing growth. Therefore, the detailed assumptions for appraising the effects of housing development within the areas of search (see **Appendix 2** in the full SA Report) were applied for the appraisal of the three quantum options in areas of search A and B.

Summary of Significant Effects

- 1.120 **Table 1.7** presents the effects of the initial high-level appraisal of quantum options across the whole district, which are summarised in more detail in **Chapter 8** of the full SA Report. **Table 1.8** presents the effects of the appraisal of the quantum options within areas of search A and B, which are also summarised in **Chapter 8** and outlined in more detailed in **Appendix 5** in the full SA Report.
- 1.121 The SA acknowledges that 4,400 is not an insignificant number of homes, which generates significant effects against several SA objectives, notably significant positive effects against SA objectives 1 (housing) and 16 (employment) and significant negative effects against SA objectives 10 (air pollution and road congestion), 7 (biodiversity), 9 (heritage), 12 (flood risk) and 13 (efficient use of land). However, as a set figure, it is considered that the delivery of 4,400 homes will generate more

³⁰ South Oxfordshire District Council did not agree to the apportionment.

significant effects than the less than 4,400 homes option and less significant effects than the more than 4,400 homes option.

- 1.122 The SA shows that providing fewer than 4,400 homes has the least potential for significant environmental effects but, with the exception of SA objective 1 (housing) also does not provide any distinguishable significant positive effects. Providing more than 4,400 homes provides significant positive economic and social effects but also significant potential negative effects on SA objectives relating to the environment. Providing 4,400 homes also provides the same significant positive effects but with less significant negative effects on the environmental SA objectives.
- 1.123 The appraisal of quantum options with areas of search A and B generate more significant positive effects against SA objective 2 (health and well-being), 6 (access to local services and facilities) and 10 (air quality and road congestion) for quantum options '4,400 homes' and 'less than 4,400 homes'. This is due to the fact that compared to the other areas of search, areas of search A and B are closest to the city of Oxford, generating greater opportunities for travel into and out of Oxford on foot and by bicycle.

Reasons for Selecting the Quantum of 4,400 homes

- 1.124 Having regard to the outcome of the SA and the Oxfordshire Growth Board apportionment figure, it is considered that 4,400 homes is the appropriate option to take forward.

Table 1.7: High-level appraisal of accommodating each growth option anywhere within Cherwell District

Quantum Options Sustainability Effects	4,400 Homes	>4,400 Homes	<4,400 Homes
SA objectives which relate to meeting Oxford's needs <i>(scores only relate to Oxford City)</i>			
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	++	++	++/--?
16. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of Oxford and Oxfordshire	++	++	+/--
17. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of Oxford and Oxfordshire	+/?	+/?	+/-?
SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford <i>(scores relate to Oxford City and Cherwell District)</i>			
3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	+/?	+/?	+/?
6. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities	?	?	?
10. To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and road congestion	--/?	--/?	-/?
Other Social and Economic SA objectives <i>(scores only relate to Cherwell District)</i>			
2. To improve the health and well-being of the population & reduce inequalities in health	?	?	?
4. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime	0	0	0
5. To create and sustain vibrant communities	-/?	-/?	-/?
Environmental SA objectives <i>(scores only relate to Cherwell District)</i>			
7. To conserve and enhance and create resources for biodiversity	--?	--?	-?
8. To protect and enhance landscape character and quality and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside	-?	--?	-?

Quantum Options Sustainability Effects	4,400 Homes	>4,400 Homes	<4,400 Homes
9. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the historic environment	--?	--?	-?
11. To maintain and improve the water quality of rivers and to achieve sustainable water resources management	0	0	0
12. To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	--?	--?	-?
13. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance	--?	--?	-?
14. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products	?	?	?
15. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste	-	-	-

Table 1.8: Summary of quantum effects in Areas of Search A and B

Quantum Options Sustainability Effects	4,400 Homes	>4,400 Homes	<4,400 Homes
SA objectives which relate to meeting Oxford's needs <i>(scores only relate to Oxford City)</i>			
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	++	++	++/--?
16. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of Oxford and Oxfordshire	++	++	+/--?
17. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of Oxford and Oxfordshire	+	+	+/-?
SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford <i>(scores relate to Oxford City and Cherwell District)</i>			
3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	0	0	0
6. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities	++	++	+/-?
10. To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and road congestion	++/-	++/-	+/-?
Other Social and Economic SA objectives <i>(scores only relate to Cherwell District)</i>			
2. To improve the health and well-being of the population & reduce inequalities in health	++	++	+/-?
4. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime	0	0	0
5. To create and sustain vibrant communities	-	-	-
Environmental SA objectives <i>(scores only relate to Cherwell District)</i>			
7. To conserve and enhance and create resources for biodiversity	--?	--?	-?
8. To protect and enhance landscape character and quality and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside	-?	--?	-?

Quantum Options Sustainability Effects	4,400 Homes	>4,400 Homes	<4,400 Homes
9. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the historic environment	--?	--?	-?
11. To maintain and improve the water quality of rivers and to achieve sustainable water resources management	0	0	0
12. To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment	--?	--?	-?
13. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance	--?	--?	-?
14. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products	-	-	-
15. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste	-	-	-

Site options within Areas of Search A and B Appraisal

- 1.125 Potential development sites have been submitted to the Council on an ongoing basis including as part of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The nine areas of search have been appraised to identify the broad areas of the District most sustainable (both for Cherwell and Oxford) for accommodating a portion of Oxford's unmet housing need and associated infrastructure.
- 1.126 Areas of search A and B have been identified by Cherwell District Council to be the most sustainable and suitable options within which to identify specific sites for meeting Oxford's unmet housing need within the District. Therefore, only proposed development sites within areas of search A and B were taken forward for appraisal.
- 1.127 Promoted sites under 2 hectares in size were discounted from further consideration in the SA. Suitable non-strategic sites for all potential uses will be considered for Local Plan Part 2 and assessed through the SA for Local Plan Part 2.
- 1.128 42 potential development sites 2 hectares and over in size and located within areas of search A and B were assessed in the SA as residential site options. Each residential site option was appraised using the detailed assumptions outlined in **Table A2.1** in **Appendix 2** in the full SA Report.
- 1.129 The same 42 sites have been appraised as potential open space site options. Each open space option was appraised using the detailed assumptions outlined in **Table A2.2** in **Appendix 2** in the full SA Report.
- 1.130 The location of each residential and open space options is shown in **Figure 1.11: Residential and Open Space Site Options within Areas of Search A and B**.³¹
- 1.131 Of the 42 site options appraised, 11 site options have been taken forward (either fully or partially) for allocation³² within the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review. These site options are highlighted in bold in **Tables 1.9** to **1.11** so that their scores can be easily compared with the alternative options. The detailed reasoning behind the selection of the 11 site options for allocation in the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review is outlined at the beginning of **Chapter 10** in the full SA Report.

Summary of Significant Effects of Residential Site Options on Oxford City

- 1.132 **Table 1.9** presents the effects of the 42 residential site options with Areas of Search A and B on the City of Oxford.

Table 1.9: Summary of effects of residential site options on Oxford

Area of Search	Site	SA Objectives related to meeting Oxford's Needs			SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford			Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
		SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities and Oxford	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion		
A	Site 14	++	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	0	1
	Site 20	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/-	0	3

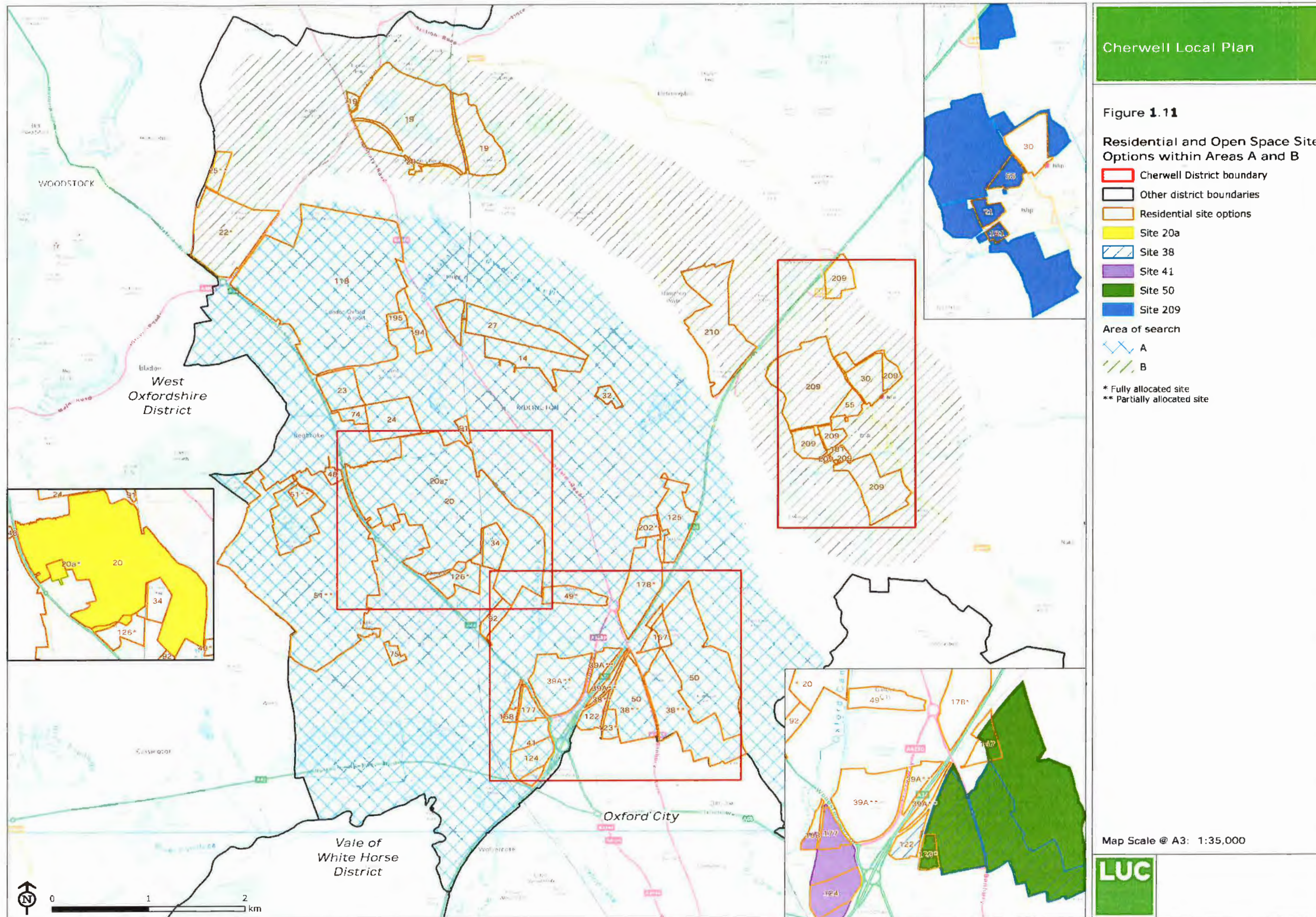
³¹ Note: the coloured site options in Figure 1.11 are only illustrated to provide clarity on individual site option boundaries, specifically where site options overlap.

³² While the entire area of a site option may have been allocated within the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review, the development area within each area is restricted to a smaller area within each site allocation policy.

Area of Search	Site	SA Objectives related to meeting Oxford's Needs			SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford			Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
		SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities and Oxford	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion		
	Site 20A	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/-	0	3
	Site 23	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/-	0	3
	Site 24	++	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	0	1
	Site 27	++	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	0	1
	Site 32	++	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	0	1
	Site 34	++	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	0	1
	Site 38	++	++	+	0	++	++/--	1	4
	Site 39A	++	+/-	+	0	+	++/--	1	2
	Site 41	++	++	+	0	++	++/--	1	4
	Site 48	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/-	0	3
	Site 49	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/--	1	3
	Site 50	++	++	+	0	++	++/--	1	4
	Site 51	++	--	+	0	+	+/-	1	1
	Site 74	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/-	0	3
	Site 75	++	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	0	1
	Site 91	++	+/-	+	0	+	+/-	0	1
	Site 92	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/--	1	3
	Site 118	++	--	+	0	+	+	1	1
	Site 122	++	++	+	0	+	+/--	1	2
	Site 123	++	++	+	0	+	+/--	1	2
	Site 124	++	++	+	0	++	++/--	1	4
	Site 125	++	++	+	0	+	+/--	1	2
	Site 126	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/-	0	3

Area of Search	Site	SA Objectives related to meeting Oxford's Needs			SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford			Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
		SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities and Oxford	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion		
	Site 167	++	++	+	0	++	++/--	1	4
	Site 168	++	+/-	+	0	++	++/--	1	3
	Site 177	++	++	+	0	++	++/--	1	4
	Site 178	++	++	+	0	++	++/--	1	4
	Site 194	++	+/-	+	0	+	+	0	1
	Site 195	++	+/-	+	0	+	+	0	1
B	Site 202	++	++	+	0	+	+/-	1	2
	Site 19	++	--	+	0	--	--	3	1
	Site 21	++	+/-	+	0	--	--	2	1
	Site 22	++	--	+	0	+	+	1	1
	Site 25	++	--	+	0	+	+	1	1
	Site 29	++	+/-	+	0	--	--	2	1
	Site 30	++	+/-	+	0	--	--	2	1
	Site 55	++	+/-	+	0	--	--	2	1
	Site 181	++	+/-	+	0	--	--	2	1
	Site 209	++	++	+	0	+	+/-	0	2
	Site 210	++	+/-	+	0	+	++/-	0	2

- 1.133 10 of the residential site options have the potential to generate significant negative effects on Oxford. These significant negative effects relate to SA objectives 16 (employment), 6 (access to the local services and facilities) and 10 (air quality and road congestion). These significant negative effects are generally recorded because these site options do not have easy access to Oxford City's employment opportunities, services and facilities making it harder to travel by more sustainable transport modes to the private car.
- 1.134 All 42 site options score significant positive effects against SA objective 1 (housing) due to their ability to accommodate a significant proportion of Oxford's unmet housing need. Significant positive effects are also recorded for SA objectives 16 (employment), 6 (access to the local services and facilities) and 10 (air quality and road congestion). These significant positive effects are generally recorded because



these site options have good access to Oxford City's employment opportunities, services and facilities making it easier to travel by more sustainable transport modes to the private car.

1.135 The 11 preferred site allocations score significant effects against the following SA objectives:

- SA objective 1 (housing) – all 11 sites score significant positive effects against this objective.
- SA objective 16 (employment) – three sites score significant negative effects (sites 22, 25 and 51) against this objective; three sites score significant positive effects (sites 38, 123, 178 and 202) against this objective.
- SA objective 6 (accessibility to services and facilities) – five sites (sites 20a, 38, 49, 126 and 178) are considered to have significant positive effects against this objective.
- SA objective 10 (air quality and road congestion) – six of the sites score mixed significant positive/minor negative effects against this SA Objective (sites 20a, 38, 39a, 49, 126 and 178); and site options 123 and 202 score mixed significant negative/minor positive effects against this objective.

Summary of Significant Effects of Residential Site Options on Cherwell District

1.136 **Table 1.10** presents the effects of the 42 residential site options with Areas of Search A and B on Cherwell District.

1.137 All but one of the residential site options have the potential to generate significant negative effects on Cherwell. These significant negative effects relate to SA objectives 6 (access to the local services and facilities), 7 (biodiversity), 8 (landscape), 9 (historic environment), 10 (air quality and road congestion), 12 (flood risk) and 13 (efficient use of land). Significant negative effects against SA objectives 6 and 10 are generally recorded because these site options do not have easy access to Cherwell's services and facilities making it harder to travel by more sustainable transport modes to the private car. Three site options have the potential to generate significant negative effects against SA objective 7 due the presence of sensitive ecological assets within or in close proximity to the site. Over half (22) of the site options have the potential to generate significant negative effects against SA objective 8 due to the fact that these sites are recognised as being located in landscape that are particularly sensitive to residential development. Four site options have the potential to generate significant negative effects against SA objective 9 due the presence of sensitive heritages assets within or in close proximity to the site. Two site options score significant negative effects against SA objective 12 due to the fact that these sites contain areas of land designated as flood zone 2 and 3. Almost all of the site options score significant negative effects against SA objective 13 due to the fact that the vast majority of the site options are located on greenfield land, most of which has value as agricultural land.

1.138 Significant positive effects are recorded for SA objectives 2 (health and well-being), 6 (access to the local services and facilities) and 10 (air quality and road congestion). These significant positive effects are generally recorded because these site options have good access to Cherwell's existing services and facilities, including health care facilities, open spaces and Public rights of Way, making it easier to travel by more sustainable transport modes to the private car.

1.139 The 11 preferred site allocations score significant effects against the following SA objectives:

- SA objective 2 (health and well-being) - six sites (20a, 49, 51, 126, 178 and 202) score significant positive effects against this SA objective.
- SA objective 6 (accessibility to services and facilities) – all eleven sites are considered to have significant positive effects against this objective.
- SA objective 8 (landscape) – three sites (39a, 51 and 126) score uncertain significant negative effects against this objective.
- SA objective 9 (historic environment) – three sites (38, 51 and 22) score uncertain significant negative effects against this objective.
- SA objective 10 (air quality and road congestion) – four of the sites score mixed significant positive/minor negative effects against this objective (sites 38, 39a, 49 and 178); site options 123 and 202 score mixed significant negative/minor positive effects against this objective; and site options 20a and 126 score mixed significant positive/minor negative effects against this objective.

Table 1.10: Summary of effects of residential site options on Cherwell District

Areas of Search	Sites	SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford (Cherwell effects recorded here)			Other Social and Economic SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)		Environmental SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)									Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
		SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA2: Improving Health and Well Being	SA4: To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	SA5: To create and sustain vibrant communities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flood Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management		
A	Site 14	0	++	+/-	++	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	1	2
	Site 20	0	++	++/-	++	0	-	0?	-?	-?	0	-	--	-	-	1	3
	Site 20A	0	++	++/-	++	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	--	-	-	1	3
	Site 23	0	++	++/-	+	0	-	0?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	2	2
	Site 24	0	++	+/-	+	0	-	0?	-?	-?	0	-	--	-	-	1	1
	Site 27	0	++	+/-	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	2	1
	Site 32	0	++	+/-	+	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	1	1
	Site 34	0	++	+/-	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	--	-	-	2	1
	Site 38	0	++	++/--	+	0	-	-?	-?	--?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	2
	Site 39A	0	++	++/--	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	2
	Site 41	0	+	++/--	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	1
	Site 48	0	++	++/-	+	0	-	0?	-?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	1	2
	Site 49	0	++	++/--	++	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	2	3
	Site 50	0	++	++/--	+	0	-	-?	-?	--?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	2
	Site 51	0	++	+/-	++	0	-	-?	--?	--?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	2

Areas of Search	Sites	SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford (Cherwell effects recorded here)			Other Social and Economic SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)			Environmental SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)								Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
		SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA2: Improving Health and Well Being	SA4: To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	SA5: To create and sustain vibrant communities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flood Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management		
	Site 74	0	++	++/-	+	0	-	0?	-?	0?	0	-	--?	-	-	1	2
	Site 75	0	++	+/-	+	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	-	-	-	0	1
	Site 91	0	++	+/-	++	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	2	2
	Site 92	0	++	++/--	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	-	-	-	2	2
	Site 118	0	++	+	+	0	-	0?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	2	1
	Site 122	0	+	+/--	+	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	--?	0	-	2	0
	Site 123	0	++	+/--	+	0	-	-?	0?	-?	0	-	--?	0	-	2	1
	Site 124	0	+	++/--	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	1
	Site 125	0	++	+/--	++	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	--?	-	-	-	2	2
	Site 126	0	++	++/-	++	0	-	-?	--?	0?	0	-	--?	-	-	2	3
	Site 167	0	++	++/--	+	0	-	0?	--?	-?	0	-	-	-	-	2	2
	Site 168	0	+	++/--	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	-	-	-	2	1
	Site 177	0	+	++/--	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	1
	Site 178	0	++	++/--	++	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	-	-	-	1	3
	Site 194	0	++	+	+	0	-	0?	--?	0?	0	-	--?	-	-	2	1
	Site 195	0	++	+	+	0	-	0?	--?	0?	0	0	+	0	+	1	1

Areas of Search	Sites	SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford (Cherwell effects recorded here)			Other Social and Economic SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)			Environmental SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)								Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
		SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA2: Improving Health and Well Being	SA4: To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	SA5: To create and sustain vibrant communities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flood Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management		
	Site 202	0	++	+/--	++	0	-	-?	0?	-?	0	-	-	-	-	1	2
B	Site 19	0	--	--	+	0	-	--?	--?	-?	0	-	+	-	+	4	0
	Site 21	0	-	--	++	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	2	1
	Site 22	0	++	+	+	0	-	-?	-?	--?	0	-	--?	0	-	2	1
	Site 25	0	++	+	+	0	-	-?	--?	0?	0	-	--?	0	-	2	1
	Site 29	0	--	--	+	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	+	-	+	3	0
	Site 30	0	-	--	++	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	++/--	-	-	2	2
	Site 55	0	-	--	++	0	-	-?	-?	-?	0	-	--?	0	-	2	1
	Site 181	0	-	--	++	0	-	-?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	1
	Site 209	0	-	+/-	++	0	-	--?	--?	-?	0	-	--?	-	-	3	1
	Site 210	0	-	++/-	+	0	-	--?	--?	-?	0	--?	--?	-	-	4	1

- SA objective 13 (efficient use of land) – seven sites (38, 39a, 49, 51, 126, 22 and 25) score uncertain significant negative effect against this objective; and site 20a scored a significant negative effect against this objective.

Summary of Significant Effects of Open Space Site Options

- 1.140 **Table 1.11** presents the effects of the 42 open space site options with Areas of Search A and B on Cherwell District and Oxford City. These effects are summarised in **Chapter 9** and outlined in more detailed in **Appendix 6** in the full SA Report. There are no detailed SA matrices for the open space options, as only eight of the SA objectives are likely to be affected by the development of land for open space, and the potential effects are generally very similar irrespective of the location of the potential open space site.
- 1.141 Due to the nature of open space options (which are unlikely to include much development, if any), negligible effects are expected for the following SA objectives:
- SA objective 1 - Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes
 - SA objective 2 - Improving Health and Social Inequality³³
 - SA objective 3 – Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion
 - SA objective 4 – Reducing Crime
 - SA objective 10 – Reducing Road Congestion
 - SA objective 11 – Improving Water Quality
 - SA objective 15 – Sustainable Waste Management
 - SA objective 16 – Creating Employment Opportunities; and
 - SA objective 17 – Creating Economic Growth
- 1.142 18 of the open space options have the potential to generate significant negative effects on the landscape due to the sensitivity of these sites to formal and informal recreational development. Over 90% of the sites are likely to have at least one significant positive effect. The significant positive effects are generally all in relation to environmental SA objectives 7 (biodiversity), 9 (historic environment), 12 (flood risk) and 13 (efficient use of land).
- 1.143 The 11 preferred site allocations score significant effects against the following SA objectives:
- SA objective 7 (biodiversity) – all 11 sites score significant positive effects against this objective.
 - SA objective 8 (landscape) – three sites (38, 51 and 25) score uncertain significant negative effects against this objective.
 - SA objective 9 (historic environment) – four of the selected site options (20a, 39a, 49 and 22) score uncertain significant positive effects against this objective.
 - SA objective 12 (flood risk) – three of the selected site options (39a, 49 and 202) score significant positive effects against this objective.
 - SA objective 13 (efficient use of lane) – two sites (20a and 126) score significant positive effects against this objective.

³³ Note that proximity of new open spaces to residential areas, and therefore how easily people will be able to make use of sites for active outdoor recreation, is assessed under SA objective 6.

Table 1.11: Summary of open space options effects

Area of Search	Sites	SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA2: Improving Health and Social Inequality	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA4: Reducing Crime	SA5: Creating Vibrant Communities	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flooding Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
A	Site 14	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 20	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+++?	0	0	+	++	-	0	0	0	0	3
	Site 20a	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+++?	0	0	+	++	-	0	0	0	0	3
	Site 23	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	0	0	0	0	+	-	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 24	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	0	0	0	0	++	-	0	0	0	0	2
	Site 27	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	+++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	2
	Site 32	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	+++?	0	0	++	+	-	0	0	0	1	3
	Site 34	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	++?	0	0	++	+	-	0	0	0	1	2
	Site 38	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 39A	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+++?	0	0	++	+	-	0	0	0	0	3
	Site 41	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	+++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	2
	Site 48	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0?	++?	0	0	0	+	-	0	0	0	0	0

Area of Search	Sites	SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA2: Improving Health and Social Inequality	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA4: Reducing Crime	SA5: Creating Vibrant Communities	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flooding Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
	Site 49	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	0?	+++?	0	0	++	0	-	0	0	0	0	3
	Site 50	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	0	2
	Site 51	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 74	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 75	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	-?	++?	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
	Site 91	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	--?	++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	0
	Site 92	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	++?	0	0	++	0	-	0	0	0	1	2
	Site 118	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	++?	0	0	0	+	-	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 122	0	0	0	0	+	-	++	-?	++?	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 123	0	0	0	0	+	-	++	-?	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 124	0	0	0	0	+	-	++	--?	++?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 125	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	++?	0	0	+	0	-	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 126	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	++?	0	0	0	+	-	0	0	0	0	1

Area of Search	Sites	SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA2: Improving Health and Social Inequality	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA4: Reducing Crime	SA5: Creating Vibrant Communities	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flooding Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
	Site 167	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	0	0	0	+	0	-	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 168	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	+	0	0	++	0	-	0	0	0	1	2
	Site 177	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+	0	0	++	+	-	0	0	0	0	2
	Site 178	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 194	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	+	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 195	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	0	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 202	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+	0	0	++	0	-	0	0	0	0	2
B	Site 19	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	+	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 21	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 22	0	0	0	0	+	-	++	-?	++?	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Site 25	0	0	0	0	+	-	++	--?	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Site 29	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	--?	+	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	1	0
	Site 30	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	1

Area of Search		Sites																		
		SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA2: Improving Health and Social Inequality	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA4: Reducing Crime	SA5: Creating Vibrant Communities	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flooding Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	Number of Significant Negative Effects	Number of Significant Positive Effects
	Site 55	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+?	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 181	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	-?	++?	0	0	0	+	-	0	0	0	0	1
	Site 209	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	--?	++?	0	0	++	+	-	0	0	0	1	3
	Site 210	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	-?	+?	0	0	++	+	-	0	0	0	0	2

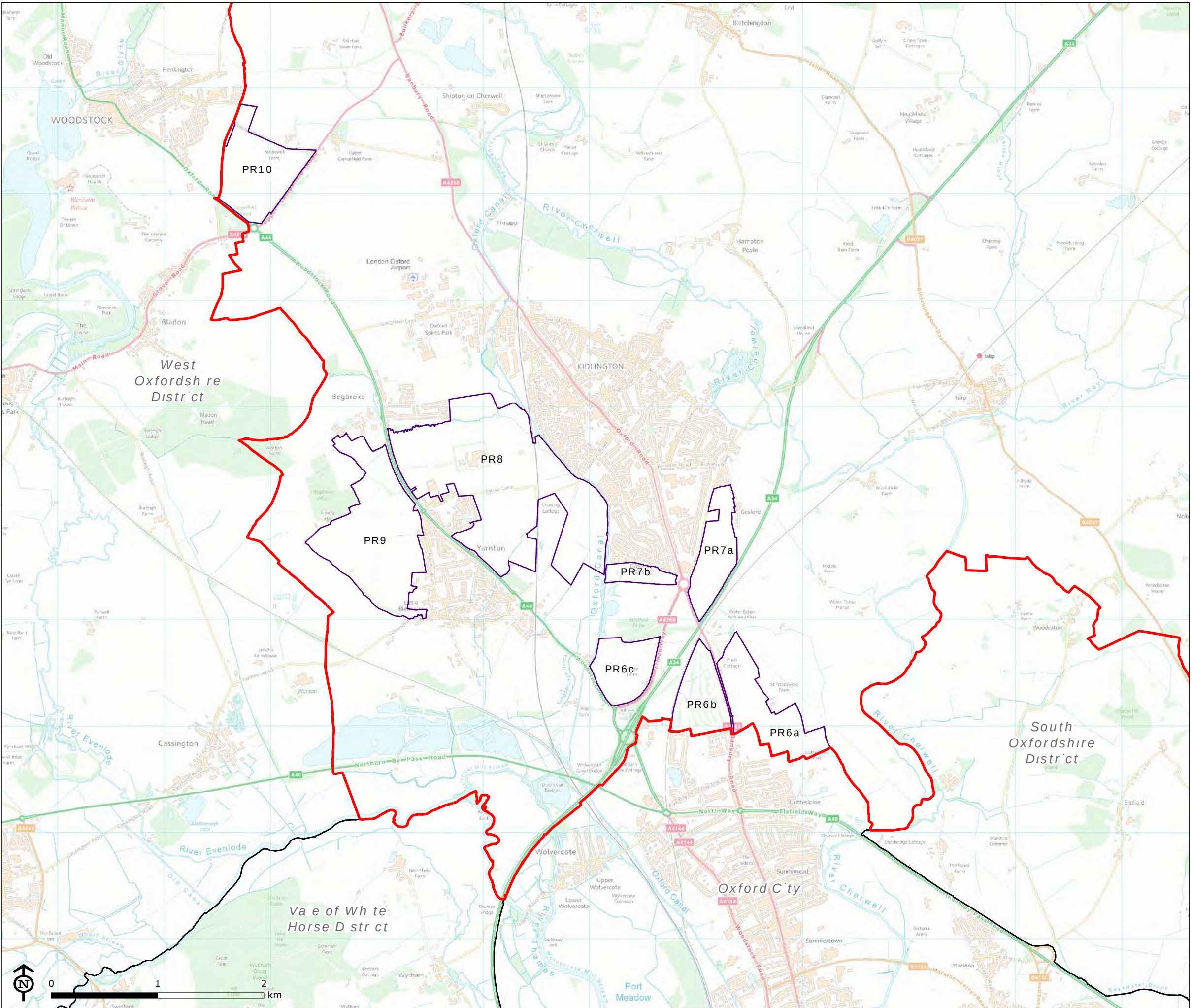
Preferred Site Allocations and Strategic Policies Appraisal

- 1.144 The 18 policies within the Local Plan Part 1 Review can be broadly categorised into two groups: strategic planning policies and site allocation policies.
- 1.145 There are ten strategic planning policies within the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review:
- Policy PR1 – Achieving Sustainable Development for Oxford
 - Policy PR2 – Housing Mix, Tenure and Size
 - Policy PR3 – The Oxford Green Belt
 - Policy PR4a – Sustainable Transport
 - Policy PR4b – Kidlington Centre
 - Policy PR5 – Green Infrastructure
 - Policy PR11 – Infrastructure Delivery
 - Policy PR12a – Delivering Sites and Maintaining Housing Supply
 - Policy PR12b – Applications for Planning Permission for the Development of Sites Not Allocated in the Partial Review
 - Policy PR13 – Monitoring and Securing Delivery
- 1.146 There are eight site allocation policies within the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review:
- Policy PR6a – Land East of Oxford Road
 - Policy PR6b – Land West of Oxford Road
 - Policy PR6c – Land at Frieze Farm
 - Policy PR7a – Land South East of Kidlington
 - Policy PR7b – Land at Stratfield Farm
 - Policy PR8 – Land East of the A44
 - Policy PR9 – Land West of Yarnton
 - Policy PR10 – Land South East of Woodstock
- 1.147 The locations of the eight site allocations set out within the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review are shown in **Figure 1.12: Preferred Site Allocation Policies**.
- 1.148 Site allocation policies have been appraised using the site assumptions outlined in **Table A2.1** in **Appendix 2** of the full SA Report. In addition, consideration has been given to the implications of measures outlined within each policy, specifically the likelihood of these measures contributing to the mitigation of adverse effects and the enhancement of positive effects. These mitigation measures have been informed by the SA of the site options appraised in **Appendix 6** of the full SA Report.
- 1.149 The strategic policies have been appraised more generally against the SA Framework outlined in **Chapter 5** of the full SA Report.
- 1.150 The Council has identified some areas of land in the Green Belt (see policy PR3) which it considers should be removed from the Green Belt or safeguarded in addition to the land covered by the site allocation policies. Although unlikely, as the removal of the Green Belt designation could lead to development, this has been assessed in the SA.
- 1.151 The Council considered various approaches and policy requirements for its policies and based on evidence and other information it has determined its policy wording. It was considered that there were no reasonable alternatives to these policies as drafted which would result in significant effects that were differential in the context of the SA.

Figure 1.12

Preferred Site Allocation Policies

- Cherwell District boundary
 - Other district boundaries
 - Preferred site allocation policies
- PR6a: Land East of Oxford Road
PR6b: Land West of Oxford Road
PR6c: Land at Frieze Farm
PR7a: Land South East of Kidlington
PR7b: Land at Stratfield Farm
PR8: Land East of the A44
PR9: Land West of Yarnton
PR10: Land South East of Woodstock



Map Scale @ A3: 1:35,000



Reasons for selecting the preferred site allocations

- 1.152 All 42 site options in Areas of Search A and B have been assessed in the SA. In determining which sites should be taken forward, the Council has considered the results of the SA, other Local Plan evidence and the results of consultation and engagement. The Council has concluded that the sites illustrated in **Figure 1.12** would be suitable and would provide the best way of meeting the Plan's vision and objectives and achieving sustainable development.
- 1.153 In considering the suitability of sites, the Council has taken account of the need to meet the Plan's objectives and to achieve its vision.
- 1.154 The vision seeks to:
- support Oxford's world class economy, its universities and employment base;
 - ensure that people have convenient, affordable and sustainable travel opportunities to the city's places of work, study and recreation and to its services and facilities;
 - deliver development that is well connected to Oxford; and
 - provide for a range of household types and incomes reflecting Oxford's diverse needs.
- 1.155 In doing so it seeks to:
- create balanced and sustainable communities;
 - provide for exemplar design which responds distinctively and sensitively to the local built, historic and environmental context;
 - ensure development is supported by necessary infrastructure;
 - contribute to improving health and well-being; and
 - conserve and enhance the natural environment.
- 1.156 The objectives relate to:
- partnership working to meet needs and required infrastructure by 2031 (objective SO16);
 - providing development so it supports the projected economic growth which underpins the housing needs and local Oxford and Cherwell economies (objective SO17);
 - substantively providing affordable access to new homes for those requiring affordable housing, new entrants to the housing market, key workers and those requiring access to Oxford's key employment areas, and providing well designed development that responds to the local context (objective SO18); and
 - providing development so that it complements the County Council's Local Transport Plan (including the Oxford Transport Strategy) and facilitates demonstrable and deliverable improvements to the availability of sustainable transport for access to Oxford (objective SO19).
- 1.157 Oxford's importance as a key economic driver directly influences the rest of Oxfordshire; particularly where, as in Cherwell's case, there are significant, shared economic interests at the interface between the city and the district or along main transportation corridors. This includes the University of Oxford's Begbroke Science Park, London-Oxford Airport, the commercial area at Langford Lane, Kidlington and the allocated Northern Gateway site within Oxford.
- 1.158 The Council advises that it is seeking to benefit from and to help deliver the County Council's rapid transit (Local Transport Plan) proposals, to take advantage of the new Oxford Parkway Railway Station, to complement the proposal for a new Oxford Park and Ride facility off the Woodstock / Bladon / A44 roundabout, to capitalise on the provision of improved cycle routes into Oxford and help deliver a significant increase in the proportion of people accessing Oxford by alternative modes of transport to the private car.
- 1.159 Specific issues from its evidence studies including on transport, landscape, Green Belt, ecology (including the Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation), flooding and land availability have also been considered. The Council considers the need for sites to be deliverable and viable to be of high importance in view of the need to maintain a five year supply of sites and ensure that the required homes are delivered by 2031. The relationship between individual sites and the potential to revise the boundaries of sites has been taken into account.

- 1.160 The Council also advises that it has taken into account the potential impact of specific sites on the strategy of the adopted Local Plan and the guidance contained within the adopted Kidlington Framework Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It has also considered other strategies and plans of relevance including the Local Transport Plan, the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan, the adopted Oxford Core Strategy, the City Council's Housing Strategy and the existing and emerging West Oxfordshire plans.
- 1.161 The Council has considered public opinion – the main responses received to two formal periods of consultation on Issues and Options Papers and associated workshops. It has considered the outcome of engagement with service providers such as the County Council and the view of prescribed and statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England and Highways England. The view of individual site promoters and their site submissions have also been considered.
- 1.162 The Council's detailed reasoning for selecting sites and not taking forward other sites is set out in **Chapter 10** of the full SA Report.

Summary of Significant Effects of Strategic Policies on Oxford

- 1.163 **Table 1.12** presents the effects of the strategic policies within the Local Plan Part 1 Review on Oxford City. These effects are summarised in **Chapter 10** and outlined in more detailed in **Appendix 7** in the full SA Report.

Table 1.12: Summary of effects of strategic policies on Oxford

Site Allocation Policy	SA Objectives related to meeting Oxford's Needs			SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford		
	SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities and Oxford	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion
PR1	++	++	++	0	++	++/--
PR2	++	++	+	+	0	0
PR3	++?	++?	+	0	+	+/--?
No PR3 Policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
PR4a	0	+	+	+	+	+
PR4b	0	+	+	+	+	+
PR5	+	0	0	0	0	+
PR11	+	+	+	+	+	+
PR12a	++	+	+	+	0	0
PR12b	++?	0	0	+	+	+
PR13	++	+	+	+	+	0

- 1.164 Policy PR1 (Achieving Sustainable Development for Oxford) scores significant positive effects against SA objectives 1 (housing), 16 (employment), 17 (economic growth), 6 (accessibility to services and facilities), 10 (air quality and road congestion). This is because it aspires to accommodate Cherwell's apportionment of Oxford's unmet housing need (4,400 homes) in close proximity to Oxford. However,

significant negative effects are also recorded against SA objective 10 due to the fact that a significant number of new homes will be developed in close proximity to Oxford's Air Quality Management Area. Policy PR3 (Green Belt) scores similarly due to the fact that it sets out plans for the removal of areas of Green Belt for development and safeguarding.

- 1.165 Policy PR2 scores significant positive effects against SA objectives 1 (housing and 16 (employment) due to the fact that it sets out plans for the delivery of a diverse range of housing types, tenures and sizes to meet the needs of Oxford and its working population.
- 1.166 Policies PR12a (Delivering Sites and Maintaining Housing Supply), PR12b (Applications for Planning Permission for the Development of Sites Not Allocated in the Partial Review) and PR13 (Monitoring and Securing Delivery) score significant positive effects against SA objective 1 (housing) due to the fact that these policies seek to ensure Oxford's housing need is met as planned.

Summary of Significant Effects of Strategic Policies on Cherwell

- 1.167 **Table 1.13** presents the effects of the strategic policies within the Local Plan Part 1 Review on Cherwell. These effects are summarised in **Chapter 10** and outlined in more detailed in **Appendix 7** in the full SA Report.
- 1.168 Policy PR1 (Achieving Sustainable Development for Oxford) scores significant positive effects against SA objectives 6 (accessibility to services and facilities), 10 (air quality and road congestion) and 2 (health and well-being). This is because it aspires to accommodate Cherwell's apportionment of Oxford's unmet housing need (4,400 homes) in close proximity to Kidlington which has good access to existing services and facilities in Cherwell, including medical facilities, open spaces and public rights of way and sustainable transport links into Oxford to the south and Bicester to the north. However, a significant negative effect is recorded against SA objective 13 (efficient use of land) due to the fact that a significant number of new homes will be developed on greenfield land which is also recognised for its agricultural quality.
- 1.169 Policy PR3 (Green Belt) scores the same effects against SA objectives 10 and 13 for the same reasons. However significant negative effects are also recorded against SA objective 10 and 9 (historic environment). The significant negative effect against SA objective 10 is attributed to the fact that a pocket of land south of the A34 and west of the railway line is located in close proximity to the Oxford City Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) where release and development of the Green Belt is likely to generate road traffic which would load directly on to roads covered by the AQMA. A significant negative effect is recorded against SA objective 9 because the land east of the A44 and north of the railway line (to the south of the strategic development site allocated under Policy PR8) earmarked for development beyond the plan period, i.e. safeguarded contains two Grade II listed buildings. New development in close proximity to these heritage assets has the potential to have significant adverse effects on this objective.
- 1.170 A significant positive effect is recorded against SA objective 7 (biodiversity) for Policy PR5 (Green Infrastructure). This is because the policy requires habitats to be restored or re-created within developments and connected to a wider network of maintained and managed green infrastructure.

Table 1.13: Summary of effects of strategic policies on Cherwell District

Site Allocation Policy	SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford (Cherwell effects recorded here)			Other Social and Economic SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)			Environmental SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)							
	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA2: Improving Health and Well Being	SA4: To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	SA5: To create and sustain vibrant communities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flood Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management
PR1	0	++	++/-	++	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	0	-	--	0	0
PR2	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0
PR3	0	+	++/--?	+	0	-?	0?	-/+?	--?	0	-?	--?	0	0
No PR3 Policy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PR4a	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PR4b	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PR5	0	0	+	+	0	+	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0
PR11	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0
PR12a	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PR12b	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
PR13	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

Summary of Significant Effects of Site Allocation Policies on Oxford City

- 1.171 **Table 1.14** presents the effects of the strategic policies within the Local Plan Part 1 Review on Oxford City. These effects are summarised in **Chapter 10** and outlined in more detailed in **Appendix 7** in the full SA Report.

Table 1.14: Summary of effects of site allocation policies on Oxford City

Area of Search	Site Allocation Policy	SA Objectives related to meeting Oxford's Needs			SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford		
		SA1: Building Sustainable and Affordable Homes	SA16: Creating Employment Opportunities and Oxford	SA17: Creating Economic Growth	SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services and Facilities	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion
A	PR6a	++	++	++	0	++	++/--
	PR6b	++	++	+	0	+	+/--
	PR6c	0	0	0	0	+	0
	PR7a	++	++	+	0	+	+/--
	PR7b	++	+	+	0	+	+/--
	PR8	++	++	++	0	++	++/--
	PR9	++	+	+	0	+	+/-
B	PR10	++	+	+	0	+	+

- 1.172 With the exception of site allocation policy PR6c which allocates land for the replacement of a golf course, all site allocation policies score a significant positive effect against SA objective 1 (housing) due to the significant contribution each will make to meeting a proportion of Oxford's unmet housing need.
- 1.173 Site allocation policies PR6a, PR6b, PR7a and PR8 score significant positive effects against SA objective 16 (employment) due to the their close proximity and easy access to existing job opportunities within and near to Oxford.
- 1.174 Site allocation policies PR6a and PR8 score significant positive effects against SA objective 17 (economic growth) due to the fact that these policies set out plans for the provision of new local centres, services and facilities within these large strategic allocations, creating new long term employment opportunities.
- 1.175 Site allocation policies PR6a and PR8 score significant positive effects against SA objectives 6 (accessibility to local services and facilities) and 10 (air quality and road congestion) due to their provision of new local services and facilities, reducing the need to travel to Oxford via private car.
- 1.176 Significant negative effects are recorded against SA objective 10 for site allocation policies PR6a, PR6b, PR7a, PR7b, PR8 and PR9 due to the fact that these allocations have good access to the strategic road network into Oxford and the significant number of new homes developed within these sites will increase the number of vehicles loading on to roads in Oxford's Air Quality Management Area.

Summary of Significant Effects of Site Allocation Policies on Cherwell

1.177 **Table 1.15** presents the effects of the strategic policies within the Local Plan Part 1 Review on Oxford City. These effects are summarised in **Chapter 10** and outlined in more detailed in **Appendix 7** in the full SA Report.

Table 1.15: Summary of effects of site allocation policies on Cherwell District

Areas of Search	Site Allocation Policy	SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford (Cherwell effects recorded here)			Other Social and Economic SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)			Environmental SA objectives (scores only relate to Cherwell District)							
		SA3: Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion	SA6: Accessibility to Services	SA10: Reducing Road Pollution and Congestion	SA2: Improving Health and Well Being	SA4: To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	SA5: To create and sustain vibrant communities	SA7: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity	SA8: Protecting and Enhancing the Landscape	SA9: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	SA11: Improving Water Quality	SA12: Reducing Flood Risk	SA13: Efficient Use of Land	SA14: Sustainable Resource Consumption	SA15: Sustainable Waste Management
A	PR6a	0	++	++/-	++	0?	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	-	-	+
	PR6b	0	+	+/-	+	0?	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	-	-	+
	PR6c	0	++	0	0	0?	0	++?	+/-?	+/-?	0	+	--	-	+
	PR7a	0	+	+/-	+	0?	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	-	-	-
	PR7b	0	+	+/-	+	0?	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	-	-	-
	PR8	0	++	++/-	++	0?	+	+/-?	+/-?	-?	0	0	--	-	+
	PR9	0	++	+/-	+	0?	+	+/-?	+/-?	-?	0	0	--	-	+
B	PR10	0	++	+	+	0?	+	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	--?	-	+

- 1.178 Site allocation policies PR6a, PR6b, PR8, PR9 and PR10 score significant positive effects against SA objectives 6 (accessibility to local services and facilities) due to their close proximity and general good access to existing local services and facilities in Cherwell, notably Kidlington and Woodstock, reducing the need to travel further afield. Site allocation policies PR6a and PR8 also score significant positive effects against SA objectives 2 (health and well-being) and 10 (air quality and road congestion) due to their provision of new local services and facilities, including medical facilities and open spaces, reducing the need to travel to Oxford via private car.
- 1.179 Significant negative effects are also recorded against SA objective 10 for site allocation policies PR6a, PR6b, PR7a, PR7b and PR8 due to the fact that these allocations have good access to the strategic road network into Oxford and the significant number of new homes developed within these sites will increase the number of vehicles loading on to roads into Oxford, including its Air Quality Management Area.

- 1.180 Site allocation policy PR6c reserves the site for the potential construction of a golf course which, in places will help to safeguard the site's ecological assets and promote habitat connectivity. Therefore a significant positive effect is likely on SA objective 7 (biodiversity).
- 1.181 Site allocation policies PR6c, PR8, PR9 and PR10 are all likely to generate significant negative effects against SA objective 13 (efficient use of land) due to the fact that these policies plan for significant areas of development on greenfield land recognised as Grade 2 and 3 Agricultural Land, leading to a net loss of some of the district's best and most versatile agricultural land. While the other site allocation policies are also largely located on greenfield land, the developed areas of these allocations generally contain agricultural land of lower quality (Grade 4).

Cumulative Effects

- 1.182 **Table 1.12 to 1.15** above present a summary of the scores for all the policies set out in the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review. This enabled an assessment to be made of the likely significant effects of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review as a whole on each of the SA objectives, i.e. an assessment of cumulative effects as required by the SEA Regulations. In addition, consideration has been given to the cumulative effects of adopting the Local Plan Part 1 Review alongside the cumulative effects of the adopted Local Plan Part 1 Plan (2011-2031) (as described in the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 SA Addendum Report for Main Modifications published in October 2014) and the other significant projects, plans and programmes planned within the local planning authorities that border Cherwell District.³⁴
- 1.183 In combination, the adopted Local Plan Part 1 and the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review are likely to have a **significant negative** effects against the following SA objectives for both Oxford and Cherwell:
- **SA objective 10 (air quality and road congestion)** – due to the fact that the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review sets out plans for the delivery of 4,400 homes within Cherwell, increasing greenhouse gases from the construction and operation of the new communities as well as air pollution from increases in the number of vehicles on the road in and around the site allocations, particularly on roads into and out of north Oxford which is registered as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The adopted Local Plan Part 1 plans for the delivery of 21,734 new homes between 2014 and 2031 within the District, generating similar effects within and around the District's urban centres and Air Quality Management Areas.
 - **SA objective 7 (biodiversity)** – due to the fact that the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review sets out plans for the delivery of 4,400 homes within Cherwell, generally of greenfield land of varied ecological value, including habitats for protected species. This conclusion is supported by ecological advice provided by WYG on the potential cumulative impacts of the site allocations.³⁵ This study highlights the potential for adverse impacts on the Rushy Meadows SSSI from site allocation policy PR8 which includes 1,950 dwellings (approximately 42% of the total for the seven development areas) along with schools, an employment area and retail outlets. The potential for pollution run-off, dust, noise, light spillage and changes to water levels during the construction of the development noted. The study also identifies the potential cumulative effects on biodiversity in general arising from the proposed strategic sites, noting the potential for habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity, habitat and species loss, habitat disturbance and degradation, and species population. Similarly, the scale of growth planned for with the adopted Local Plan Part 1, particularly around Bicester, has the potential to generate the same adverse effects. The HRA accompanying the Local Plan Part 1 Review highlights the potential for effects³⁶ on European biodiversity sites within and in the vicinity of Cherwell District. However, the in-combination assessment with other projects and plans identified no significant effects on Oxford Meadows SAC in combination with the proposals contained in the Partial Review Proposed Submission Plan, provided that any mitigation measures identified for other projects and plans are put in place. The HRA Stage 1 (Screening) assessment has determined that the Partial Review of the Cherwell Local

³⁴ Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 SA Addendum for Main Modifications, LUC, October 2017.

³⁵ Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Review Ecological Advice Report, WYG, 2017.

³⁶ Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review, Oxford's Unmet Housing Need – Habitat Regulations Assessment Report on Options Consultation and Additional Sites, Atkins, June 2017.

Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1): Oxford's Unmet Housing Need Proposed Submission Plan will not lead to likely significant effects, either alone or in combination, on the qualifying features of Oxford Meadows SAC.³⁷

- **SA objective 8 (landscape)** – due to the fact that the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review and the adopted Local Plan Part 1 set out plans for the delivery of 4,400 and 21,734 homes respectively. Most of these homes are to be provided on greenfield land of varied landscape character and sensitivity. In combination, the loss of such a significant area of countryside has the potential to generate significant negative effects against this objective. However, there is also potential for some positive effects driven by the strong wording of the site allocation policies which require the design and layout of the developments to reflect the local landscape and setting. In certain locations this could result in enhancements to the existing rural-urban edges of settlements and improve accessibility to the surrounding countryside.
- **SA objective 9 (historic environment)** – due to the fact that the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review and the adopted Local Plan Part 1 set out plans for the delivery of 4,400 and 21,734 homes respectively. Most of these homes are to be provided on greenfield land of varied historic value and sensitivity. In combination, a significant area of development has the potential to generate significant negative effects on heritage assets within and in close proximity to development, including the setting of historic Oxford. However, there is also potential for some positive effects driven by site allocation policies that incorporate measures to protect and enhance the setting of historic assets. In certain locations this could result in enhancements to the existing setting of historic assets and improve accessibility to the surrounding historic landscape.
- **SA objective 13 (efficient use of land)** – due to the fact that the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review and the adopted Local Plan Part 1 set out plans for the delivery of 4,400 and 21,734 homes respectively. Most of these homes are to be provided on greenfield land of varied agricultural value, including some of the District's best and most versatile agricultural land.

1.184 In combination, the adopted Local Plan Part 1 and the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review are likely to have a **significant positive** effects against the following SA objectives for both Oxford and Cherwell:

- **SA objective 1 (housing)** – due to the fact that the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review sets out plans for the delivery of 4,400 homes within Cherwell to meet an agreed proportion of Oxford's housing shortfall over the plan period. The adopted Local Plan Part 1 plans for the delivery of 21,734 new homes between 2014 and 2031 within the District.
- **SA objective 16 (employment)** – due to the fact that the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review sets out plans for the delivery of 4,400 homes within Cherwell, which help to house Oxford's workforce as the city's diverse economy grows, helping to facilitate high and stable levels of employment. Furthermore, the strategic site allocations within the adopted Local Plan Part 1 generate new opportunities for employment in the District, improve the District's town centres and transport accessibility helping to reduce commuting times.
- **SA objective 17 (economic growth)** – due to the fact that the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review sets out plans for the delivery of 4,400 homes within Cherwell, which help to house Oxford's student population as well as those that work for the city's universities and other education establishments. Furthermore, the strategic site allocations within the adopted Local Plan Part 1 generate new opportunities for employment in the District, improve the District's town centres and transport accessibility helping to reduce commuting times.
- **SA objective 10 (air quality and road congestion)** – due to the fact that both the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review and the adopted Local Plan Part 1 set out plans for the provision of new and improved sustainable transport links into Oxford and Cherwell's urban centres, helping to limit the need for new residents to travel by private car and reducing road congestion and air pollution.
- **SA objective 7 (biodiversity)** – due to the fact that both the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review and the adopted Local Plan Part 1 require measures to mitigate any adverse effects on ecological assets and where possible generate ecological enhancements.

³⁷ Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review, Oxford's Unmet Housing Need – Proposed Submission Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report, Atkins, June 2017.

- 1.185 Cherwell District Council is bordered by six other local planning authorities each with their own Local Plans setting out strategic development in the area over the next few decades. **Chapter 10** of the full SA Report sets out details of the strategic development planned within the districts that neighbour Cherwell.
- 1.186 Housing and employment growth is planned in the districts immediately surrounding Cherwell. With the exception of Oxford directly to the south, the main focus of growth in Cherwell, at Bicester, Banbury and Upper Heyford and proposed around Kidlington is remote from the majority of the centres of growth in neighbouring districts limiting the potential for significant cumulative effects.
- 1.187 Brackley in South Northamptonshire is closest to Banbury and Bicester, but is of relatively small size and is only due to receive relatively modest growth. This is also the case for Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton in West Oxfordshire, and Stratford-upon-Avon to the north. The main towns in Aylesbury Vale, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, including Aylesbury and Thame, are some distance away from the main growth in Cherwell and therefore are unlikely to have negative cumulative effects.
- 1.188 The main relationship between Cherwell is with Oxford, particularly with Kidlington and Bicester. The Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 aims to reduce out commuting from the District for work and create more self-sufficient towns in Bicester and Banbury, whereas the Local Plan Part 1 Review allocates land to meet a proportion of Oxford's housing shortfall making links with the City important.
- 1.189 As a regional centre, Oxford attracts visitors and workers from Cherwell and all of the local planning authorities neighbouring Cherwell. Sustained growth within all of these areas is like to result in a significant increase in traffic along the strategic road network in and around Cherwell and Oxford, notably along the M40, A34, A40, A41, A43 and A44. This has the potential to exacerbate existing congestion and air quality issues in and around Cherwell and Oxford with **significant negative** effects against **SA objective 10 (air pollution and road congestion)**.
- 1.190 Furthermore, Cherwell District shares a housing market area with Oxford City and the adjoining Oxfordshire authorities, notably, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire. Together, the significant growth planned within these local authorities is likely to make a significant contribution to meeting their respective and collectively Oxford's housing needs with **significant positive** effects against **SA objective 1 (housing)**.
- 1.191 The preferred route of the High Speed Rail 2 passes through Cherwell District, through Fringford ward to the north of Bicester and is likely to have negative impacts on the environment and local communities in that area. Policy SLE5: High Speed Rail 2 – London to Birmingham has been included in the adopted Local Plan Part 1 in order to minimise the adverse impacts on the environment in Cherwell and maximise the benefits that could arise from the proposal, particularly in terms of improving rail services on the West Coast mainline and economic impacts. There is a potential for residents of the communities within the Fringford ward to be adversely affected by construction traffic and activities, however, policy SLE5 seeks to address such potential effects. Bicester is also close by.
- 1.192 The first stage of East-West Rail (Oxford to Bicester and Marylebone) has been completed and includes the construction of the Oxford Parkway Railway Station to the south of Kidlington next to the long-established Water Eaton Park and Ride and more frequent services in and out of Oxford. The final route is expected to open new links from Oxford and Oxford Parkway to Milton Keynes and Bedford by 2019 and onto Cambridge in due course.
- 1.193 In 2016, in the Autumn Budget Statement, the Government announced a commitment and support to deliver a new Oxford to Cambridge 'Expressway' including development funding for the evaluation of route options.
- 1.194 The Department for Transport (DfT) published a study on the proposed scheme, which set out three shortlisted route options for an Expressway, as well as sub-options to route around Oxford. Regardless of the option chosen, it is expected that an Oxford to Cambridge Expressway would help address constraints along the A34, a key strategic route connecting Oxfordshire with the south of the country and the wider Strategic Road Network.
- 1.195 It is unlikely that the development proposed in Cherwell could combine with the potential adverse effects of the High Speed Rail 2 and the development in neighbouring districts to create cumulative

impacts, such as in relation to landscape and visual effects, urbanisation, and noise impacts due to the distances involved.

Recommendations

- 1.196 During the development of the Local Plan Part 1 policies, LUC appraised draft versions of the policies, highlighted their potential for significant effects and made recommendations on how the policies could be improved. Details of the recommendations made on the draft versions of the policies and the subsequent changes made are set out in **Chapter 10** of the full SA Report.
- 1.197 **Tables 1.12 to 1.15** above present a summary of the effects of the final versions of the policies set out in the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review which includes the amendments made to the draft policies as a result of the SA recommendations set out in **Chapter 10** of the full SA Report. These effects have been used to assess the cumulative effects of the Local Plan Part 1 Review as a whole.

Mitigation

- 1.198 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to "*the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme*". For many of the potential negative effects identified in relation to the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review, mitigation will be provided through the implementation of other policies in the Local Plan, specifically those in the adopted Local Plan Part 1.
- 1.199 **Table 1.16** below identifies the policies within the adopted Local Plan Part 1 that are expected to provide mitigation for the potential negative effects of the policies within the Local Plan Part 1 Partial review. No residual negative effects are recorded for the following SA Objectives, therefore additional mitigation is not outlined for these objectives in the table below:
- SA Objective 1 – To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.
 - SA Objective 2 – To improve the health and well-being of the population & reduce inequalities in health.
 - SA Objective 3 – To reduce poverty and social exclusion.
 - SA Objective 4 – To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.
 - SA Objective 6 – To improve accessibility to all services and facilities.
 - SA Objective 11 – To maintain and improve the water quality of rivers and to achieve sustainable water resources management.
 - SA Objective 16 – To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the district and Oxford and Oxfordshire.
 - SA Objective 17 – To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District and Oxford and Oxfordshire.

Table 1.16: Mitigation for potential residual negative effects identified

SA objectives for which potential significant negative effects have been identified	Other Local Plan policies providing possible mitigation
5. To create and sustain vibrant communities.	BSC 5: Area Renewal supports area renewal proposals that direct investment to improve the physical and community fabric of the District to improve social outcomes, improve health and well-being.
7. To conserve and	ESD 9: Protection of the Oxford Meadows SAC requires that the construction and operational phases of the development are not to have

SA objectives for which potential significant negative effects have been identified	Other Local Plan policies providing possible mitigation
enhance and create resources for biodiversity.	any adverse effects on the water quality or quantity of any adjacent or nearby watercourses or alter the hydrological regime of the Oxford Meadows SAC. This policy also states that construction and operation of developments must conform to Environmental Quality Standards and all run off rates are to be maintained at greenfield run of rates. ESD 10: Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment promotes biodiversity net gain and the maintenance of existing ecological networks. The policy seeks to avoid development that will result in adverse effects on international, national, regional and local important sites. ESD 11: Conservation Target Areas outlines that where a development lies within close proximity to a Conservation Target Area, surveys and a report are to be undertaken if and development will not be permitted if it compromises the aims of the Conservation Target Area. ESD 16: The Oxford Canal aims to protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the Oxford Canal corridor. ESD 17: Green Infrastructure seeks to maintain and improve the green infrastructure network while also protecting sites of nature importance. The policy requires all developments to provide green infrastructure within their proposals.
8. To protect and enhance landscape character and quality and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside.	ESD 12: Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) seeks to protect and enhance the Cotswolds AONB and its setting. ESD 13: Local Landscape Protection and Enhancement aims to protect and enhance the landscape especially in urban fringe locations.
9. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the historic environment.	Policy ESD 15: The Character of the Built and Historic Environment aims to ensure that new development to complement and enhance the character of its context through sensitive siting, layout and high quality design. ESD 16: The Oxford Canal will not permit proposals that will have a detrimental impact to the Conservation Area.
10. To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and road congestion.	SLE 4: Improved Transport and Connections seeks to deliver key connections to support modal shift and to support more sustainable locations for employment and housing growth. This policy also requires new development to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling. ESD 1: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change aims to distribute developments in the most sustainable locations and deliver development that seeks to reduce the need to travel and promote the use of sustainable modes of transport. ESD 2: Energy Hierarchy and Allowable Solutions promotes the use of the energy hierarchy: Reducing energy use; supplying energy efficiently and giving priority to decentralised energy supply; Making use of renewable energy; Making use of allowable solutions. ESD 5: Renewable Energy supports the renewable and low carbon energy provision wherever any adverse impacts can be addressed satisfactorily and the provision can be proven viable.
12. To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well-	ESD 1: Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change seeks to minimise the risk of flooding and making use of sustainable drainage methods. ESD 3: Sustainable Construction notes that the District is in an area of

SA objectives for which potential significant negative effects have been identified	Other Local Plan policies providing possible mitigation
being, the economy and the environment.	water stress and so a higher level of water efficiency than required in the Building Regulations is required with developments achieving a limit of 110 litres/person/day. ESD 9: Protection of the Oxford Meadows SAC requires that the construction and operational phases of the development are not to have any adverse effects on the water quality or quantity of any adjacent or nearby watercourses or alter the hydrological regime of the Oxford Meadows SAC. This policy also states that and all run off rates are to be maintained at greenfield run of rates.
13. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.	BSC 2: The Effective and Efficient Use of Land -Brownfield land and Housing Density supports housing development that will effectively and efficiently use land and will encourage the re-use of previously developed land in sustainable locations.
14. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products.	ESD 3: Sustainable Construction expects development to incorporate sustainable design and construction technology to achieve zero carbon development and maximise resource efficiency.
15. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.	ESD 3: Sustainable Construction supports development proposals that reduce waste and pollution and make adequate provision for the recycling of waste.

Conclusions

- 1.200 The Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Vision, Strategic Objectives (**Chapter 6** in the full SA Report), nine areas of search (**Chapter 7** in the full SA Report), three quantum options (**Chapter 8** in the full SA Report), 41 site options (**Chapter 9** in the full SA Report) and ten strategic policies and eight site allocation policies (**Chapter 10** in the full SA Report) have been appraised against the SA objectives outlined in Cherwell District Council's SA Framework outlined in **Chapter 5** in the full SA Report.
- 1.201 In general, the options and policy approaches that have been taken forward in the Local Plan are those that perform more positively, or at least as well, against the SA objectives than the rejected options, although in number of cases other planning considerations have determined that other options should be taken forward.
- 1.202 The principle of meeting a portion of Oxford's unmet housing needs within the District is likely to generate significant positive effects for both Oxford and Cherwell. The development of new residential communities within close proximity to Oxford within Cherwell will increase the quantity and the range of types of homes (including affordable homes), as well as maintain – even improve – communities access to the County's primary services and facilities, employment opportunities and its special qualities, including its wildlife, cultural heritage and countryside. The Council has recognised the effects on existing communities and proposed detailed policies which will provide mitigation and enhancements.

- 1.203 However, providing new strategic residential development within Cherwell District also has the potential to generate significant negative effects on these same special qualities.
- 1.204 The significant positive and negative effects of the development of more homes are likely to be enhanced and mitigated by the strategic policies within the adopted Local Plan Part 1, the policies of the Part 1 Partial Review and the development management policies of the Local Plan Part 2. The SA has assisted the Council in forming policies which avoid areas of historic significance on sites for example. These should go a long way towards mitigating the potential negative effects of the overall scale of development proposed, although some significant effects are likely to remain.
- 1.205 In addition to the SA/SEA, work undertaken for the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is important for determining potential significant effects. The HRA accompanying the Local Plan Part 1 Review highlights the potential for effects³⁸ on European biodiversity sites within and in the vicinity of Cherwell District. However, the in-combination assessment with other projects and plans identified no significant effects on Oxford Meadows SAC in combination with the proposals contained in the Partial Review Proposed Submission Plan, provided that any mitigation measures identified for other projects and plans are put in place. The HRA Stage 1 (Screening) assessment has determined that the Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1): Oxford's Unmet Housing Need Proposed Submission Plan will not lead to likely significant effects, either alone or in combination, on the qualifying features of Oxford Meadows SAC.³⁹
- 1.206 The overall impact on the Green Belt and its purposes, including the amount of land that needs to be removed to effectively implement the Plan, has been considered by the Council in the context of the outcomes of the SA for example in relation to the significant positive effects for affordable housing provision in locations which best help to meet Oxford's unmet housing needs.

Monitoring

- 1.207 The SEA Regulations require that "*The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action*" (Regulation 17), and that the environmental report should provide information on "*a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring*" (Schedule 2).
- 1.208 The Government's latest SA Guidance in the National Planning Practice Guidance⁴⁰ states that details of the proposals for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the adopted local plan should be included in the SA Report, or the post-adoption statement.
- 1.209 **Table 1.17** sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the effects of implementing the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review.
- 1.210 Monitoring indicators are suggested for all of the objectives in the SA framework.
- 1.211 The monitoring indicators set out in Chapter 6 of the SA/SEA Adoption Statement for the adopted Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 (2011-2031) have been considered alongside the monitoring indicators suggested in representations received (see **Appendix 3** in the full SA Report) to the draft monitoring framework for the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Proposed Submission Document.
- 1.212 Given the principle driver of the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review is to meet a proportion of Oxford's outstanding housing need, it will be important that Cherwell District and Oxford City councils work closely together to monitor the delivery of these homes and the direct and indirect effects they have on them both in isolation and in combination.

³⁸ Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review, Oxford's Unmet Housing Need – Habitat Regulations Assessment Report on Options Consultation and Additional Sites, Atkins, June 2017.

³⁹ Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review, Oxford's Unmet Housing Need – Proposed Submission Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report, Atkins, June 2017.

⁴⁰ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

Table 1.17: Proposed monitoring indicators for monitoring the effects of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review

SA Objective	Suggested indicators (and Policy Reference from Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review)
SA Objectives related to meeting Oxford's Needs	
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.	• Annual housing commitments and completions that specifically meet the needs of Oxford City. (Policies PR1, PR12a, PR12b and PR13). • Net affordable housing completions/acquisitions per tenure that specifically meet the needs of Oxford City. (Policies PR1, PR2, PR12a, PR12b and PR13). • Number of 'extra care' completions that specifically meet the needs of Oxford City. (Policies PR1, PR2, PR12a, PR12b and PR13).
16. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the District and Oxford and Oxfordshire.	• Employment commitments and completions on allocated employment land in Cherwell and Oxford (Policy PR1). • Employment commitments and completions on non-allocated employment land in Cherwell and Oxford (Policy PR1). • Completions resulting in a loss of employment use to non-employment use in Cherwell and Oxford (Policy PR1).
17. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the District and Oxford and Oxfordshire.	• Kidlington centre and Oxford City centre use (use classes A1-A5, B1a, D2) (Policy PR1). • No. of retail impact assessments submitted with planning applications in Cherwell and Oxford (Policy PR1).
SA objectives with particular spatial relevance to Oxford	
3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion.	• Completed development per type (Policies PR1, PR2, PR4a, PR4b and PR6a-PR10).
6. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities.	• Completed education infrastructure (Policies PR1 and PR6a-PR10). • Completed health care infrastructure (Policies PR1 and PR6a-PR10). • Amount, type and location of open space/sport/recreation facilities (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Areas deficient in recreation provision by type and amount (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Completed built development on (former) sites of open space, outdoor sport and recreation (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Completed community facilities infrastructure (Policy Policies PR1 and PR6a-PR10). • Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling (Policies PR1, PR4a, PR4b, PR6a-PR10 and PR11). • Completed green infrastructure schemes (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).

SA Objective	Suggested indicators (and Policy Reference from Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review)
10. To reduce air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions) and road congestion.	• Carbon emissions in Cherwell and the City of Oxford per capita (Policy PR1). • Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling (Policies PR1, PR4a, PR4b, PR6a-PR10 and PR11). • Completed transport improvement schemes (Policies PR1, PR4a, PR4b, PR6a-PR10 and PR11). • Number of Energy Statements submitted (Policy PR1). • Number of District Heating Feasibility Assessments submitted (Policy PR1). • Number of permitted district heating schemes in the district (Policy PR1). • Permitted renewable energy capacity per type (Policy PR1).
Other Social and Economic SA objectives	
2. To improve the health and well-being of the population & reduce inequalities in health.	• Completed health care infrastructure (Policies PR1 and PR6a-PR10). • Amount, type and location of open space/sport/recreation facilities (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Areas deficient in recreation provision by type and amount (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Open spaces in the district meeting quality standards (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Completed green infrastructure schemes (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).
4. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	• Crime levels in Cherwell District (Policy PR1).
5. To create and sustain vibrant communities.	• Permissions granted contrary to design consultee advice on design grounds (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).
Environmental SA objectives	
7. To conserve and enhance and create resources for biodiversity.	• Number of permissions granted contrary to consultee (Environment Agency, BBOWT, CDC/OCC etc.) advice on water quality grounds within the SAC catchment (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Total Local Wildlife Site/Local Geological Site area (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Changes in priority habitats by number & type (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Changes in priority species by number & type (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Ecological condition of SSSIs (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Distribution and status of farmland birds (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Distribution and status of water voles (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Permissions granted contrary to tree officer advice (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Permissions granted contrary to biodiversity consultee advice (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Number of Ecological Surveys submitted with applications (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Total amount of Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act s41 Habitats of Principal Importance within active Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).

SA Objective	Suggested indicators (and Policy Reference from Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review)
	• Permissions granted in Conservation Target Areas contrary to biodiversity consultee advice (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Completed green infrastructure schemes (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).
8. To protect and enhance landscape character and quality and make accessible for enjoyment, the countryside.	• Number and location of urban fringe restoration/improvement schemes completed (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Permissions granted contrary to Landscape Officer advice (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Permissions granted contrary to design consultee advice on design grounds (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).
9. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the historic environment.	• Permissions granted contrary to the advice of Historic England/consultee advice on heritage grounds (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Number of new (and reviews of) conservation area appraisals (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Completed green infrastructure schemes (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).
11. To maintain and improve the water quality of rivers and to achieve sustainable water resources management.	• % of new dwellings completed achieving water use below 110 litres/person/day (Policy PR1). • Completed SuDS schemes in the district (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Number of permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality grounds (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Number of permissions granted contrary to consultee (Environment Agency, BBOWT, CDC/OCC etc.) advice on water quality grounds within the SAC catchment (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).
12. To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.	• Permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on Flood Risk grounds (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Flood Risk Assessments received for development proposals within Flood Zones 2 & 3, within 1 ha of Flood Zone 1, or 9m of any watercourse (Policies PR1, PR5, PR6a-PR10, PR11, PR12b and PR13). • Completed SuDS schemes in the district (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).
13. To improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and encouraging urban renaissance.	• % of residential completions on previously developed land (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Net housing density of completions (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Completed development (per type) in the Green Belt (Policies PR1, PR3, PR5 and PR6a-PR10). • Permissions granted contrary to design consultee advice on design grounds (Policies PR1, PR5 and PR6a-PR10).
14. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products.	• Completed non-residential development achieving BREEAM Very Good, BREEAM Excellent (Policies PR1 and PR2).
15. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.	• % of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and compost. (Policy PR1) • % of Construction and demolition waste re-used. (Policy PR1)

- 1.213 It should be noted that all of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review site allocation policies (PR6a, PR6b, PR6c, PR7a, PR7b, PR8, PR9 and PR10) are located on greenfield land, a significant proportion of which is registered as some of the District's best and most versatile agricultural land. Development in these locations will result in the loss of this land, significant adverse effects in relation to SA objective 8 (efficient use of land), effects which cannot be mitigated. Therefore, in terms of meeting the SEA Regulations, the Council may only be required to monitor specifically how much greenfield land and of what grade of agricultural land is lost due to implementation of the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review policies.
- 1.214 To achieve efficiencies, and ensure environmental effects of implementing any of the Local Plan Part 1 policies are monitored, SA monitoring of the Local Plan should be conducted as part of the overall approach to monitoring achievement of the Local Plan objectives.
- 1.215 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency). It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders, and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored, where possible and appropriate obtaining information that is up to date and reliable.

Next Steps

- 1.216 This SA Report will be available for consultation alongside the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Proposed Submission Document.
- 1.217 After the public consultation, another Final SA Report will be produced for submission alongside the Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review Final Submission Document.

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