



## LOCAL PLAN MONITORING REPORT 2016

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## **I. Executive Summary**

1. This is the West Oxfordshire Local Plan Monitoring Report 2016. It primarily covers the two-year period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2016, although data relating to biodiversity monitoring covers the period to 31st March 2015 only as more recent data for 2015/16 has not yet been made available.

2. In accordance with legislative requirements this monitoring report provides information on the following:

- Local Plan progress
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Duty to co-operate
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Local Plan policy implementation

### **Local Plan Progress**

3. Good progress has been made with the new Local Plan for West Oxfordshire having been formally submitted for examination in July 2015. The examination was held in November 2015 and following receipt of the Inspector's preliminary findings in December 2015, the examination was suspended for a period of 12 months to allow for additional work and consultation on main changes to the plan to be carried out.

4. It is anticipated that the examination will recommence in early 2017 with the plan to be adopted no later than autumn 2017.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

5. The Council submitted its CIL charging schedule for examination in September 2015 and there was some discussion of CIL matters as part of the Local Plan examination in November 2015. However, in light of the suspension of the Local Plan examination, the CIL examination has now also been suspended until December 2016.

6. It is anticipated that the CIL charging schedule will be adopted alongside the Local Plan by autumn 2017.

### **Duty to Co-operate**

7. Section 110 of the Localism Act sets out a 'duty to co-operate' which essentially means that local planning authorities and other 'prescribed bodies' must engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis to address cross-boundary issues of strategic importance such as housing and transport.

8. The Council continues to actively engage with a broad range of parties in the preparation of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 and supporting evidence base.

9. In his preliminary findings on the Local Plan the Inspector was able to conclude that the Council had fulfilled the duty to co-operate. Further consideration will be given to cross-boundary matters of strategic importance when the Local Plan examination resumes in December 2016. The Council's duty to co-operate statement will be updated accordingly.

## Neighbourhood Planning

10. There are five Neighbourhood Plans in West Oxfordshire:

- Chipping Norton
- Broadwell Village Neighbourhood Plan
- Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan
- Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan
- Hailey Neighbourhood Plan

11. The Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan was formally formally 'made' (adopted) on 15 March 2016 and now forms part of the statutory development plan for West Oxfordshire.

12. The remaining plans are currently in progress.

## Local Plan Policy Implementation

### *Providing New Homes*

13. Over the past 30 years, the population of West Oxfordshire has increased by +21,800 people or +25%. Just under half of this growth (+9,700 people) took place in the past 10 years (from 2005 to 2015).

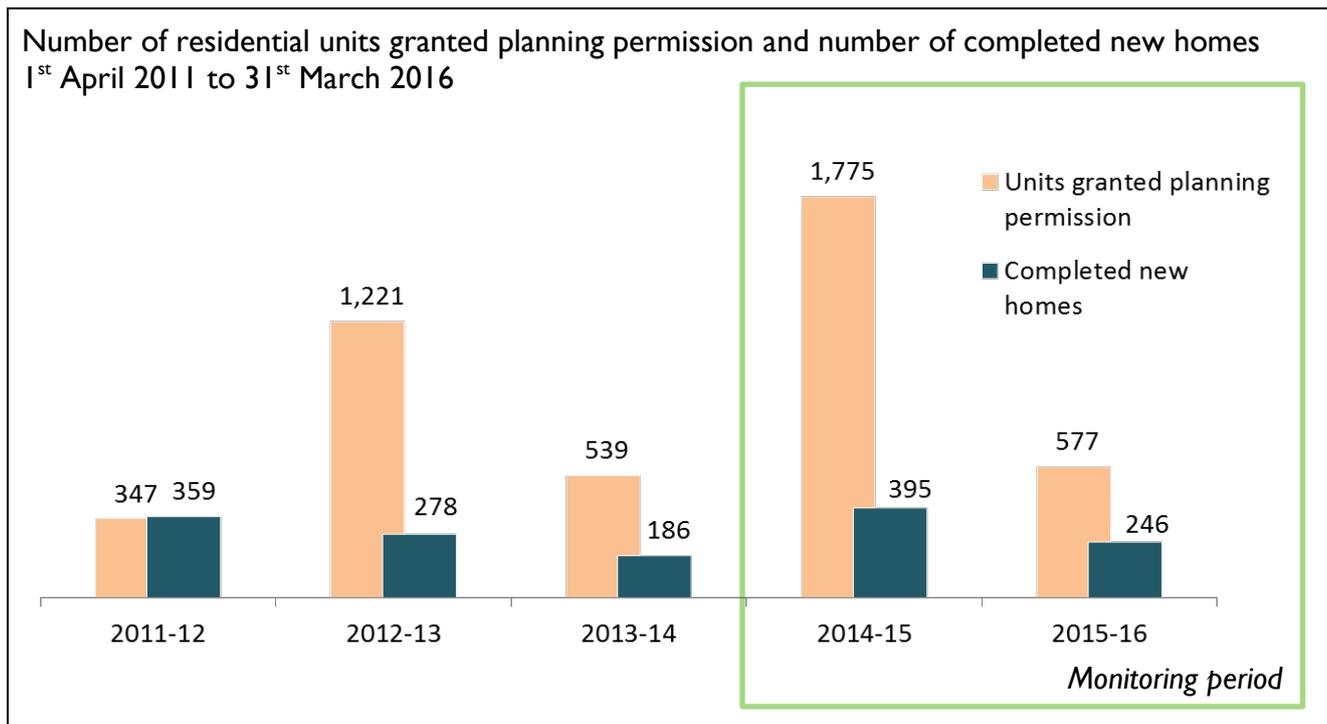
14. The main driver of West Oxfordshire's population growth has been inward internal migration i.e. people moving from elsewhere in the UK.

15. By 2039 the number of people aged 85+ living in West Oxfordshire is expected to reach 8,300, more than double the number in this age group in 2015.

16. In the monitoring period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016, a total of:

- 2,352 homes were granted planning permission with **1,775** granted in 2014-15 and **577** granted in 2015-16.
- 641 (net) new homes were completed with **395** completed in 2014-15 (the highest since 2011-12) and **246** completed in 2015-16.

17. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, a further 3,769 dwellings (3,193 on sites with 10 or more units and 576 on small sites) have an extant (existing) planning permission or resolution to grant planning permission subject to completion of a legal agreement. It is therefore anticipated that dwelling completion rates will increase significantly in future years.



18. The largest developments granted planning permission in the monitoring period were:

2014-15: **700** units planned for Land between Monahan Way, Carterton Road and Burford Road (700 units);  
**250** units planned for Land at Swinbrook Road, Carterton,

2015-16: **228** units planned for Land South and East of Walterbush Road Chipping Norton.

19. Major developments contributing to the growth in completed new homes in the District were:

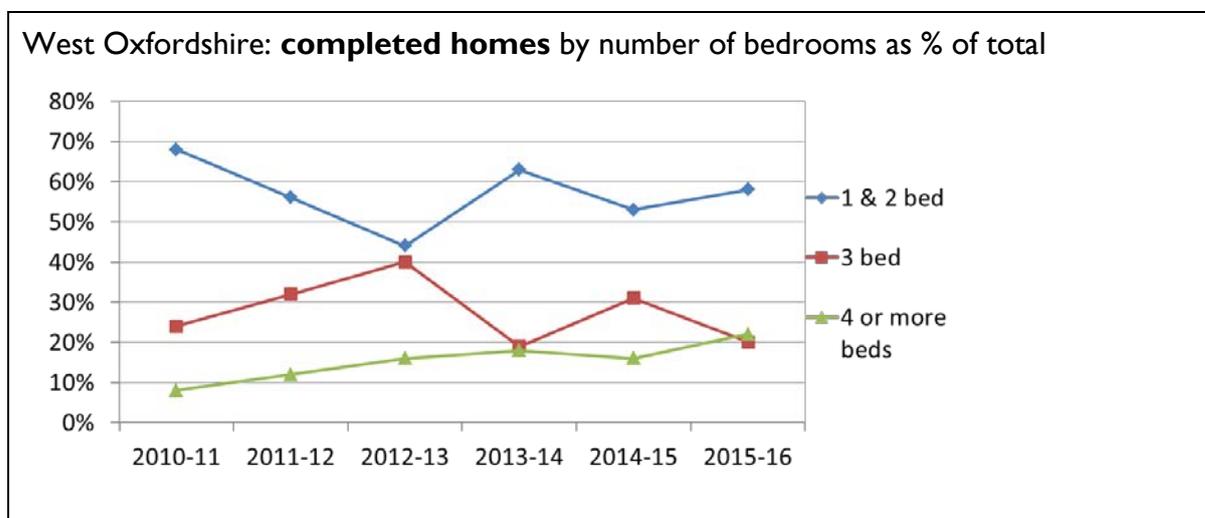
2014-15: **133** dwellings completed on the Buttercross Works site in Witney (70% of completions for Witney in that year)

2015-16: **44** dwellings completed to the north of Swinbrook Road at Carterton (75% of completions for Carterton in that year)

20. Detailed monitoring data shows that:

- The proportion of homes completed on previously developed (brownfield) land was 75% in 2014-15 and 45% in 2015-16.
- There were no new permitted Rural Exception site schemes in the monitoring period.
- The total number of affordable housing completions was 103 (26%) in 2014-15 and 75 (37%) in 2015-16.

- The number of households with points on the housing waiting list in West Oxfordshire has increased from 663 as of 1 April 2014 to 922 as of 1 Apr 2016, an increase of 259 (39%).
- 1 and 2 bedroom properties continue to be the majority of new homes completed in West Oxfordshire. Over the past five years (2011-12 to 2015-16), 54% of new homes were 1 or 2 bed, 30% were 3 bed and 16% were 4 bed or more.



### *Sustainable Economic Growth*

21. The number of full time jobs in West Oxfordshire has increased and unemployment has fallen.

- Between 2011 and 2014 the total number of full time employees increased by 3,200 and the number of part time employees declined by 800
- As of May 2016, a total of 360 people in West Oxfordshire were claiming out of work benefits (claimant count) equivalent to 0.5% of the working age population (aged 16 to 64). This was below the regional (1.0%) and England (1.7%) averages.

22. As of May 2016, superfast broadband was available to 90% of all West Oxfordshire premises, up from 67% in January 2013. The aim is for 100% coverage by December 2017.

23. There was a total of 15 premises - of which 12 are pubs - listed as Assets of Community Value in West Oxfordshire as of 31 March 2016.

24. The employment floorspace permitted for business use in West Oxfordshire over the monitoring period was 5,405 m<sup>2</sup> in 2014-15 and 8,600 m<sup>2</sup> in 2015-16. The largest area planning permission granted in 2014-15 was land at West Oxon Business Park (Carterton) – a 4,426 m<sup>2</sup> warehouse / storage facility for Airbus

25. The largest contributor to change in retail floorspace in the monitoring period was the completion of the new Aldi supermarket in Chipping Norton.

## *Transport and Movement*

26. The Census 2011 shows that:

- The proportion of people driving a car to work in West Oxfordshire district was **71%** of all commuters. This was above the South East average (65%) and England average (60%).
- **16%** of commuters travelled to work in West Oxfordshire district by walking or cycling, just about the averages for the South East (15%) and England (14%).
- The rate of people working from home in the district is relatively high, especially in rural areas. 14% of those in employment in West Oxfordshire were working mainly at or from home. This was up from 11% in 2001 and above the England 2011 average (11%).

27. The traffic count point showing the highest traffic flow in West Oxfordshire continues to be the A40 East of B4022 with 30,400 annual average vehicles per day in 2015. The road section showing the greatest increase in vehicles between 2011 and 2015 was the A4095 East of Witney with an extra 1,000 vehicles on average per day now making use of that route (11,300 movements per day in 2015).

28. There were 2 travel plans (for sustainable travel) produced in West Oxfordshire in each of the monitoring years 2014-15 and 2015-16

## *Environmental and Heritage Assets*

29. The latest report by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (see annex) shows that there was:

- No change in the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- No substantial change in biodiversity assets.

30. Additional local Environmental and Heritage monitoring data shows that:

- Two solar farms were accredited in 2014-15 (none accredited in 2015-16). Westerfield Solar Farm with 10,700 MWh pa (data Nov15) and Kencot Hill Solar Farm with 36,300 MWh pa (data Dec15).
- West Oxfordshire has 2 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).
  - Air Quality at the Chipping Norton and Witney AQMAs exceed the objective for nitrogen dioxide.
  - Concentrations outside of the AQMAs are all below the objectives at relevant locations (latest report 2014).
- 24 out of 51 Conservation Areas have an up to date Character Appraisal.
- There is a reducing number of “At Risk” sites in West Oxfordshire included in the Heritage At Risk Registers:
  - In 2013: 3 places of worship and 24 archaeology entries;
  - In 2014: 1 place of worship and 22 archaeology entries;
  - In 2015: 1 place of worship and 14 archaeology entries

## 2. Introduction

### Purpose of the Annual Monitoring report

West Oxfordshire District Council has a statutory obligation to produce a monitoring report according to requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

The purpose of the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is to provide the latest information on:

- Local Plan progress
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Duty to co-operate
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Local Plan policy implementation

This AMR covers the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016.

The next Annual Monitoring Report will be published in mid-2017 and will cover the period up to 31 March 2017.

### Changes to the West Oxfordshire Annual Monitoring report

This Annual Monitoring Report includes indicators used in previous versions of West Oxfordshire's Monitoring reports and takes into account the proposed revised set of indicators as set out in the submission draft Local Plan 2031.

There have been three main changes to this version of the AMR:

1. The overall structure of the AMR now follows the framework of the policies as set out in the submission draft Local Plan;
2. New indicators are included where available;
3. Reporting is for the total District and by Sub-Area.

### Structure of this report

**Section 3** reports on the progress of the emerging West Oxfordshire Local Plan and associated documents.

**Section 4** looks at neighbourhood planning within the District.

**Section 5** provides a summary overview of social statistics for the District

**Section 6** sets out the monitoring results for the past two years (2014-15 and 2015-16) in detail. This section uses the theme headings from the submission draft Local Plan 2031.

For further information on the AMR, please contact West Oxfordshire District Council's Planning Policy team:

Email: [planning.policy@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@westoxon.gov.uk) Telephone: 01993 861667

### 3. West Oxfordshire's Local Plan and associated documents

The West Oxfordshire Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the proposed timetable for preparing the Local Plan and other policy documents that will be relevant to future planning decisions.

An updated Local Development Scheme was published in March 2016<sup>1</sup>

#### Local Plan Progress

The Council's current Local Plan was adopted in 2006 and had an end date of 2011. Whilst most of the policies have been formally saved under transitional arrangements and are still used for development management purposes, the Council is seeking to introduce a replacement Local Plan as soon as possible.

A new draft Local Plan covering the period up to 2031 was formally published for a 6-week period of consultation from 27 March – 8 May 2015 in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Representations were received from around 150 individuals and organisations and the plan was subsequently submitted for independent examination on 14 July 2015.

Planning Inspector Mr Simon Emerson BSc, DipTP, MRTPI was appointed to establish whether the Local Plan is 'sound', taking into account the representations made as well as national policy.

The first Local Plan hearing session dealing with strategic matters, including the duty to co-operate and housing and employment requirements, was held between Monday 23 November and Thursday 26 November 2015.

The Inspector's preliminary findings were published in December 2015 in two parts:

**Part 1** deals with the housing requirement, the needs of Oxford City and the duty to co-operate;

**Part 2** deals with housing supply and delivery, affordable housing and requirements for particular housing needs.

The findings raised a number of concerns including the fact that the proposed housing requirement was not justified and had not been derived from a process which complies with the requirements of the NPPF.

In light of his preliminary findings, the Council wrote to the Inspector asking him to suspend the examination in order for the Council to prepare and consult on necessary changes to the plan. In response, the Inspector agreed to suspend the Local Plan examination until December 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/994624/lids-update-march-2016.pdf>

The relatively lengthy suspension is necessary to allow the Council the opportunity to undertake some further work on housing numbers and sites and to address the issue of 'unmet' housing need arising from Oxford City. A report determining how this housing should be distributed across Oxfordshire is likely to be published in late summer 2016.

Following the suspension of the examination the Council formally updated its Local Plan timetable through an updated Local Development Scheme<sup>2</sup> covering the 3-year period 2016 – 2019. The following Local Plan timetable will now apply:

Jan – Aug 2016	Preparation of evidence base, formulation of Main Modifications
August 2016	Apportionment of Oxford City's unmet housing needs agreed
September 2016	Cabinet/Council agree 'main modifications' consultation
October 2016	Consultation on proposed 'main modifications'
November 2016	Review of consultation responses
December 2016	Submission of main modifications to Inspector
February 2017	Examination hearing sessions

The timing of receipt of the Inspector's report will be dependent on the issues raised and the timing of any subsequent examination hearing sessions (if split into two parts as originally proposed).

At the present time it is considered reasonable to expect a response no later than June 2017 which would allow for adoption of the plan no later than September 2017.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/994624/lids-update-march-2016.pdf>

## Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allows local planning authorities to raise funds from developers who are undertaking building projects in their area. CIL is charged on most new developments on a pound (£) per square metre basis and can be used for improvements to local infrastructure such as roads, schools and open spaces.

CIL charges are set out in a document called the 'charging schedule'. Infrastructure projects that are proposed to be funded by CIL are set out in a schedule, commonly referred to as a Regulation '123 list'.

The Council has made good progress with introducing CIL, consulting on a preliminary draft charging schedule (PDCS) from 11 December 2013 – 5 February 2014 and subsequently on a draft charging schedule (DCS) from 27 March – 8 May 2015.

The DCS and supporting evidence base were submitted for independent examination on 10 September 2015 together with a schedule of proposed minor modifications which were the subject of consultation from 16 September until 16 October 2015.

In response to concerns raised by Mr Simon Emerson, the appointed CIL examiner, a further round of consultation took place between 20 November and 18 December 2015.

There was some discussion of a number of CIL matters alongside the Local Plan examination session held on 26 November 2015. However, in light of the suspension of the Local Plan examination, the CIL examination has now been suspended until December 2016.

The proposed timetable is therefore now as follows:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| • January – August 2016 | Preparation of evidence base and proposed changes to the CIL draft charging schedule |
| • September 2016        | Cabinet/Council to agree proposed changes to the CIL draft charging schedule         |
| • October 2016          | Consultation on proposed changes to the CIL draft charging schedule                  |
| • November 2016         | Review of consultation responses   |
| • December 2016         | Submission of changes to CIL examiner  |
| • February 2017         | CIL examination hearing sessions   |

The timing of receipt of the CIL examiner's report will be largely dependent on the issues raised in relation to the Local Plan (assuming the two continue to be examined alongside each other). At the present time it is considered reasonable to expect a response no later than June 2017 which would allow for adoption of the Council's CIL charging schedule no later than September 2017.

Once CIL has been introduced, future Local Plan monitoring reports will include relevant information on CIL receipts and expenditure in accordance with the CIL regulations.

## **Duty to Cooperate**

Section 110 of the Localism Act sets out a 'duty to co-operate' which essentially means that local planning authorities and other 'prescribed bodies' must engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis to address cross-boundary issues of strategic importance such as housing and transport.

The duty to co-operate is intended to fill the strategic planning gap created by the abolition of regional spatial strategies.

Local planning authorities must demonstrate how they have complied with the duty at the independent examination of their Local Plans. If a local planning authority cannot demonstrate that it has complied with the duty then the Local Plan will not be able to proceed further in examination.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 also require each local authority to report on any activities undertaken through the duty to co-operate during the period covered by the monitoring report.

During the period of the monitoring report (1st April 2014 – 31st March 2016), the Council has continued to actively engage with a broad range of parties in the preparation of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 and supporting evidence base.

A summary statement setting out in detail how the Council has fulfilled the duty to co-operate was published alongside the pre-submission draft Local Plan in March 2015<sup>3</sup>.

In his preliminary findings on the Local Plan the Inspector was able to conclude that the Council had fulfilled the duty to co-operate. Further consideration will be given to cross-boundary matters of strategic importance when the Local Plan examination resumes in December 2016. The Council's duty to co-operate statement will be updated accordingly.

## **Supplementary Planning Documents**

A revised **West Oxfordshire Design Guide** Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted by West Oxfordshire District Council in April 2016.

The 2016 version includes new chapters on *Roofs & Roofing Materials* (Section 9), *New Development & Context* (Section 11), *Extensions & Alterations* (Section 14), *Greener Traditional Buildings* (Section 16) and *Shop Front Design* (section 17).

For new development – and particularly larger schemes – Section 11 contains new material on pre-application engagement, and detailed analysis of context.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/1037107/Duty-to-Co-operate-Statement-March-2015.pdf>

## 4. Neighbourhood planning

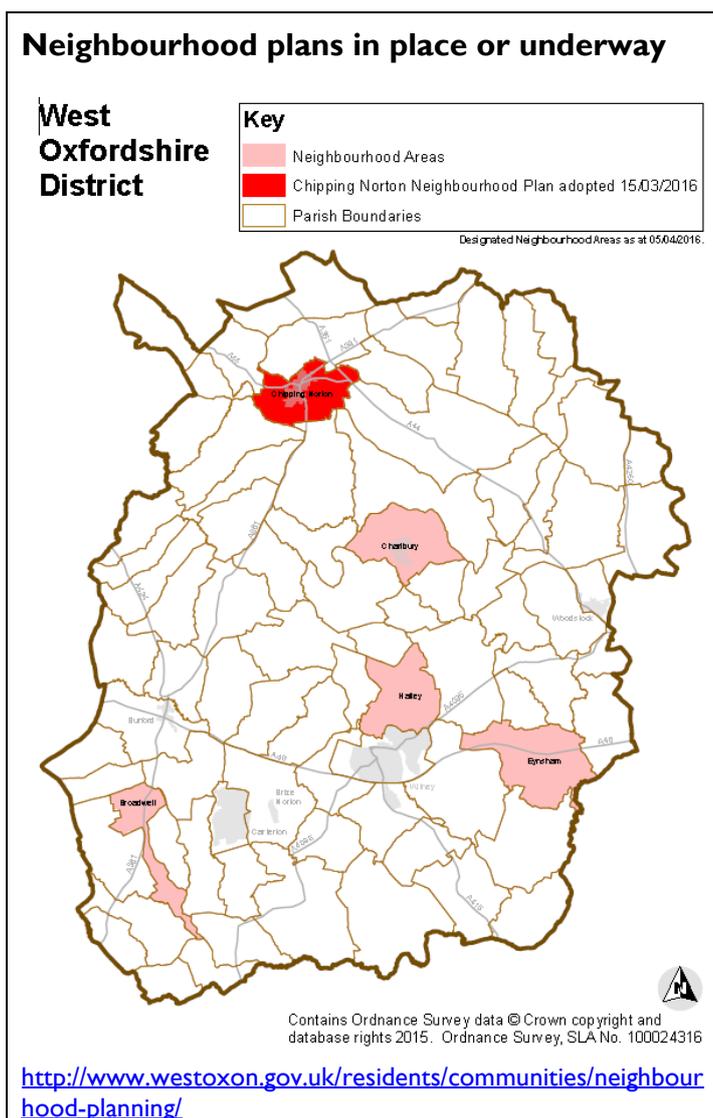
Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and provides local communities with the opportunity to prepare their own development plan to help guide decisions at the local level.

Once adopted, Neighbourhood Plans form part of the statutory planning framework and must be taken into account by the District Council when determining planning applications.

There are five Neighbourhood Plans in place or underway in West Oxfordshire:

- Chipping Norton (adopted March 2016)
- Broadwell Village Neighbourhood Plan
- Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan
- Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan
- Hailey Neighbourhood Plan

There are currently no Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) in place within the District.



### *Chipping Norton*

The Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan was prepared by Chipping Norton Town Council, a qualifying body, for the Neighbourhood Area covering the parish of Chipping Norton as designated on 12th December 2012.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan was made available for public consultation from 3rd October to 14th November 2014. Amendments to the policies were made as appropriate following the feedback received. The Town Council, as the qualifying body, agreed on 25th May 2015 to submit the plan proposal to West Oxfordshire District Council as the local planning authority.

The plan was the subject of an independent examination in August 2015 by means of written representations

The District Council received the Independent Examiner's Report in September 2015 and subject to modification, the examiner found that the Plan met the basic conditions and other requirements that must be examined.

It was therefore recommended that the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Development Plan could go forward and be voted on by the community in a referendum. The referendum took place on 3 March 2016 and 92% of voters voted in favour of the plan.

The District Council formally 'made' (adopted) the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood Plan on 15 March 2016. It now forms part of the statutory development plan for West Oxfordshire.

#### *Broadwell*

In the absence of a Parish Council, the Broadwell Village Neighbourhood Forum was designated in May 2014, alongside the Broadwell Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Forum continued its work on developing and drafting the Neighbourhood Plan during 2015/16.

#### *Charlbury*

The Charlbury Neighbourhood Area was designated in September 2014. A significant amount of work undertaken by the Charlbury community in 2015/16 towards a Community Plan will contribute to their proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

#### *Eynsham*

The Eynsham Neighbourhood Area was designated in December 2014. The Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan Group has produced background documents that pave the way towards the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Eynsham Parish Council and the Eynsham Futures Steering Group developed an active liaison with the District Council's Planning Team in 2015/16 and joint work has come forward in reviewing draft policies and scoping the next stages of work and how these can be planned in a complementary way to the District Council's next stages of work on the Local Plan.

#### *Hailey*

The Hailey Neighbourhood Area was designated in December 2015 – the first formal step towards a Neighbourhood Plan.

#### *Neighbourhood Development Orders*

Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) allow certain types of development to come forward without the need for planning permission. No qualifying bodies have initiated the process for introducing any such orders within the District.

For further information on Neighbourhood Planning in West Oxfordshire visit the following web page:

<http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/communities/community-planning/neighbourhood-planning/current-neighbourhood-plans/>

## 5. West Oxfordshire Character and Context

This section provides a summary of the latest social statistics on West Oxfordshire district.

### A rural, growing and ageing population

The latest Office for National Statistics population estimates (2015) show West Oxfordshire with an estimated total population of 108,600, remaining the second most sparsely populated district in the South East region.

Over the past 30 years, the population has increased by +21,800 people or +25%. Just under half of this growth (+9,700 people) took place in the past 10 years (from 2005 to 2015).

The main driver of West Oxfordshire's population growth has been inward internal migration i.e. people moving from elsewhere in the UK.

By 2039 the number of people aged 85+ living in West Oxfordshire is expected to reach 8,300, more than double the number in this age group in 2015.

### Low unemployment, high rates of self-employment and home working

As of May 2016, 360 residents of West Oxfordshire were claiming job seeker allowance. This is well below the post-recession peak of 1,138. The unemployment rate is around one third of the national average.

Median earnings of West Oxfordshire residents is significantly above that of England as a whole.

Rates of self-employment and home working in West Oxfordshire are well above average and are highest in rural parts of the district.

### Low cost housing remaining unaffordable for many

In 2015 in West Oxfordshire the cheapest (lower quartile) market housing was almost 11 times lower quartile earnings. In Q3 2015, the average price of a semi-detached property in the district was £319,128.

### District is ranked poorly on geographical access to services

According to the latest Indices of Deprivation (2015), 14 rural areas of West Oxfordshire are ranked within the 10% most deprived in England on access to local services (includes distance to GP, post office, primary school, supermarket).

### Relatively low rate of crime

In 2015, the crime rate per 1,000 residents in West Oxfordshire was well below the average for the Thames Valley region.

West Oxfordshire in numbers	
Estimated resident population (2015)	108,600
People aged 85+ (2015)	3,200
Estimated people aged 85+ (2039)	8,300
Estimated dwelling stock (2015)	46,800
Employee jobs (2014)	41,300
Median weekly earnings of full time resident workers (2015)	£566.60 (Eng £532.6)
Claimants of Job Seeker Allowance (May 2016)	360
Self-employment as % of economically active population (2011)	16.2% (South East 15.3%)
Home working as % of those in employment (2011)	8% (South East 6.6%)
Average price of semi-detached (Q3 2015)	£319,128
Lower quartile house price to lower quartile earnings (2015)	10.89 (Eng 7.02)
Crime rate per 1,000 (2015)	31.3 (Thames Valley 54.7)

## 6. Monitoring results

This section is structured according to the main themes of the submission draft Local Plan and incorporates indicators used in previous Annual Monitoring Reports supplemented by indicators (where available) as proposed in the draft new monitoring framework.

Note that these new indicators will be reviewed and may be revised for the next AMR, including the addition of new indicators if necessary.

### Overall strategy

This theme includes policies that apply to all development regardless of scale or type:

- Presumption in favour of sustainable development
- Locating development in the right places
- Prudent use of natural resources
- High quality design
- Supporting infrastructure

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
OS1	Presumption in favour of sustainable development	OS1.1	% applications determined within target timescale	Formal applications taken into account (not including notifications or prior approvals): 1,508 in 2014-15 1,514 in 2015-16 The percentage of planning applications determined within the target timescale was: <b>79.84%</b> in 2014-15 <b>84.21%</b> in 2015-16
		OS1.2	% applications refused as contrary to policy	The percentage of planning applications refused was: <b>6.9%</b> in 2014-15 <b>7.6%</b> in 2015-16
		OS1.3	Number of successful appeals for major development	<u>2014-15</u> Out of 39 appeals, 27 were dismissed and 12 were allowed <u>2015-16</u> Out of 37 appeals, 27 were dismissed and 10 were allowed
		OS1.4	5-year housing land supply	<i>5-year housing land supply will be set out in the revised Housing Land Supply position statement planned for publication in autumn 2016</i>
OS2	Locating development in the right places	OS2.1	Annual total of new development floorspace permitted/completed within each sub area	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>

		OS2.2	Proportion of District development floorspace permitted / completed within each category of settlement / each sub area	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
OS3	Prudent use of natural resources	OS3.1	% car use	As of 2011, people driving a car to work in West Oxfordshire district was <b>71%</b> of all commuters <sup>4</sup> . This was above the South East average (65%) and England average (60%).
		OS3.2	Residual household waste per household	West Oxfordshire residual household waste per household for 2014/15 was 385.3 kg <sup>5</sup> (England 558kg)
		OS3.3	% household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	Recycling rates 2014-15 West Oxfordshire: 59.5% South East: 45% England: 43.7%
		OS3.4	Proportion of development taking place on previously developed land	The % of homes completed on previously developed land was: <b>75%</b> in 2014-15 <b>44%</b> in 2015-16
		OS3.5	Average density of development	The number of proposed homes on sites of 10 or more units per hectare was: <b>18.2</b> in 2014-15 <b>22.1</b> in 2015-16
		OS3.6	% developments allowed in Flood Zones 2 and 3	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		OS3.7	Air quality	West Oxfordshire has 2 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Air Quality at the Chipping Norton and Witney AQMAs exceed the objective for nitrogen dioxide. Concentrations outside of the AQMAs are all below the objectives at relevant locations, (latest report 2014) <sup>6</sup>
		OS3.8	Compliance with sustainable construction requirements (to be addressed through building regulations)	<i>To be removed or amended in light of changes in government policy on building regulations</i>

<sup>4</sup> ONS Census 2011 crown copyright from www.nomisweb.co.uk, table QS701

<sup>5</sup> From Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/845442/Air-Quality-Progress-Report-2014.pdf>

OS4	High quality design	OS4.1	Number of design awards won	<i>New indicator to be set up. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		OS4.2	Number of appeals upheld on design grounds	
OS5	Supporting infrastructure	OS5.1	Number of IDP schemes delivered per annum	<i>New indicator to be set up. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		OS5.2	Money derived from new development as contribution to CIL	<i>New indicator to be set up once charging schedule has been adopted in 2017. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		OS5.3	Contributions derived through S106 agreements	A total of £73,380 was collected in 2014-15 through S106 agreements (un-related to affordable housing).  A total of £33,712 was collected in 2015-16 through S106 agreements (un-related to affordable housing).
		OS5.4	Annual community infrastructure floorspace	<i>New indicator to be set up. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report.</i>

## Providing new homes

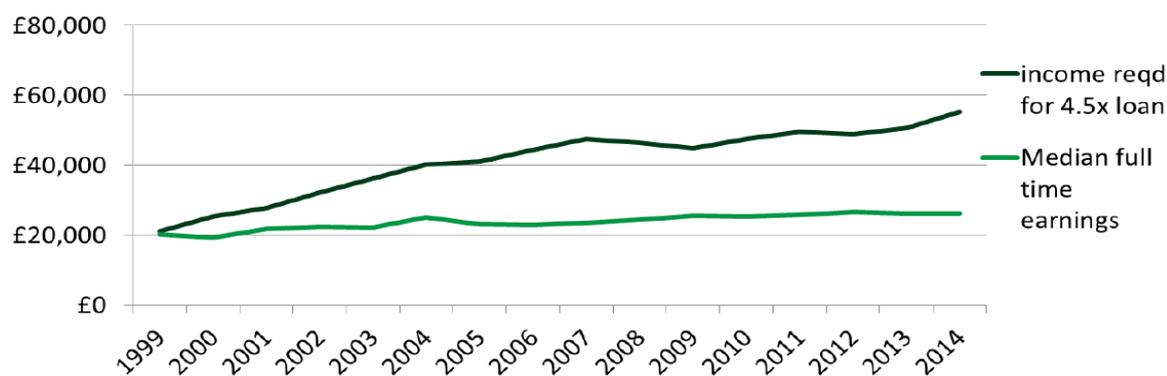
This theme includes:

- Amount and distribution of housing
- Delivery of new homes
- Affordable housing
- Type and mix of new homes
- Custom and self-build housing
- Existing housing
- Travelling communities

### Housing context – housing affordability

The income needed to afford a mortgage for a median-priced semi-detached property in West Oxfordshire has increased significantly. In 1999 it would have required a single median income to afford a median-priced semi-detached property in the District, by 2014 this had increased to two incomes.

West Oxfordshire: Income required for a mortgage (at 4.5X loan-to-income ratio and 95% loan-to-value for median-priced semi-detached), compared with median full-time annual earnings for workers in the district



Sources: ONS House price statistics for small areas (released June 2015); ONS Annual Survey of hours and earnings, median gross full-time annual earnings for people working in area

### Housing context – private rents

Between 2011 and 2015, the average weekly cost to rent in West Oxfordshire increased by 28% to £109 per week. This change was above the increase in rental costs in Oxford (+21%) and England (+22%).

Average weekly Private Registered Provider rents: West Oxfordshire: 2011 to 2015

£	2011	2015	2011 to 2015	
Oxford	93.87	113.2	19.33	21%
West Oxfordshire	85.12	109.26	24.14	28%
England	78.28	95.89	17.61	22%

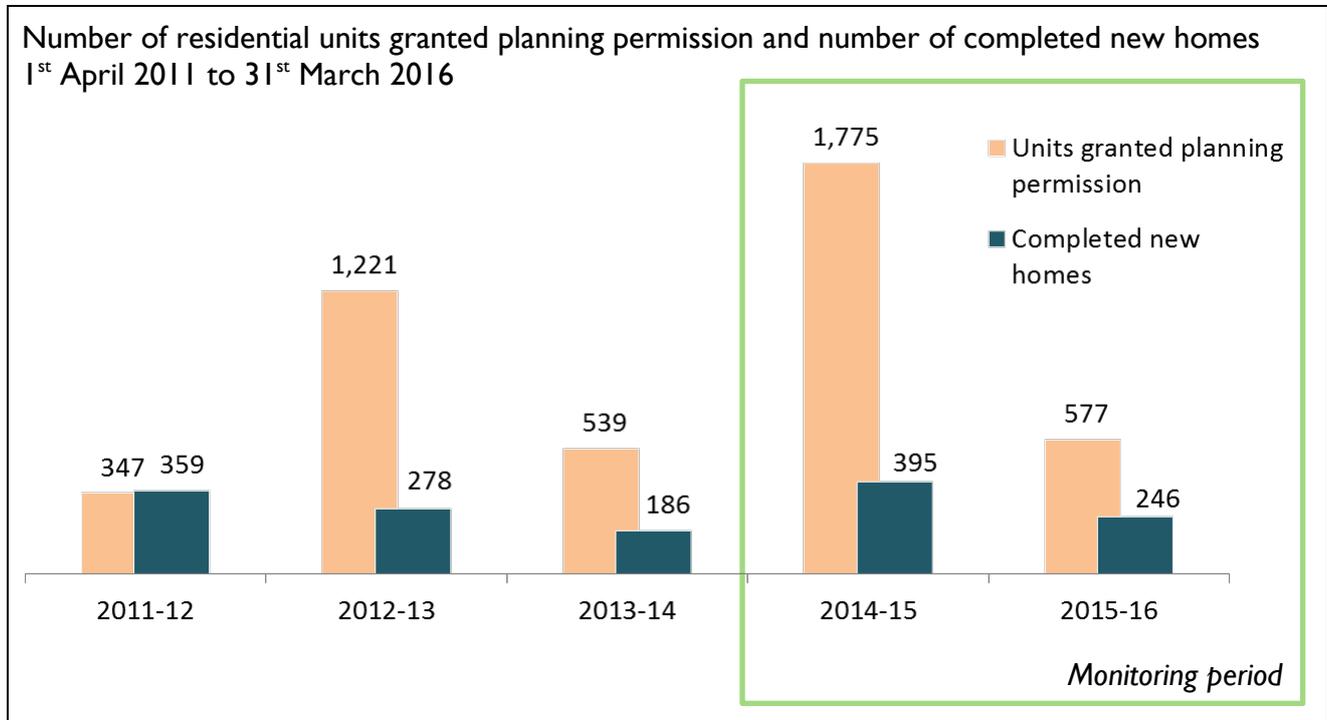
Source: CLG live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies, table 704

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
HI	Amount and distribution of housing	HI.1	Residential permissions / completions (district)	<p><i>Permissions</i>  <b>1,775</b> residential units were given planning permission in 2014-15 and <b>577</b> in 2015-16.</p> <p><i>Completions</i>  <b>395</b> homes were completed in 2014-15 (the highest since 2011-12) and <b>246</b> were completed in 2015-16.</p>
		HI.2	Proportion of target (District)	<i>Target not yet agreed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		HI.3	Residential completions by sub-area	The majority (61%) of dwellings between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2016 were built in the two sub-areas of Eynsham-Woodstock and Witney.
		HI.4	Proportion of target by sub-area	<i>Target not yet agreed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		HI.5	5 year housing land supply	<i>This will be set out in the revised Housing Land Supply position statement planned for publication in autumn 2016</i>

### HI.1 and HI.3 Residential permissions / completions

Over the five year period, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, in West Oxfordshire district there were:

- 4,459 residential units granted planning permission; an average of 892 per year.
- 1,464 new homes completed; an average of 293 per year.



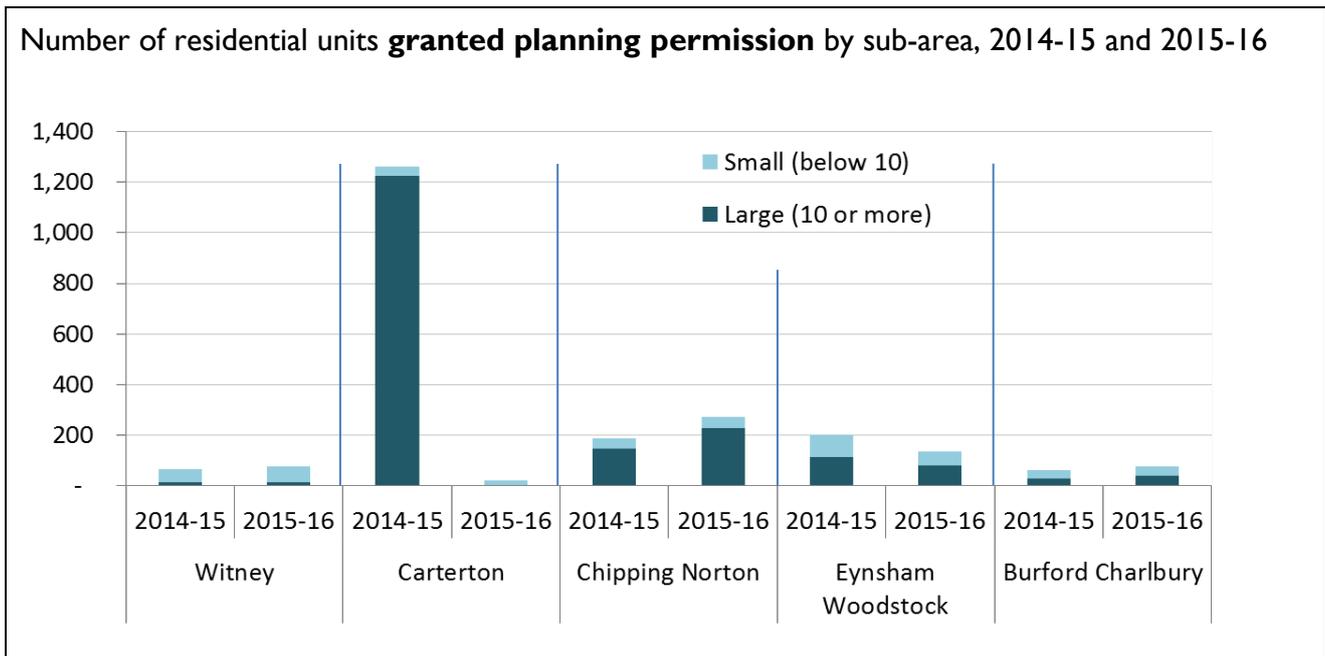
The largest developments granted planning permission in the monitoring period were:

- 2014-15: **700** units planned for Land between Monahan Way, Carterton Road and Burford Road (700 units);  
**250** units planned for Land at Swinbrook Road, Carterton,  
**160** units planned for Land North of New Road, Bampton,  
**96** units planned for Land at Rockhill Farm, London Road, Chipping Norton,  
**58** units planned for Land to the North East of Marlborough School, Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxon
- 2015-16: **228** units planned for Land South and East of Walterbush Road Chipping Norton.  
**50** units planned for Land to East of Church Road, Long Hanborough

Major developments contributing to the growth in completed new homes in the district were:

- 2014-15: **133** dwellings completed on the Buttercross Works site in Witney (70% of completions for Witney in that year)
- 2015-16: **44** dwellings completed to the north of Swinbrook Road at Carterton (75% of completions for Carterton in that year)

In the monitoring period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016 a total of 2,352 homes were granted planning permission with **1,775** granted in 2014-15 and **577** granted in 2015-16.

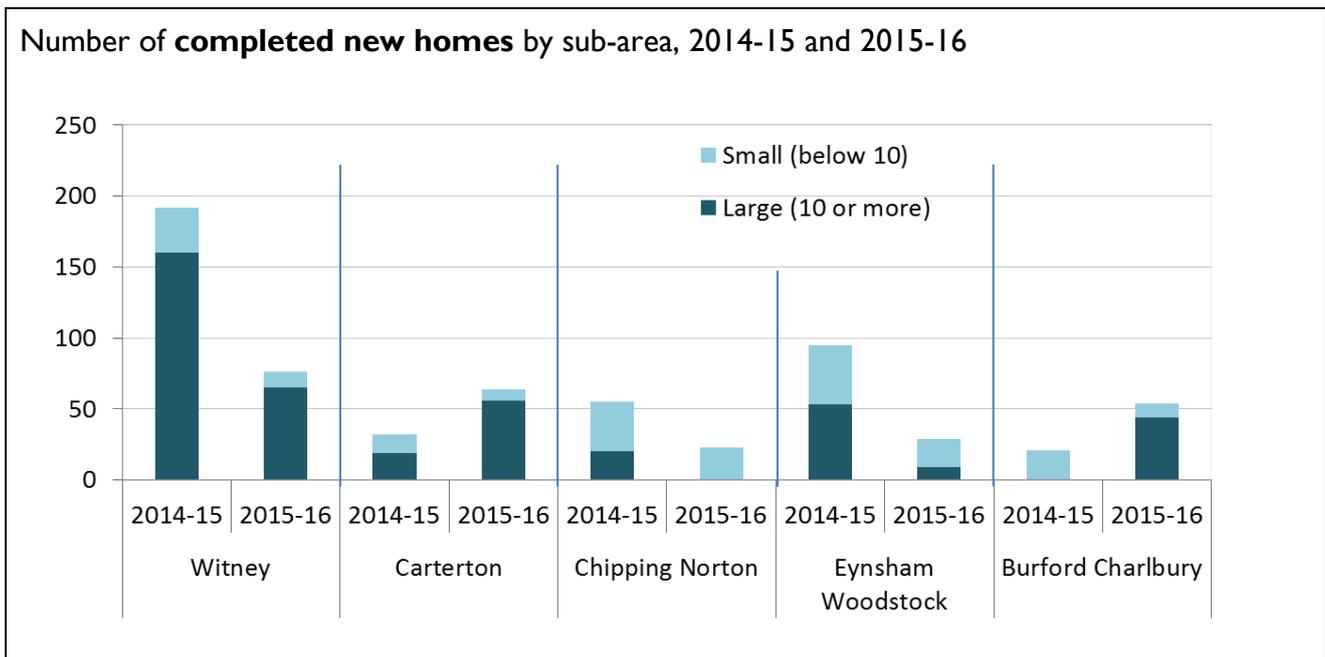


**Number of residential units granted planning permission by sub-area, 2014-15 and 2015-16**

2014-15						
	Witney	Carterton	Chipping Norton	Eynsham Woodstock	Burford Charlbury	TOTAL
Large (10 or more)	13	1,225	146	112	26	1,522
Small (below 10)	51	38	40	90	34	253
Net units	64	1,263	186	202	60	1,775
2015-16						
	Witney	Carterton	Chipping Norton	Eynsham Woodstock	Burford Charlbury	TOTAL
Large (10 or more)	11	-	228	81	37	357
Small (below 10)	66	20	42	52	40	220
Net units	77	20	270	133	77	577
1st April 2014 to 31st March 2016						
Net units	141	1,283	456	335	137	2,352
% of total in West Oxfordshire	6%	55%	19%	14%	6%	100%

As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, 3,809 dwellings (3,219 on sites with 10 or more units and 590 on small sites) have an extant (existing) planning permission or resolution to grant planning permission subject to completion of a legal agreement. It is therefore anticipated that dwelling completion rates will increase significantly in future years.

In the monitoring period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2016 a total of 641 (net) new homes were completed with **395** completed in 2014-15 (the highest since 2011-12) and **246** completed in 2015-16.<sup>7</sup>



**Number of completed new homes by sub-area, 2014-15 and 2015-16**

2014-15						
	Witney	Carterton	Chipping Norton	Eynsham Woodstock	Burford Charlbury	TOTAL
Large (10 or more)	160	19	20	53		252
Small (below 10)	32	13	35	42	21	143
Total	192	32	55	95	21	395
2015-16						
	Witney	Carterton	Chipping Norton	Eynsham Woodstock	Burford Charlbury	TOTAL
Large (10 or more)	65	56	0	9	44	174
Small (below 10)	11	8	23	20	10	72
Total	76	64	23	29	54	246
1st April 2014 to 31st March 2016						
Total	268	96	78	124	75	641
% of total in West Oxfordshire	42%	15%	12%	19%	12%	100%

<sup>7</sup> Note that further work to cross-check the housing completions data with housing data from other sources will be carried out before the publication of the forthcoming housing land supply position statement and the total for 2015-16 may change.

The lower proportion of completions in the Chipping Norton and Burford-Charlbury sub-areas is a reflection of the constraints to development that apply in these areas including the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
H2	Delivery of new homes	H2.1	Residential permissions / completions by sub-area / settlement (see H1.1 and H1.3 and charts above)	<p><i>Permissions</i>  <b>1,775</b> residential units were given planning permission in 2014-15 and <b>577</b> in 2015-16.</p> <p><i>Completions</i>  <b>395</b> homes were completed in 2014-15 (the highest since 2011-12) and <b>246</b> were completed in 2015-16.</p> <p>Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over half (55%) of planning permissions were in the Carterton sub-area.</li> <li>- The majority (61%) of new homes were built in the two sub-areas of Eynsham-Woodstock and Witney.</li> </ul>
		H2.2	Percentage of development taking place on previously developed land	<p>The % of homes completed on previously developed land was:</p> <p><b>75%</b> in 2014-15  <b>45%</b> in 2015-16</p>
		H2.3	Delivery of new homes on allocated sites <sup>8</sup> : Proposal 5 Buttercross Works, Witney Proposal 10 Coral Springs Witney Proposal 15 North East Carterton	<p><u>Buttercross Works, Witney</u>  <b>134</b> dwellings (14/15) <b>26</b> dwellings (15/16)</p> <p><u>Coral Springs, Witney</u>  <b>26</b> dwellings (15/16)</p> <p><u>North East Carterton</u>  <b>45</b> dwellings (15/16)</p>
		H2.4	Number / % residential schemes on unidentified windfall sites	<p>Homes completed on non-allocated sites was:</p> <p><b>261</b> in 2014-15 and <b>149</b> in 2015-16 (see H1.3 for a breakdown between large and small sites)</p>
		H2.5	Number of Rural Exception Site schemes	<p><i>Permissions</i>  No new permitted Rural Exception site schemes in the monitoring period 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2016</p> <p><i>Completions</i>  Completions on 2 sites in <u>2014-15</u>  <b>10</b> dwellings at Farways, Yarnton Road, Cassington  <b>6</b> dwellings at Heath Lane, Bladon</p>

<sup>8</sup> This will be reviewed as part of the housing land supply position statement

			No completions in <u>2015-16</u>
	H2.6	5 year housing land supply	<i>This will be set out in the revised Housing Land Supply position statement planned for publication in autumn 2016</i>
	H2.7	% development taking place in Flood Zones 2 and 3	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>

## H2.2 Percentage of development taking place on previously developed land

Previously developed land includes replacement dwellings, redevelopment of land and conversion of non-residential buildings.

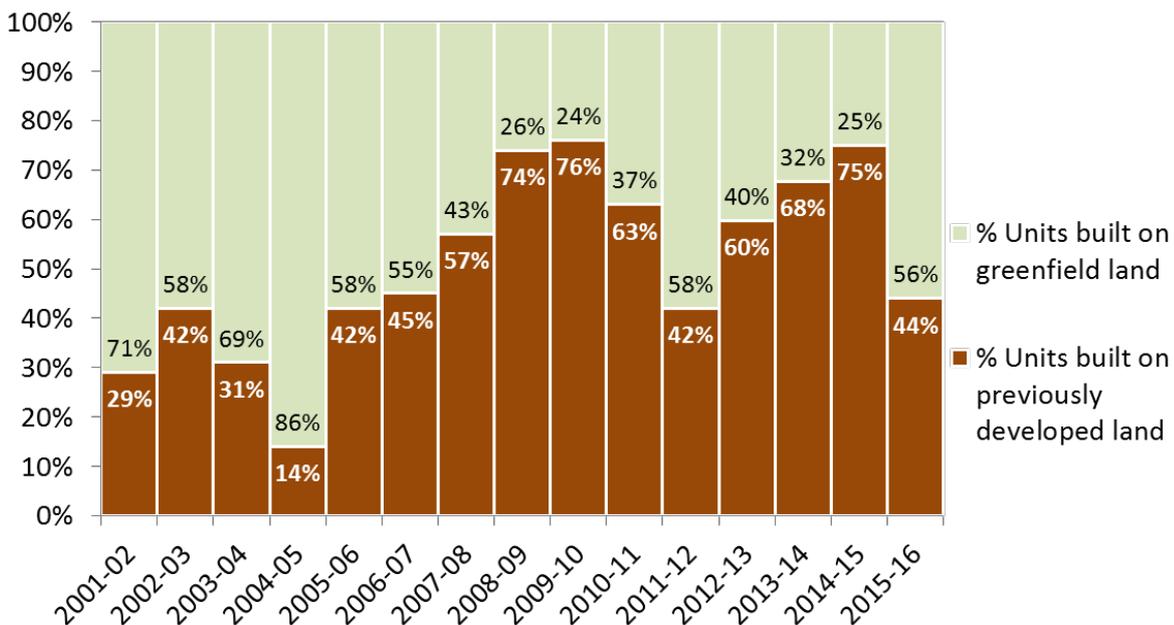
The % of homes completed on previously developed land during this monitoring period in West Oxfordshire was: 75% in 2014-15 and 45% in 2015-16.

A number of dwellings have also been completed on private garden land which although would have been classed as brownfield land at the time they were permitted, would now be regarded as greenfield sites.

It is anticipated that the proportion of new dwellings permitted and completed on brownfield sites in the future will decrease as the availability of such sites declines.

The Council has recently commenced work on the preparation of a brownfield register, which will help to identify brownfield sites suitable for housing. The intention of having a brownfield register is to speed up the delivery of suitable sites.

Proportion of new homes completed on previously developed and greenfield land in West Oxfordshire, 2001-02 to 2015-16

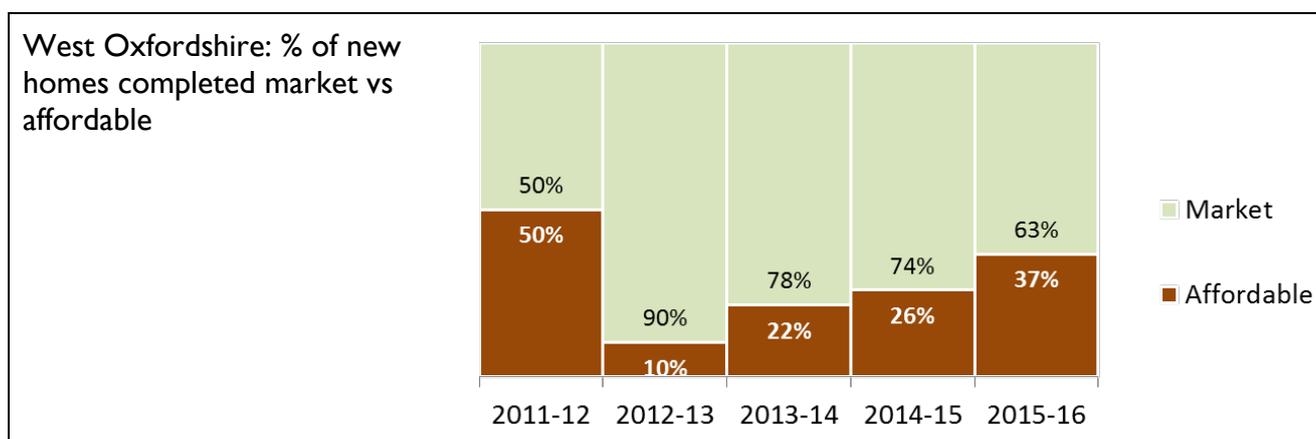


Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
H3	Affordable housing	H3.1	Total number of affordable housing permissions / completions in district per annum	The total number of affordable housing <u>completions</u> in West Oxfordshire was: <b>103</b> in 2014-15 <b>75</b> in 2015-16
		H3.2	Proportion of total housing completions that are affordable	The overall % of homes completed that are affordable in West Oxfordshire was: <b>26%</b> in 2014-15 <b>37%</b> in 2015-16
		H3.3	Proportion of total housing completions that are affordable by sub-area	Over the two year monitoring period, the sub-area with the highest proportion of affordable housing in the district was Burford-Charlbury with 25% of the total (see table below)
		H3.4	Changes in housing need including the extent of the Council's waiting list	As of 1st April 2016 there was a total of 922 households (with points) on the waiting list for housing in West Oxfordshire of which <b>506</b> had priority needs.
		H3.5	Affordable housing commuted sums secured for schemes of 6-10 units within AONB	<u>2014-15</u> None received. <u>2015-16</u> <b>£24,000</b> received with reference to one scheme in Charlbury

### ***H3.2 Proportion of total housing completions that are affordable***

There has been an increase in the number of affordable housing completions in this monitoring period, up from 22% in 2013-14 to 26% in 2014-15 and 37% in 2015-16.

Over the five year period 2011-12 to 2015-16, a total of **428** affordable homes were completed in West Oxfordshire, this was **30%** of the total (net) housing completions.



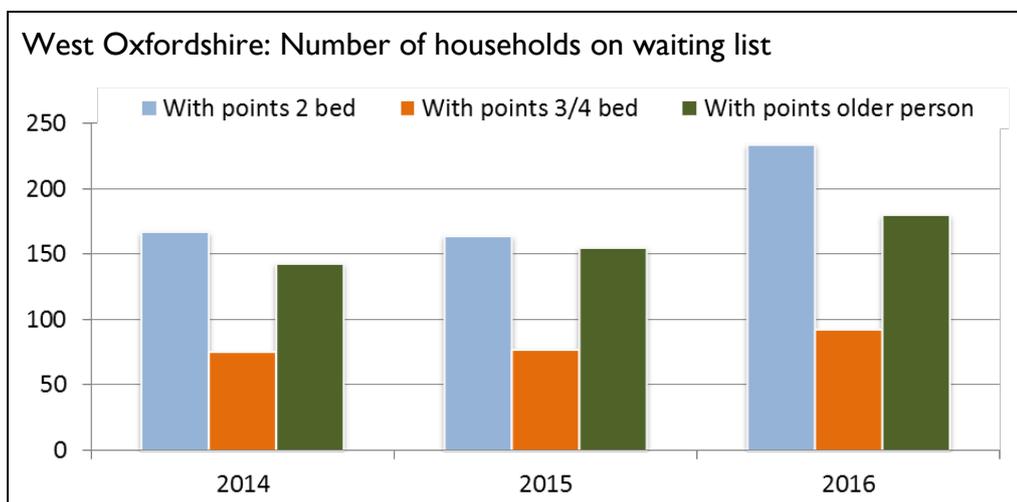
## Affordable housing completions distribution by sub-area

Sub-area	2014-15		2015-16		2014-15 and 2015-16	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Burford Charlbury		0%	44	59%	44	25%
Carterton	2	2%	22	29%	24	13%
Chipping Norton	28	27%	9	12%	37	21%
Eynsham Woodstock	32	31%		0%	32	18%
Witney	41	40%		0%	41	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100%</b>

### H3.4 Housing waiting list

The number of households with points on the housing waiting list in West Oxfordshire has increased from 663 as of 1 April 2014 to 922 as of 1 Apr 2016, an increase of 259 (39%).

The proportion in priority need and requiring 2 bed housing has also increased from 43% in 2014 to 46% in 2016.



As of April 2016, 46% of households with points on the housing waiting list were looking for a 2 bed home. Including the older person category, the demand for 1 or 2 bed homes was 82%.

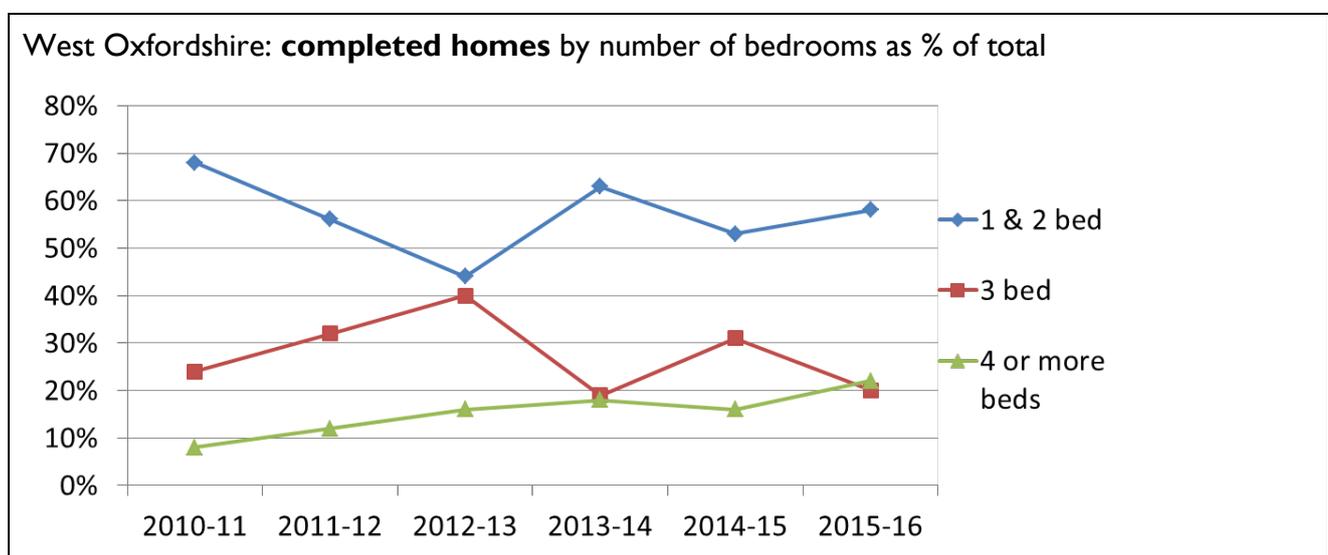
### Number of households on waiting list – West Oxfordshire

	Apr 2014		Apr 2015		Apr 2016	
With points 2 bed	167	43%	164	41%	234	46%
With points 3/4 bed	75	19%	77	19%	92	18%
With points older person	143	37%	155	39%	180	36%
Total with points and in priority need	385	100%	396	100%	506	100%
Total with points	663		673		922	

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
H4	Type and mix of new homes	H4.1	Proportion of residential permissions by type and tenure by sub-area	Over the two year monitoring period (2014-15 to 2015-16), 42% of homes granted planning permission were 1 or 2 bed, 29% were 3 bed and 29% were 4 bed or more
		H4.2	Proportion of residential completions by type and tenure by sub-area	Over the two year monitoring period (2014-15 to 2015-16), 54% of completed new homes were 1 or 2 bed, 28% were 3 bed and 18% were 4 bed or more (see chart and table below).
		H4.3	Overall housing stock by type	The total number of dwellings in West Oxfordshire's Council Tax base (Sept 15) was 46,765 of which just under half (49%) were in the lower Council Tax bands (A-C)
		H4.4	Proportion of homes built to accessible and adaptable housing standards	Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report
		H4.5	Proportion of new home built as wheelchair user dwellings	Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report

#### H4.2 Type of new homes completed

1 and 2 bedroom properties continue to be the majority of new homes completed in West Oxfordshire. Over the past five years (2011-12 to 2015-16), 54% of new homes were 1 or 2 bed, 30% were 3 bed and 16% were 4 bed or more.



#### Completed homes by number of bedrooms

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	14-15 to 15-16
1 and 2 bedrooms	68%	56%	44%	63%	53%	58%	54%
3 bedrooms	24%	32%	40%	19%	31%	20%	28%
4 or more bedrooms	8%	12%	16%	18%	16%	22%	18%

### H4.3 Overall housing stock by type

As of September 2015, 49% of West Oxfordshire's total dwellings on the Council Tax valuation list were in the lower Council Tax Bands A to C. Across England 66% of dwellings were in these lower bands.

West Oxfordshire: number of dwellings by Council Tax band as of September 2015

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	TOTAL
West Oxfordshire	1,589	5,374	15,905	10,307	6,907	3,796	2,532	355	46,765
	3%	11%	34%	22%	15%	8%	5%	1%	100%
England	25%	20%	22%	15%	9%	5%	4%	1%	100%

Source: DCLG, last updated March 2016 (total on valuation list); totals may not sum due to rounding

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
H5	Custom and self-build housing	H5.1	Quantum of land allocated for self-build projects per annum	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		H5.2	Number of people on WODC self-build register requiring a plot	The online West Oxfordshire self-build register opened to submissions in October 2015. In the six months between 1st October 2015 and 31st March 2016 a total of <b>121</b> registrations had been received.
		H5.3	Number of self-build permissions / completions per annum	In 2015-16, two planning applications were approved including a total of <b>4</b> self-build units. None in previous years.
H6	Existing housing	H6.1	<i>Residential conversions to non-residential uses by District and sub-area</i>	<i>Indicator being developed. May be replaced as majority are conversions from non-residential to residential.</i>
		H6.2	Size, number, location of existing housing which is subdivided / extended (or proposed for such alterations) to provide additional dwellings	The total number of net additional new homes provided by conversions or extensions to existing housing in West Oxfordshire was: <b>22</b> in 2014-15 <b>7</b> in 2015-16
		H6.3	Number of replacement dwellings	The total number of dwellings replaced in West Oxfordshire was: <b>5</b> in 2014-15 <b>2</b> in 2015-16
		H6.4	Number of empty homes	According to CLG data, there were just above <b>1,000</b> vacant dwellings in West Oxfordshire in 2014 and in 2015.

## H6.4 Number of empty homes

Between 2014 and 2015, the total number of empty homes (vacant dwellings) in West Oxfordshire decreased slightly, remaining below the total in 2011. According to past survey data the main reasons for vacant dwellings in West Oxfordshire are where they are being repaired or renovated and where properties are in the process of being sold. Second home ownership is also relevant but in relatively low proportions.

The number of “other” public sector vacant dwellings increased significantly. These include Ministry of Defence, health authority and county council-owned dwellings.

### Vacant dwellings: West Oxfordshire: 2011 to 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2014 to 2015	
All vacant dwellings	1,219	1,115	1,164	1,040	1,028	-12	-1.2%
All long-term vacants	344	339	311	232	199	-33	-14.2%
Private provider general needs vacants <sup>1</sup>	10	77	43	16	18	2	12.5%
Other <sup>2</sup> public sector vacants	96	62	62	45	135	90	200%

Source: CLG live tables on dwelling stock, table 615; <sup>1</sup>not including supported housing or housing for older people rental stock <sup>2</sup>Public sector vacant dwellings include dwellings owned by government departments and other public sector agencies (e.g. regional health authorities, Ministry of Defence, the Forestry Commission and county councils).

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
H7	Travelling communities	H7.1	Total number of pitches	85 Gypsy and Traveller pitches and 19 Showpeople plots (as of June 2016)
		H7.2	Total number of permissions per annum	2 pitches approved October 2014
		H7.3	Proportion of permissions on allocated and unallocated sites	No allocated sites. 100% unallocated
		H7.4	Level of identified need	A 2016 study is underway to review the need for pitches and plots in the district. Current evidence (as set out in the Draft Local Plan p58) suggests a shortfall of 16 additional pitches for gypsies and 21 plots for travelling showpeople in the period up to 2029
		H7.5	5-year housing land supply	<i>This will be set out in the revised Housing Land Supply position statement planned for publication in autumn 2016</i>

## Sustainable Economic Growth

This theme includes:

- Land for Employment
- Supporting the rural economy
- Re-use of non-residential buildings
- Sustainable tourism
- Local services and community facilities
- Town centres

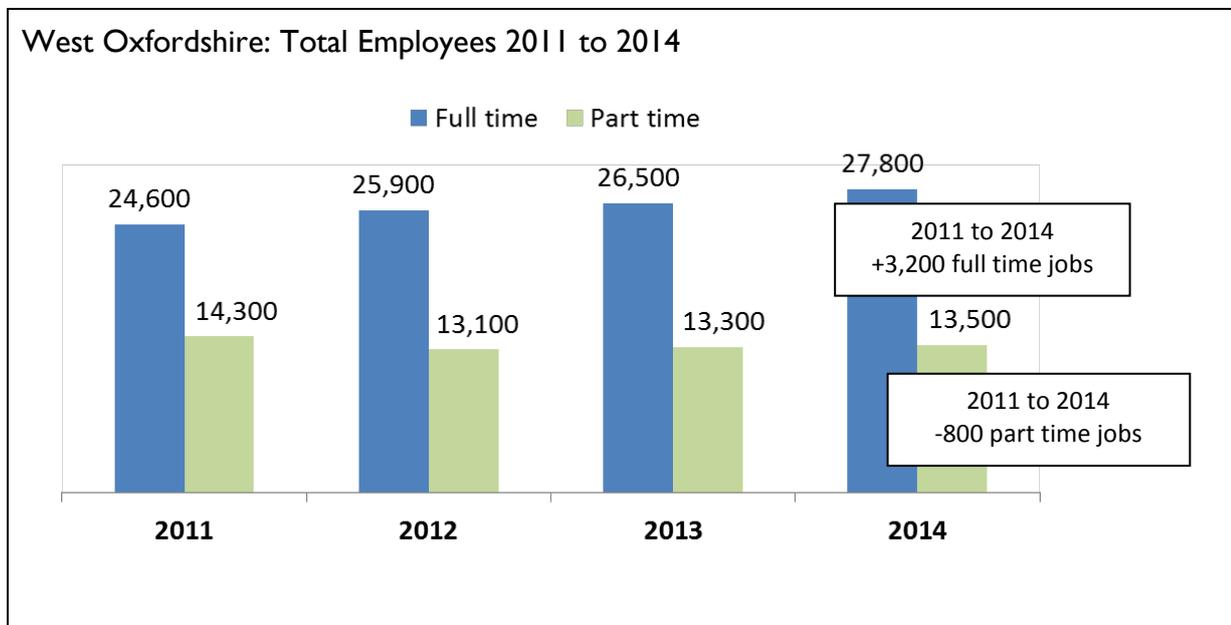
### **Economic context – jobs**

West Oxfordshire has a relatively strong and healthy local economy with a low unemployment rate and a wide and diverse range of businesses. The Local Plan employment policies seek to support and contribute to this prosperity by ensuring that a wide range of land, sites and premises, together with supporting infrastructure, is available to meet the needs of businesses.

According to ONS estimates<sup>9</sup> there was a total of 54,000 jobs in West Oxfordshire in 2014 and a jobs density of 0.81 (number of jobs per working age resident).

Employee jobs (full time and part time jobs for businesses based in West Oxfordshire, excluding self-employed and HM Forces) accounted for 41,300 of this total.

Between 2011 and 2014 there was an increase in full time employment in the district. The total number of full time employees increased by 3,200 and the number of part time employees declined by 800 (see following chart).



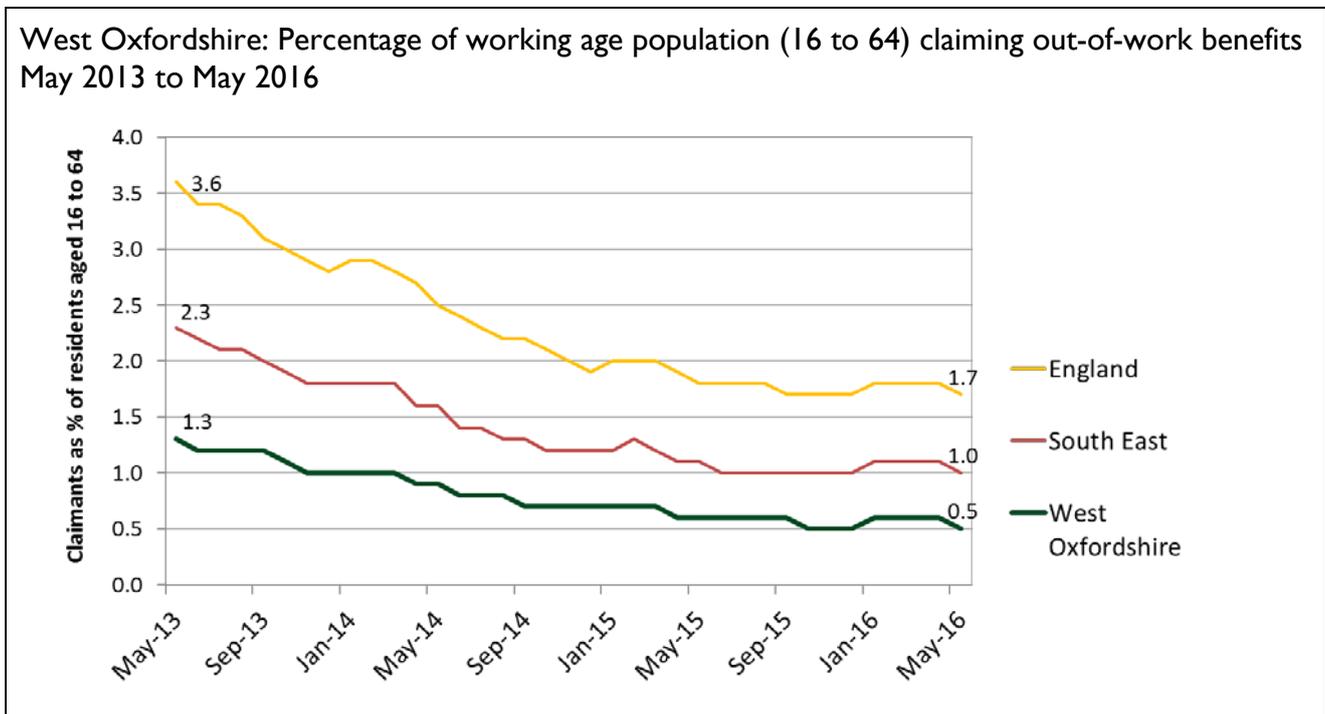
Source: ONS Crown Copyright Business Register and Employment Survey

<sup>9</sup> Jobs Density (2014) [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

The majority of jobs remain in the services sectors (81% of the total). The manufacturing sector remains relatively strong accounting for an above-average proportion of jobs (12.7% in West Oxfordshire compared with 8.3% in England).

**Economic context – unemployment**

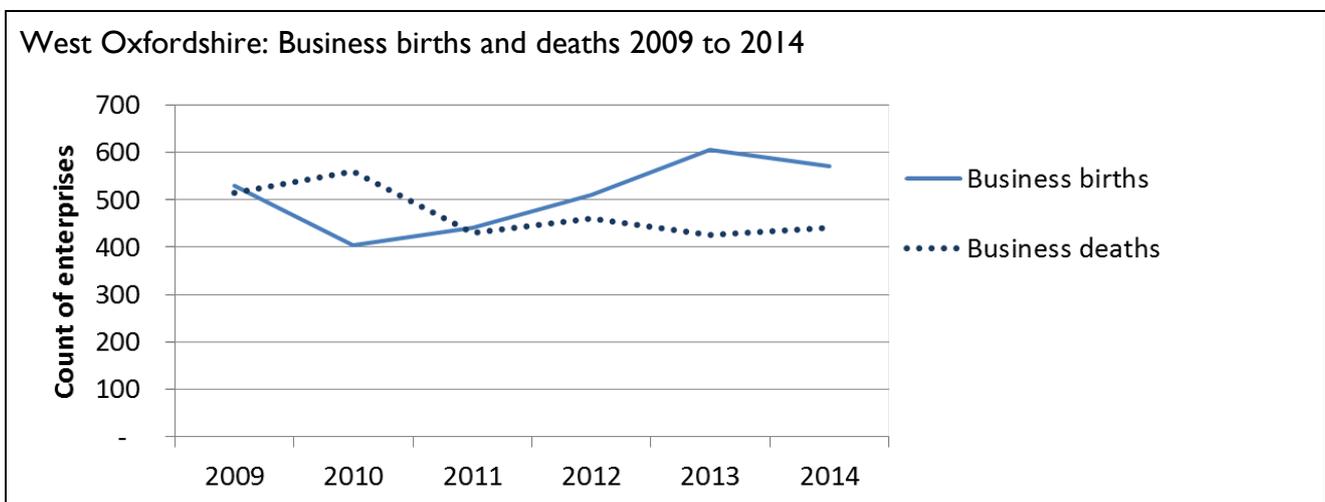
As of May 2016, a total of 360 people in West Oxfordshire were claiming out of work benefits (claimant count) equivalent to 0.5% of the working age population (aged 16 to 64). This was below the regional (1.0%) and England (1.7%) averages.



Source: DWP from nomis

**Economic context – new businesses**

According to the latest ONS Business Demography data, in 2014 there were 570 new enterprises and 440 businesses no longer active in West Oxfordshire. The number of new enterprises has remained above the number of businesses that have ceased trading.



Source: ONS, last updated November 2015

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
EI	Land for Employment	EI.1	Total employment land available	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EI.2	New business formation / survival rates	West Oxfordshire 2014 570 new enterprises 440 businesses no longer active
		EI.3	Total amount permitted employment land (district)	<u>2014-15</u> A net increase of 5,406m <sup>2</sup> permitted in 'B' use classes. <u>2015-16</u> A net increase of 8,600m <sup>2</sup> permitted in 'B' use classes
		EI.4	Total amount permitted employment land by sub-area	Nett 'B' use classes permitted over the whole monitoring period Witney – 3,589m <sup>2</sup> Carterton – 4,575m <sup>2</sup> Chipping Norton – 227 m <sup>2</sup> Burford Charlbury – 3,227m <sup>2</sup> Eynsham Woodstock 2.317m <sup>2</sup>
		EI.5	Total amount of employment floorspace permitted per annum	Employment floorspace permitted for business use (B use class): <u>2014-15</u> 5,405 m <sup>2</sup> <u>2015-16</u> 8,600 m <sup>2</sup>
		EI.6	Total amount of employment floor space completed per annum	Employment floorspace completed for business (B use class): <u>2014-15</u> 102 m <sup>2</sup> <u>2015-16</u> Loss of 1,400 m <sup>2</sup> (Witney office unit converted to dance/fitness studio)
		EI.7	Amount of employment land lost to other uses per annum	<u>2015-16</u> Loss of 1,400 m <sup>2</sup> (Witney office unit converted to dance/fitness studio) Planning records indicate that there were 10 prior notification applications accepted in 2014-15 for changes of use from offices or agricultural buildings to residential use. A further 10 applications were accepted in 2015-16
		EI.8	Take up of allocated employment land	The Local Plan 2011 allocated a total of 27ha of land for new business development across the District. Much of this has now been developed. Development activity during monitoring period; Carterton – Land at West Oxon Business

				<p>Park – 4,426 m<sup>2</sup> warehouse / storage facility for Airbus (Granted permission 14-15)</p> <p>Chipping Norton – BI Employment Site – 1,464 m<sup>2</sup> Aldi Supermarket (Completed 15-16)</p> <p>Further employment land allocations may be made through the emerging Local Plan 2031. The take up of these sites will be assessed through future monitoring reports.</p>
E2	Supporting the rural economy	E2.1	Total amount of rural employment floorspace	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		E2.2	Total area of floor space permitted for rural diversification by sub-area	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		E2.3	Total area of floor space completed by sub-area	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		E2.4	% coverage of superfast broadband in rural areas	<p>Superfast broadband available to <b>90%</b> of all West Oxfordshire premises as of May 2016<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p>Up from 67% in January 2013.</p> <p>Aim is for 100% coverage by December 2017.</p>
E3	Re-use of non-residential buildings	E3.1	Total number of non-residential conversions permitted by sub-area	<p>A total of 43 applications were approved (District wide) for changes between non-residential uses in 2014-15</p> <p>A total of 24 applications were approved (District wide) for changes between non-residential uses in 2015-16</p>
		E3.2	Total number of non-residential conversions completed by sub-area	<p>A total of 4 schemes recorded as completed during 2014-15</p> <p>A total of 4 schemes recorded as completed during 2015-16</p>
E4	Sustainable tourism	E4.1	Total number of leisure and recreation permissions per annum	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		E4.2	Total area of leisure and recreation permissions by location	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>

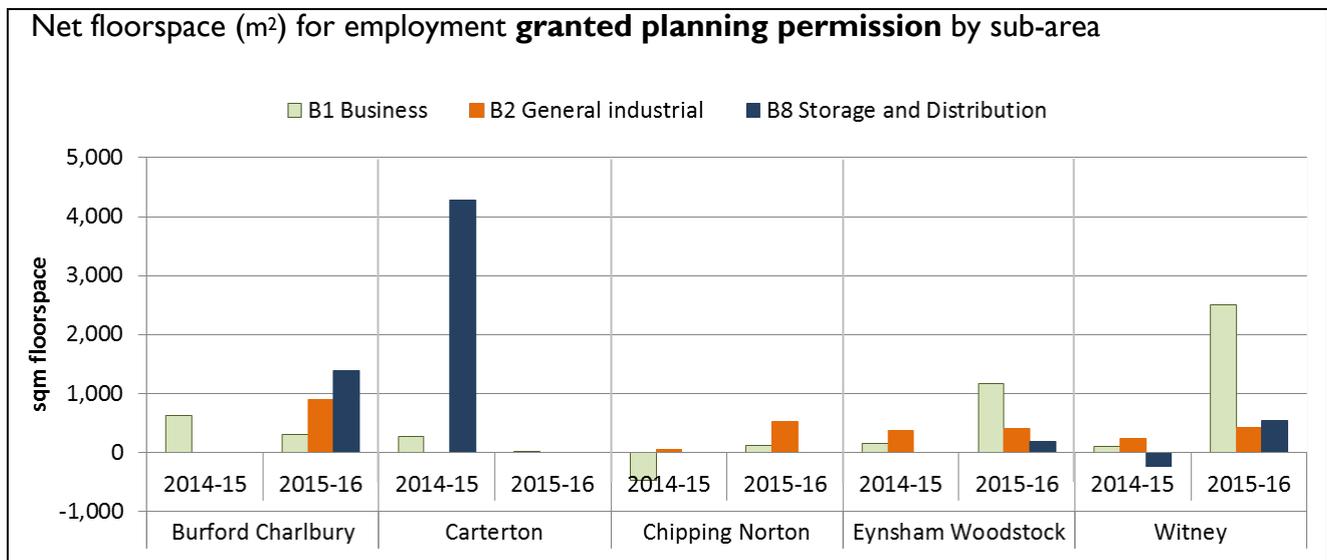
<sup>10</sup> Superfast broadband coverage estimate for West Oxfordshire provided by the Better Broadband Oxfordshire team

		E4.3	Tourism and visitor spend in West Oxfordshire	Total tourism related spend of almost £280m in West Oxfordshire in 2014 <sup>11</sup> . Tourism related jobs continued to grow between 2013 and 2014 accounting for an estimated 3,559 FTE jobs.
E5	Local services and community facilities	E5.1	Amount of floorspace permitted per annum for community uses	<u>2015-16</u> Additional 1,000 m <sup>2</sup> permitted for Charlbury Community Centre Scheme in Chipping Norton includes a new clubhouse for football club
		E5.2	Amount of floorspace under community use lost per annum	<u>2014-15</u> Loss of 290 m <sup>2</sup> through pub conversions in Long Hanborough and Stonesfield <u>2015-16</u> Loss of 76 m <sup>2</sup> through loss of village hall in Over Kiddington
		E5.3	Total number of community facilities by district and sub-area	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		E5.4	Number of premises allocated as assets of community value	<b>6</b> premises were listed as assets of community value in 2014-15 and a further <b>6</b> in 2015-16. A total of 15 premises (of which 12 are pubs) were listed as of 31 March 2016 Full listing available at <a href="http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/communities/community-rights/">http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/communities/community-rights/</a>
E6	Town centres	E6.1	Total amount of retail floorspace permitted in centre per annum	Total (net) retail floorspace permitted in main towns: 1,101 m <sup>2</sup> in 2014-15 347 m <sup>2</sup> in 2015-16
		E6.2	Total amount of retail floorspace permitted out of centre per annum	Total (net) retail floorspace permitted outside main towns: 231 m <sup>2</sup> in 2014-15 504 m <sup>2</sup> in 2015-16
		E6.3	Loss of AI (retail) units	Total (net) change in AI (retail) units: +1,292 m <sup>2</sup> net gain in 2014-15 -344 m <sup>2</sup> net loss in 2015-16
		E6.4	Loss of other town centre uses	Little change overall to other town centre uses in the monitoring period
		E6.5	Vacancy rates	<i>Last full town centre survey completed in 2012. Indicator will be reported in next Annual Monitoring Report</i>

<sup>11</sup> The Economic Impact of Tourism on Oxfordshire 2014, Tourism South East (August 2015)

### E1.5 Total amount of employment floorspace permitted per annum

The employment floorspace permitted for business use in West Oxfordshire over the monitoring period was 5,405 m<sup>2</sup> in 2014-15 and 8,600 m<sup>2</sup> in 2015-16. The largest permission in 2014-15 was in West Oxfordshire Retail Park, Carterton for 4,436m<sup>2</sup>.



### Floorspace (m<sup>2</sup>) for employment **granted planning permission** by sub-area

2014-15	Burford Charlbury	Carterton	Chipping Norton	Eynsham Woodstock	Witney	TOTAL
B1a Offices	634	150	-475	627	101	1,037
B1b Research and Development	0	0	0	0	0	0
B1c Light Industry	0	130	0	-470	0	-340
B1 Business	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total B1</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>-475</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>697</b>
B2 General industrial	0	0	52	372	246	670
B8 Storage and Distribution	0	4,276	0	0	-238	4,038
<b>B TOTAL</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>4,556</b>	<b>-423</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>5,405</b>
2015-16	Burford Charlbury	Carterton	Chipping Norton	Eynsham Woodstock	Witney	TOTAL
B1a Offices	245	0	125	0	148	518
B1b Research and Development	66	19	0	1,178	0	1,263
B1c Light Industry	0	0	0	0	-97	-97
B1 Business	0	0	0	0	2,461	2,461
<b>Total B1</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>2,512</b>	<b>4,145</b>
B2 General industrial	895	0	525	415	424	2,329
B8 Storage and Distribution	1,387	0	0	195	544	2,126
<b>B TOTAL</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>8,600*</b>

\*including 70 m<sup>2</sup> unspecified sub-area in the total

1st April 2014 to 31st March 2016	Burford Charlbury	Carterton	Chipping Norton	Eynsham Woodstock	Witney	TOTAL
Total employment floorspace	3,227	4,575	227	2,317	3,589	14,005
% of total in West Oxfordshire	23%	33%	2%	17%	26%	100%

## 5.2 Change in community use floorspace per annum

Location / Parish	Description	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>2014-15</b>		
Bladon	Change of use from agricultural to community amenity ground to include children's play equipment and multi-use games court.	15,000
Chipping Norton	Hillcrest Steps, Southcombe: Construction of new home providing therapeutic care for children (class C2) with associated works.	279
Ducklington	Church Of England New Primary School: Erection of new pre-school building.	158
Eynsham	Bartholomew School: Erection of building to create 6 classrooms, 2 science labs and ancillary facilities.	695
Finstock	Finstock Village Hall Well Hill: Demolition of existing and construction of new village hall together with associated works.	212
Long Hanborough	Bell Inn: Conversion of public house to create two dwellings with associated works including provision of separate driveways & erection of stone walling along front boundary.	-200
Stonesfield	The Black Head, Church Street: Change of use from public house to dwelling, erection of two storey rear extension and pitch roof over existing flat roof areas.	-90
Witney	Abingdon and Witney College: Change of use from caretakers house to non-residential education/office.	107.6
Woodstock	Field Barn Cottages Woodleys: Erection of two storey side extension and part change of use to form chiropractic clinic.	1,200
<b>2015-16</b>		
Charlbury	Spendlove Centre Enstone Road: Proposed community centre comprising of sports hall, library, cafe, relocation of sports and social club and associated landscaping. Existing sports and social club to be demolished.	1,005
Chipping Norton	Football Club: Construction of new club house with associated parking, landscaping and vehicular access.	252
Langford	St Christopher's Church Of England School, Lechlade Road Construction of 2-bay modular classroom with associated works.	69.6
Over Kiddington	Old Village Hall, Main Road: Conversion of former Village Hall to form a single dwelling, including minor alterations to existing openings and the provision of off-site car parking and associated works.	-76
Shipton-under-Wychwood	Wychwood County Primary School: Construction of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for school and community use including the provision of floodlighting, all within secure fencing surround with gated access.	1,300

### **E6.1 and E6.2 Total amount of retail floorspace permitted in centre and out of centre per annum**

The largest contributor to change in retail floorspace in the monitoring period was the new Aldi supermarket in Chipping Norton.

Floorspace (m<sup>2</sup>) for Shops and other town centre uses **granted planning permission** for main towns in West Oxfordshire

	<b>A1 Shops</b>	<b>A2 Financial and professional services</b>	<b>A3 Restaurants and cafes</b>	<b>A4 Drinking establishments</b>	<b>A5 Hot food takeaways</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2014-15</b>						
Burford						0
Carterton	-49			49		0
Chipping Norton	1,390					1,390
Witney	-45		-74		46	-73
Woodstock	-216					-216
<b>Other settlements</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>231</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-107</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1,332</b>

	<b>A1 Shops</b>	<b>A2 Financial and professional services</b>	<b>A3 Restaurants and cafes</b>	<b>A4 Drinking establishments</b>	<b>A5 Hot food takeaways</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2015-16</b>						
Burford	7					7
Carterton	-181					-181
Chipping Norton	13				75	88
Witney	-145	62	417		99	433
Woodstock	-42	42				0
<b>Other settlements</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>504</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-344</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>851</b>

It is apparent from the figures that there have been some losses of retail floorspace within town centres during the monitoring period. Some of this is the result of changes to other town centre uses although some residential conversions have been permitted in the town centres of Burford and Woodstock. Town centres within West Oxfordshire continue to thrive however with a good mix of uses attracting a high level of footfall. Chipping Norton accommodated a significant increase in retail floorspace with the new Aldi supermarket permitted in 2014-15 (although this was in an out of centre location).

### **Transport and Movement**

This theme includes:

- Sustainable transport
- Highway improvement schemes
- Public transport, walking and cycling
- Parking provision

**Transport context – traffic flows**

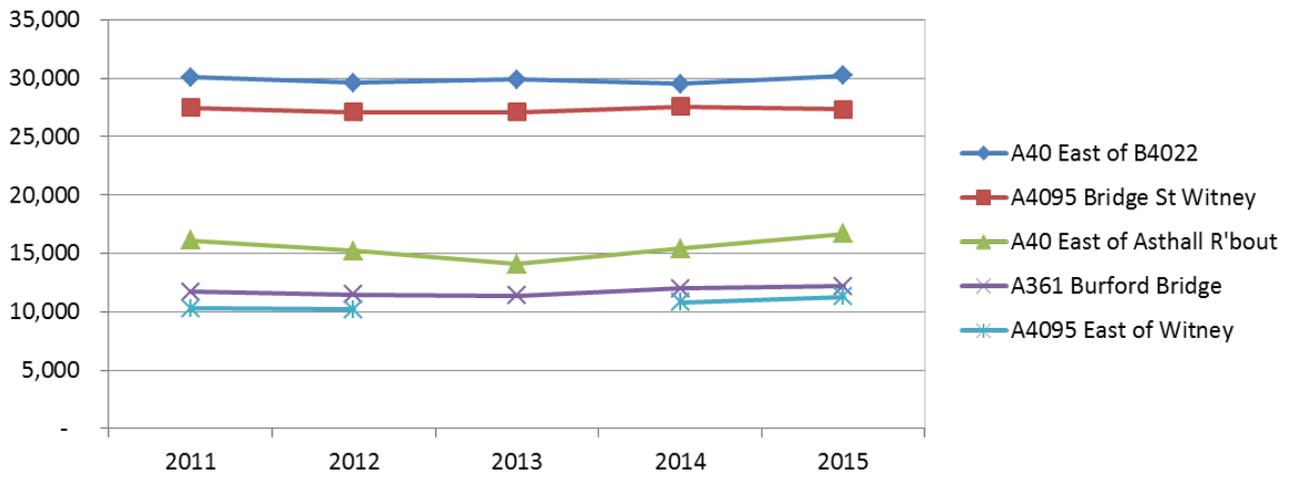
The traffic monitoring point showing the highest traffic flow in West Oxfordshire continues to be the A40 East of B4022 with 30,400 annual average vehicles per day in 2015.

The road section showing the greatest increase in vehicles between 2011 and 2015 was the A4095 East of Witney with an extra 1,000 vehicles on average per day now making use of that route (11,300 movements per day in 2015).

Traffic Count Points in Witney (showing those in chart below)



Annual Average Daily Traffic from selected Automatic Traffic Counters



Map and data [source: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/traffic-count-data](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/traffic-count-data); automatic counts, 7 day average

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
T1	Sustainable transport	T1.1	CIL/SI06 funding allocated for sustainable transport projects	<i>Indicator currently being developed by Oxfordshire County Council. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		T1.2	Number of travel plans produced	<b>2</b> travel plans produced in 2014-15 and <b>2</b> travel plans in 2015-16
		T1.3	% car use in district	As of 2011, people driving a car to work in West Oxfordshire district was <b>71%</b> of all commuters <sup>12</sup> . This was above the South East average (65%) and England average (60%).
		T1.4	% travel by walking or cycling	As of 2011, <b>16%</b> of commuters travelled to work in West Oxfordshire district by walking or cycling, just about the averages for the South East (15%) and England (14%) Automatic Cycle count data shows an increase on some cycle routes.
		T1.5	Air quality including AQMAs at Chipping Norton and Witney	See OS3.7
		T1.6	Levels of home working	In 2011, <b>14%</b> of those in employment in West Oxfordshire worked mainly at or from home with higher rates in rural areas.
T2	Highway improvement schemes	T2.1	Delivery of strategic highway schemes identified	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		T2.2	CIL/SI06 funding allocated for highway improvement projects	<i>Indicator currently being developed by Oxfordshire County Council. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		T2.3	Proportion of trips made by car	As of 2011, people driving a car to work in West Oxfordshire district was <b>71%</b> of all commuters <sup>13</sup> . This was above the South East average (65%) and England average (60%).
		T2.4	Proportion of trips made by non-car modes eg walking, cycling, public transport	22% of commuters in West Oxfordshire in 2011 travelled by walking, cycling or public transport. This was below the South East average (28%) and England average (32%).
		T2.5	Air quality	See OS3.7
		T2.6	Number of travel plans per annum	<b>2</b> travel plans produced in 2014-15 and <b>2</b> travel plans in 2015-16

<sup>12</sup> ONS Census 2011 crown copyright from www.nomisweb.co.uk, table QS701

<sup>13</sup> ONS Census 2011 crown copyright from www.nomisweb.co.uk, table QS701

T3	Public transport, walking and cycling	T3.1	CIL/SI06 funding allocated for sustainable transport projects	<i>Indicator currently being developed by Oxfordshire County Council. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		T3.2	Number of travel plans per annum	<b>2</b> travel plans produced in 2014-15 and <b>2</b> travel plans in 2015-16
		T3.3	Proportion of trips made by car	As of 2011, people driving a car to work in West Oxfordshire district was <b>71%</b> of all commuters <sup>14</sup> . This was above the South East average (65%) and England average (60%).
		T3.4	Proportion of trips made by non-car modes eg walking, cycling, public transport	See T2.4
T4	Parking provision	T4.1	Amount and capacity of available public parking	15 public car parks in West Oxfordshire with 1,275 long stay and 1,224 short stay spaces <sup>15</sup>
		T4.2	Number of new, public off street parking spaces permitted per annum	No permissions for new, public off street parking between 01/04/14 and 31/03/16
		T4.3	Developer contributions secured towards additional parking provision	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>

### **T1.2 Number of travel plans produced**

Number of travel plans produced in West Oxfordshire

	<b>Travel information Pack</b>	<b>Travel Plan Statement</b>	<b>Full Travel Plan</b>	<b>Framework Travel Plan</b>
2014-15	2	1	2	0
2015-16	6	1	2	0

Source: Oxfordshire County Council see [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/travel-plans-statements-and-advice](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/travel-plans-statements-and-advice)

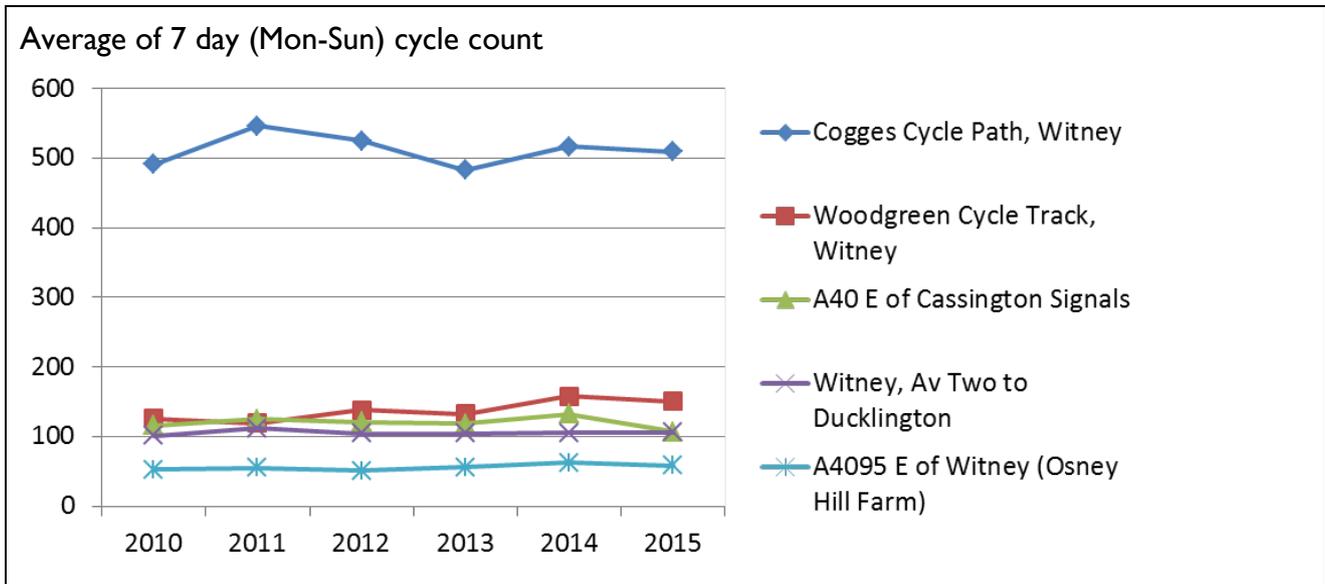
Notes: Travel plans are long-term management strategies for integrating proposals for sustainable travel into the planning process. Travel information packs are for small developments that fall below the thresholds for a travel plan statement. A travel plan statement is a simple form of travel plan for smaller developments and can be used where there is a need to encourage sustainable forms of travel but a full travel plan would not be required. The framework travel plan is used for larger mixed-use developments that will have a range of land uses and will have multiple occupiers or phase to the development.

<sup>14</sup> ONS Census 2011 crown copyright from [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk), table QS701

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/environment/parking-public-toilets/car-parking/>

### T1.4 % travel by walking or cycling

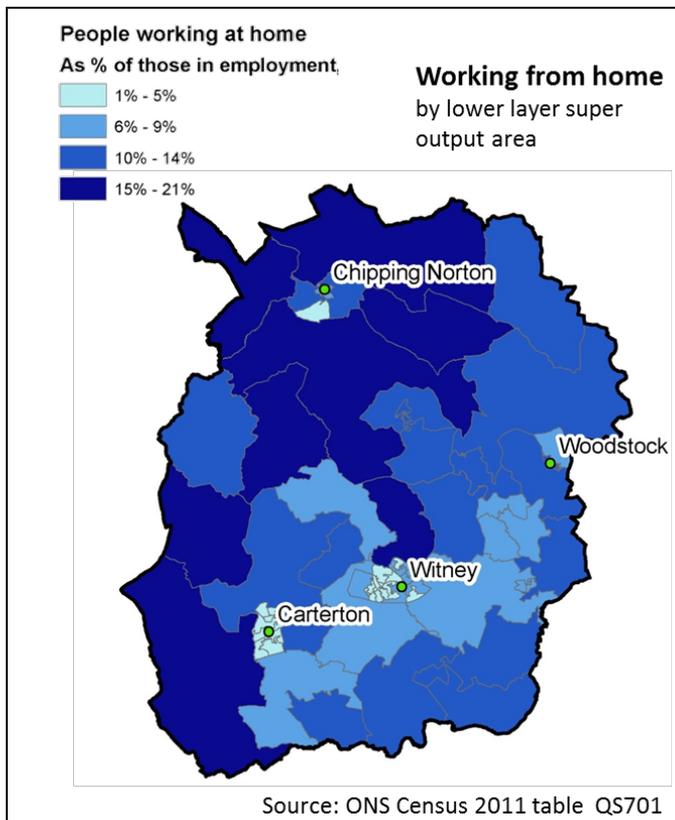
Automatic cycle counters have shown an increase in the flow in 2014 and 2015 on some routes in and around Witney. This may or may not indicate a change in mode of travel.



Source: Oxfordshire County Council

### T1.6 Home working

The rate of people working from home in the district is relatively high, especially in rural areas. According to the 2011 Census survey, 14% of those in employment in West Oxfordshire were working mainly at or from home. This was up from 11% in 2001 and above the England 2011 average (11%).



Mapping prepared by District Data Service [www.districtdata.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.districtdata.oxford.gov.uk)

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## Environmental and Heritage Assets

This theme includes:

- Landscape character
- Biodiversity
- Public realm and green infrastructure
- Decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy development
- Flood risk
- Environmental protection
- Historic environment

Draft Policy		Proposed indicator		
EH1	Landscape character	EH1.1	Total number of applications granted within AONB	The number of applications granted within Cotswold AONB was: 322 in 2014-15 501 in 2015-16
		EH1.2	Total number of applications granted within project areas	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH1.3	Proportion of development in district refused on basis of landscape character impact	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
EH2	Biodiversity	EH2.1	Total number of applications refused on basis of biodiversity impact	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH2.2	Number of applications granted within project areas	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH2.3	Changes in biodiversity assets including condition of Oxford Meadows SAC, area of protected sites, record of priority species and habitats	No change in SSSI condition. No substantial change in biodiversity assets as reported by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (see Annex)
EH3	Public realm and green infrastructure	EH3.1	Developer contributions secured for green infrastructure enhancements	2014-15 - £73,380 for public art and outdoor recreation provision  2015-16 - £33,712 for public art and outdoor recreation provision
		EH3.2	Total area of green infrastructure assets lost to new development by sub area	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH3.3	Access to informal greenspace	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH3.4	Total area of new open space delivered through new development by typology	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>

EH4	Decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy development	EH4.1	Total capacity of renewable energy generation secured through new development (capacity, type and location)	As of June 2016 there was a total of 2,500 domestic renewable energy installations in West Oxfordshire with a total capacity of 7.69 MW (3.1kW per installation) <sup>16</sup>
		EH4.2	Total capacity of standalone renewable energy permitted in district (capacity, type and location)	Two solar farms were accredited in 2014-15 (none accredited in 2015-16). Westerfield Solar Farm with 10,700 MWh pa (data Nov15) and Kencot Hill Solar Farm with 36,300 MWh pa (data Dec15) <sup>12</sup>
EH5	Flood risk	EH5.1	Number of applications permitted within Flood Zones 2 and 3 by type	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH5.2	Number of applications refused on basis of flood risk by type	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
EH6	Environmental protection	EH6.1	Air quality including number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) (see also OS3.7)	West Oxfordshire has 2 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Air Quality at the Chipping Norton and Witney AQMAs exceed the objective for nitrogen dioxide. Concentrations outside of the AQMAs are all below the objectives at relevant locations, (latest report 2014) <sup>17</sup>
		EH6.2	Number of applications refused on the basis of environmental protection considerations (by sub area)	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH6.3	Records of EHO noise complaints	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
EH7	Historic environment	EH7.1	Number of applications refused on basis of impact on the historic environment	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH7.2	Number of applications permitted against advice of English Heritage	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH7.3	Financial contributions secured through development to secure heritage assets	<i>Indicator being developed. Data will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report</i>
		EH7.4	Number of Conservation Areas with an up to date Character Appraisal	<b>24 out of 51</b> Conservation Areas have an up to date Character Appraisal. <i>Indicator needs further development to</i>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.ref.org.uk/generators/index.php>

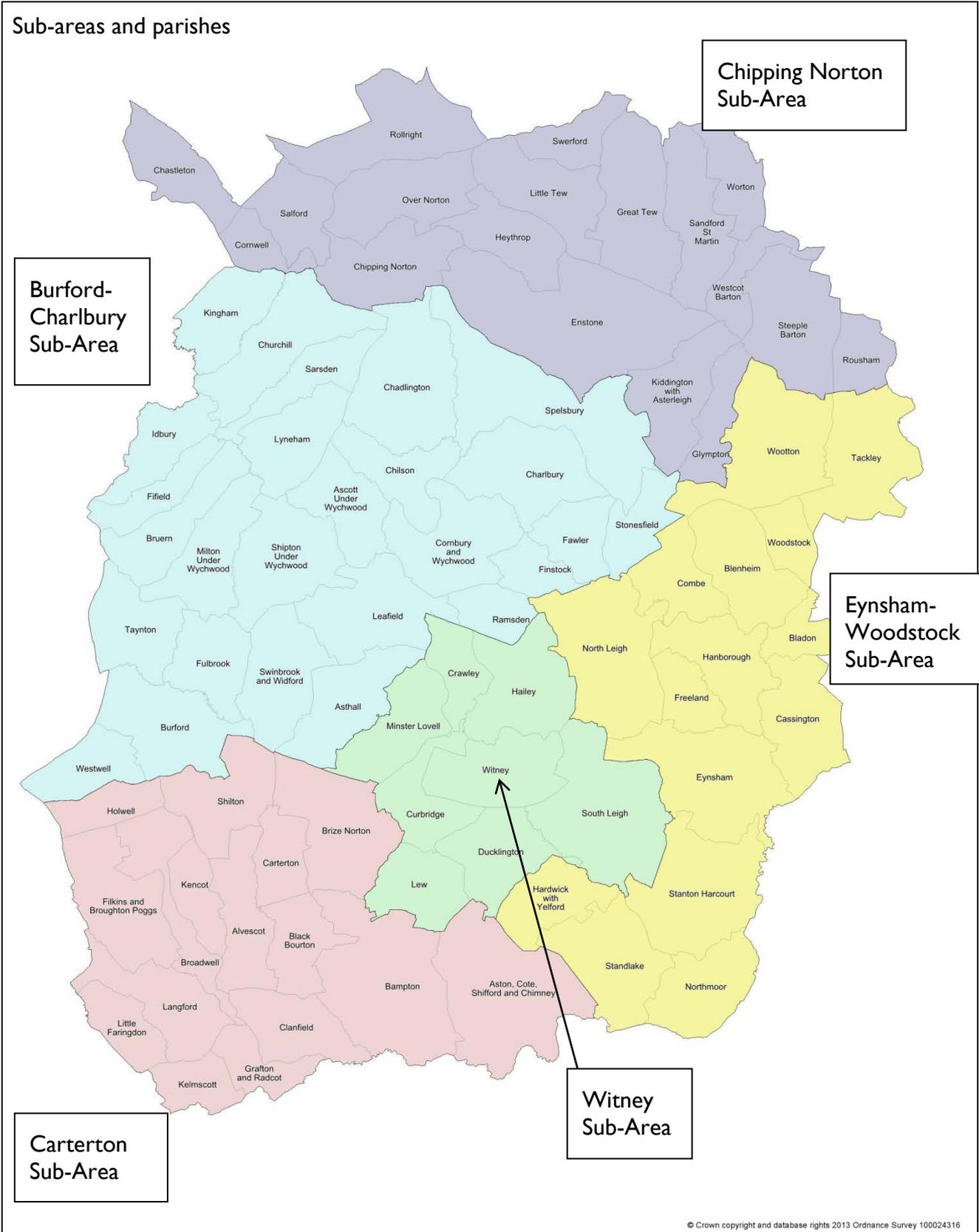
<sup>17</sup> <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/845442/Air-Quality-Progress-Report-2014.pdf>

				<i>reflect size and importance of Conservation Area</i>
		EH7.5	% heritage assets at risk	<p>There is a reducing number of sites in West Oxfordshire included in the Heritage At Risk Registers:</p> <p>In 2013: 3 places of worship and 24 archaeology entries;</p> <p>In 2014: 1 place of worship and 22 archaeology entries;</p> <p>In 2015: 1 place of worship and 14 archaeology entries<sup>18</sup></p>

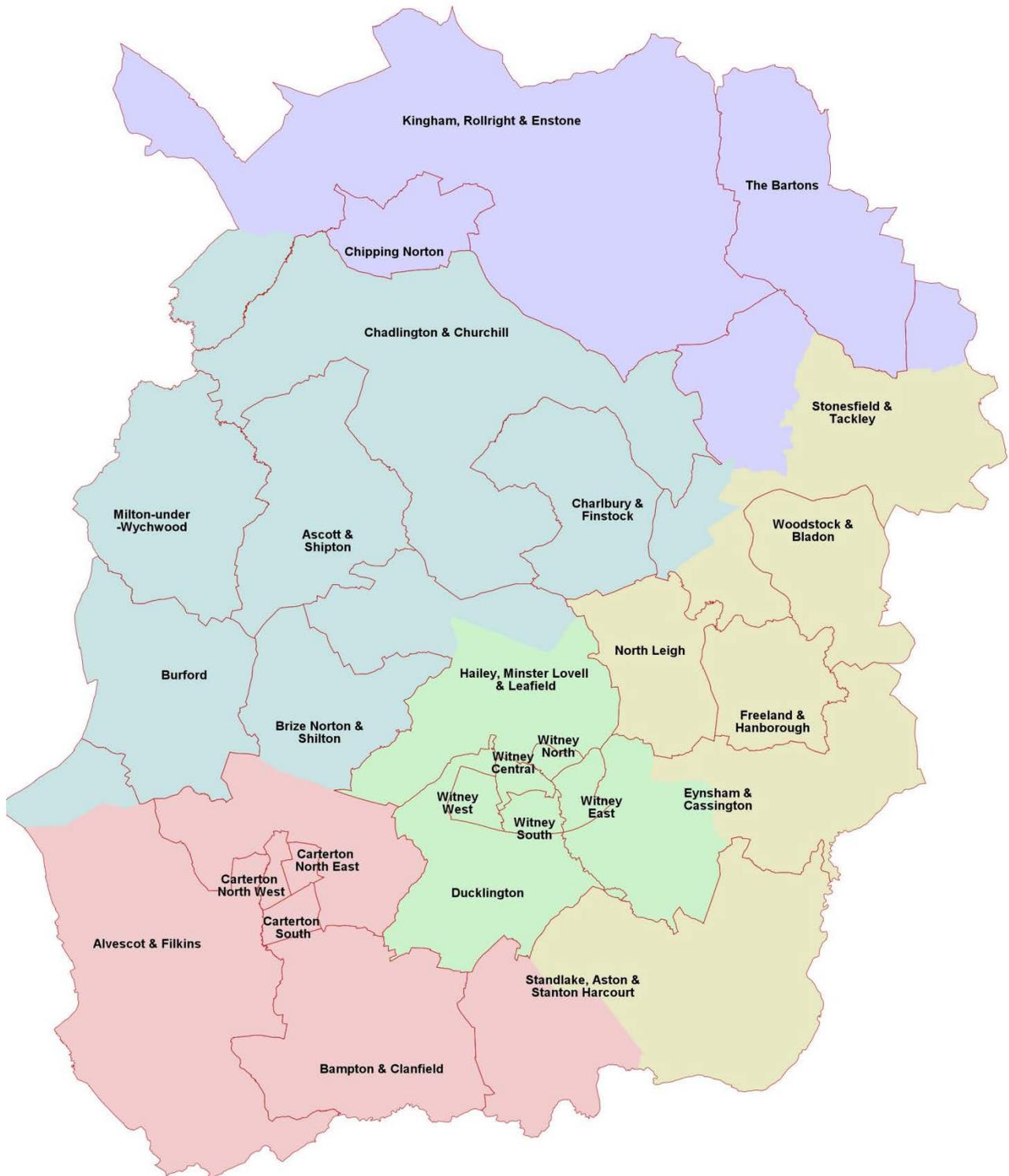
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<sup>18</sup> <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2015-registers/se-har-register2015.pdf/>

# ANNEX I – maps showing sub-areas, parishes and wards



## Sub-areas and wards

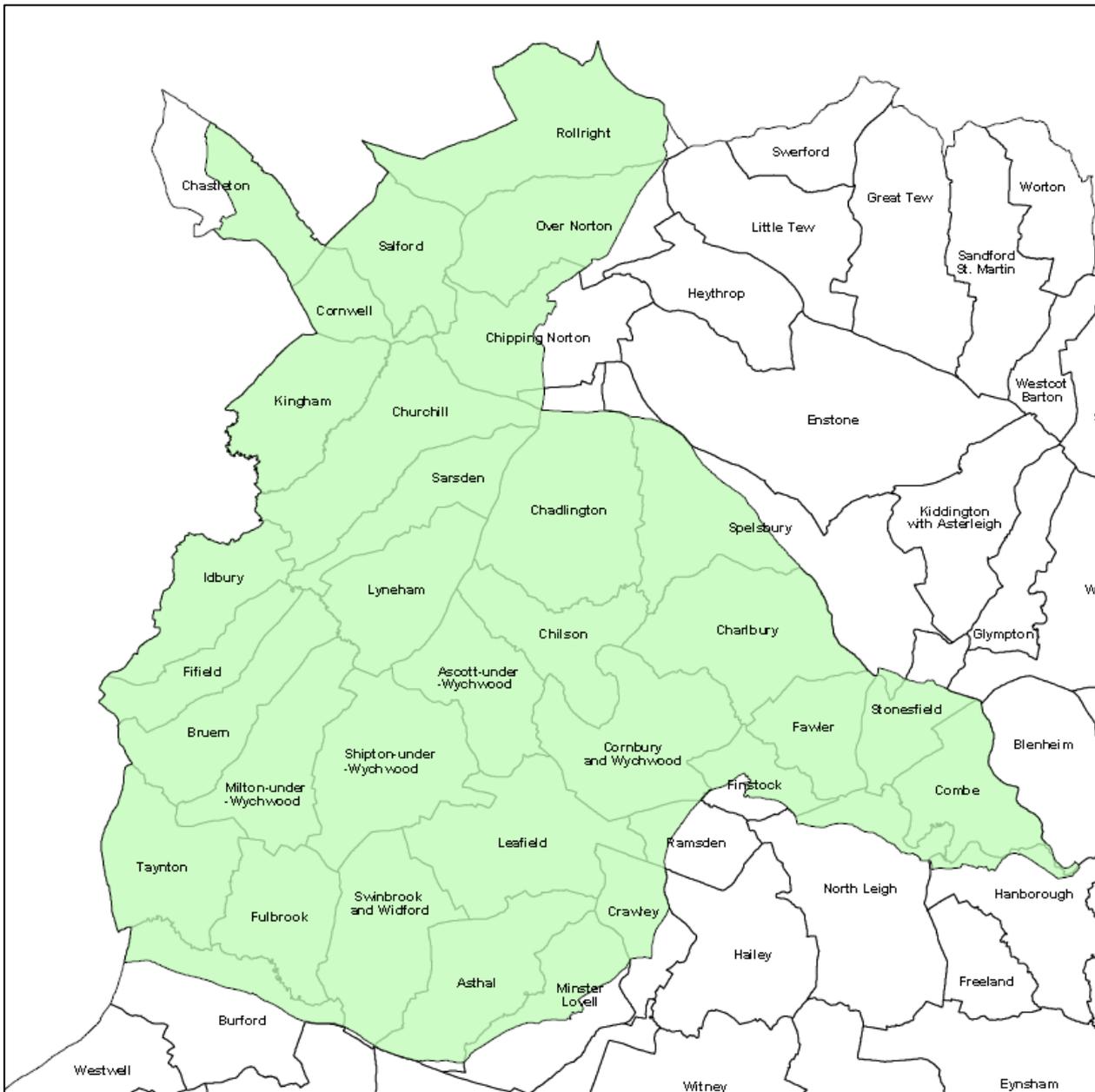


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<b>Sub-area</b>	<b>Parish</b>
Witney	Crawley
Witney	Curbridge
Witney	Ducklington
Witney	Hailey
Witney	Lew
Witney	Minster Lovell
Witney	South Leigh
Witney	Witney
Carterton	Alvescot
Carterton	Aston
Carterton	Bampton
Carterton	Black Bourton
Carterton	Brize Norton
Carterton	Broadwell
Carterton	Carterton
Carterton	Clanfield
Carterton	Filkins & Broughton Poggs
Carterton	Grafton & Radcot
Carterton	Holwell
Carterton	Kelmscott
Carterton	Kencot
Carterton	Langford
Carterton	Little Faringdon
Carterton	Shilton
Chipping Norton	Chastleton
Chipping Norton	Chipping Norton
Chipping Norton	Cornwell
Chipping Norton	Enstone
Chipping Norton	Glympton
Chipping Norton	Great Tew
Chipping Norton	Heythrop
Chipping Norton	Kiddington with Asterleigh
Chipping Norton	Little Tew
Chipping Norton	Over Norton
Chipping Norton	Rollright
Chipping Norton	Rousham
Chipping Norton	Sandford St. Martin
Chipping Norton	Salford
Chipping Norton	Steeple Barton
Chipping Norton	Swerford
Chipping Norton	Westcot Barton
Chipping Norton	Worton

<b>Sub-area</b>	<b>Parish</b>
Eynsham Woodstock	Bladon
Eynsham Woodstock	Blenheim
Eynsham Woodstock	Cassington
Eynsham Woodstock	Combe
Eynsham Woodstock	Eynsham
Eynsham Woodstock	Freeland
Eynsham Woodstock	Hanborough
Eynsham Woodstock	Hardwick with Yelford
Eynsham Woodstock	North Leigh
Eynsham Woodstock	Northmoor
Eynsham Woodstock	Standlake
Eynsham Woodstock	Stanton Harcourt
Eynsham Woodstock	Tackley
Eynsham Woodstock	Woodstock
Eynsham Woodstock	Wootton
Burford Charlbury	Ascott Under Wychwood
Burford Charlbury	Asthal
Burford Charlbury	Bruern
Burford Charlbury	Burford
Burford Charlbury	Chadlington
Burford Charlbury	Charlbury
Burford Charlbury	Chilson
Burford Charlbury	Churchill
Burford Charlbury	Cornbury & Wychwood
Burford Charlbury	Fawler
Burford Charlbury	Fifield
Burford Charlbury	Finstock
Burford Charlbury	Fulbrook
Burford Charlbury	Idbury
Burford Charlbury	Kingham
Burford Charlbury	Leafield
Burford Charlbury	Lyneham
Burford Charlbury	Milton Under Wychwood
Burford Charlbury	Ramsden
Burford Charlbury	Sarsden
Burford Charlbury	Shipton Under Wychwood
Burford Charlbury	Spelsbury
Burford Charlbury	Stonesfield
Burford Charlbury	Swinbrook & Widford
Burford Charlbury	Taynton
Burford Charlbury	Westwell

## ANNEX 2 – map showing parishes within Cotswolds AONB



Shaded area is Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Boundaries are parishes

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**ANNEX 3 – Biodiversity Annual Monitoring Report 2015 for West Oxfordshire**

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

# BIODIVERSITY ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2015



© Helen Miller

West Oxfordshire



Thames Valley  
Environmental Records Centre

Sharing environmental information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire



## Introduction

This document provides biodiversity information to be used by West Oxfordshire District Council in the production of its Annual Monitoring Report. The biodiversity information in this report is based on figures from the 2014-15 business year unless otherwise indicated.

The approach of this report is to set West Oxfordshire data in a local context, with further national or regional perspectives where appropriate. The biodiversity information associated with each indicator is accompanied by a brief commentary, containing guidance on the interpretation of the information, issues of data quality and the sources of the data.

Whilst a large proportion of the information contained within the report is derived from TVERC sources, the report acknowledges the assistance provided by various individuals and recording groups in the updating and interpretation of the biodiversity information.

The information provided in this report is as follows:

- Change in areas of UK S41 priority habitats
- Change in number of UK S41 priority species
- Change in condition status of Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Distribution and status of farmland birds
- Distribution and status of water voles

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Slight changes to the area of priority habitats following updates using survey data and aerial photography
- 3 new priority species were added to the list, 5 were removed
- No change in SSSI condition
- Farmland bird index has decreased slightly compared to last year.
- 59% of sites surveyed in West Oxfordshire in 2014 had positive signs for water voles



## CHANGES IN AREAS OF UK PRIORITY HABITAT

The changes largely represent an improved understanding of the habitat resource in West Oxfordshire rather than the creation or loss of habitat.

The slight changes in habitat area was due to reclassification of habitat types following updates using additional survey data and aerial photography interpretation.

### ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator identifies the UK NERC Act section 41 habitats of principal importance (priority habitats) within West Oxfordshire as maintained on the TVERC digital mapping system.

Table 2 provides details of the UK priority habitats which have been identified within West Oxfordshire. The changes in the UK priority habitats are mostly attributable to new information such as confirmation of boundaries or habitat types.

**Table 1: UK priority habitat resource in West Oxfordshire**

UK priority habitat type	Area (ha) 2013-14	Area (ha) 2014-15
Arable field margins	Not known	Not known
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	1479	1489
Eutrophic standing water	364	364
Hedgerows	Not known	Not known
Lowland beech and yew woodland	14	14
Lowland calcareous grassland	194	193
Lowland dry acid grassland	15	15
Lowland fens	33	34
Lowland heathland	0	0
Lowland meadows	182	180
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	1497	1495
Mesotrophic lakes	117	117
Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes	Not known	Not known
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	Not known	Not known
Ponds	2	2
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	7	7
Reedbeds	2	2
Rivers	28	50
Traditional orchards	50	50
Wet woodland	31	31
Wood pasture and parkland	465	531
<b>Total area of priority habitat</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>4,574</b>

## ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator uses records of UK NERC Act s41 species of principal importance (priority species) which have been reported in West Oxfordshire during the period 1995–2015

## INFORMATION SOURCES

The main sources of information on these species include:

- National list of UK priority species <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>
- Recorder database for Oxfordshire district authorities held by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre
- Contributions from county recorders, conservation professionals and recording groups, providing additional information on species status.
- Local recorders are responsible for the provision and verification of many of the records held on the TVERC database.



## CHANGES IN NUMBER OF UK PRIORITY SPECIES

The number of priority species listed in West Oxfordshire is 137. Three new species have been added to the list. Five species were removed from the list, as no new records had been made since 1995.

New and removed species to the list are in Appendix 1.

**Table 2: Change in numbers of UK priority species**

	West Oxfordshire 1994-2014	West Oxfordshire 1995-2015
<b>Number of UK priority species</b>	139	137

## QUALITY OF INFORMATION

The list of priority species is a reflection of recording effort and the speed at which TVERC can process results sent by individual recorders and recording groups. A priority species may have been seen a number of years ago, but these records might only have been processed and added to the TVERC database since the production of the last report.

In addition, the absence of species does not necessarily indicate that species are definitely not present, rather that they may yet be found. Even the absence of species since 1995 might not point to genuine extinction, rather that no recorders are surveying for these species.





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## CONDITION OF SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

There are 29 SSSI's wholly or partly within West Oxfordshire.

Summary data for information collated up to March 2015, based on assessments carried out by Natural England between 2005 and 2015, are given below.

**Table 3: SSSI condition data for 2014-2015**

Condition	No. of units or part units 2014/15	Sum of hectares 2014/15	% in West Oxfordshire
<b>Favourable</b>	29	321	29%
<b>Unfavourable declining</b>	1	52	5%
<b>Unfavourable no change</b>	0	0	0
<b>Unfavourable recovering</b>	22	745	67%
<b>Destroyed</b>	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1118</b>	

Three sites were assessed by Natural England in 2014-2015; Salt Way, Ditchley, Sturt Copse and Worsham Lane. The condition remained the same at all three sites.

### ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

Natural England publishes "condition assessments" for all SSSI's.

These are assessments, to a standard methodology, of the quality of these sites, describing the condition of the features for which the sites were originally scheduled. SSSI's are monitored every 5 - 6 years.

## ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

This indicator uses an established list of 19 species, identifiable as farmland birds, compiled by the RSPB.

Survey data were generated by British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), survey volunteers and compiled by BTO officers in Thetford from the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Surveys, in specific 1km by 1km squares and then used to determine a farmland bird index. These records were then made available to TVERC for processing at a district-specific level, using the methodology established by RSPB Central England Office staff.

To establish a timeframe from which any kind of meaningful trend can be identified, a shifting baseline has been used and changes in bird populations in subsequent years (over a 10 year window) are then stated relative to that baseline year. This latest assessment of the farmland bird index trend uses a baseline of 2005.

## QUALITY OF THE DATA

The reliability of the species records is dependent on the number of 1km squares which have been surveyed in a season. This varies from year to year. As a consequence, the reliability of the resulting farmland bird figures is open to debate.



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## DISTRIBUTION & STATUS OF FARMLAND BIRDS

There was a slight decrease in the index compared to last year. Survey effort has also reduced relative to last year. Woodpigeons and rooks, both generalist farmland species, have decreased. However, increases have been seen in population densities of whitethroats, yellowhammer and skylarks, all specialist farmland species. Whereas, linnet, corn buntings and turtle doves have decreased. See appendix 2 for total numbers.

**Table 4:** Mean counts per squares (i.e. density per square kilometre) of farmland birds in West Oxfordshire. Results generated from data supplied by the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey.

Name	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Corn Bunting	0.25	0.15	0.06	0.28	0.22	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.13	0.07
Goldfinch	2.67	2.08	2.12	4.89	3.11	3.41	4.71	3.65	4.25	4.36
Greenfinch	6.00	7.23	5.88	5.22	3.67	3.06	3.47	1.76	3.31	2.71
Grey Partridge	0.17	0.23	0.18	0.00	0.33	0.06	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.21
Jackdaw	3.75	3.85	7.94	9.78	6.89	6.12	4.65	4.06	5.06	7.14
Kestrel	0.67	0.46	0.12	0.33	0.33	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.00
Lapwing	0.67	0.46	0.53	0.67	0.61	1.65	0.24	0.18	0.31	0.50
Linnet	3.50	2.08	2.47	2.44	3.17	2.59	4.94	7.88	3.13	2.57
Reed Bunting	2.17	1.08	2.06	2.22	2.33	2.29	1.88	1.29	1.25	1.36
Rook	14.17	18.62	29.65	29.83	17.39	19.41	21.24	12.35	32.38	26.43
Skylark	8.58	9.00	9.47	9.06	6.89	7.47	7.71	9.41	7.56	10.86
Starling	7.00	10.08	6.53	4.44	5.89	1.47	4.12	2.12	3.69	3.14
Stock Dove	1.33	0.85	0.88	0.61	1.00	0.71	0.76	0.71	1.19	2.43
Tree Sparrow	0.17	0.15	0.12	0.22	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
Turtle Dove	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00
Whitethroat	1.25	1.92	2.12	2.00	2.22	2.82	3.35	1.94	1.25	3.29
Woodpigeon	36.25	28.00	34.53	31.67	34.78	33.06	26.94	23.00	26.88	22.57
Yellow Wagtail	0.00	0.08	0.06	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.13	0.14
Yellowhammer	5.25	7.46	6.29	5.28	5.56	6.53	4.59	4.35	3.50	5.64
<b>Total suite density</b>	<b>93.83</b>	<b>93.92</b>	<b>111.00</b>	<b>109.06</b>	<b>94.39</b>	<b>91.00</b>	<b>89.12</b>	<b>73.53</b>	<b>94.38</b>	<b>93.43</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>1.00</b>



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## DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF WATER VOLES

During the 2014 survey season the Upper River Thames was surveyed and low levels of water vole activity was found along a number of stretches including Rushey lock and Radcott Lock. This represents an extension of the population from the 2011 survey when no signs were recorded in this area. Water vole field signs were also found further downstream alongside Chimney meadows.

### ABOUT THIS INDICATOR

Information for this indicator is entirely from survey work carried out by trained volunteer surveyors and co-ordinated by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) as part of a wider water vole project.

The survey methodology records presence or absence of water voles within a 500m stretch of water course and not population size.

### FUTURE DATA NEEDS

The BBOWT water vole project remains dependent on funds being available for long term monitoring of sites and more resource investment is needed to increase survey effort to improve the accuracy of this indicator.

**Table 5: Water vole records in West Oxfordshire**

Year	Number of sites surveyed in Oxfordshire (per 500m stretch)	Number of sites surveyed in West Oxfordshire	Number of sites with positive signs
2012	131(28% positive)	23	12 (52%)
2013	186 (45% positive)	105	53 (50%)
2014	253 (61% positive)	22	13 (59%)



## APPENDIX 1

### UK NERC Act Section 41 species of principal importance (priority species).

#### New to the West Oxfordshire list.

Common name	Scientific name	Year
Ghost Moth	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	1996
Scarce Four-dot Pin-palp	<i>Bembidion (Bembidion) quadripustulatum</i>	2002
Thames Ramshorn	<i>Gyraulus (Gyraulus) acronicus</i>	2001

#### Removed from the list as no new records since 1995

This does not mean that they are not present in West Oxfordshire but that no records have been recorded on our database since 1995.

Common name	Scientific name	Year
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	1995
Hedge Rustic	<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	1994
Pretty Chalk Carpet	<i>Melanthia procellata</i>	1994
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	1994
Whorled Solomon's-seal	<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	1994



## APPENDIX 2

### Breeding bird survey results from BTO (2005–2014)

Total numbers of recorded farmland birds in West Oxfordshire 2005-2014

Name	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Corn Bunting	3	2	1	5	4	1	1	1	2	1
Goldfinch	32	27	36	88	56	58	80	62	68	61
Greenfinch	72	94	100	94	66	52	59	30	53	38
Grey Partridge	2	3	3	0	6	1	0	9	0	3
Jackdaw	45	50	135	176	124	104	79	69	81	100
Kestrel	8	6	2	6	6	4	4	4	4	0
Lapwing	8	6	9	12	11	28	4	3	5	7
Linnet	42	27	42	44	57	44	84	134	50	36
Reed Bunting	26	14	35	40	42	39	32	22	20	19
Rook	170	242	504	537	313	330	361	210	518	370
Skylark	103	117	161	163	124	127	131	160	121	152
Starling	84	131	111	80	106	25	70	36	59	44
Stock Dove	16	11	15	11	18	12	13	12	19	34
Tree Sparrow	2	2	2	4	0	1	1	0	0	0
Turtle Dove	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Whitethroat	15	25	36	36	40	48	57	33	20	46
Woodpigeon	435	364	587	570	626	562	458	391	430	316
Yellow Wagtail	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	0	2	2
Yellowhammer	63	97	107	95	100	111	78	74	56	79
Number of surveyed squares	12	13	17	18	18	17	17	17	16	14

Results generated from data supplied by the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey.

# Thames Valley

## Environmental Records Centre

Report produced by Lucy Lush, TVERC Projects Manager

lucy.lush@oxfordshire.gov.uk

01865 815 676

Images kindly supplied by Helen Miller, Celia Haddon,  
Sherie New and the TVERC team.



Signal Court  
Old Station Way  
Eynsham  
Oxfordshire  
OX29 4TL  
Tel: 01865 815 451

[www.tverc.org](http://www.tverc.org)

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