

SD02b



**Winchester District Proposed
Submission Local Plan
(Regulation 19)**

**Integrated Impact Assessment Report -
Appendices**

Winchester City Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

July 2024

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Winchester District Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)

Contents

Appendix A	4
Consultation Comments	
Appendix B	30
Equalities Impact Assessment	
Appendix C	64
Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	
Appendix D	98
Baseline Information	
Appendix E	198
Site Assessment Criteria	
Appendix F	227
Site Assessment Proformas	
References	230

Appendix A

Consultation Comments

Comments received on the Reg 18 IIA Report for the draft Local Plan and how they have been addressed

A.1 The IIA report for the Regulation 18 Local Plan was subject to consultation from the 2 November to 14 December 2022. The consultation comments received and how they have been addressed are set out below.

Summary of Winchester Local Plan: IIA Report Consultation Comments

A.2 Some consultees welcomed the production of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and supported its contents; however there were a number of comments suggesting that the report was flawed or could be improved.

A.3 Regarding the assessment of sites carried out by the IIA, various consultees noted that the selection of certain sites should be reconsidered for various reasons. Some highlighted differences between the SHELAA assessment and IIA processes. Others questioned similarities in the assessment of specific IIA framework objectives. Most notably consultees queried the approach taken for IIA objectives 1: climate change and mitigation, 2: travel and air quality and 7: services and facilities which make use of the same criteria.

A.4 Concerns were raised that many of the sustainability challenges identified in the IIA are either overstated, entirely manageable or mitigatable, or have not been appropriately balanced with the benefits of development. A number of

Appendix A Consultation Comments

consultees noted that mitigation measures should be considered regarding development proposals and site allocations.

A.5 There were also some suggestions for improvements to the site assessment framework and making use of up-to-date evidence in the next iteration of the IIA to accompany the Local Plan (Regulation 19).

A.6 The following section groups the consultation comments into common themes related to the IIA and responds to comments collectively where appropriate.

Summary of Responses to Consultation Comments by Theme

Assessment of Sites

A.7 Various consultees suggested that the selection of certain sites should be reconsidered in light of alternative judgements and evidence. This included a number of consultees who questioned the accuracy of the site assessments, for sites OT03, SH09, SH13, LH11, NA01 and HW03. When reviewed, no inconsistencies in the data or methodology have been found regarding the assessment of these sites.

A.8 A number of consultees questioned the consistency between the SHELAA assessments and the IIA. Chapter 2, of the IIA report states that as part of the process of identifying sites, the Council undertook a 'Call for Sites' in Spring 2021 to help to identify land that could help to deliver a variety of accommodation and community needs. All sites that were submitted through the Call for Sites and identified from the Brownfield Register were subject to assessment through the SHELAA and no sites were discounted as unreasonable alternatives for the IIA as a result of the SHELAA assessment by the Council. All sites have been appraised in a consistent manner in the IIA using the site assessment criteria. It should also be noted that while assessment of site suitability within a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment bears many similarities to an SA of

Appendix A Consultation Comments

reasonable alternative site options, the two assessment processes serve different purposes and are subject to distinct sets of guidance and regulatory requirements.

A.9 A number of landowners/developers suggest that sites should be reassessed when the IIA is updated. All site options were appraised consistently using the assumptions set out in Appendix E of the Winchester District Local Plan (Regulation 18) IIA Report. Once the Council had selected the preferred/proposed sites to be allocated and drafted site-specific allocation policies, considering the IIA findings and other relevant information, the site allocation policies were then appraised. This iterative approach to IIA is consistent with the requirements of the SEA Regulations and good practice. Further detail on how sites were identified and tested can be found Chapter 2 and Appendix E of the IIA Report.

A.10 A number of landowners/developers note that the IIA framework takes a blanket approach to objectives IIA1 (climate change and mitigation), IIA2 (travel and air quality) and IIA7 (services and facilities). Although IIA objectives 1, 3 and 7 all draw on the same site assessment criteria set in Appendix E, the relevance of each and the implications of the effects identified for each IIA are different depending on their respective contexts and take into account different direct and indirect effects. In addition, the site assessment criteria were subject to a focused consultation with the three statutory consultees (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) in Winter 2021/22. These criteria are therefore considered sufficiently robust, proportionate and appropriate for the IIA process.

A.11 Historic England noted that the approach of assessing impact on heritage significance based on proximity to heritage assets is not ideal and request greater clarity on the Council's evidence base on the historic environment. The IIA is written with the consideration of all available evidence at time of writing. The appraisal of the site allocation options in relation to IIA objective 11: historic environment is based on the findings of the Council's SHELAA historic environment assessment. As outlined in Appendix E, as part of its SHELAA the Council carried out an assessment of whether or not designated heritage assets might be impacted upon by the development of a site. For the purposes of the

Appendix A Consultation Comments

IIA, the analysis provided by the Council assigned a 'red/amber/green' ('RAG') rating to identify the potential for adverse effects. The significance of effects relating to the development of a given site were assigned in the IIA based on this RAG rating (i.e. those sites that were recorded as 'red' were assigned a significant negative effect and those that were recorded as 'amber' were assigned a minor negative effect). The Council commissioned further work of this nature (Heritage review of Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment sites) for the preferred site allocations. Where the heritage assessment provides further information about the potential sensitivities of a site in relation to the historic environment, this is reflected in the appraisal of that site and explained as part of the appraisal. This approach is considered proportionate based on the Council's evidence to date. Should more detailed historic environment evidence become available, this will be used to assess site options in the next iteration of the IIA (Regulation 19 stage of the Local Plan). Where an adverse effect has been recorded for site options in relation to IIA objective 11 and a related site allocation policy includes reference to specific sensitivities and appropriate measures to avoid and mitigate impacts, negative effect was reduced accordingly.

A.12 Council's site assessment work relating to the historic environment began by determining whether historic environment features were present within or adjacent to the site boundary. These are sites at which the most unacceptable effects on the historic environment are most likely and there is more limited potential to achieve acceptable mitigation.

A.13 ANON-KSAR-N8QR-T noted that the assessment of site W118: Land north of Ravenswood House Hospital does not appear to recognise the allocation of the Welborne strategic development to the East in Fareham Borough or the proposed improved connections facilitated by the proposals. Where site allocations were close to the District boundary, the spatial analysis was potentially affected by the fact that some spatial data required for proximity-based assessments was not available for all or part of neighbouring districts. At all locations in the District and its immediate surroundings, data that is available at a national level (for example, railway stations, biodiversity designations and AQMAs) was drawn upon to inform the appraisal work. However, data relating to services and facilities was only available at the District level (i.e. for areas

Appendix A Consultation Comments

within the boundaries of Winchester District only) and this is noted as a limitation in Chapter 2.

A.14 ANON-KSAR-N8Q1-S noted that any development at a strategic scale at site MI04 would include delivery of new GP surgeries and schools, as well as the provision of new areas of publicly accessible open space. The IIA of site options has been based on their location and extent in the context of known baseline information so that all options can be appraised to the same level of detail. The effects of the provision of additional services and facilities as well as environmental mitigation and enhancement measures within preferred site allocations is considered through the appraisal of detailed site allocation policies later in the IIA process.

A.15 ANON-KSAR-N81S-U noted that IIA objectives 1d and 1e only assess distances to town, district and local centres, and omits distances to villages, particularly large villages. It is assumed that criteria 1d and 1e capture the presence of other services and facilities outside of the formal centres. The IIA is informed by the best available data at time of writing, as referenced in Appendix D and Appendix E of the Reg 19 IIA Report.

A.16 ANON-KSAR-N81S-U also stated that the assessment of site SH11 regarding IIA objectives 1, 2 and 7 omits a secondary school, Swanmore College, which lies within 500m of the site. As part of the site option appraisal work for the Regulation 19 Local Plan, the schools data used (and a number of other datasets, see Chapter 2 of this report) has been updated and used to update the site appraisals.

A.17 ANON-KSAR-NKQU-G noted that the site assessment criteria fails to sufficiently take account of sustainable transport links such as bus services by failing to weight adequacy and frequency of sustainable transport links and adequately assess the routes and service available. The IIA is written with the consideration of the most up to date and consistently available evidence across the study area. In order to provide consistency, detailed site assessment criteria relating to each of the IIA objectives were developed and applied during the appraisal of site options. Information relating to the adequacy and frequency of

Appendix A Consultation Comments

bus services is piecemeal and in constant flux and was therefore considered insufficiently consistent to be used effectively in the IIA.

A.18 ANON-KSAR-N8GG-5 referred to the need for development over the plan period to be focussed on brownfield sites. In relation to this point, the appraisal of Policy W4 (which allocates site HW09) is suggested by the consultee to be overly positive. It is suggested that the loss of greenfield land should result in significant negative effects being recorded for IIA objectives 1: climate change mitigation, 2: transport and air quality, 3: climate change adaptation, 4: health and wellbeing, 9: biodiversity and geodiversity, 10: landscape, 11: historic environment, 12: natural resources and 13: water resources. The 'policy-off' appraisal of site options (including HW09) without considering any mitigation that might be achieved through site development required by planning policy has been undertaken in line with the site assessment criteria. The use of the site assessment criteria allows for all sites to be considered on an equal footing and the assessment to be undertaken in a consistent manner. The site assessment criteria set out that the proportion of the site that contains greenfield land is reflected in the appraisal of IIA objective 12 only. While it is noted that greenfield land in the District can play a role in issues such as the sequestration of carbon and mitigation of flood risk, the appraisal of other IIA objectives does not reflect the potential loss of greenfield land at the site to avoid a 'double counting' of effects. The appraisal of Policy W4 reflects the appraisal of site HW09 as well as the specific requirements of Policy W4 for the development to achieve mitigation and enhancement. The 'policy-off' and subsequent 'policy-on' appraisal of IIA objective 12 for the site (for which a minor negative effect is recorded) reflects the likelihood for greenfield land to be lost through its development as well as the relatively high proportion of the site that contains Grade 2 agricultural land.

A.19 ANON-KSAR-NKTJ-8 stated that the site at Littleton Nursery (LH11) should have been appraised as being wholly brownfield and lying entirely outside of any areas of higher value agricultural land and Mineral Safeguarding Areas. It is acknowledged that the site lies on brownfield land and the site assessment in the IIA Report for Regulation 18 version Local Plan (and this version of the IIA Report) reflects this. However, based on Natural England's agricultural land classification, the site comprises entirely Grade 3 agricultural

land. The potential loss of the higher value soils on the site is reflected in the minor negative effect recorded overall for IIA objective 12: natural resources for this site.

Assessment of Development Strategy

A.20 Various consultees replying to the IIA noted that the number of housing allocations should be increased, including in relation to the spatial areas of Winchester Town; the South Hampshire Urban Areas; and the Market Towns and Rural Area. Several consultees stated that options for the development strategy that consider an increased level of unmet needs across the PfSH area should be appraised as part of the IIA. This work should reflect the change in the unmet need needs for the PfSH area from 13,000 homes in 2021 to 20,000 homes in 2022, as per the new PfSH 'Statement of Common Ground 2022' (November 2022). It is suggested that the plan will need to deliver a greater number of homes outside the southern areas of the District in the PfSH area as a means of 'freeing up' those developments in this part of the District to count towards meeting the PfHSs unmet need. This approach is also presented as a means of achieving a balanced spatial distribution across the District. In addition, various landowners/developers note that the use of the settlement hierarchy in the strategy inhibits sustainable development in Winchester. A small number of consultees refer to the findings of the IIA in relation to the potential for distributing growth in the District to contribute to limiting any increase in carbon emissions and delivering affordable homes over the plan period. It is stated that the development strategy should be weighted more towards accommodating growth close to Winchester town, the most sustainable settlement in the District, as identified in the IIA.

A.21 As outlined in Chapter 2 of the Reg 19 IIA report, the options for distributing growth in the District were developed by the Council in light of up-to-date evidence, national policy and taking into account information received during Local Plan consultation exercises. The spatial options have been subsequently appraised by the IIA, as outlined in Chapter 4. The Council's reasoning for selecting the preferred sites over the reasonable alternatives can be found in the Development Strategy and Site Selection 2022 on Winchester

Appendix A Consultation Comments

City Council's website. Once the next iteration of the Local Plan (Regulation 19) has been prepared, the proposed policies and site allocations will be subject to another round of IIA and the IIA Report will be updated. This iteration of the IIA Report will include updated information about the Council's reasons for decision making with regards to policy approaches (including for the development strategy) and preferred sites. The options considered by the Council do not include an option which reflects a higher shortfall of dwelling numbers (20,000) between 2022 and 2036 in the PfSH area. As the Winchester Local Plan Housing Topic Paper (2024) explains, the 14,500 dwelling 'shortfall' that consultees have referred to from the Statement of Common Ground 2022 does not equate to unmet housing need over the period concerned, but is instead a 'snapshot' of the current situation. The housing needs are based on the 2022 standard methodology so will change over time, given updates to the affordability ratio, even without any changes that the Government may make to the standard methodology in the medium term. In addition, Winchester City Council is only partly within the PfSH area and has not defined any spatial area / housing target in its Local Plans that correlates to the PfSH part of the District. The Statement of Common Ground has therefore needed to make an estimate of housing need within the PfSH part of Winchester, which is based on the proportion of the District's population estimated to be in PfSH. However, this does not reflect the standard methodology or the planning strategy for the District, which focusses substantial development in the south, reflecting the provisions of the previous South East Plan and the current Local Plan. It should be noted that while the findings of the appraisal undertaken for the IIA Report form an integral part of the plan making process, they have not been considered in isolation by the Council as part of their decision making. This has been informed by other evidence base documents additional to the IIA.

A.22 A number of consultees noted that the reasonable alternatives for the development strategy are not adequately tested within the IIA. The IIA must consider all reasonable alternatives as a Plan evolves. Chapter 2 of the Winchester IIA Report sets out the process that was followed looking at different strategic spatial options at different levels of growth and the IIA that was carried out to inform the development of the plan. Chapter 4 of the Winchester IIA Report sets out the IIA findings for the proposed policy approaches and reasonable alternatives identified. It also sets out alternatives that were

Appendix A Consultation Comments

considered but deemed to not be reasonable, with an explanation of why they were not considered to be reasonable.

A.23 Further to the above, some consultees noted that the IIA Report does not provide a critical review of the evidence provided by the Councils. It is not the role of the IIA to appraise evidence, but the Plan and its reasonable alternatives. Appropriate evidence has been used to inform the IIA of the Plan and its reasonable alternatives.

A.24 The IIA of the options was undertaken using all available evidence at the time of writing, as referenced in Appendix D and Appendix E of the Reg 19 IIA Report. process continues. Key data sources referenced include:

- 2011 Census (Including Census dataset WU03EW: Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work [See reference 1])
- Office for National Statistics [See reference 2]
- Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy [See reference 3]
- Department for Transport [See reference 4]
- Public Health England Local Authority Health Profiles [See reference 5]
- Environment Agency [See reference 6]
- Natural England [See reference 7]
- Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics [See reference 8]
- Winchester City Council website [See reference 9]
- Winchester City Council documents, including:
 - Climate Emergency Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020-2030 [See reference 10]
 - Housing Strategy 2017/18 – 2022/23 [See reference 11]
 - Landscape Sensitivity Assessment [See reference 12]
 - Open Space Assessment [See reference 13]

Appendix A Consultation Comments

- Sports Facility Needs Assessment [See reference 14]
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan [See reference 15]
- Authorities' Monitoring Reports [See reference 16]
- Air Quality Annual Status Report [See reference 17]
- Employment Land Study [See reference 18]

SA Framework

A.25 Natural England outline in their consultation response that the local nature recovery network will be key to helping species adapt to the effects of climate change and that it would be appropriate to make reference to biodiversity within IIA objective 3: To support the District's adaptation to unavoidable climate change. However, the IIA considers the Local Plan's implications for biodiversity in light of climate change via IIA objective 9: To support the District's biodiversity and geodiversity via the appraisal questions of:

- IIA 9.1: Does the Local Plan/policy conserve and enhance designated and undesignated ecological assets within and outside the District, including the Solent and Southampton Water and New Forest designated sites, and seek to promote measurable biodiversity net gain?
- IIA 9.2: Does the Local Plan/policy conserve and enhance green infrastructure and ecological networks, including not compromising future improvements in habitat connectivity?

A.26 In addition, Natural England outlines that impacts to the existing public rights of way network and accessible natural greenspace should be considered regarding IIA objective 4: To improve public health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in the District. As outlined in Chapter 4, IIA objective 4 considers public rights of way and multifunctional open spaces, green/blue infrastructure, and recreation and sports facilities via appraisal question IIA 4.2: Does the Local Plan/policy promote health and wellbeing by providing access to and maintaining, enhancing, connecting and creating multifunctional open

spaces, green/blue infrastructure, public rights of way, recreation and sports facilities?

Conclusion and Mitigation

A.27 A number of consultees noted that many of the sustainability challenges identified in the IIA are either overstated, entirely manageable or mitigatable, or have not been appropriately balanced with the benefits of development. The IIA is written with the consideration of all available evidence at time of writing, with such information informing the identified sustainability challenges. Updates to the baseline information and sustainability issues will be included in the next iteration of the IIA (Regulation 19 stage of the Local Plan) where available and appropriate. The next iteration of the IIA will also consider the cumulative residual effects of the Plan as a whole and in-combination with other Plans, Projects and Programmes. As such, the overall IIA findings may change as the IIA progresses.

A.28 A number of consultees noted that mitigation measures should be considered regarding development proposals and site allocations. Mitigation measures are not covered in initial appraisal of site options to ensure all options are appraised to the same level of detail. However, the appraisal of site allocation policies and associated development management policies in the Local Plan appraise the effects of mitigation and enhancement measures outlined within the policy.

A.29 Historic England advise referring to “entries” or “assets” on the Heritage at Risk Register; the monitoring indicators for IIA 11 has therefore been updated. Historic England also noted that the concluding remarks on page 578 regarding the total effects of the draft Local Plan’s policies and site allocations omit mention of IIA objectives 10 to 14 in the list of IIA objectives where significant policies have been found. Chapter 6 including Table 6.1 outlines that regarding cumulative effects, significant effects are only observed in relation to IIA objectives 1 to 9, therefore IIA objectives 10 to 14 are not referenced in the list on page 578. The next iteration of the IIA (Regulation 19 stage) will also consider the cumulative residual effects of the Plan as a whole and in-

Appendix A Consultation Comments

combination with other Plans, Projects and Programmes. As such, the overall IIA findings may change as the IIA progresses.

A.30 Natural England have made various recommendations relating to monitoring indicators relevant to their statutory duties. This includes advisory points that Local Plan policy requires relevant development to carry out site-level Habitats Regulations Assessments in order to ensure impacts on European sites are suitably addressed, and that the indicators should be amended to better reflect how the Plan will deliver sustainable development by avoiding impacts on biodiversity and securing net gain, in line with the 'avoid, mitigate, compensate' decision making hierarchy. The monitoring indicators for IIA 9 and IIA 11 have been revised to take in to account Natural England's comments.

A.31 ANON-KSAR-N81U-W noted that the Sustainability Appraisal is not included in the Local Plan Evidence Base library and has not therefore, been correctly consulted on. The IIA could be found on the Winchester City Council website at the time of the Regulation 18 consultation at <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/local-plan-library>.

Comments received on the Reg 18 IIA Report for the SIP and how they have been addressed

A.32 The IIA Report for the Strategic Issues and Priorities (SIP) Paper was subject to consultation from 15th February to 12th April 2021. The consultation comments received and how they have been addressed is set out below.

Natural England

Comment

- Consultee noted that comments on the IIA have already been provided in letter dated 11th August 2020.

Response

- Noted. Previous comments received from Natural England have been summarised and responded to separately in this appendix.

Drew Smith - Land at Pitt Vale, Winchester

Comment

- The consultee does not consider that an IIA is the most appropriate way forward since the IIA combines the SA, SEA, HRA, HIA and EqIA. This combines different legal requirements, which cover matters that have a basis in legislation with reports used to help support site selection processes. Instead, it is recommended that the reports sit separately to each other so that each can be structured to meet the relevant legal requirements.
- States that the coronavirus pandemic has not been referenced as a contributing factor in the Scoping Report. At the time of writing, the UK was in the midst of the pandemic and it is relevant that the South-East had been less badly affected than other areas of the UK. The impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the changes in lifestyle have not been taken into account in the baseline data in Chapter 3 of the IIA Scoping Report.
- States that it is of importance when considering site assessments that there is a clear place and role for the technical information submitted by landowners/developers/promoters. The criteria within the SA are helpful in

assessing the facts about a site, but do not include technical knowledge on matters such as access or ecology and therefore fail to provide a basis on which to conclude whether a site is deliverable. An alternative appraisal of the site promoted (Land at Pitt Vale, Winchester) by the consultee is included.

Response

- The IIA incorporates SA, SEA and HIA as well as including a separate appendix for EqIA. It is noted that the requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct. However, it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process and this is advocated in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance. There is no statutory requirement to undertake HIA and it is considered appropriate to consider potential findings relating to health as part of the IIA under the relevant IIA objective. This allows for a more holistic approach to the findings of the IIA. The effects reported in the document include those relating to health and these are considered alongside other potential effects of the plan reported in the IIA as part of the plan making process. Requirement to undertake EqIA has been abolished. The detailed findings of the EqIA are presented as a separate appendix to this report. The HRA is undertaken separately from IIA given that requirement for the assessment is sent out under different regulations than those for SEA/IIA. The findings of the HRA are reflected in the IIA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of potential development locations on biodiversity).
- The baseline evidence presented in Appendix D of this report includes information about the effects of the coronavirus pandemic in the District.
- All site options identified by the Council as reasonable alternatives have been appraised making use of the site assessment criteria developed as part of the IIA process. These criteria are set out in Appendix E of this report. This allows for a consistent approach to the appraisal of all site options. This consistency of approach is of particular importance given the large number of site options appraised. The appraisal the consultee has provided has made use of the appraisal questions included in the IIA framework. These are intended as a guide for the appraisal work

Appendix A Consultation Comments

undertaken. Therefore, the appraisal of the site provided by the consultee is not comparable to that presented in the IIA. It is unclear which site the consultee is referring to in their comment. Two sites (HU03 and HU11) to the west of Pitt Park and Ride have been appraised in this report.

Comments received on the IIA Scoping Report and how they have been addressed

A.33 The SA Scoping Report was subject to consultation from 8th July to 11th July August 2020. The consultation comments received and how they have been addressed is set out below.

Environment Agency Solent and South Downs Area

Comment

- States that there should be more distinction made between the water quality and water resources in IIA objective 13: water resource. Suggests that the objective includes the protection and improvement of water quality across the district (environmental net gain). This also links to objective 14 and in particular SuDS wherein the Environment Agency tend to focus on managing the quantity of water through SuDS schemes but little focus on the quality of the water going back into the system. Policy makers should be seeking to minimise water use through delivering sustainable development in both residential and commercial development, and should be as bold as possible in policy making.

Response

- The appraisal questions for IIA objective 13: water resources have been updated to include (underlined and strikethrough text denotes changes to appraisal questions):

Appendix A Consultation Comments

- SA 13.1: Protect and improve the water quality across the District to promote environmental net gain ~~and achieve nutrient neutrality of the District's rivers and inland water~~, including by preventing increased phosphorus loading on the River Itchen SAC?
 - SA 13.2: Minimise inappropriate development in Source Protection Zones?
 - SA 13.3: Preserve water flows of the District's rivers, including the River Itchen?
 - SA 13.4: Support development and design which would minimise the use of water in new development, including water use in line with Southern Water's Target 100 demand reduction programme as well as the recycling of greywater?
- The updates to these appraisal questions also reflect the comments received from Natural England which are detailed in this table below.

Comment

- Highlights that the Environment Agency produces monthly Water Situation Reports. In summary for July 2020 Solent and South Downs (SSD) had below average rainfall in July, receiving 69% (33mm) of the Long Term Average (LTA) (47mm). Monthly mean river flows across SSD ranged from notably low to normal. End of month groundwater levels ranged from notably low to above normal.
- States that the baseline/PPP review should reference the PfSH Integrated Water management Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy and that catchment data explorer for water quality data should also be referenced.

Response

- The PPP review and baseline in Appendices C and D, respectively, have been updated to include reference to the details in the most up to date Environment Agency Water Situation Reports, the catchment data explorer

for water quality data, the PfSH Integrated Water Management Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Historic England

Comment

- States that the Historic England advice notes Historic Environment in Local Plans, The Setting of Heritage Assets, The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans and Tall Buildings should be included in the PPP review. The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage should also be included.

Response

- The PPP review (in Appendix C) has been updated to include reference to the Historic England advice notes referred to as well as the European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage.

Comment

- States that the baseline for the IIA should make reference to the local list of heritage assets Winchester City Council is working on.

Response

- The difficulties in undertaking the IIA work highlighted in Chapter 2 states that the 'City Council does not currently have a List of Local Heritage at Risk; this is something that the Council's Heritage Team are hoping to prepare in due course'. Should this work become available, it will be used to inform the IIA work.

Comment

- Is supportive of the support the criteria set out in IIA objective 11: historic environment, but that the scoping report is incomplete without the site assessment criteria which were being worked up when the scoping report was published. It should be demonstrated that work to bring forward site allocations has been informed by site assessment criteria in the SA. Would like to be consulted on the site assessment criteria. States that distance based criteria based on GIS is not appropriate for appraisal work relating to the historic environment and recommends that a heritage professional such as a conservation officer carries out the assessment in respect of the historic environment.

Response

- Historic England's recommendations on the approach to heritage impact assessment as part of the SA of site options are noted but this approach has yet to be agreed with the Council as site options have not yet been identified. Site assessment criteria will be developed for each IIA objective in the SA framework in discussion with the Council, taking account of the best available evidence that is appropriate to the level of detail of a local plan.

Natural England

Comment

- States that a distinction should be made with the terms climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- States that the impact climate change can have on agriculture from increased flooding and drought events could be recognised in relation to climate change.

Appendix A Consultation Comments

- The importance of multi-functional green space in terms of climate change is also flagged, given that it contributes to resilient ecological networks and the Nature Recovery Network. In relation to this it is highlighted that the policies of the Local Plan can support the creation of Nature Recovery Network(s), can respond to sensitive biodiversity sites and habitats across the District to help with biodiversity net gain and addressing issues on the protected sites that will be exacerbated by climate change.
- Highlights that the SA explores the link between public health and wellbeing and access to the natural environment the IIA objectives should seek to enhance green infrastructure and ecological connectivity across the district that is managed for people and nature. In addition, the IIA objectives should protect and enhance public rights of way (PROW) and access and recreation.
- States that the SA should include objectives for the need to maintain and enhance investment into the area's critical natural and green infrastructure assets (e.g. Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINCs), National Park, footpath network, visitor centres, Nature Parks etc.) as a means for supporting the wider economy.

Response

- The SA framework, presented in Table 3.2 of this report, already addresses climate change mitigation and adaption separately. IIA objective 1 addresses the District's contribution to climate change through a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, while IIA objective 3 addresses the District's adaptation to unavoidable climate change.
- The SA does not make reference to climate change effects on agriculture since agricultural land management is not within the scope of the local plan.
- The SA framework now includes the following appraisal questions for IIA objectives 4: health, IIA objective 8: economic growth, and 9: biodiversity and geodiversity (underlined and strikethrough text denotes changes to appraisal questions):

Appendix A Consultation Comments

- SA 4.2: Promote health and wellbeing by providing access to and maintaining, enhancing, connecting and creating multifunctional open spaces, green/blue infrastructure, public rights of way, recreation and sports facilities?
- SA 8.6: Support the District's critical natural and green infrastructure assets as a means to promote the area as an attractive location for new business and to encourage growth in tourism?
- SA 9.2: Conserve and enhance green infrastructure and ecological networks, including not compromising future improvements in habitat connectivity?

Comment

- States that the environmental assessment of the plan (SA and HRA) should also consider any detrimental impacts on the natural environment as a result of air pollution. Additional nitrogen emissions as a result of increased traffic generation, which can be damaging to the natural environment. These impacts can be assessed using traffic projections and the 200m distance criterion followed by local Air Quality modelling where required.

Response

- To avoid the 'double counting' of effects, the SA framework considers the potential for air pollution separately to the biodiversity objective through IIA objective 2: air quality. The site assessment criteria will consider the potential for new development to have impacts on nearby biodiversity sites by reference to SSSI Impact Risk Zones for nationally/internationally designated sites and a proximity based approach based on professional judgement for locally designated sites. In addition, the findings of the HRA will inform the biodiversity findings of the SA and will reflect any potential for air quality issues to result at European sites as a result of development.

Comment

- Given the scale of the water quality issues, with particular regards to the River Itchen Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the coastal European designated sites in the Solent, it is suggested that the distinct impacts relating to water resources and water quality are separated into separate sections within the SA within the key sustainability issues. The Key Sustainability Issues mention watercourses in relation to the Water Framework Directive, however it is advised that the SA also clearly outlines that development coming through the local plan period must be compliant with the Habitats Regulations and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and that assessment will be required against the condition status of SSSIs and conservation objectives of international sites.
- States that the SA should include objectives that seek to preserve water quality and flows on the Itchen and to ensure that local plan and windfall development within the District will not increase the phosphorus loading on the River Itchen SAC. Impacts on the Itchen SAC/SSSI from poor water quality of surface run-off during construction and operational phases will also require consideration under the Habitats Regulations.
- States that the SA should ensure the issue of water resources and the impacts of abstraction and drought on protected sites including the River Itchen SAC is considered and include objectives for policy to set strict requirements for water consumption and encourage use of greywater recycling and efficient appliances. The target set out in the comment is for all new development to adopt a higher standard of water efficiency of 100 litres/per person/day including external water use and re-use in line with Southern Water's Target 100 demand reduction programme.

Response

- The table of key issues in the SA report has now been amended to separately address issues relating to water resources and those relating to water quality and to highlight the need for compliance with the Habitats Regulations and Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Appendix A Consultation Comments

- The SA framework now includes the following appraisal questions for IIA objectives 13: water resources (underlined and strikethrough text denotes changes to appraisal questions):
 - SA 13.1: Protect and improve the water quality across the District to promote environmental net gain ~~and achieve nutrient neutrality of the District's rivers and inland water~~, including by preventing increased phosphorus loading on the River Itchen SAC?
 - SA 13.2: Minimise inappropriate development in Source Protection Zones?
 - SA 13.3: Preserve water flows of the District's rivers, including the River Itchen?
 - SA 13.4: Support development and design which would minimise the use of water in new development, including water use in line with Southern Water's Target 100 demand reduction programme as well as the recycling of greywater?
- The updates to these appraisal questions also reflect the comments received from the Environment Agency which are detailed in earlier this table.
- The findings of the HRA will inform the biodiversity findings of the SA and will reflect the potential for effects in relation to water quality and quantity on European sites as a result of development.

Comment

- Highlights the 5.6km zone of influence for the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Areas (SPA), which is covered by the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) strategic solution and the 20km zone of influence for the New Forest. The report should include objectives for protecting these sites from developments contributing to increased recreational disturbance. The IIA objectives should also recognise protection for biodiversity/geodiversity sites or landscape areas, distinguishing between international, national and local sites.

Response

- In drafting appraisal criteria for site options and determining the significance of their effects (to be included in the next iteration of the SA report), consideration will be given to distinguishing between international, national and local biodiversity sites. The HRA will take these zones of influence into account as appropriate and the HRA findings will also be cross referenced in the SA.
- In addition, the SA framework now includes the following appraisal questions for IIA objective 9: biodiversity (underlined and strikethrough text denotes changes to appraisal questions):
 - SA 9.1: Conserve and enhance designated and undesignated ecological assets within and outside the District, including the Solent and Southampton Water and New Forest designated sites, and seek to promote measurable biodiversity net gain?
 - SA 9.3: Support appropriate interactions for members of public with nature and limit the potential for the adverse effects of increased recreational disturbance?

Comment

- States that the SA should refer to the NPPF requirement for new development to demonstrate net gain for biodiversity and the Environment Bill which will make it mandatory for development to provide at least 10% net gain. We suggest the SA includes objectives for the consideration of net gain for biodiversity for all aspects of the plan and development types, including transport proposals, housing and community infrastructure.

Response

- The SA framework through SA appraisal question 9.1 seeks to promote the achievement of measurable biodiversity net gain. Chapter 3 (Sustainability context) of this report highlights the Environment Bill and the requirement that this bill would bring into effect for development to

Appendix A Consultation Comments

provide at least 10% net gain. In addition, this has now been given more prominence in the Key Issues section of the SA report under the biodiversity heading.

Comment

- SA should set out a strategic/landscape approach to ecological networks and include an objective for planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity.

Response

- The SA framework through seeks to conserve and enhance green infrastructure and ecological networks and to promote improvements in habitat connectivity.

Comment

- The SA should consider the protection given to protected landscapes and should refer to and/or reflect National Park management plan objectives and South Downs National Park Local Plan as we would want to see the character of protected landscapes conserved and enhanced.

Response

- Appendix C of this report sets out the review of plans, policies and programmes. This includes the National Park management plan and an overview of the objectives of that plan. An overview of the South Downs National Park Local Plan is also included in the section 'Surrounding Development Plans' of that appendix.

South Downs National Park Authority

Comment

- States the scope of the proposed SA framework is appropriate. However, there should be more emphasis on the landscape sensitivity within and bordering Winchester City. The City is in close proximity to the National Park and is extremely sensitive with a lot of cultural landscape.
- Appreciates that the adopted South Downs Local Plan is referenced and highlights that a suite of SPDs and TANs are being progressed.
- States that Chapter 3 (Sustainability context) is appropriately comprehensive and is pleased to see the inclusion of the National Park in Figure 3.33 (National Parks). Highlights that the mapping could include Landscape Character Areas and Dark Night Skies in Winchester.
- States that issue of the setting of the National Park should be isolated in its own appraisal question. It would also welcome more recognition of landscape sensitivity in areas bordering the National Park, and the need for scale of development to be appropriate to the landscape context and make best use of previously developed land.
- Suggests that views should be included alongside Dark Night Skies and Tranquillity. The consultee would also welcome the addition of communities into SA 10.2, alongside non designated landscape and settlements.

Response

- The IIA highlights the potential sensitivities of the setting of the National Park in relation to Winchester through the key sustainability issues in Table 3.1 and also the issue of access to the park from the City.
- The IIA report contains a large number of maps (33 in total) and the topics covered is considered appropriate.

Appendix A Consultation Comments

- Support for use of previously developed land is already addressed by appraisal question SA 12.1: Promote the re-use of previously development land?
- The appraisal questions for IIA objective 10: landscape have been updated to include (underlined and strikethrough text denotes changes to appraisal questions):
 - SA 10.1: Protect and enhance the District's sensitive and special landscapes, including the setting, tranquillity and dark skies of the South Downs National Park?
 - SA 10.2: Protect and enhance the setting, views, tranquillity and dark skies of the South Downs National Park?
 - SA 10.~~3~~: Conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the District's non-designated landscapes and, settlements and communities?
 - SA 10.~~4~~: Promote visually attractive development with high quality design, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping with a scale of development appropriate to the sensitivity of the landscape?

Comment

- The SA should also recognise the importance of making best use of previously developed land.

Response

- The SA framework set out in Table 3.2 of this report addresses the promotion of the development of previously developed land through IIA objective 12.

Appendix B

Equalities Impact Assessment

B.1 This report presents the findings of an assessment of the likely effects of the Winchester District Local Plan (Regulation 19) document on equality issues.

B.2 The requirement to undertake formal Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of plans was introduced in the Equality Act 2010, but was abolished in 2012 as part of a Government bid to reduce bureaucracy. Despite this, authorities are still required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act, namely the Public Sector Duty which requires public authorities to have due regard for equalities considerations when exercising their functions. In fulfilling this duty, many authorities still find it useful to produce a written record of equalities issues having been specifically considered. That is the purpose of this report.

B.3 The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine 'protected characteristics' and seeks to protect people from discrimination on the basis of these characteristics. They are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

B.4 There are three main duties set out in the Equality Act 2010, which public authorities including Winchester City Council must meet in exercising their functions:

- To eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.
- To foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

B.5 When undertaking EqIA for other plans and policy documents Winchester City Council has decided to extend the characteristics which have been considered as part of the appraisal to include those groups which might also be particularly affected by contents of the document. This approach has also been taken for the EqIA of the Winchester Local Plan with consideration also given to the potential effects relation to the following groups:

- People on low incomes
- People on benefits
- Unemployed people
- Young and adult carers
- People living in deprived areas/rural areas
- People with poor literacy and/or numeracy

The Winchester Local Plan

B.6 As described in the full IIA Report, the Winchester District Local Plan (Regulation 19) document (Autumn 2024XXX), sets out policies to address a number of key issues for the District:

- Carbon Neutrality and Low Carbon Infrastructure.

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

- High Quality Design and Living Well.
- Sustainable Transport and Active Travel.
- Biodiversity and the Natural Environment.
- The Historic Environment.
- Homes for All.
- Creating a Vibrant Economy.

B.7 A number of policies are also included to allocate sites to meet housing needs of the District. This includes a number of sites that have been carried forward from the adopted Local Plan and a number of new sites that are needed to deliver the development strategy.

B.8 The purpose of the Local Plan is to guide development in the District up to 2040. Strategic planning is only one of the functions of Winchester City Council, so it is not expected that the Local Plan alone would address all of the duties of the Equalities Act.

Baseline Information

B.9 The Winchester District Local Plan (Regulation 19) document (Autumn 2024) and Appendix D in this IIA Report set out baseline information about Winchester District, including some information relevant to the protected characteristics covered by the Equalities Act. The most relevant information is summarised below.

B.10 The population of Winchester in 2021 was 127,400 [See reference 19], compared to the 2011 Census, when 116,600 people lived in the plan area across 46,900 households [See reference 20]. The population in 2021 was split between 65,400 females and 62,500 males.

B.11 As of 2021, 93.6% of Winchester's population reported as being 'White British', compared with 95.7% in 2011. The Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnic groups account for 3.1% of the overall population, while the Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African ethnic group accounts for 0.6% of the overall population. The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the "Other" category ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group") in 2021 was 0.7% [\[See reference 21\]](#).

B.12 In 2021, the majority of Winchester's population considered themselves to be Christian, with 48.6% residents falling within this classification. Those who reported no religion accounted for 42.2% of residents. 0.5% of residents are reported to have other religions, but no figures are provided by ONS to show the split between specific religions. These figures demonstrate that from 2011, the number the number of residents reporting to have no religion grew 0.4% to 0.5% and the number recorded as Christian fell (from 63.2% to 48.6%) [\[See reference 22\]](#).

B.13 Also from 2021 census data, 50.6% of Winchester's population were married whilst 33.2% were single. The percentage of adults in Winchester that had divorced or dissolved a civil partnership was 8.2% [\[See reference 23\]](#).

B.14 The median age for the plan area, as reported in the 2021 census, increased by one year from the 2011 census, to 43 years. This is higher than the median age for both the UK (41 years) and the South East of England (42 years) [\[See reference 24\]](#).

B.15 According to the 2021 mid-year population estimates for the area, the percentage of Winchester's population of people aged 15-19 is 9.7%, which is greater than the averages for Hampshire (7.2%) and England (5.7%). It also had the same proportion of people who are aged 50-54 (7.1%) as Hampshire (7.1%), but higher lower than England (6.9%). Winchester has an above average percentage of older people, aged 65 and over (20.9%) when compared to England (18.3%). It remains slightly below Hampshire's over 65 population (21.9%). The percentage of Winchester's population aged over 65 has grown 0.5% from 18.9% in 2011 to 19.4% in 2021, demonstrating an increasing

percentage of older residents in Winchester [\[See reference 25\]](#). The age groups who saw the largest population increase in Winchester between the most recent censuses in 2011 and 2021 were 55-59 (30%), 70-74 (39%), 75-79 (33%), and over 90 (32%) [\[See reference 26\]](#).

B.16 It is expected that the ratio of those residents who are state pension age or older to those of working age will increase in the future across the UK. Increases in population in Winchester are forecast mainly amongst the older age groups [\[See reference 27\]](#). Winchester (346.0) presently has a relatively high old age dependency ratio compared to the South East (310.0) which indicates that the number of people of state pension age per 1,000 people of working age is comparatively high. In Winchester, this figure is expected to rise to 400.0 by 2043, which is in line with the figure for the South East for this time.

B.17 Health is a cross-cutting topic and as such many topic areas explored in this Scoping Report influence health either directly or indirectly. The latest published information comes from the 2021 census which provides a snapshot of the general health and well-being of residents in Winchester at that time. The health of residents of Winchester was described as 'Good' or 'Very Good' by 86.1% of the population, compared to 82.2% for England. Only 3.4% of Winchester's population described their health as 'Bad' or 'Very Bad', compared to figure of 5.2% for the England average [\[See reference 28\]](#).

B.18 Life expectancy at birth in 2022 in Winchester was 83.0 years for males and 86.3 years for females, which is higher than the national value of 79.3 years and 83.2 years, respectively [\[See reference 29\]](#).

B.19 In terms of their perception of wellbeing, residents of the District reported having slightly lower levels of life satisfaction (7.7 out of 10.00) than the average for UK (7.4) in the 2022/23 period. The Covid-19 pandemic led to decreased levels of life satisfaction being reported across all of the UK and Winchester was no exception with a decrease to 7.0 reported in 2020/21 from 7.5 reported in the previous year period. Average figures recorded relating to 'feeling the things done in life are worthwhile' and 'happiness' also decreased compared to prior years in the district (both at 7.3) in 2020/21 and were lower than or

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

equivalent to the averages for UK (at 7.7 and 7.3, respectively). Average levels of anxiety recorded for the District fell between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (from 3.6 to 2.9), and were lower than the average for the UK (3.3) [See reference 30]. Perceptions of personal wellbeing and happiness have since increased to 8.0 and 7.2 in Winchester since 2020/21. Whilst perceptions of wellbeing remain higher than the England average 7.73, perceptions of happiness are lower than the England average of 7.38.

B.20 The 2021 census presented figures on people with disabilities in the UK. 5.1% of Winchester residents are identified as being disabled and limited a lot, which is a 0.7% reduction from 2011. The decrease in the proportion of residents who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot was less than the regional average in the South East (from 7.2% to 6.2%) and the national average which fell by 1.6 percentage points, from 9.1% to 7.5% [See reference 31].

B.21 The 2021 census presented figures on people with disabilities in the UK. Of Winchester’s population, 15.4% class themselves as disabled under the Equality Act which is lower than the national level (17.3%) [See reference 32].

B.22 For statistics on pregnancy and maternity, Table B.1 presents the percentage of births Winchester occurring to mothers aged 35 or over, occurring outside of marriage and occurring to non-British mothers.

Table B.1: Breakdown of selected figures relating to births in Winchester

Births	2001	2005	2011	2015	2016
% live births to mothers aged 35+	26.0	29.4	24.8	32.3	31.6
% live births outside of marriage	25.0	27.0	33.8	33.4	31.8
% live births born to non-British born mothers	12.6	13.6	13.9	14.0	15.6

B.23 In 2019, Winchester ranked 293 out of 317 local authorities in England (1 being the most deprived), compared with a ranking of 307 in 2015 [See reference 33]. (It should be noted that the number of Local Authorities in England ranked in terms of IMD decreased from 326 to 317 from 2015 to 2019). Winchester performs particularly strongly in terms of measures relating to income, employment, education skills and training, health and disability, crime, income deprivation affecting children and income deprivation affecting older people. The area performs less favourably (ranked 195 out of 317) in relation to living environment which considers the quality of housing as well as air quality and road traffic accidents. It also performed particularly poorly (ranked 99 out of 317) in relation to barriers to housing and services which considers the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. In 2019, Winchester had no Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) within the 10% most deprived or within the 11% to 20% most deprived areas in England. However, areas within Winchester Town in the St Bartholomew and St Michael (previously St John and All Saints ward) wards (LSOA Winchester 006c) are within the 30% most deprived areas in England. Also, within the City parts of the St Bartholomew ward (LSOA Winchester 006a) and the St Luke ward (LSOAs Winchester 008a and Winchester 008b) are within the 40% most deprived areas in England.

B.24 According to Public Health England, while Winchester is one of the 20% least deprived districts/unitary authorities in England, around 10.1% (2,342) children live in relative low income families, whilst 8.1% (1,894) live in absolute low income families [See reference 34]. It was estimated that 4,278 out of 52,739 households were fuel poor in 2021, which equates to 8% of all households in the District. This is lower than the figure for South East of England which is 8.4% [See reference 35]. The fuel poverty levels for the South East are the lowest in England [See reference 36].

B.25 There is little baseline information available that is directly relevant to other protected characteristics including gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

Method

B.26 The Winchester District Local Plan (Regulation 19) document has been reviewed to consider the likely impacts of the policies on each of the nine protected characteristics from the Equality Act 2010 as well as a number of groups which might also be particularly affected by contents of the document. These groups are listed earlier in this appendix. The policy options subject to EqIA at the Issues and Options stage are not represented in this document. However, given the importance of the distribution of development in the context of the preparation of the Local Plan and the potential for a wide range of impacts on different groups in the District, the EqIA work undertaken for the Winchester District Local Plan (Regulation 19) document includes the presentation of the appraisal the options considered for the spatial distribution of development in the District. A detailed description of each option is presented in Chapter 4 of the full IIA Report.

B.27 The appraisal of the policies in the Local Plan and the spatial options for the distribution of development in the plan area consider each protected characteristic and the other identified groups, in relation to whether there is compatibility with the three main duties set out in the Equality Act 2010.

B.28 A colour coded scoring system has been used to show the effects that the Local Plan is likely to have on each protected characteristics, as shown below:

Table B.2: Symbols and colour coding used

Score	Likely Effect
+	Positive
0	Neutral
-	Negative

B.29 Note that the criteria applied to the appraisal of site options as part of the EqIA differ from the criteria applied to the appraisal of sites as part of the full IIA Report; therefore, the effects identified are not equivalent between the two assessments.

Findings

B.30 The detailed findings of the equalities assessment for the options for the spatial distribution of growth in the plan area and the policies in the Winchester District Local Plan (Regulation 19) document are presented in Tables B.3 and B.4, respectively. The proposed site allocations included in the Local Plan have been considered as part of the assessment of the spatial strategy policy (SP2). The spatial strategy broadly aligns with option 1a considered for the spatial distribution of growth in the District. As such, the effects described below in relation to Policy SP2 by and large, align with those identified for option 1a.

B.31 The Local Plan does not directly affect a number of the protected characteristics. Most of the policies are expected to have either a positive, mixed or neutral relationship with regard to all of the protected characteristics considered in this assessment. Only a small number of policies are expected to have a negative relationship with any of the protected characteristics without potential for this to be combined with a positive effect. Where this is the case, it is likely that potential adverse effects on the protected characteristics would be addressed through other policies when considering the plan as a complete document. The document is therefore considered to be generally compatible with the three main duties of the Equality Act 2010.

B.32 The Winchester District Local Plan (Regulation 19) document does not include any direct or indirect references to marriage and civil partnership and sex and does not include policies that are considered to have a direct effect on these two protected characteristics. No direct effect is also expected in relation to young and adult carers. For the remaining protected characteristics and groups against which each policy has been assessed (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

orientation, people on low incomes, people on benefits, unemployed people, people living in deprived/rural areas and people with poor literacy and/numeracy) the policies in the Local Plan document are likely to have some positive, mixed and a small number of negative effects as follows.

B.33 The Local Plan includes a number of policies that seek to address the provision of community services and facilities in the District, seek to support development that would support good access to these types of facilities, or prevent development that would could result in their loss. Some of the more specialist services and facilities in the District will be of particular benefit to groups that are presently less represented in the community; for example where there is a need for specialist medical facilities or places to organise meetings. There are also policies included in the plan to help support the viability of Town Centre locations where there is potential for increased numbers of informal interactions between residents which could help to promote social tolerance and cohesion in the plan area. Policies SP1, SP2, H1, H2, H3, H4, E2, E3, E4, E7 and E8 are all expected to result in a positive effect in relation to the protected characteristics of gender reassignment, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. These policies all have potential to support good access to a range of services and facilities or support increased community cohesion in the plan area.

B.34 The positive effect recorded for Policies SP2, H1 and H3 reflects the spatial distribution that would be achieved in Winchester District. The distribution of much of the development to the more developed locations (at Winchester Town, South Hampshire Urban Area and large settlements at the Market Towns and Rural Areas) would support good access for many residents to services and facilities and town centres. Given that some residents would be located in areas where there is more limited access to these types of provisions, the positive effect expected for these policies is in combination with a negative effect. Given that Winchester Town contains some of the most deprived areas of the District, supporting the regeneration of these areas is also expected to have positive effects in relation to people living in deprived areas. Furthermore, providing for the overall economic strategy for the District (Policy E1) is expected to improve the prospects of residents in receipt of benefits, those searching for a job and those wishing to upskill. Positive effects are therefore

expected for this policy in relation to people on benefits, unemployed people and people with poor literacy and/or numeracy. Distributing economic development in the District to align mostly with the housing strategy for the District is likely to support good access to jobs for many residents. Therefore, Policy E2 is expected to have a positive effect in relation to unemployed people. Positive effects are also recorded for these groups for Policies SP2, H1, H3 and H4 given that are also likely to support access to jobs for a relatively high number of residents. For Policies SP2, H1 and H3 the positive effect is expected in combination with a negative effect given that some housing is to be provided within less developed areas where access to jobs would be more limited.

B.35 Supporting good access to services and facilities as well as jobs is likely to reduce the potential for air pollution in the plan area. Certain groups (including younger, older and pregnant people and those with respiratory or cardiovascular illnesses) are more vulnerable to this type of pollution. Therefore, positive effects are also expected in relation to the protected characteristics age, disability and pregnancy and maternity for the policies for which positive effects are recorded for gender reassignment, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Mixed positive and negative effects are expected for Policies SP2, H1 and H3 in relation to age, disability, and pregnancy and maternity. The negative effect recorded as part of the overall mixed effect in relation to these characteristics reflects the proportion of residents who would be located in less developed locations. It also reflects the existing issues of air pollution within Winchester Town, where an AQMA is present and a relatively high number of residents would be located.

B.36 Policies SP3, CN1, CN2, CN3, CN5, CN6, CN7, CN8, D1, D2, D4, D5, D6, T1, T2, T3, T4, NE1, NE3, NE4, NE5, NE7, NE8, NE9, NE9, NE10, NE11, NE14, NE15, HE14 and E1 are also expected to have a positive effect in relation to the protected characteristics age, disability and pregnancy and maternity. Many of these policies are expected to help encourage the use of more active and sustainable travel modes which could help limit the release of air pollutants associated with vehicular travel. These benefits are likely to result through support for the development that is well designed and permeable and incorporates safe and convenient routes for walking and cycling. Policies T1 to

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

T4 are expected to be of particular benefit in this regard given that they are specifically focussed on incorporating measures that would promote safe and accessible low carbon transport solutions. These policies are also expected to have positive effects in relation to people on low incomes, people on benefits, unemployed people and people living in deprived areas/rural areas. Supporting travel by sustainable and active modes will give those in more remote areas better access to jobs and services and facilities. These types of improvements will also have particular benefits for those on lower incomes who may not be able to own or operate a car.

B.37 Policies are also included which will support more compact forms of development within the settlement boundaries and higher densities of development in appropriate more urban locations. This type of approach to development is also likely to benefit air quality in the District, with associated benefits for groups who may be more susceptible to air pollutants. This theme is notable included through Policies SP3, D6 and NE7. It should be noted that the positive effects recorded for Policy NE7 are combined with negative effects. This policy seeks to maintain undeveloped gaps between settlements. While this approach is likely to support more compact forms of development at many settlements, in some instances it may result in some residents having to travel to other settlements to access certain provisions that might otherwise be located closer to them if there was not a requirement to maintain the gap in question.

B.38 Policies included that will help to preserve and enhance undeveloped areas of vegetation (most notably Policies NE1, NE3, NE4, NE5, NE8, NE9, NE10, BE11, NE14 and NE15), woodland or other types of green infrastructure may act as routes for walking and cycling thereby contributing to a reduced need to travel by car and associated air pollutants. These policies may also help to support the incorporation of natural barriers to air pollution. Benefits relating to air quality are likely through these approaches and therefore positive effects are expected for these policies in relation to the protected characteristics age, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The plan also includes policies that will support a move towards more sustainable and less polluting energy sources as well as supporting development that will require lower levels of energy in the first place given the higher level of efficiency promoted through design

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

measures. These policies (most notably CN1, CN2, CN3, CN5, CN6, CN7 and CN8) are also likely to benefit the protected characteristics age, disability and pregnancy and maternity given the potential to support increases in local air quality. Policies CN1, CN2 and CN3 are considered most likely to provide benefits in relation to increased energy efficiency at developments in the District which is likely to greatly benefit people on lower incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people by reducing instances of fuel poverty. Policy HE14 will also have benefits for these groups for the similar reasons. However, these benefits are limited to securing higher levels of energy efficiency through development at heritage assets. Policy D7 is also of importance when considering the potential to limit the adverse effects of air pollution on potentially vulnerable groups. This policy sets out the approach for development to achieve minimum environmental standards that include a requirement for air quality (and other environmental measurements) to avoid unacceptable impacts on health or quality of life.

B.39 As well as including design related policies that will help create environments within which there is increased potential for trips to be made by sustainable modes to the benefit of local air quality, Policy D1 is set out to potentially reinforce the positive effect expected in relation to age and disability. This policy includes a requirement for the delivery of high quality public realm that is safe, attractive and easily navigable for all, including for those with reduced mobility, those living with dementia and people with disabilities. Policy CN1 seeks to limit impacts relating to overheating at developments. Compared to other cohorts, older people in the District are likely to be at increased risk of heat stress. Therefore, a positive effect is expected in relation to the protected characteristic age for this policy.

B.40 Policies that seek to ensure the delivery of affordable homes (Policies H6 and H7) are likely to provide benefits in terms of helping people with more modest incomes to access the housing market. Lower value homes will often be of most accessible to younger people in the District. As such, positive effects are recorded in relation the protected characteristics age as well as people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people. By allowing for the development of rural exceptions sites to meet local needs for affordable homes, Policy H7 is specifically likely to benefit the rural communities. Therefore, a

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

positive effect is expected in relation people living in rural areas. A positive effect is also expected for Policies H8 and H11 in relation to this group given that they allow for the extension or replacement of smaller rural dwellings in certain circumstances and housing for essential rural workers. These policies could, however, lead to increased need to travel in Winchester District, to the detriment of air quality (and potentially the protected characteristics age, disability and pregnancy and maternity) where residents are located in more rural areas.

B.41 Student accommodation and HMOs are addressed through Policies H9 and H10, respectively. By allowing for student accommodation of an appropriate quality, Policy H9 is likely to benefit students in the District, most of whom comprise younger people. This policy is therefore recorded as having a positive effect in relation to the protected characteristic age. The approach of the plan is to limit any overconcentration of HMOs in the District. Given that many occupiers of this type of accommodation are often younger people and/or those on lower incomes, Policy H10 is expected to have a negative effect in relation to age and people on lower incomes. However, Policies H9 and H10 could also help to limit the potential for air pollution to affect more vulnerable groups (such as older people, pregnant women and those with particular disabilities) through the inclusion of requirements that could promote active travel with positive effects also recorded in relation to relevant protected characteristics. Policy H5 is expected to have a positive effect in relation to age as well as disability. This policy sets out the requirement for accessible and adaptable homes that will benefit older people and those with disabilities.

B.42 The Local Plan document also includes Policies H12, H13, H14 and H15 which specifically seek to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. These policies are set out to safeguard existing sites, address the intensification or expansion of these sites as well as new sites for accommodation of this type. As such, these policies are expected to have a positive effect in relation to the protected characteristic of race.

Consultation on the Local Plan

B.43 As well as the content of the Local Plan, it is important that the protected characteristics of the Equalities Act are taken into consideration when preparing and consulting on the Plan, in particular ensuring that all groups of people have the opportunity to access and participate in consultations.

Likely effects of the options for the spatial distribution of growth in Winchester District

Table B.3: Options for the spatial distribution of growth

Growth options	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Option 1	+/-?	+/-?	+	0	+/-?	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0
Option 1A	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0
Option 2	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+/-	0
Option 3	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0
Option 4	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	0	+/-	0

B.44 The options considered for the distribution of development in the plan area will have implications for new and existing residents in the plan area in terms of access to services and facilities and employment opportunities as well as air quality. It is also likely that providing new development in or close to areas which are currently identified as experiencing higher levels deprivation could help to address these issues by promoting regeneration.

B.45 Option 2 would focus development to the areas of the District which provide access to the highest number of existing and planned services and facilities and sustainable transport links at Winchester Town. This option is therefore likely to benefit air quality in the plan area and therefore positive effects are identified in relation to age (including those over 65, infants and young children), disability (including those with long term health problems), pregnancy and maternity and people living in deprived areas/rural areas. Negative effects are expected in combination for people living in deprived areas/rural areas, for Option 2, considering the potential to intensify existing air quality issues within central parts of Winchester Town, by focusing much of the new development at these areas. These parts of the District presently contain the areas of highest deprivation in Winchester. This option is also likely to provide residents with access to community buildings such as faith buildings and therefore positive effects are identified in relation to religion or belief. By supporting the vitality and viability of Winchester Town this option could help to promote informal interactions between residents and support community cohesion. Benefits are therefore also likely in terms of supporting social tolerance in the plan area and positive effects are expected in relation to gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation. Supporting the viability of the largest town centre in the plan area and providing development at locations which are well related to employment areas is likely to help provide some residents who are unemployed and/or are required to claim benefits as well as those who are currently on lower incomes with opportunities for higher paying jobs. Positive effects are therefore also expected for option 2 in relation to people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people.

B.46 Similar effects to those identified for option 2, are expected across many of the protected characteristics for option 1. This option would see development distributed broadly in line with the existing functions of settlements in the plan area. This would include a relatively high level of development at Winchester Town as the largest settlement in the District. This option could also support a proportion of development at

the other larger settlements which allow for access to a range of services and facilities at which locations the viability of existing centres could be supported and social integration promoted. The high level of development this option would provide in the South Hampshire Urban Areas would, however, mean that a proportion of development would have to be delivered to currently unknown and less developed locations in the south of the District. While this option could strengthen links to the larger settlements and employment and services outside of the District to the south, it is likely to promote out commuting to the detriment of air quality. Therefore, the positive effects identified for the protected characteristics age, disability and pregnancy and maternity are combined with uncertain negative effects. The precise location of development within the south of the District and its relationship with the larger settlements to the south of the District where services and facilities and jobs are likely to be most accessible, is presently unknown. Therefore, uncertainty is now attached to the positive effects identified for the protected characteristics reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people. This option is less likely to intensify existing air quality issues within central parts of Winchester Town which are amongst the most deprived in the District and therefore a positive effect alone is identified for people living in deprived areas/rural areas.

B.47 Through option 1A, a similar distribution to option 1, would result. However, a slightly higher level of development would be delivered at Winchester Town, the level of development at the South Hampshire Urban Areas would be substantially reduced and the level of development at the Market Towns and Rural Areas would be increased. As such, this option would result in benefits relating to concentrating growth at Winchester Town, where there is good service provision, thereby helping to promote a degree of social integration. This element of growth is also likely to help limit the need for travel in the plan area and associated benefits for local air quality. Focussing additional growth to Winchester Town where AQMAs are present could, however, intensify existing air quality issues at this location. Therefore, while positive effects are identified for age, disability and pregnancy and maternity given the potential for these groups to be more adversely affected by issues relating to air quality, the positive effect also identified for people living in deprived areas/rural areas is combined with a negative effect. The adverse effect reflects the alignment of areas of existing air quality issues with some of the more deprived areas in Winchester. Focussing growth at the settlement that benefits from the widest range of services and facilities where residents are likely to benefit from informal interactions between each other is likely to help meet the needs of a wide range of groups in Winchester and protect social tolerance. Therefore, positive effects are also expected in relation religion or belief, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation. This element of growth will also support good access to employment opportunities, including opportunities for benefiting from higher paying jobs. Positive effects are expected for option 1A in relation to people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people. These benefits are contrasted with the potential adverse effects associated with distributing a relatively high level of development more widely to the Market Towns and Rural Areas. At a number of these settlements (most notably New Alresford and Bishops Waltham) residents would benefit from reasonable access to services and facilities. Furthermore, this approach would prevent an overreliance on service provision at Winchester Town and potential imbalance in the plan area, as well as allowing for support for the viability of rural service provision. However, this element of growth would provide certain residents with limited access to specialist services they may need regular access to and is likely to promote an increased need to travel to the detriment of air quality. Therefore, negative effects are expected in combination for age, disability and pregnancy and maternity, as well as for religion or belief, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation. This element of growth is also less likely to support good access to a wide range of jobs with negative effects also expected in combination for people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people.

B.48 Option 3 would provide much of the new development at a strategic allocation or new settlement in the District. Regardless of the location of this element of development, in the longer term there is potential to establish a relatively self-contained strategic allocation (potentially as an extension to an existing settlement) or settlement which provides residents with access to essential services and facilities and employment. The ability of the new development to be self-sustaining is likely to occur in the longer term and there are likely to be particular challenges in terms of fostering community cohesion when creating this size of development from scratch. Where a new development of this size is provided as an urban extension there could be implications for existing community networks within the settlement it adjoins. Residents at a new settlement are likely to need to travel longer distances to access some services and facilities at its early stages. Furthermore, these options are considered less likely to help address the higher levels of deprivation which currently exist in Winchester Town. Therefore, mixed positive and negative effects are identified for the protected characteristics age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, people living in deprived areas/rural areas, religion or belief, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation.

B.49 Option 4 would result in a more dispersed distribution of development in the plan area, with the rural settlements accommodating a larger proportion of overall development. Winchester Town would still accommodate a relatively large proportion of development through this option. This option would help to prevent the stagnation of rural services in the plan area and could support community cohesion in this manner. Through this option, however, many residents would have to travel longer distances to access a wider range of services and facilities as well as employment opportunities. It would support the viability of Winchester Town Centre, but would provide less development in the south of the District. The increased potential for air pollution, reduced access for residents to certain services and facilities and employment opportunities means that negative effects are identified for the protected characteristics age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation. This approach

option would most directly help to address rural deprivation and therefore a positive effect is identified in relation to people living in deprived areas/rural areas. A negative effect is identified in combination for this protected characteristic given that the high level of development at Winchester Town could intensify air quality issues at this location.

Likely effects of the Regulation 19 policies in relation to the ‘protected characteristics’ and other relevant groups

Table B.4: Vision, objectives and spatial strategy

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Policy SP1 - Vision and objectives	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0
Strategic Policy SP3 – Development in the countryside	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0

B.50 Policy SP2 sets out the spatial strategy for the District and the distribution of development across its three spatial areas: Winchester Town, the South Hampshire Urban Areas and Market Towns and Rural Area. Given the close link between this policy and Policies H1 and H3 which set out the distribution of housing development for the plan area, Policy SP2 is appraised alongside these policies later in this appendix.

B.51 The policies in the chapter setting out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for Winchester District seek to provide for a sustainable spatial distribution of development up to 2040. The strategy is to meet the housing needs of the plan area while supporting economic growth and diversification across the spatial areas of Winchester Town, the South Hampshire Urban Areas and Market Towns and Rural Area. The aspirational nature of the vision for the plan area and the objectives that will support its achievement under Policy SP1, means that positive effects are expected in relation to a number of protected characteristics. The vision and objectives set out the image of the District as a location where significant housing and economic development have been delivered. The level of housing growth is expected to help address housing affordability and help younger residents and people on lower incomes to access the housing market. Positive effects are therefore expected in relation to age and people on low incomes. The provision of economic development in the plan area is likely to support increased numbers of jobs in the District and therefore positive effects are expected in relation to people on benefits, unemployed people and people living in deprived areas/rural areas, with potential for increased positive effects in relation to people on low incomes. The vision and objectives also set out an approach where much of the development will be focussed to make good use of the range of services and facilities in the larger settlements. This is likely to help limit the potential for air pollution associated with vehicular travel in the District. Furthermore, part of the approach included in the plan’s objectives include improved air quality. Certain groups in the District are likely to be particularly vulnerable to air pollution, including younger, older, and pregnant people and those with cardiovascular or respiratory problems. Therefore, positive effects are expected in relation to age, disability, and pregnancy and maternity. Given that vision for the plan area and the supporting objectives are expected to support good access to a range of services and facilities and specifically seek to achieve the creation of inclusive communities with a range of services and infrastructure, benefits are also expected in relation to groups who potentially need access to more specialist facilities, places of worship and meeting halls. This may include those who fall within the protected characteristics gender reassignment, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation and positive effects are therefore recorded for these groups.

B.52 Policy SP3 limits the types of development that are considered acceptable outside of the settlement boundaries. This policy is likely to support a more compact distribution of development in Winchester District and limit air pollution associated with travel. Positive effects are therefore expected in relation to age, disability, and pregnancy and maternity. The policy will limit the potential for certain types of development in the countryside which might otherwise support rural economic growth and the viability of services at these locations. However, development outside of the settlement boundaries is to be permitted for certain employment generating uses (such as agriculture, horticulture, forestry or outdoor recreation). Furthermore, the policy sets out that proposals for the reuse of existing rural buildings for uses such as employment, community use or affordable housing will be considered acceptable where they are close to existing settlements. It also states that the infilling of existing settlements that do not have a settlement boundary will be supported. Therefore, the negative effect expected in relation to people living in rural areas is recorded in combination with a positive effect.

Table B.5: Carbon neutrality and designing for low carbon infrastructure

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy CN1 – Mitigating and adapting to climate change	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0
Policy CN2 – Energy hierarchy	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0
Policy CN3 – Energy efficiency standards to reduce carbon emissions	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0
Policy CN4 – Water efficiency standards in new developments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy CN5 – Renewable and low carbon energy schemes	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy CN6 – Micro energy generation schemes	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy CN7 – Energy storage	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Policy CN8 – Embodied carbon	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

B.53 The policies in the ‘Carbon neutrality and low carbon infrastructure’ chapter seek to minimise carbon emissions, encourage low carbon infrastructure, support renewable energy and the development of a green economy. Policy CN1 seeks to respond to the Council’s climate emergency declaration by outlining a number of measures to help mitigate against and adapt to climate change. These include supporting sustainable travel modes of transport, reducing carbon emissions through development that accords with the energy hierarchy and incorporating open space and biodiversity net gain and using planting to help address issues of shading and overheating. The policy also requires developers to submit an Energy and Carbon Statement, proportional to the nature of the application, to demonstrate how the design process has addressed the requirements set out. Elements of the policy are likely to help improve local air quality and therefore benefit groups in the District that are particularly vulnerable to air pollution; this includes children, older people, people with cardiovascular or respiratory illnesses and pregnant women. Therefore, positive effects are expected in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity. Policy CN1 also includes requirements for addressing the risk of overheating as part of the design process. Compared to other cohorts, older people in the District are likely to be at increased risk of heat stress. This requirement is likely to strengthen the positive effect expected in relation to age for this policy. Policies CN2, CN3, CN5, CN6, CN7 and CN8 all support low carbon infrastructure, improvements in energy efficiency and the shift to renewable energy in varying ways, which will result in improvements to air quality in terms of a reduction in emissions. Therefore, positive effects are also expected for these policies in relation to age, disability, pregnancy and maternity for these policies.

B.54 Policy CN1 also requires proposals to minimise energy demand through design layout and orientation. Policies CN2 and CN3 provide further policy direction in relation to incorporating improved energy efficiency standards in homes and buildings. As well as helping to limit carbon emissions, these policies will also help to limit energy costs for households in the District, addressing issues of social equity and fuel poverty in particular. Therefore, a positive effect is expected in relation to people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people for these policies.

Table B.6: High quality well-designed places and living well

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy D1 – High quality, well designed and inclusive places	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy D2– Design principles for Winchester Town	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0
Strategic Policy D3 – Design principles for the South Hampshire Urban Areas	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strategic Policy D4 – Design principles for market towns and rural villages	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0
Strategic Policy D5 – Master plans	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy D6 – Previously developed land and making best use of land	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy D7 – Development standards	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy D8 – Contaminated land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy D10 – Shopfronts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy D11 – Signage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

B.55 The policies in the ‘High quality well-designed places and living well’ chapter of the plan seek to ensure new developments are well designed as part of the creation of sustainable, high quality places which address the issues of health and wellbeing and climate change. Policies D1, D2, D4 and D5 seek to encourage the design of developments to create connected places where active and sustainable modes of travel are promoted. It is likely that these policies will help to reduce the use of private cars and limit increases in the air pollution in the District. These policies are likely to benefit groups in the District that are particularly vulnerable to air pollution; this includes younger, older and pregnant people and those with cardiovascular or respiratory illnesses. Positive effects are therefore recorded in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The positive effects recorded for Policy D1 are likely to be reinforced in relation to age and disability given the inclusion of the requirement for the delivery of high quality public realm that is safe, attractive and easily navigable for all. This includes in relation those with reduced mobility, those living with dementia and people with disabilities. Policy D2 will support the incorporation of higher quality development, specifically in Winchester Town, that responds to input from the local community. This policy is likely to have benefits in relation to people living in deprived areas given that the settlement

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

contains some of the most deprived areas in the District. Policies D3 and D4 also support meaningful community engagement with local residents. A positive effect is recorded for Policy D4 in relation to people living in rural areas given that it will support the delivery of higher quality development in a manner that responds to the wants of the community in rural locations. While Policy D3 is likely to help achieve better outcomes for local people in the South Hampshire Urban Areas in terms of the quality of development delivered, the area does not display as high level of deprivation as parts of Winchester Town. Furthermore, the policy does not include any requirements relating to the promotion of active and sustainable modes of travel that might otherwise improve air quality and limit the potential for adverse effects on potentially vulnerable groups.

B.56 Policies D1, D2, D3, D4 and D5 are likely to help promote opportunities for increased informal interactions between residents by requiring that development incorporates high quality public realm and spaces where people can meet. For Policies D2, D3, D4 and D5 developments should be delivered to accord with relevant master plans and/or design codes which is likely support the achievement of development which local people will have a chance to influence and can be influenced to be inclusive in relation to a wide number of resident types. This process can help achieve the creation of high quality, well designed and more inclusive places which meets the needs of a wider range of residents. Positive effects are expected for these four policies in relation to gender reassignment, race, religion and sexual orientation given the potential to foster increased social tolerance and design development to meet the needs of groups who might otherwise be less likely to be represented through the development process.

B.57 It is expected that Policy D6 will achieve similar benefits to Policies D1, D2, D4 and D5 in terms of limiting adverse air quality and the potential for effects relating to vulnerable groups such as young and older people, pregnant people and people with cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses. Policy D6 supports higher levels of development at previously developed land where there is good access to facilities and public transport. This approach is likely to locate higher number of residents where there is reduced need to travel by private vehicle thereby limiting the potential for air pollution from these sources.

B.58 Policy D7 sets out development standards for proposals which includes the requirement for development to addressing any unacceptable pollution that would result in adverse health or quality of life impacts, including air quality. Therefore, for the reasons detailed previously in this section, positive effects are expected in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity for Policy D7.

Table B.7: Sustainable transport and active travel

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy T1 – Sustainable and active transport and travel	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0
Policy T2 – Parking for new developments	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0
Policy T3 – Enabling sustainable travel modes of transport and the design and	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
layout of parking for new developments															
Policy T4 – Access for new developments	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0

B.59 The policies in the ‘Sustainable transport and active travel’ chapter of the plan seek to prioritise active and sustainable modes of transport, as well as the use of car clubs and electric/hydrogen vehicles over fossil-fuelled vehicles. This includes through the promotion of the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods through Policy T1. It also includes through the requirement for Travel Plans and Transport Assessments to demonstrate how the needs of sustainable transport are met through proposals and for the requirement for the inclusion of parking for cycles, e-mobility and other non-car transport through Policies T2 and T3. Policy T4 directly requires that the needs of pedestrians and cyclist should be prioritised at new developments. This policy also states that sites that would generate large numbers of HGV movements should be in reasonable proximity and accessible to the Major Road Network or the Strategic Road Network, thereby helping to make many routes in Winchester more attractive to users of active travel. The approach of these policies is expected to benefit air quality in the District as modal shift is promoted and there is potential congestion to be limited. Certain groups in the District are likely to be particularly vulnerable to air pollution, including younger, older, and pregnant people and those with cardiovascular or respiratory problems. Therefore, positive effects are expected in relation to age, disability, and pregnancy and maternity for Policies T1 to T4. Particular benefits are expected in relation to age and disability for Policies T1, T2 and T4 given that they include direct reference for requirements to consider the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility at new developments, including the need for parking for mobility scooters. The policies’ support for developments that would support travel by sustainable and active modes is likely to have more notable benefits for residents in Winchester who do not benefit from regular access to a private vehicle, which can often include people on more modest incomes given the costs of owning and maintaining a vehicle. Benefits will include the ability to access a wider range of services and facilities and employment opportunities further afield. Positive effects are therefore also expected for Policies T1 to T4 in relation to people on low incomes, people on benefits, unemployed people and people living in rural/deprived areas.

Table B.8: Biodiversity and the natural environment

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy NE1 – Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the natural environment in the district	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Policy NE2 – Major commercial, educational and MOD establishments in the countryside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy NE3 – Open space, sport and recreation	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE4 – Green and blue infrastructure	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE5 – Biodiversity	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE6 – Flooding, flood risk and the water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE7 – Settlement gaps	+/-	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE8 – South Downs National Park	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE9 – Landscape character	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE10 – Protecting open areas	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE11 – Open space provision for new development	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE12 – Equestrian development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy NE13 – Leisure and	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
recreation in the countryside															
Policy NE14 – Rural character	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE15 – Special trees, important hedgerows and ancient woodlands	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE16 – Nutrient neutrality water quality effects on the Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites of Solent and the River Itchen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NE17 – Rivers, watercourses and their settings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

B.60 The policies in the ‘Biodiversity and natural environment’ chapter seek to protect and enhance the natural capital of the District. This part of the approach to promoting a high quality natural environment in the District that can support a wide range of biodiversity, and contribute to human health and wellbeing. Policy NE1 provides the overarching approach for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment in the District. This policy includes a number of requirements that proposals should meet in order to protect all natural resources, habitats and species. These requirements include the protection and enhancement of the air environment. Certain groups are likely to be vulnerable to air pollution, including younger, older and pregnant people, and those with cardiovascular or respiratory problems. Therefore, positive effects are expected in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity for Policy NE1. Policy NE4 is set out to protect and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network in Winchester District, which provides multifunctional benefits including contributing to opportunities for active travel. Benefits supported through this policy are likely to include reduced need to travel by private vehicle. Policy NE15 promotes the protection of elements that contribute to the wider green infrastructure network. This includes protection for existing trees and vegetation as well as the incorporation new features of this type where appropriate. Trees and other vegetation planted in the right locations can help to mitigate the effects of adverse air quality by forming a barrier between pollutants and people. Trees can also remove some particulate pollution from the air. As such, positive effects are also expected in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity for Policies NE4 and NE15. Given that Policies NE3, NE5, NE7, NE8, NE9, NE10, NE11, and NE14 all provide some support for the protection of existing and delivery of new areas open spaces within which vegetation/woodland may be present as well as elements of green infrastructure, positive effects are also recorded for these policies in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity. Furthermore, Policy NE7 is likely to help promote more compact distributions of development in many

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

locations, by protecting important undeveloped gaps between settlement, which is likely to reduce the need to travel by car and benefit air quality. However, this policy could also result in some development being provided in settlements on the other side of these gaps where certain services and facilities are not in close proximity. Therefore, the policy could increase the need to travel from some locations, which is likely to include some journeys made by fossil fuel powered vehicles. The positive effect recorded in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity for Policy NE7 is therefore expected in combination with a negative effect.

B.61 Policies NE2, NE12 and NE13 all promote appropriate forms of development in the countryside that will support the diversification of the rural economy and provide accessible employment opportunities for those living in rural areas. Policy NE13, which promotes leisure and recreation in the countryside, is also expected to benefit the health and wellbeing of residents in rural areas. Therefore, positive effects are expected in relation to people living in rural areas for NE2, NE12 and NE13.

B.62 Policies NE6, NE16 and NE17 all demonstrate support for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the District, most notably in relation to the water environment. Interactions with nature have been shown to benefit mental health. However, interactions would have to be undertaken in an appropriate setting to limit the potential for detrimental impacts on ecosystems in the District. Overall, these policies are expected to provide benefits to the community in general. No specific beneficial effects have been identified in relation to any of the protected characteristics, and therefore negligible effects have been recorded.

Table B.9: The historic environment

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy HE1 – Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE2 – All heritage assets (both designated and non-designated)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE3 – Designated heritage assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE4 – Non-designated heritage assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE5 – Protecting the significance of heritage assets (designated and non-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
designated heritage assets) and mitigating unavoidable harm															
Policy HE6 – Scheduled monuments and nationally important non-designated assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE7 – Non-designated archaeological assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE8 – Applications affecting Listed Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE9 – Change of use to Listed Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE10 – Development in Conservation Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE11 – Demolition in Conservation Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE12 – Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE13 – Non-designated historic rural and industrial heritage assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HE14 – Improvements or alterations to improve	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
the energy efficiency of historic assets															

B.63 The policies in the ‘Historic environment’ chapter aim to protect and enhance the District’s wealth of designated and non-designated heritage assets and ensure that they are not adversely affected by new development. Policy HE1 sets out a positive policy approach to decide on proposals which may affect heritage assets. The remaining policies are set out to preserve specific elements of the historic environment including archaeological assets, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments and non-designated assets. While these policies may benefit the built environment as a whole in terms of its aesthetic value and enjoyment by the public, the majority are unlikely to have any specific impact upon the protected characteristics. As such most the policies are expected to have negligible effects in relation to the protected characteristics. Policy HE14 supports improvements for energy efficiency at historic buildings as part of the approach to meeting the Council’s climate emergency targets. This policy will help to promote improve air quality in the District by limiting emissions associated with energy generation. It will also help to limit energy costs for households in the District, addressing issues of social equity and fuel poverty in particular. Therefore, a positive effect is expected in relation to people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people for Policy HE14. By supporting improved air quality, this policy is also likely to have benefits for those who may be particular susceptible to this issue, including younger, older, and pregnant people and those with cardiovascular or respiratory problems. Therefore, positive effects are expected in relation to age, disability, and pregnancy and maternity.

Table B.10: Homes for all

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy SP2 - Spatial strategy and development principles	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0
Strategic Policy H1 – Housing provision	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0
Strategic Policy H2 – Housing phasing and supply	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy H3 – Spatial housing distribution	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	0
Policy H4 – Development within settlements	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+		+	
Strategic Policy H5 - Meeting housing needs	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy H6 - Affordable housing	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0
Policy H7 - Affordable housing exception sites to meet local needs	+/-	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0
Policy H8 – Small dwellings in the countryside	-	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy H9 – Purpose built student accommodation	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy H10 – Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)	-	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
Policy H11 – Housing for essential rural workers	-	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy H12 – Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix B Equalities Impact Assessment

Section of the Regulation 18 Local Plan	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed people	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived areas/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Policy H13 – Safeguarding Traveller sites	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy H14 – Traveller site intensification	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy H15 – New / expanded Traveller sites	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

B.64 The policies in the ‘Home for all’ chapter set out the approach for the delivery of new housing for Winchester District and seek to provide for the required level to meet local needs up to 2040. Housing development is to be distributed to help achieve sustainable development. Policies are also included to ensure that an appropriate mix of new housing (including affordable homes) is delivered, including accommodation to meet more specialist needs, such as student housing, adaptable housing and accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. As highlighted earlier in this appendix, Policies H1 and H3 which set out the spatial distribution of development across the spatial areas of Winchester Town, the South Hampshire Urban Areas and Market Towns and Rural Area, are closely linked to the Policy SP2 which sets out the overall spatial strategy for the District. The assessment of Policy SP2 has therefore been presented alongside the assessment of Policies H1 and H3 in the table above. Please note that the assessments of sites allocated in the Local Plan is not included separately in the EqIA. Instead, the appraisal of the spatial strategy and housing distribution (Policies SP2, H1 and H2) has considered the distribution of sites allocated for development in the plan.

B.65 Policies SP2, H1 and H3 would result in a range of benefits associated with concentrating much of the housing growth at Winchester Town as well as within the South Hampshire Urban Areas where there is good access to existing and planned employment land and services and facilities. This element of growth is likely to help limit the need for travel in the plan area with associated benefits for local air quality. Focussing a proportion of growth to Winchester Town where an AQMA is present could, however, intensify existing air quality issues at this location. Positive effects are therefore mixed with negative effects for Policy SP2 in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity given the potential for these groups to be more adversely affected by issues relating to air quality. A positive effect is also identified for people living in deprived areas/rural areas given the potential to support regeneration within some of the most deprived areas of the District at Winchester Town. However, this effect is combined with a negative effect. The adverse effect reflects the alignment of areas of existing higher air pollution with some of the more deprived areas in Winchester. The range of high order services and facilities accessible at Winchester Town, in particular, is also likely to help promote a degree of social integration among the new residents. Winchester Town is more likely to meet the specialist needs of some groups such as those who need access to places of worship, specialist medical facilities and meeting halls. Furthermore, focussing growth at the settlement that benefits from the widest range of services and facilities as well as areas of open space is likely to promote the occurrence of informal interactions between a range of resident types to benefit community cohesion. Positive effects are therefore expected in relation religion or belief, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation. By providing much of growth at larger settlements and planned neighbourhoods good access is likely to be provided to employment opportunities, including opportunities for benefiting from higher paying jobs. As such, positive effects are recorded for people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people.

B.66 These benefits are contrasted with the potential adverse effects associated with distributing a relatively high level of development more widely to the Market Towns and Rural Areas. At a number of these settlements (most notably New Alresford and Bishops Waltham) residents would benefit from reasonable access to services and facilities. Furthermore, this approach would prevent an overreliance on service

provision at Winchester Town and potential imbalance in the plan area, as well as providing support for the viability of rural service provision. However, the element of growth at the smaller settlements would provide certain residents with limited access to the specialist services they may need regular access to and is likely to promote an increased need to travel to the detriment of air quality. Therefore, negative effects are expected in combination for age, disability and pregnancy and maternity, as well as for religion or belief, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation. This element of growth is also less likely to support good access to a wide range of jobs with negative effects also expected in combination for people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people. The development principles set out under Policy SP2 include requirements for development which are likely to help mitigate many of the adverse effects identified. This includes in relation to air pollution given the requirement to promote public and active modes of transport and to address the implications of development for air quality. Therefore, there is potential to limit adverse effects recorded in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity as well as people living in deprived areas/rural areas. The development principles of Policy SP2 also include a requirement for development to contribute to social inclusivity and to provide the necessary infrastructure at new developments to meet identified needs in a timely manner. These requirements are likely to help mitigate issues identified with regard to social cohesion in relation to the protected characteristics religion or belief, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation. Policy H2 sets out the phasing of housing delivery over the plan period. This is likely to help ensure that required services and facilities can be planned and can help to prevent the potential for existing services and facilities to become overburdened as new homes are delivered and occupied. This approach is likely to limit the need for some residents to have to travel longer distances for certain services and facilities given that they might otherwise become overburdened if housing delivery is inappropriately phased. As such, this policy may help to limit air pollution in the plan area. Positive effects are therefore expected in relation to age, disability, and pregnancy and maternity. The policy will have potential benefits for all residents in terms of allowing for suitable levels of access to services and facilities. However, it is likely to have particular benefits for groups with more specialist needs who may need access to services and facilities such as places of worship, specialist medical facilities and meeting halls. Positive effects are therefore also expected for Policy H2 in relation to religion or belief, gender reassignment, race and sexual orientation.

B.67 Given that Policy H4 sets out the approach of the Local Plan to promote development within the District's settlement boundaries, it is expected to have the same positive effects as those identified for Policies SP2, H1 and H3. This policy is likely to help reduce the need to travel in the plan area and support access to a good range of services and facilities for many residents. Unlike Policies H1 and H3, Policy H4 does not set out a specific level of growth for the less developed areas of District which might otherwise result in some new resident having to travel longer District to access certain provisions. Therefore, no negative effects have been identified in combination for this policy.

B.68 Policy H5 is included to ensure that a range of housing types are provided in the District. This approach will support the delivery of housing that meets a range of user types, including younger and older people as well as families of varying sizes. The policy also supports the delivery of adaptable homes and specialist homes including those that would meet the needs of older people. The delivery of housing that can be adapted to the needs of wheelchair users and older residents is of particular importance given the trend towards an older population in Winchester District. Policy H5 is expected to have positive effects in relation to age and disability. Policy H6 sets out the detailed requirements for the delivery of affordable homes in Winchester District. This includes requirements for the proportion of affordable rent or social rent and first homes. This policy is likely to help younger people who wish to access the housing market as well as residents who are on more modest incomes or are in receipt of certain benefits. Positive effects are therefore recorded for this policy in relation to age, people on low incomes, people on benefits and unemployed people. Providing affordable homes at rural exception sites (Policy H7) will also benefit these groups by supporting access to decent housing. Furthermore, it will also provide benefits for people living in rural areas in terms of helping to meet the local housing need in these types of location. Policies H8 and H11 will allow for small scale replacement dwellings or extensions in rural locations and housing for essential rural workers in similar types of location. Similar benefits are likely for these policies as those recorded for Policy H7 in relation to those living in rural communities in Winchester District. However, Policies H7, H8 and H11 could also contribute to increased need to travel and poorer air quality in District by providing homes in locations where there is more limited service and/or job provision. Therefore, the positive effect recorded for Policy H7 in relation to age is combined with a negative effect and a negative effect alone for this protected characteristic is recorded for Policies H8 and H11. Negative effects are also recorded for all three policies in relation to disability and pregnancy and maternity. These effects reflect the potential for younger children as well as, older and pregnant people and those with cardiovascular and respiratory problems to be more vulnerable to air pollution.

B.69 By allowing for development that will deliver appropriate student accommodation, Policy H9 will provide housing that meets the needs of this group to a decent standard. Given that the student population will often compromise younger people, a positive effect is recorded for this policy in relation to age. Policy H10 seeks to prevent an over concentration of HMOs in any one area. This type of accommodation can often provide housing for younger people and those on more modest incomes given the higher cost of renting or owning an entire property outright. Therefore, this policy is likely to have negative effects in relation to age and people on low incomes. Policies H9 and H10 include requirements that could promote active travel (through support for cycling infrastructure) and therefore positive effects are recorded in relation to age (as part of an overall mixed effect for Policy H10), disability and pregnancy and maternity.

B.70 Policies H12, H13, H14 and H15 provide the approach to providing new accommodation to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the plan area. The specific requirements new developments should meet are set out under Policy H12. This includes the requirement that sites should be capable of accommodating the proposed uses to acceptable standards with appropriate services and infrastructure incorporated. The requirements of this policy are expected to ensure that accommodation for Gypsy and Travellers is provided to a decent standard. Policies H13, H14 and H15 safeguard existing sites for this type of accommodation, set out the approach for intensifying these sites and for expanding existing sites and developing new sites. Positive effects are therefore expected for all four policies in relation to race.

Table B.11: Vibrant economy

Preferred policy option	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed People	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Strategic Policy E1 – Vibrant economy	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+
Strategic Policy E2 – Spatial distribution of economic growth	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0
Strategic Policy E3 – Town centres strategy and hierarchy	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0
Strategic Policy E4 – Main town centre uses out of centre	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy E5 – Enhancing employment opportunities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy E6 – Retaining employment opportunities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Policy E7 – Maintaining vitality and viability of town centres	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy E8 – Local shops, services and facilities	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0

Preferred policy option	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion or belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	People on low incomes	People on benefits	Unemployed People	Young and adult carers	People living in deprived/rural areas	People with poor literacy and/or numeracy
Policy E9 – Economic development in the rural area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy E10 – Farm diversification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy E11 – Visitor-related development within the countryside	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

B.71 The policies in the ‘Vibrant economy’ chapter of the plan set out the level of employment growth that is needed to meet local needs as well as the distribution of that growth. Support for the existing strengths of the local economy as well as for the diversification of employment opportunities is included. The focus of enhancing employment opportunities is to be through development within the settlement boundaries, as extensions to existing businesses or redevelopment of existing sites for new employment uses. Policy is also included to support the viability of the District’s Town Centres as well as the rural economy and local service provision.

B.72 Policy E1 provides overarching support for the sustainable growth of the economy in the District, including support for the development of a number of sectors and the enhancement of local skills. The policy includes specific support for the growth of the green economy as well as measures to promote working from home and reducing the need to travel longer distances to work. The approach set out includes the allocation of land to support employment growth at sustainable locations. This is likely to reduce the need to commute by private vehicle in the District, with associated benefit relating to local air quality. This approach is likely to have particular benefits for certain groups in the District who may be more susceptible to ailments relating to air pollution. This includes younger, older and pregnant people and people with cardiovascular and/or respiratory illnesses. Therefore, positive effects are expected in relation to the protected characteristics age, disability and pregnancy and maternity for Policy E1. While economic growth over the plan period will result in some additional vehicle movements, the alignment of a level of economic growth to support the need for jobs created by housing growth over the plan period is likely to support a degree of self containment that could limit long distance vehicle journeys associated with commuting outside of the plan area.

B.73 Similarly, although the delivery of new development in the plan area is likely to lead to some increased level of human activity and related pollution, town centre locations are those which are the most accessible in the District by sustainable modes of transport. Policies E2, E3, E4, E7 and E8 support the role of the main settlements and town centres as key areas for economic activity, services and amenities. Through Policy E8 the town centre locations are to be the main locations for services and facilities that would perform more than a local function. It is considered likely that protecting and enhancing the vitality and viability of the main settlements and town centre locations would help to encourage modal shift in the District, contributing to improving local air quality. Furthermore, as set out through Policy E2, by providing economic growth in line with the spatial strategy and mostly towards the developed locations of the District, it is likely that many new and existing residents will benefit from nearby access to employment opportunities which will further help to encourage travel by more sustainable and active modes of transport. Therefore, positive effects are also expected in relation to age, disability and pregnancy and maternity for Policies E2, E3, E4, E7 and E8. Helping to ensure the viability of centres as locations which provide access to a range of services and facilities is likely to benefit groups who potentially need access to more specialist facilities, places of worship and meeting halls. This may include those who fall within the protected characteristics gender reassignment, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation and positive effects are therefore recorded for these groups. Given that these five policies may help to protect the vitality of the main settlements and town centres and also support uses in these areas that will allow for increased

opportunities for informal interactions between residents of the District, they may help to encourage an improved level of social tolerance in relation to groups within these protected characteristics who may be subject to discrimination.

B.74 Policy E1 outlines support for the enhancement of skills in the local area, through securement of employment and skills plans with relation to large scale developments. This support for the enhancement of skills is likely to be beneficial for those in the area on low incomes, people on benefits, and people with poor literacy and/or numeracy. Therefore, positive effects are expected for these four protected characteristics. Policies E2, E3 and E7 are all supportive of economic development within the main settlements and town centres, including at Winchester Town. Enhancement of opportunities for employment and services and facilities in these locations would be beneficial to those living in the more deprived areas of the District, which are mainly located within Winchester Town. As such, a positive effect is expected for people living in deprived areas for Policy E2, E3 and E7.

B.75 Policies E1 and E2 set out the overarching strategy for economic development in the District, including the distribution of this type of development to achieve sustainable growth and support for traditionally important industries as well as diversification in other sectors. Policy E5 aims to enhance employment opportunities at key locations (within the settlement boundaries and at areas with established businesses) within the District. Policy E6 aims to retain employment opportunities by protecting existing and allocated employment land and floorspace from changes of use. All of the policies in this chapter of the Local Plan are likely to support some degree of job creation in the District. However, the four policies highlighted will support well established employment sites and uses that are demonstrably valuable to the plan area in terms of job creation. As such, positive effects are expected for people that are unemployed for these four policies. Given that the distribution of economic development set out through Policy E2 is broadly aligned with the housing development for the plan area and will therefore provide many residents with good access to jobs, positive effects are also expected for this policy in relation to people on low incomes and people on benefits.

Policy E8 supports the retention of services and facilities within the District and also the development of essential services and facilities in the countryside to serve rural communities. A positive effect is expected for this policy in relation to people living in rural areas given the support it would provide for rural communities in terms access to services and facilities. Policies E9, E10 and E11 support various types of economic development in the rural areas of Winchester. This includes agriculture, horticulture, forestry, appropriate diversification of farms and suitable tourism and visitor-related activity. Uses of this type are required to be provided in a manner which supports sustainable economic growth in the countryside, whilst protecting its natural and built environment. This is likely to enhance the local economies of rural areas and provide opportunities for the rural communities. Therefore, a positive effect is expected for people living in rural areas in relation to these three policies. While Policies E9 and E10 support rural economic growth and farm diversification there is a requirement for this type of development to be at sustainable locations and to allow for the expanding existing areas of importance for the economy. As such it is not expected that there would be substantial increases in travel by cars to more rural locations as a result of these policies which might otherwise result in adverse impacts in relation to the protected characteristics with particular vulnerabilities to air pollution. Policy E11 specifically requires that proposals for overnight accommodation within the countryside should be considered in relation to their accessibility by active travel and sustainable transport. Therefore, positive effects are recorded for this policy in relation to these protected characteristics (i.e. age, disability and pregnancy and maternity).

Appendix C

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

International plans and programmes of most relevance for the

Local Plan

C.1 United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the 'Aarhus Convention') (1998) – Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.

C.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) - Shared initiative to provide peace and prosperity for all people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future.

C.3 United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration) (2002) – Sets broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

C.4 United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015) – International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

C.5 IPCC's Sixth Report on Climate Change (2021/22) – The sixth of a series of reports which outlines measures to limit and/or reduce all greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change, and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

C.6 International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) (1976) – International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.

C.7 International Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) – International commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.

C.8 United Nations Declaration on Forests (New York Declaration) (2014) – Sets out international commitment to cut natural forest loss by 2020 and end loss by 2030.

C.9 United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention (1972) – Promotes co-operation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.

C.10 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) – This initiative, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

C.11 United Nations Declaration on Forests and Land Use (COP26 Declaration) (2021) – International commitment to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

C.12 Valletta Treaty, formerly the European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1992) – Agreed that the conservation and enhancement of an archaeological heritage is one of the goals of urban and regional planning policy. It is concerned in particular with the need for co-operation between archaeologists and planners to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.

National plans and programmes (beyond the NPPF) of most relevance for the Local Plan

Climate change adaption and mitigation

C.13 Defra, The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2018) – Sets out the strategy for adapting both to the climate change that is already evident, and that which we might see in the future.

C.14 Department for Transport, Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020) – Sets out the strategic priorities for a new Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), to be published later in 2020, will set out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting us on a pathway to achieving carbon budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050. This document acknowledges that while there have been recently published strategies [See reference 37] to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in individual transport modes, transport as a whole sector needs to go further and more quickly, therefore the TDP will take a coordinated, cross-modal approach to deliver the transport sector's contribution to both carbon budgets and net zero.

C.15 Defra and the Environment Agency, Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Management Strategy for England (2011) – Sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. An update to the document (Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England, 2019) was published for consultation up to July 2019.

C.16 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) – Sets out a number of key planning objectives. It requires that local planning authorities help deliver sustainable development through measures including driving waste management up the waste hierarchy; ensuring that waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns; and providing a framework in which communities can take more responsibility for their own waste.

C.17 Defra, Waste Management Plan for England (2013) – Sets out the measures for England to work towards a zero waste economy.

C.18 HM Government, The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) – Sets out the approach of the government to secure growth of the national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The key policies and proposals of the Strategy sit below a number of overarching principles: acceleration of clean growth including through recommendations for private and public investment to meet carbon budgets; providing support to improve business and industry energy efficiency; improving energy efficiency in the housing stock including through low carbon heating; accelerating the shift to low carbon transport; delivering clean, smart, flexible power; enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources; leading in the public sector to meet emissions targets; and ensure Government leadership to drive clean growth.

C.19 Environment Act 2021 – Sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. It sets out the requirement for developers to deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10%. This means a development must result in more or better quality natural habitat than there was before development.

C.20 Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 - The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan. It builds on the vision of 25 Year Environment Plan with a new plan setting out how Defra will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of its goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Under the plan the government will protect 30% of England's land and sea for nature.

C.21 British Energy Security Strategy (2022) – Sets out how the UK will enhance its energy security, setting out plans for future deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, and for supporting the production of domestic oil and gas in the nearer term.

C.22 Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021) – Sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It sets out strategies to keep the UK on track with carbon budgets, outlines the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050.

C.23 The British Energy Security Strategy (2022) - Sets out how the UK will enhance its energy security, setting out plans for future deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, and for supporting the production of domestic oil and gas in the nearer term.

C.24 Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (2021) – Aims to support existing industry to decarbonise and encourage the growth of new, low carbon industries to protect and create skilled jobs and businesses in the UK encouraging long-term investment in home-grown decarbonisation technology.

C.25 Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (2020) – Amend a range of legislation to prevent waste generation. Aims to increase resource efficiency and move to a circular economy, making sure fewer resources are sent to landfill.

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

C.26 Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) – Sets out the government’s plan to significantly cut carbon emissions from the UK’s 30 million homes and workplaces. This strategy aims to provide a clear direction of travel for the 2020s, set out the strategic decisions that need to be taken this decade, and demonstrate how the UK plans to meet its carbon targets and remain on track for net zero by 2050.

C.27 UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) – Sets out the approach to developing a substantial low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK and to meet the ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

C.28 Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2021) – Seeks to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, reducing their carbon emissions and lessening the impact of climate change. The Regulations require the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance, reported through Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates.

C.29 Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future (2020) – Addresses the transformation of the UK’s energy system, promoting high-skilled jobs and clean, resilient economic growth during its transition to net-zero emissions by 2050.

C.30 The Carbon Plan: Delivery our Local Carbon Future (2011) - The Carbon Plan sets out the government’s plans for achieving the emissions reductions it committed to in the first four carbon budgets. Emissions in the UK must, by law, be cut by at least 80% of 1990 by 2050. The UK was first to set its ambition in law and the Plan sets out progress to date.

C.31 The Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) - Sets out the government’s plan to significantly cut carbon emissions from the UK’s 30 million homes and workplaces.

C.32 UK Hydrogen Strategy (2022) - Sets out the government's approach to developing a thriving low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK to meet the

increased ambition for 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

C.33 The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2023) - Sets out the UK government's vision for climate change adaptation. This is for a country that effectively plans for and is fully adapted to the changing climate, with resilience against each of the identified climate risks.

C.34 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Policy Statement (2020) – This policy statement sets out the government's long-term ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk, and in doing so, reduce the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy.

C.35 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1 (2023) - This policy document sets out government policy for the delivery of major planning applications for energy development. These will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, rather than local authorities in which the development occurs. The document also set out the policy for the submission and assessment of applications relating to energy infrastructure.

C.36 Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and The Flood and Water Regulations (2019) – Sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

C.37 25 Year Environment Plan – Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently.

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

C.38 Energy Efficiency Strategy (2012) – Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

C.39 The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009) – Sets out a five-point plan to tackle climate change.

C.40 UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) – Describes out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO₂ emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.

C.41 Climate Change Act 2008 – Sets targets for UK greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 80% by 2050 and CO₂ emission reductions of at least 26% by 2015, against a 1990 baseline.

C.42 Planning and Energy Act (2008) – Enables local planning authorities to set requirements for carbon reduction and renewable energy provision. It should be noted that while the Housing Standards Review proposed to repeal some of these provisions, at the time of writing there have been no amendments to the Planning and Energy Act.

Health and well-being

C.43 Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25 – Identifies PHE's priorities upon which to focus over this five-year period to protect people and help people to live longer in good health.

C.44 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) – To be read in conjunction with the NPPF, this policy document sets out the Government's planning policy for Traveller sites to ensure fair and equal treatment for Travellers.

C.45 The White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom (2022) – Sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. Levelling up themes of importance to health and well-being include narrowing the gap in healthy life expectancy between the best and worst performing areas, improvements in the number of children achieving expected educational standards and a reduction in the number of non-decent homes across the country.

C.46 Policy Paper: Planning for the Future White Paper (2020) - Sets out a series of potential reforms to the English planning system, to deliver growth faster. The White Paper focuses on the following:

- Simplifying the role of Local Plans and the process of producing them.
- Digitising plan-making and development management processes.
- Focus on design, sustainability and infrastructure delivery.
- Nationally determined, binding housing requirements for local planning authorities to deliver through Local Plans

C.47 National Design Guide (2021) – Sets out the Government’s priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics: context, identity, built form, movement, nature, public spaces, uses, homes and buildings, resources and lifespan.

C.48 The Levelling Up White Paper (2022) sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It has 12 UK-wide missions to be achieved by 2030:

- Improve local public transport connectivity across the county, closer to the standards of London;
- The gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.
- Well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- Homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
- Pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- The number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
- Renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the Government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
- Pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- The number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
- Domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
- Every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.
- The UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

C.49 Localism Act (2011) - Introduces a number of measures to decentralise decision making process to the local level, creating space for Local Authorities to lead and innovate, and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them. In relation to planning, the Localism Act enables the Government to abolish regional spatial strategies, introduce Neighbourhood Plans and Local Referendums.

C.50 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) - Sets out the direction for planning, making provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. As part of this, it seeks to streamline the planning process, including through a reform of existing EU-generated systems of SA/SEA, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'. However, secondary legislation is required to introduce the new regime and at present the requirement to undertake SEA remains in force. It also introduces a new charge on development called the Infrastructure Levy (IL). All local planning authorities in England will be mandated to issue an IL charging schedule, rather than having discretion to do so as is currently the case with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The IL is to be based on the gross development value rather than the development's floorspace. IL is intended to fund affordable housing as well as other local infrastructure and should reduce the circumstances in which a section 106 agreement is required.

C.51 Housing and Planning Act (2016) - The Act makes widespread changes to housing policy at the national level. Measures introduced in the Act relate to starter homes, and permitting the sale of higher value local authority homes. Starter homes are the new affordable housing product designed by the government to specifically meet the housing needs of younger generations and to allow them to access home-ownership. The overarching aim of the Act is to promote home ownership and increase levels of house building.

C.52 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021) – Sets out the government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the elective backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

C.53 COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan (2021) – Sets out the Government's plan to prevent, mitigate and respond to the mental health impacts of the pandemic during 2021 and 2022.

C.54 Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020) – Sets out the Government's actions to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes and have access to redress when things go wrong.

C.55 Policy Paper: A Fairer Private Rented Sector (2022) - This White Paper sets out the government's plans to reform the private rented sector and level up housing quality.

C.56 Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020), Addendum (2021) – Provides a framework and starting point for local authorities to clearly set out in local planning guidance how best to achieve healthy weight environments based on local evidence and needs, by focusing on environments that enable healthier eating and help promote more physical activity as the default.

C.57 Addendum: Hot food takeaways use in the new Use Class Order (2020) - The Addendum to PHE's guidance on using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments provides a framework and starting point for local authorities to clearly set out in local planning guidance how best to achieve healthy weight environments based on local evidence and needs, by focusing on environments that enable healthier eating and help promote more physical activity as the default. The Addendum sets out recommended actions in light of changes to the Use Class Order (UCO) in England from 1 September 2020.

C.58 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) – Sets out goals for improving the environment over the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently.

C.59 Homes England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023 (2018) – Sets out a vision to ensure more homes are built in areas of greatest need, to improve affordability, and make a more resilient and diverse housing market.

C.60 The Environmental Noise Regulations (2018) – Apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas.

C.61 The Housing White Paper 2017 (Fixing our broken housing market) – Sets out ways to address the shortfall in affordable homes and boost housing supply. Proposals include:

- A standard method for calculating local authorities' housing need.
- How neighbourhood planning groups can have greater certainty on the level of housing need to plan for.
- A statement of common ground to improve how local authorities work together to meet housing and other needs across boundaries.
- Making the use of viability assessments simpler, quicker and more transparent.
- Increased planning application fees in those areas where local planning authorities are delivering the homes their communities need.

C.62 Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report Ready for Ageing? (2013) – Warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

C.63 Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2011) – Investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them.

C.64 The Clean Air Strategy (2019) - The Clean Air Strategy 2019 sets out actions to improve air quality by reducing pollution from a wide range of sources, across all parts of Government and society.

C.65 Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England (2010) – Sets out an approach to public health challenges.

C.66 Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standard (2015) – This document sets out the Government’s new nationally described space standard. The standard deals with internal space within new dwellings and sets out requirements for the Gross Internal (floor) Area of new dwellings at a defined level of occupancy, as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home.

Environment (biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape and soils)

C.67 Defra, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018) – Sets out goals for improving the environment over the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. The gov.uk website notes that the 25 Year Plan sits alongside two other important government strategies: the Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy (the former summarised in the Economic growth section below, the latter under Climate Change above).

C.68 Defra, Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) – Guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks.

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

C.69 Defra, Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013) – Sets out a framework for biodiversity offsetting. Offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses.

C.70 Defra, Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) – Sets out how England’s soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention in tackling degradation threats, including: better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil protection during construction and; dealing with contaminated land.

C.71 The Environment Act 2021 – Sets out the UK’s new framework for environmental protection. It includes the creation of Conservation Covenant agreements between a landowner and a responsible body for the purposes of conservation of the natural environment of the land or its natural resources, or to conserve the place or setting of the land for its ‘archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural or historic interest’.

C.72 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 – Protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, including birds. The Regulations lay down rules for the protection, management and exploitation of such habitats and species, including how adverse effects on such habitats and species should be avoided, minimised and reported.

C.73 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (2021) - Promotes the greening of towns and cities and connections with the surrounding landscapes. Supports local planning authorities meet requirements in the NPPF to plan better for green and blue infrastructure.

C.74 England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008) – Sets out principles to guide adaptation to climate change.

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

C.75 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 – Places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity.

C.76 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2010 – An Act of Parliament to make new provision for public access to the countryside.

C.77 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 – An Act of Parliament to make provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission; to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities' powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves; to make further provision for the recording, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country.

Historic environment

C.78 The Heritage Alliance, Heritage 2020 – Sets out the historic environment sector's plan for its priorities between 2015 and 2020.

C.79 Historic England, Corporate Plan 2018-2021 – Contains the action plan which sets out how the aims of the corporate plan will be delivered. The plan includes priorities to demonstrate how Historic England will continue to work towards delivering the heritage sector's priorities for the historic environment.

C.80 Historic England, Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016) – Sets out Historic England's guidance and expectations for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment processes. Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 - Act of Parliament that makes provision for the compilation of a register of gardens and other land (parks and gardens, and battlefields).

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

C.81 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 - The Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Planning Act is to work alongside laws relating to special controls in respects of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. This includes the preservation of architectural and historic interest.

C.82 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Act (1979) - The act makes provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters regarding historic or archaeological interest and for the regulation of operations and/or activities affecting them.

C.83 Historic England Corporate Plan 2023 to 2026 (2023): The plan sets out Historic England's purpose, vision and values. Three areas of purpose are also included:

- Creation of thriving places.
- Supporting connected communities by discovering and celebrating local heritage and by protecting the character of historic places.
- Inspiring and equipping people to take action in support of the places they care about.

C.84 Historic England, The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans (2015) – Sets out historic England's guidance and advice to support Local Plan site allocations process in implementing historic environment legislation, the relevant policy in the National Planning Framework and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide.

C.85 Historic England, The Setting of Heritage Assets (2015) – Sets out Historic England's guidance on managing change within the setting of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas and landscapes.

C.86 Historic England, The Historic Environment in Local Plans (2015) – Sets out Historic England's guidance in implementing historic environment policy in

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

the National Planning Policy Framework and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide.

C.87 Historic England, Tall Buildings (2015) – Sets out historic Environment’s guidance for people involved in planning and designing tall buildings to ensure that they are delivered in a sustainable and successful manner.

C.88 The Environment Act 2021 – Sets out the UK’s new framework for environmental protection. It includes the creation of Conservation Covenant agreements between a landowner and a responsible body for the purposes of conservation.

C.89 The Heritage Statement (2017) – Describes out how the Government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for our heritage and historic environment, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.

Water and air

C.90 Environment Agency, Managing Water Abstraction (2016) – Is the overarching document for managing water resources in England and Wales and links together the abstraction licensing strategies.

C.91 Defra, Water White Paper (2012) – Sets out the Government’s vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It states outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystem, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

C.92 Defra, Clean Air Strategy (2019) – Sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet goals relating to ensuring cleaner air. This is to be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.

C.93 Environment Act 2021 – Sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. It also establishes the Office for Environmental Protection which will act as an impartial and objective body for the protection and improvement of the environment.

C.94 Clean Air Strategy 2019 – This strategy sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet these goals.

C.95 Environmental Noise Regulations (2018) – Apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas.

C.96 Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018) – Aims to increase resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2050.

C.97 The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (2020) - Seeks to prevent waste generation and to monitor and assess the implementation of measures included in waste prevention programmes. The regulations set out requirements to justify not separating waste streams close to source for re-use, recycling or other recovery operations, prohibit incineration and landfilling of waste unless such treatment processes represent the best environmental outcome in accordance with the waste hierarchy. They also set out when waste management plans and in waste prevention programmes are required. There is a focus included on the circular economy as a means for businesses to maximise the value of waste and waste treatment.

C.98 The Water Environment Regulations (2017) – Protect inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, and outlines the associated river basin management process.

C.99 Plan for water: Our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water (2023) - Sets out how the Government wishes to transform the management of the water system, deliver cleaner water for nature and people, and secure a plentiful water supply.

C.100 UK Bioenergy Strategy (2012) - The UK Government has a responsibility to ensure that its policies only support bioenergy use in the right circumstances. This strategy is based on four principles which will act as a framework for future government policy on bioenergy. In summary the four principles state that:

- Policies that support bioenergy should deliver genuine carbon reductions that help meet UK carbon emissions objectives to 2050 and beyond.
- Support for bioenergy should make a cost effective contribution to UK carbon emission objectives in the context of the overall energy goals.
- Support for bioenergy should aim to maximise the overall benefits and minimise costs (quantifiable and non-quantifiable) across the economy.
- At regular time intervals and when policies promote significant additional demand for bioenergy in the UK, beyond that envisaged by current use, policy makers should assess and respond to the impacts of this increased deployment on other areas, such as food security and biodiversity.

C.101 The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017) – Provides the Government’s ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air.

C.102 DEFRA UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations (2017) - Statutory air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), setting out how the UK will be reducing roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations.

C.103 The Climate Change Act (2008) – The Act sets targets for UK greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 80% by 2050 and CO₂ emission reductions of at least 26% by 2015, against a 1990 baseline.

C.104 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2022) - The Climate Change Act requires the Government to compile every five years its assessment of the risks and opportunities arising for the UK from climate change. The risk assessment considers sixty-one UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following eight risk areas for action in the next two years:

- risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards
- risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought
- risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards
- risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards
- risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks
- risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system
- risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings
- multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas

C.105 The Energy Efficiency Strategy (2012) - Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

C.106 The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (2016) – Provides for the designation of land as nitrate vulnerable zones and imposes annual limits on the amount of nitrogen from organic manure that may be applied or spread in a

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

holding in a nitrate vulnerable zone. They also concern, among other things, record-keeping, appeals against decisions, spreading organic manure near surface water, boreholes, springs or wells and storage of fertiliser.

C.107 Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (2016) – Focus on the quality of water for drinking, washing, cooking and food preparation, and for food production. Their purpose is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption.

C.108 Environmental Permitting Regulations (2016) – Streamline the legislative system for industrial and waste installations into a single permitting structure for those activities which have the potential to cause harm to human health or the environment.

C.109 Air Quality Standards Regulations (2016) – Set out limits on concentrations of outdoor air pollutants that impact public health, most notably particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). It also sets out the procedure and requirements for the designation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

C.110 National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) – The Waste Management Plan for England sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management.

C.111 Water White Paper (2012) – Provides the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

C.112 National Policy Statement for Waste Water (2012) – Sets out Government policy for the provision of major waste water infrastructure. The policy set out in this NPS is, for the most part, intended to make existing policy

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

and practice in consenting nationally significant waste water infrastructure clearer and more transparent.

C.113 Building Regulations (2010) – Requires that reasonable precautions are taken to avoid risks to health and safety cause by contaminants in ground to be covered by building and associated ground.

C.114 Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) – Sets out how England’s soils will be managed sustainably, including highlighting those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention in tackling degradation threats.

C.115 Future Water: The Government’s Water Strategy for England (2008) – Sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, providing an outline of steps which need to be taken to get there.

C.116 Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007) – Sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved.

C.117 The Air Quality Strategy for England (2023) – The Air Quality Strategy sets out Defra’s framework for local authorities to make best use of their powers and make air quality improvements for their communities.

C.118 The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 - Sets out limits on concentrations of outdoor air pollutants that impact public health, most notably particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). It also set out the procedure and requirements for the designation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

C.119 The National Emissions Ceiling Regulations 2018 - Sets national (UK wide) emission limits or ‘ceilings’ for sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, ammonia non-methane volatile organic compounds in 2010, 2020 and 2030 and for PM2.5 in 2020 and 2030.

C.120 Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (2003) – Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and certain industrial sectors, notably domestic and industrial waste water. The regulations require the collection of waste water and specifies how different types of waste water should be treated, disposed and reused.

C.121 Environmental Protection Act 1990 – Makes provision for the improved control of pollution to the air, water and land by regulating the management of waste and the control of emissions.

Economic growth

C.122 HM Government, Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future (2017) – Sets out a long-term policy framework for how Britain will be built to be fit for the future in terms of creating successful, competitive and open economy. It is shaped around five ‘foundations of productivity’ – the essential attributes of every successful economy: Ideas (the world’s most innovative economy); People (good jobs and greater earning power for all; Infrastructure (a major upgrade to the UK’s infrastructure); Business Environment (the best place to start and grow a business); Places (prosperous communities across the UK).

C.123 National Infrastructure Strategy (2020) - The Plan outlines the strategy to transform UK infrastructure in order to level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

C.124 The White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom (2022) – Sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. Levelling up themes of importance to economic growth include increasing levels of pay, employment and productivity as well as the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training in every area of the UK and increasing domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East by at least 40% over the Spending Review period.

C.125 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021) – Sets out a plan to ‘build back better’ tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that delivers high-quality jobs across the UK while supporting the transition to net zero.

C.126 Agriculture Act 2020 – Sets out how farmers and land managers in England will be rewarded in the future with public money for “public goods”. These incentives aim to provide a vehicle for achieving the goals of the government’s 25 Year Environment Plan and commitment to reach zero emissions by 2050. The Act aims to help farmers to stay competitive, increase productivity, invest in new technology and seek a fairer return from the marketplace.

C.127 Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 – Aims to drive competitiveness, increase productivity, reduce carbon emissions, and generate fairer returns across the agricultural industry. The Transition Plan introduces several new schemes to improve the environment, animal health and welfare, and farm resilience and productivity.

Transport

C.128 Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) – Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

C.129 Environment Act 2021 – Sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. The Act sets out legislation which covers local air quality management frameworks and the recall of motor vehicles.

C.130 Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021) – The Decarbonisation Transport Plan (DTP) sets out the Government’s commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK.

C.131 Circular 02/2013 - The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development (2013) - Support the economy through the provision of safe and reliable strategic road network, to allow the efficient movement of goods and people. A well-functioning road network provides safe and reliable journeys to enable growth by providing certainty, access to markets and improve mobility.

C.132 Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020) – Sets out the strategic priorities for the new Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), published in July 2021. It sets out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting the UK on a pathway to achieving carbon budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050.

C.133 Transport Investment Strategy (2017) – This strategy sets out the Department for Transport’s priorities and approach for future transport investment decisions.

C.134 Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017) – This strategy is designed to communicate the company’s approach and priorities for sustainable development to its key stakeholders.

C.135 Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (2013) – Focuses on four core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport.

Sub-national plans and programmes of most relevance for the

Local Plan

C.136 Hampshire Local Transport Plan (2024) – The plan sets out how the transport network for Hampshire should be developed up to 2050. The LTP’s vision is for the creation of a “carbon neutral, resilient, and inclusive transport system designed around - and with - people, which: supports health, well-being, and quality of life for all; supports a connected economy and creates successful and prosperous places; and respects and seeks to enhance Hampshire’s unique natural and built environment.”

C.137 Hampshire County Council Walking Strategy (2016) – This strategy outlines the overall aspiration to support walking across the County. It provides a framework to support the development of local walking strategies, and outlines funding priorities and opportunities.

C.138 Hampshire County Council Cycling Strategy (2015) – This strategy outlines the overall aspiration to support cycling across the County. It provides a framework to support the planning and development of cycling measures, and outlines funding priorities and opportunities.

C.139 Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015–2025 (2015) – The countryside access plan seeks to improve access to and within the countryside.

C.140 Hampshire’s Highway Asset Management Strategy (2023) – The document outlines Hampshire’s approach to Highway Asset Management:

- Providing a strategic overview; and
- Identifying the asset management principles that Hampshire are progressing and their alignment to national guidance and the drivers that are influencing those principles.

C.141 Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PfSH) Spatial Position Statement (2023) – The document sets out the overall need for, and distribution of, development in south Hampshire. The PfSH area includes the unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight; Hampshire County Council and the district authorities of Eastleigh, East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester. Parts of East Hampshire, New Forest and Test Valley Districts as well as much of Winchester to the north of Bishops Waltham fall outside of the PfSH area.

C.142 Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017-2034) – The GI Strategy has been prepared jointly by the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire and in parallel to the Spatial Position Statement. This document sets the vision and framework for the delivery of an integrated network of strategic GI across the South Hampshire sub-region.

C.143 Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013) – The Minerals and Waste Plan sets the vision and direction – the amounts, broad locations and priorities – for future mineral extraction and waste management in Hampshire. It will guide the more specific locations for any new quarries and waste facilities, including sites for recycling and composting facilities, treatment plants, and any possible new landfill sites in the future. Its vision is ‘Protecting the environment, maintaining communities and supporting the economy’. Objectives include:

- Safeguarding Hampshire’s mineral resources;
- Meeting the demand for new minerals;
- Helping to deliver an adequate supply of minerals and mineral-related products to support new development, deliver key infrastructure projects and provide the everyday products; and
- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes.

C.144 Hampshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2020) – The Hampshire Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) has been produced by Hampshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The Flood Water Management Act places a legal duty on each LLFA to produce a LRMS

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

and this document creates a framework around which flood risk management will be undertaken by the LLFA.

C.145 Hampshire Public Health Strategy 2023-2026 (2021) – The strategy outlines how Hampshire County Council will seek to deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for everyone in the County, driven by individual choice and with less dependency on health and social care provision.

C.146 A Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire 2019-2024 (2019) – The strategy sets out the vision and key priorities for the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board which brings together partners from local government, the NHS, other public services, and the voluntary and community sector. The priorities of the strategy are improved mental health and emotional resilience, improved physical activity ensuring key element of health services work well together in Hampshire.

C.147 South East River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2022) – The management plan describes the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed.

C.148 Test and Itchen: Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009) – The management plan aims to promote more sustainable approaches to managing flood risk.

C.149 Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire (1998) – The document provides an evidence base and framework for the protection and conservation of threatened species and habitats across Hampshire. The BAP includes 13 Habitat Plans, three Topic Action Plans, and 28 Species Plans.

C.150 Winchester City Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 (BAP) – The BAP sets the strategic direction for how Winchester City Council will respond to the need to protect, enhance and restore key biodiversity across the district with a particular focus on the Council's own operations.

C.151 Starting Well: Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People in Hampshire (2019-2024) – The strategy builds on the findings of Hampshire’s emotional wellbeing and mental health needs assessment with the development of six priority areas. Aims to help facilitate discussions between key stakeholders ensuring changes to service provision are better coordinated.

C.152 Hampshire Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan (LTP) (2021/22) – The plan makes commitments to improving children and young people’s mental health by 2023/24. Aims to fulfil commitments to improve NHS services for children and young people’s mental health as set out in the NHS Long Term Plan and priorities set out in the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Starting Well Strategy and the Hampshire Children and Young People’s Plan.

C.153 Hampshire County Council Climate Change Strategy (2020-2025) – The strategy seeks to shape the councils work and partnerships over five year period it covers. It sets out how the Council will meet the two targets of becoming carbon neutral by 2050 and building resilience to a two-degree rise in temperature and aims to develop and promote a focus on embedding climate resilience and mitigation across key policies and sectors, working with communities across Hampshire.

C.154 Hampshire County Council Climate Change Action Plan (2020-2025) – The plan set out the approach of the Council to mitigate against and build resilience to climate change across each of the strategic priorities the climate change strategy.

C.155 South Downs National Park Management Plan 2020-2025 (2019) – The Partnership Management Plan sets out the overarching five-year strategy for the management of the South Downs National Park. The key objectives set out in the document are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area;

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public; and
- To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.

C.156 Winchester High Quality Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2015) – The SPD applies to the area of Winchester District which lies outside the South Downs National Park and supports the design policies in the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1. It identifies design criteria against which planning applications in the area will be assessed and provides further detailed design guidance to encourage high quality design which considers local distinctiveness and sustainable design principles.

C.157 Winchester Movement Strategy (2019) – The Strategy was developed by Winchester City Council in collaboration with Hampshire County Council. It is a joint policy document that sets out an agreed vision and long-term priorities for travel and transport improvements in Winchester over the next 30 years. It is supported by an Action Plan that guides delivery of the Strategy. The Strategy sets out three key priorities:

- Reduce city centre traffic;
- Support healthier lifestyle choices; and
- Invest in infrastructure to support sustainable growth.

C.158 Winchester experiences high levels of private car use for journeys to work. Traffic congestion accordingly impacts the reliability of bus services and demands further investments in road infrastructure. In this regard, the Winchester Movement Strategy aims to deliver:

- Increased capacity of Park and Ride facilities;
- Bus priority measures on key radial routes into the city centre;
- New bus partnerships with bus operators across the city;
- Traffic demand management;

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- Re-allocation of road space to improve pedestrian and cycle provisions;
- Enhance public realm in the city centre;
- Better management of deliveries of goods to the city centre;
- An integrated approach to transport and land use planning;
- Enhanced capacity of M3 highway;
- Enhanced primary road network capacity; and
- Consider introducing a charging zone.

C.159 The Strategy sets out long-term priorities for improvements of travel and transport infrastructure within Winchester over the next 30 years. The key issues identified by the Strategy are the city centre traffic levels caused mainly by private cars, air quality and health issues and inappropriate transport infrastructure that hinders economic potential of the District. As part of the Strategy, The City of Winchester Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is one of a series of technical studies prepared to focus on the built-up urban area of Winchester town. It also sets out a proposed network of 13 walking routes and 9 cycling corridors where improvements are to be delivered within the city over the next decade or so, and six proposed improvements that have been prioritised for delivery.

C.160 Winchester Council Housing Development Strategy 2021-2030 – The strategy presents a fundamental review of the council’s approach to the development of affordable housing. It seeks to put climate change mitigation central to the development principles guiding the delivery of these types of homes. The strategy reflects the Council’s aspiration to build 1,000 new homes across the district by 2030.

C.161 Winchester District Ten-Year Green Economic Development Strategy (2021) – The strategy provides the framework and an approach for planning the policies, programmes, and projects that will enable Winchester District to address global challenges facing its communities. It aims to make sure Winchester District benefits from the new jobs, goods, and services the whole of the UK will need in the next decade.

C.162 Winchester Climate Emergency Carbon Neutrality Action Plan: 2020-2030 – The Action Plan sets out how the Council aims to achieve carbon neutrality and includes:

- Actions it will take to reduce/eliminate or offset its own carbon emissions;
- Actions it can take to support and help others; individuals, businesses, agencies and organisations, to make changes so that the District becomes carbon neutral; and
- Actions that promote climate resilience including biodiversity; waste and recycling, planning and development; and commerce and economy.

Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH)

C.163 Some of the authorities in southern Hampshire are unlikely to be able fully to meet their own development needs, particularly where they are already largely urbanised or expansion is limited by The Solent or other constraints. The City Council is a member of the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). To support cooperation on strategic planning issues in the sub-region, a ‘Spatial Position Statement’ was agreed by the authorities in 2016 based on a PfSH Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and other evidence. Changes to the NPPF and ‘standard method’ for assessing housing need, resulted in the PfSH Joint Committee agreeing an initial Statement of Common Ground in October 2019, which was updated in September 2020. Further revisions were made in 2021 and 2022. This set out the strategic issues to be addressed in the sub-region and the process for resolving them.

C.164 Given the changes in the planning since the preparation of the 2016 Spatial Position Statement, PfSH subsequently took the decision to prepare a new Spatial Position Statement which was published in December 2023. The new statement sets out the overall need for, and distribution of, development in south Hampshire. The new statement seeks to respond to recent changes to national planning policy most notably, boosting the supply of housing becoming an even higher priority of the Government’s agenda. The statement also reflects revisions to the NPPF to up December 2023 and the introduction of a standard

Appendix C Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

method for the assessment of housing needs for local authorities according to the formula issued by Government.

Appendix D

Baseline Information

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

D.1 Climate change presents a global risk, with a range of different impacts that are likely to be felt within Winchester across numerous receptors. The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identified a reduced timeframe to act to keep world temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius before 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement [\[See reference 38\]](#).

D.2 The Tyndall Centre [\[See reference 39\]](#) has undertaken work to calculate the 'fair' contribution of local authorities towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Based on the analysis undertaken the following recommendations have been made for Winchester:

- The District should stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 5.2 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100. It should be noted that at 2017 carbon dioxide emission levels, Winchester would use this entire budget within 6 years from 2020.
- The District should also initiate an immediate programme of carbon dioxide mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging a minimum of -13.9% per year to secure a Paris aligned carbon budget.
- The District should reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2041.

D.3 In light of the IPCC work, Winchester City Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019. The declaration commits the Council to the aims of making the activities of Winchester City Council carbon neutral by 2024, and the District of Winchester carbon neutral by 2030. Carbon neutrality, therefore, needs to be fully woven into the new Local Plan and key part of the IIA process. It should be noted that the council's own carbon emissions have fallen by 23.6% over the ten year period up to 2019 [\[See reference 40\]](#).

Climate change predictions

D.4 In general, climate change projections (through UKCP18) indicate a greater chance of hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters in the UK [See reference 41]. The UK has experienced a general trend towards warmer average temperatures in recent years with the most recent decade (2009-2018) being on average 0.3C warmer than the 1981-2010 average and 0.9C warmer than 1961-1990. The 21st century is reported so far as being warmer than the previous three centuries.

D.5 Heavy rainfall and flooding events have been demonstrated to have increased potential to occur in the UK as the climate has generally become wetter. For example, the highest rainfall totals over a five day period are 9% higher during the most recent decade (2011-2020) compared to 1961-1990. Furthermore, the amount of rain from extremely wet days has increased by 17% when comparing the same time periods. In addition, there is a slight increase in the longest sequence of consecutive wet days for the UK. In Winchester rainfall total for winter 2020 was 144% of the 1981-2010 long-term average, reflecting the UK's fifth wettest winter in a series from 1863. UK rainfall total for spring was 142mm, 60% of average, this being the UK's fifth driest spring in a series from 1862. The precipitation levels for summer were generally wetter than average, with UK rainfall total for summer 135% of the 1981-2010 average and 2020 UK autumn rainfall was unremarkable, with below average rainfall across most of the UK during September and November offset by a wet October – for this season rainfall was at 106% of the 1981-2010 average [See reference 42].

D.6 UK CP18 projections for the South East River Basin identify the following main changes (relative to 1981-2000) to the climate by the end of the plan period (2038) [See reference 43]:

- Increase in mean winter temperature by 0.8°C.
- Increase in mean summer temperature by 1.3°C.
- Increase in mean winter precipitation by 9.0%.
- Decrease in mean summer precipitation by 13.0%.

Carbon dioxide emissions

D.7 In recent years, in line with the UK as a whole, the South East has seen a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions. One of the main drivers for reduced levels of emissions has been a decrease in the use of coal for electricity generation, accounting for a decrease in emissions for domestic electricity.

D.8 In the South East, carbon dioxide emissions have fallen from 8.0t per capita to 3.9t per capita (equivalent to a 51% reduction) from 2005 to 2022. Emissions for Winchester have stayed higher than South East levels for this period falling from 9.8t per capita to 5.1t per capita over the same period; however, this is similar to the decrease in level of emissions in the UK for the same period (49%). Per capita emissions in the plan area within the scope of influence of the local authority fell most years between 2005 and 2022 as shown in Table D.1.

Table D.1: Carbon dioxide emissions estimates in Winchester 2005-2022
 [See reference 44]

Year	Total Emissions (kt)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2005	1,078.5	9.8
2006	1,062.6	9.6
2007	1,052.6	9.4
2008	1,045.6	9.2
2009	980.1	8.6
2010	1,006.5	8.7
2011	938.9	8.0
2012	971.6	8.3
2013	939.4	8.0
2014	880.2	7.4

Appendix D Baseline Information

Year	Total Emissions (kt)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2015	849.6	7.1
2016	817.7	6.7
2017	796.8	6.5
2018	792.9	6.4
2019	747.0	6.0
2020	639.8	5.0
2021	685.1	5.4
2022	667.6	5.1

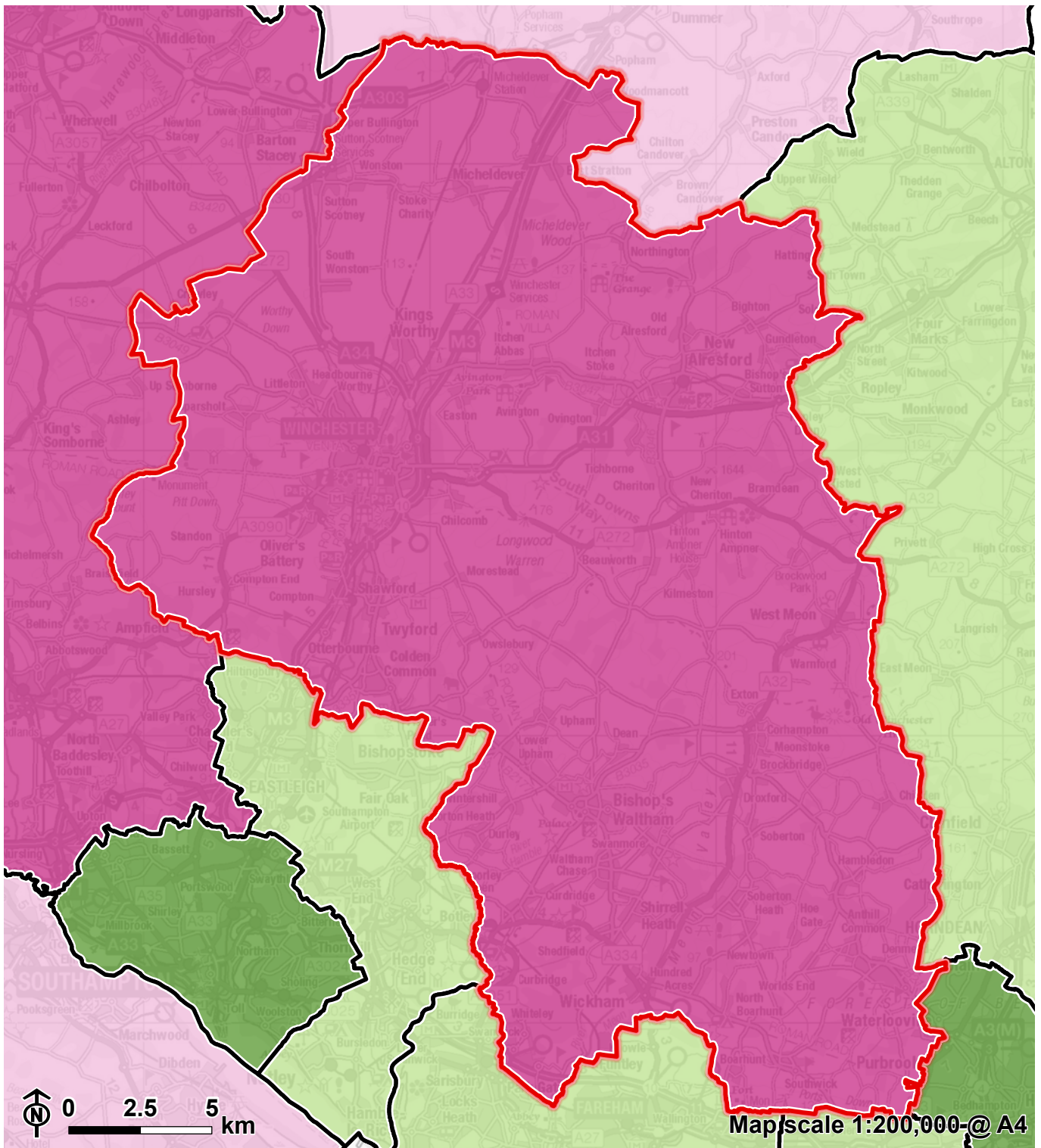
D.9 During this same period in the South East the contributor of the highest level of emissions continued to be from transport sources [See reference 45]. Within Winchester transport also remained the contributor of the highest level of emissions. This is shown in Table D.2.

Table D.2: Changes in carbon dioxide emissions by sector or the region and district between 2005 and 2022 [See reference 46]

Source of Emissions	South East 2005	South East 2022	Winchester 2005	Winchester 2022
Industry (kt CO ₂ e)	9,184.5	3,268.4	50.7	28.0
Commercial (kt CO ₂ e)	10,448.1	4,335.9	191.0	71.2
Public Sector (kt CO ₂ e)	3,594.3	1,450.5	77.3	29.6
Domestic (kt CO ₂ e)	20,983.3	11,383.6	298.4	170.7
Transport (kt CO ₂ e)	21,237.0	16,463.3	475.9	387.9

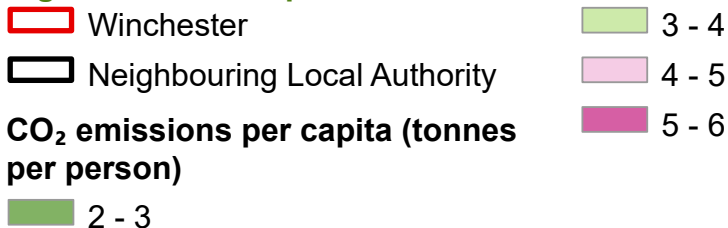
Appendix D Baseline Information

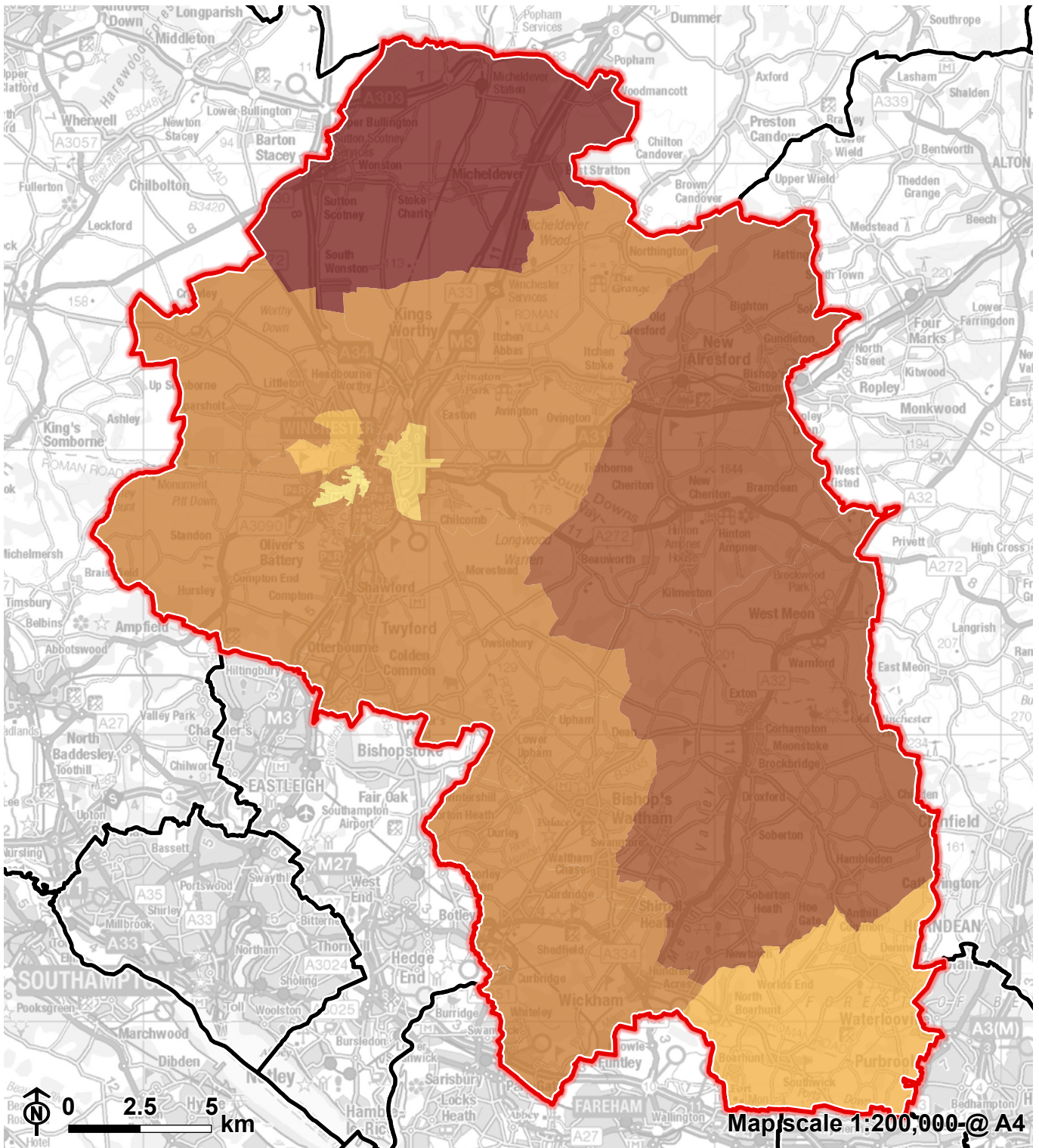
Source of Emissions	South East 2005	South East 2022	Winchester 2005	Winchester 2022
Grand Total (kt CO ₂ e)	65,322.3	36,393.7	1,078.5	667.6



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Figure D.1: Per Capita CO₂ emissions





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Figure D.2: Mean CO2 emissions per commuter for MSOAs in the district



Emissions from domestic energy consumption

D.10 Winchester City Council has undertaken work to assess carbon dioxide emissions from domestic energy consumption (electricity and gas only) in the plan area.

D.11 In Winchester there are approximately 29% of residents who are not connected to mains gas. No metered gas consumption is reported in 21 parishes [See reference 47]. Electricity consumption in these off-gas parishes may be higher than in parishes on mains gas because some homes use electricity for heating as well as for appliances, cooking, lighting etc. For this reason, emissions from the off-gas parishes are treated separately. The top and bottom three performing parishes and wards in Winchester for those with gas mains and those without are shown in Table D.3 and Table D.4.

D.12 In the Winchester, the average greenhouse gas emissions from domestic gas for 2022 was 98.7 kt CO₂e, the average domestic electricity emissions for 2022 was 46.2 CO₂e and the average total combined emissions (gas, electricity and ‘other’) was 176.2 kt CO₂e [See reference 48]. It can be seen from the Winchester City Council’s data that historically there is some variation in the level of emissions produced by the parishes and city wards, with some performing markedly more favourably than the regional average and some performing poorly against this figure.

Table D.3: Emissions per capita in Winchester: parishes and wards with main gas (top and bottom 3 performing) [See reference 49]

Parishes and City Wards	Combined Emissions per Capita (electricity and gas; kg CO ₂ e)	Overall Rank
Southwick and Widley	407	1
Tichborne	749	2
Sparsholt	998	3

Appendix D Baseline Information

Parishes and City Wards	Combined Emissions per Capita (electricity and gas; kg CO2e)	Overall Rank
Compton and Shawford	2,340	29
Crawley	2,562	30
Itchen Valley	3,061	31

Table D.4: Emissions per capita in Winchester: off-gas parishes (top and bottom 3 performing) [See reference 50]

Parishes	Electricity Emissions per Capita (kg CO2e)	Overall Rank
Bramdean and Hinton Ampner	502	1
Cheriton	579	2
Boarhunt	585	3
Exton	958	19
Warnford	1,058	20
Northington	1,064	21

Road travel and associated energy consumption

D.13 Carbon emissions for the UK in 2022 decreased by 5.8% from 2021 levels, though compared to 2019, the most recent pre-pandemic year, 2021 CO2 emissions are down 10.7%. In 2022 transport was still the largest source of carbon dioxide in the UK, accounting for 37.5% of total emissions. The majority of emissions from transport in the UK are from road transport [See reference 51].

D.14 The District is mostly rural but benefits from a strong relationship with the larger southern settlements within the Partnership for South Hampshire area

Appendix D Baseline Information

and is positioned to have motorway and railway access to larger towns to the north such as Basingstoke as well as London. The rural nature and proximity to larger towns outside the District have influenced the substantial amount of commuting that residents and those outside of the District undertake.

D.15 71,901 people worked in Winchester at the time of the 2021 census, including 33,264 people who worked from home or had no fixed place of work, and 13,293 people who travelled within the area. 46,557 people worked and lived in Winchester. Of those 25,344 people travelling to Winchester to work, the largest movement into the District was 5,706 people from Eastleigh, followed by Southampton (3,550 people) and Fareham (2,957 people). 14,026 residents in Winchester were reported as travelling to other locations for work. The largest movement of people out of Winchester was 1,617 people to Southampton, followed by Eastleigh (1,587 people) and Portsmouth (1,481 people) [\[See reference 52\]](#).

D.16 Within Winchester, the statistical neighbourhood (MSOA) that had the largest workday population was Winchester Central and South. 8,477 people travelled here for work from other areas. In addition, 777 people travelled within Winchester Central and South, and 2,819 people worked from home or had no fixed place of work. The largest movement of people to Winchester Central and South for work was 538 people from Winchester East, followed by Winchester Stanmore (478 people) and Winchester West (460 people). The largest movement of people out of Winchester Central and South was 177 people to Winchester East, followed by Winchester West (105 people) and Shirley Warren (97 people).

D.17 In 2021 the majority of those employed and over the age of 15 in Winchester worked mainly at or from home (43%). Regarding the mode of transport used to travel to work, most people (40% of employed) in Winchester drove a car or van to work, this is followed by walking to work (8.8%), as a passenger in a car or van (6.2%), on a bus, minibus or coach (1.4%) and then by bicycle (1.3%) [\[See reference 53\]](#).

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.18 Road transport accounts for more than half of oil demand in the UK and relies on petrol and diesel to meet around 98% cent of its energy needs. This has implications for carbon emissions considering the regular need to travel for both residents and those undertaking business. The overall road energy consumption in Winchester decreased between 2005 and 2022 from 152 thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe) of equivalent oil to 143 ktoe. This change was most influenced by the decreasing energy consumption for personal road travel which fell during this period from 105 ktoe of equivalent oil to 86.1 ktoe of equivalent oil. During this period, energy consumption recorded in Winchester for freight uses actually rose from 47 ktoe to 56.9 ktoe [\[See reference 54\]](#).

D.19 Transport demand decreased 1.7%, with increases in petrol and aviation fuel use but a drop in diesel demand. Demand for diesel decreased 5.2% while petrol was up by 3.3%. Jet fuel continues its postpandemic recovery with an increase of 9.9% on the same period last year, having more than tripled since the same period in 2021 (that saw lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19). Non-bio diesel demand was down by 5.2% while non-bio petrol demand increased by 3.3%. To meet this increased demand amid stable production, imports of petrol rose by 29%.

D.20 Total consumption of electricity by end users was 72.1 TWh in Quarter 1 2024, an increase of 1.0 per cent compared to 2023. Consumption by domestic users rose 0.8 per cent, commercial and other users by 0.3 per cent, and use in transport rose by an estimated 20 per cent from 2.1 TWh to 2.5 TWh due to greater numbers of electric vehicles. [\[See reference 55\]](#).

D.21 As of April 2024, there were 59,670 public electric vehicle charging devices available in the UK and of these, 11,590 were charging devices with capabilities of 50kW and above. Within Winchester there is a total of 165 public electric vehicle charging devices and 39 of these have capabilities of 50kW and above. There are approximately 129 charging devices per 100,000 population. The District performs better than the UK average of 80.1 charging devices per 100,000 population [\[See reference 56\]](#) [\[See reference 57\]](#).

Overall energy consumption and generation

D.22 The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy produced the following consumption figures for Winchester in 2021 [\[See reference 58\]](#):

- Coal – A total of 1.2 ktoe predominantly through industrial and domestic uses.
- Manufactured fuels – A total of 0.3 ktoe predominantly through domestic use.
- Petroleum – A total of 145.8 ktoe predominantly from road transport.
- Gas – A total of 66.8 ktoe predominantly through domestic use.
- Electricity – A total of 48.4 ktoe predominantly through industrial and commercial use.
- Bioenergy and wastes – A total of 9.0 ktoe predominantly from road transport.

D.23 Between 2005 and 2021 the total reported energy consumption for the Borough fell 17% from 328.1 ktoe to 271.5 ktoe.

D.24 Winchester has increased its capacity to generate electricity from renewable sources from 2014 to 2022 from 24.5MW installed capacity to 100.7MW installed capacity. Capacity for solar power has accounted for almost all of the installed renewable energy capacity in Winchester during this period. Biomass was the only other recorded type of renewable energy source in 2022 and accounted for only 0.4MW of the total install capacity. Energy generation from renewable sources also increased during this period by 7.4% from 23,595MWh in 2014 to 94,546 MWh in 2022.

D.25 Considering the year-on-year trend of renewable electricity generation in Winchester the 2022 figure was an increase on 2021 figure of 88,036 MWh [\[See reference 59\]](#). This is slightly lower than the increase in renewable energy generation experienced across the UK which grew by 10.5% 2021 to 2022 [\[See reference 60\]](#).

Flood risk

D.26 Flood risk in the District is implicitly linked to climate change considering the changes predicted in weather patterns and the impact this will have on river levels and the ability for safe infiltration of surface water to be achieved in the District.

D.27 The most substantial areas of flood risk lie along the main water bodies of the District at the River Itchen and its tributaries (including Cheriton Stream and Candover Brook) which passes through Winchester Town, as well as the Upper Hamble within Bishops Waltham and the River Dever [\[See reference 61\]](#). Across the entire area of the District, however, only 3.10% falls within Flood Zone 2 and 2.53% falls within Flood Zone 3. These areas are shown in Figure D.3 below.

D.28 There are also areas of high and medium risk of flooding from surface water within some of the more sizeable settlements in the District. This includes at Winchester Town towards the railway line, towards the central and eastern parts of Bishops Waltham and southern and eastern parts of Denmead [\[See reference 62\]](#). A number of areas in Winchester, have been affected by groundwater flooding most notably during flood events of winter 2013/14 [\[See reference 63\]](#).

D.29 The Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH formerly PUSH) prepared a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Update in 2024 for the southern part of Winchester which falls within the partnership area. The rest of the District is covered by the Winchester City SFRA from 2007 [\[See reference 64\]](#).

D.30 The Defra has published peak river flow allowances by river basin district which account for variation due to climate change. Table D.5 below shows the potential change identified for the given time periods for the Test and Itchen Management Catchment within which Winchester falls.

Appendix D Baseline Information

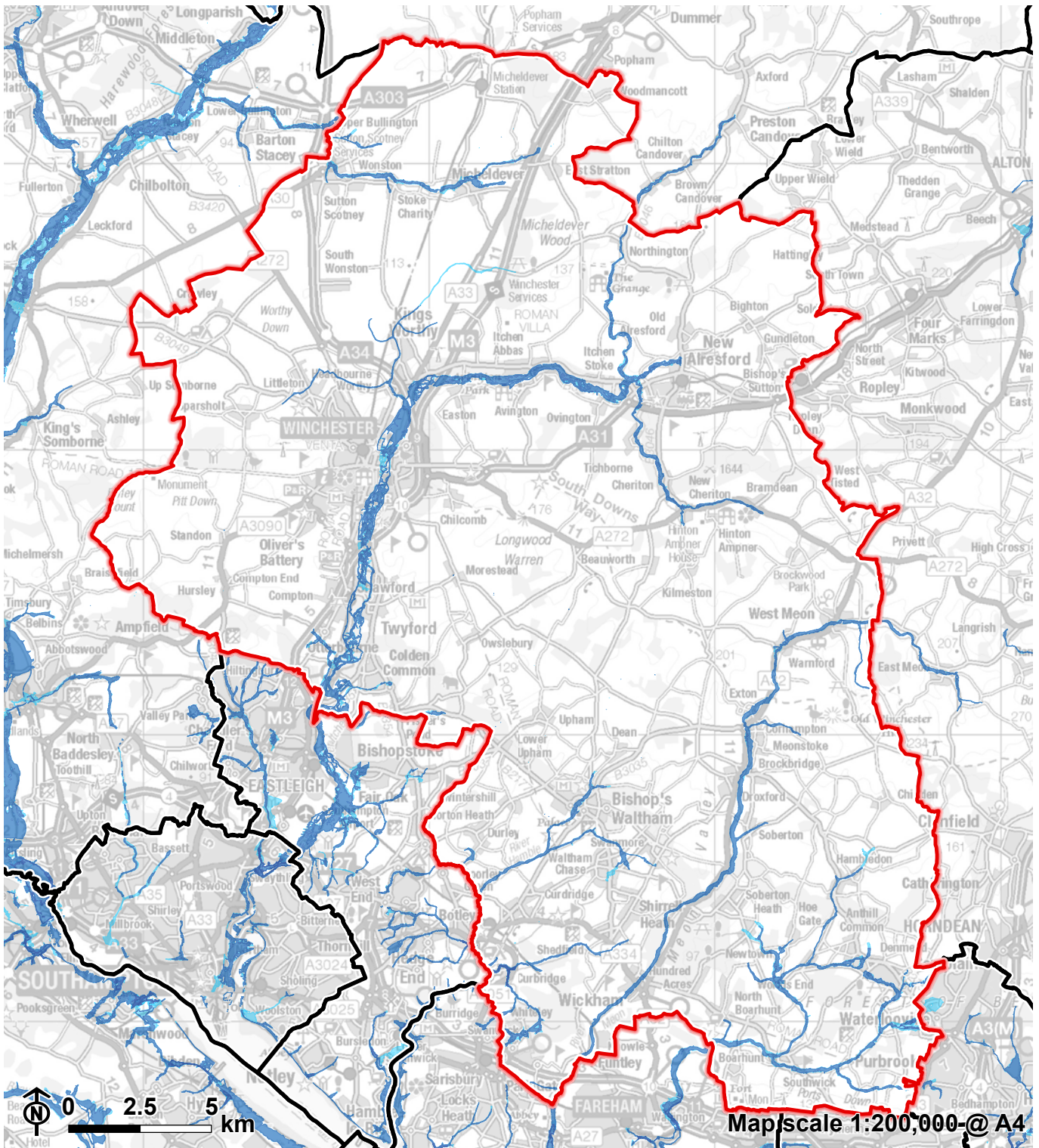
D.31 For this table the range of allowances is based on percentiles. The percentiles are set out to describe the proportion of possible scenarios that fall below an allowance level. The 50th percentile is the point at which half of the possible scenarios for peak flows fall below it and half fall above it. The:

- central allowance is based on the 50th percentile;
- higher central allowance is based on the 70th percentile; and
- upper end allowance is based on the 90th percentile.

D.32 An allowance based on the 50th percentile is exceeded by 50% of the projections in the range. At the 70th percentile it is exceeded by 30%. At the 95th percentile it is exceeded by 5% of the projections in the range.

Table D.5: Peak river flow allowance for the Test and Itchen Management Catchment [See reference 65]

Allowance Category	Total Potential Change Anticipated for the '2020s'	Total Potential Change Anticipated for the '2050s'	Total Potential Change Anticipated for the '2080s'
Upper	45%	61%	127%
Higher	24%	28%	56%
Central	16%	17%	35%



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Figure D.3: Flood Risk

- █ Winchester
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3

Population, health and well-being

Population

D.33 Winchester lies within the South East of England comprising 661km². It takes in over 50 smaller rural settlements as well as the City of Winchester itself.

D.34 The population of Winchester was 127,900 in mid-2021 [See reference 66] compared to the 2011 Census, when 116,600 people lived in the plan area, across 46,900 households [See reference 67]. By 2038 it is estimated that the population of the District will increase to 134,176 [See reference 68]. The population of the District is spread across the following spatial areas:

- Winchester Town (the largest settlement in the District and immediate surroundings of the settlement itself).
- The South Hampshire Urban Areas (the far south of the District that lies within the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) area, particularly Whiteley and the development area of West of Waterlooville).
- The Market Towns and the Rural Area (all areas outside of those above taking in settlements ranging in size from larger villages to small hamlets).

D.35 Winchester is the fifth least densely populated of the South East's, 64 local authority areas, with around one person living on each football pitch-sized area of land [See reference 69]. The City of Winchester is home to the largest percentage of the District's population [See reference 70]. Population density is markedly higher in the City than the rural areas, with the highest density (48.79 people per square kilometre) recorded in the St. Luke ward [See reference 71]. The rural ward of Upper Meon Valley has the lowest population density (0.37 people per square kilometre).

D.36 While the population density in the City is higher than rural areas, much of the District's population is found at more rural locations. Table D.6 below

Appendix D Baseline Information

presents the most recent estimates of population by ward in Winchester District as of 2023.

Table D.6: Estimated populations by ward in Winchester Local Authority for 2023 [See reference 72]

Ward	Estimated Population (as of 2021)
Alresford and Itchen Valley	8,686
Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery	8,244
Bishop's Waltham	8,256
Central Meon Valley	9,753
Colden Common and Twyford	6,150
Denmead	9,161
St Barnabas	9,281
St Bartholomew	9,373
St Luke	6,402
St Michael	9,186
St Paul	10,030
Southwick and Wickham	7,288
The Worthys	7,462
Upper Meon Valley	5,639
Whiteley and Shedfield	7,302
Wonston and Micheldever	8,055

Housing

D.37 Alongside London, parts of the South East of England have higher property price to earnings ratios than other areas of the country. In Winchester, the ratio was 13.5 in 2022, compared to 9.9 ten years earlier in 2012. The 2022 ratio for Winchester is significantly higher than the average for England where full-time workers could expect to pay an estimated 8.3 times their annual workplace-based earnings on purchasing a home [\[See reference 73\]](#).

D.38 The average price for a property in the District in January 2024 was £373,177 which is a result of a fluctuating upward trend over the past 10 years. In 2010, the average property price was £282,519. In comparison to the regional average, the average property price in South East of England in 2010 was £217,339 and in 2022 it increased up to £380,604. Therefore, properties in Winchester have higher than regional average prices [\[See reference 74\]](#).

D.39 The high unaffordability of housing in the District partly reflects the unfavourable performance for parts of the District in relation to the Barriers to Housing and Services domain in the IMD 2019. As shown in Figure D.9 (later in this report) rural parts of the District and an area of Winchester Town (within the St Luke ward LSOA Winchester 008c) fall within the 10% most deprived areas of the country in relation to this domain. It should be noted that this domain also considers physical access to services. This is in addition to potential barriers the population may experience in relation to housing, which considers issues such as affordability, homeless and household overcrowding. The number of indicators considered through this domain helps to explain the spread of deprivation across the District. In rural areas services are likely to be less accessible and housing stock tends to be larger, while at more urban locations there may be further barriers to housing which may not necessarily be limited to affordability.

D.40 Around 67% of homes in the District are in owner occupation, with a roughly equal split of affordable and private rented homes. There was a downward trend in owner occupation between the last two Censuses [\[See reference 75\]](#).

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.41 In terms of rental prices in Winchester District, data for 2022 and 2023 indicate that rental prices in the District are the most expensive outside London, across all housing categories (room, studio, one-, two- three-, four- and more bedroom flats/houses) [See reference 76]. For example, the median monthly rent for a one bedroom flat in Winchester District was £917, which is the highest across the surrounding districts in the South East of England.

D.42 The statutory homelessness rate for Winchester is one in 1,652. This is the 51st lowest rate in the South East of England [See reference 77].

D.43 Housing provision in the District to 2022/23 has seen significant fluctuations. The overall trend was of a decline in completions since 2006 followed by a rise from 2014. There were also declines in the generally upward trend in 2019/20 as well as 2022/23. Although Winchester District annual completion figures fluctuated during that period, they closely reflect the trends for England and Hampshire. A breakdown of total completions from 2011 to 2023 in Winchester is provided in Table D.7.

Table D.7: Total housing completions in Winchester 2011 to 2023 (including Affordable Homes) [See reference 78]

Year	Total Housing Completions (dwellings + communal)	Affordable Housing Completions
2011-2012	317	71
2012-2013	204	68
2013-2014	670	149
2014-2015	262	82
2015-2016	421	92
2016-2017	606	153
2017-2018	642	169
2018-2019	875	283

Appendix D Baseline Information

Year	Total Housing Completions (dwellings + communal)	Affordable Housing Completions
2019-2020	643	142
2020-2021	874	300
2021-2022	1201	511
2022-2023	1095	382
Total 2011-2023	7,810	2,402

D.44 The 5-year requirement for the District for the period 2023 to 2028, including a 5% buffer is 2,854 homes with supply demonstrated to be 4,152 homes for this period. For the period 2022 to 2029 the requirement including a 5% buffer is 2,536 homes with supply demonstrated to be 3,849 homes. The Council is therefore able to demonstrate a 7.3 years and 7.6 years supply of housing land respectively from 2024 and 2024 [\[See reference 79\]](#).

D.45 The Council prepared an update of the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) [\[See reference 80\]](#) in 2023 to identify how much housing and employment space could come forward on sites that are suitable, available and achievable to meet the council’s housing and employment needs. The Assessment only looked at sites that are outside the South Downs National Park (which covers 40% of the District). The initial SHELAA work in July 2023 indicated that there is a theoretical capacity (if all of the SHELAA came forward) within the district to deliver approximately 62,359 dwellings although this may change as new sites are identified. There is an increase in the housing number compared to the previous 2021 SHELAA report. The previous number of dwellings was 53,363, it is considered that there is an increase in the number of dwellings due to the allocated sites being added to the SHELAA.

D.46 Current planning policy in the adopted Local Plan Part 1 (Policy CP2) requires that the majority (i.e. over 50%) of new homes on a development should be two and three bedrooms. This reflects the findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) that the emphasis should be on this size

Appendix D Baseline Information

of bedroomed accommodation. The District has consistently met this target from 2011 to 2019 as demonstrated in Table D.8.

Table D.8: Percentage housing completions (gross) in Winchester by number of bedrooms since 2011

Year	Percentage of 1 bed units	Percentage of 2 or 3 bed units	Percentage of 4 or higher bed units
2011/12	13%	67%	20%
2012/13	12%	60%	28%
2013/14	14%	63%	23%
2014/15	10%	66%	24%
2015/16	16%	62%	25%
2016/17	11%	70%	19%
2017/18	10%	65%	25%
2018/19	14%	65%	21%

D.47 The significant growth in older people (particularly those aged over 80 years) in recent years in the District will have impacts on housing demands in the plan area. The needs of older people can often be met in their existing homes or by moving to more suitable mainstream housing in some cases. However, as issues of vulnerability increase, more specialised accommodation such as extra care is required.

D.48 While supported housing of various forms to meet the needs of people with disabilities is provided across the District, the lack of move-on accommodation currently hampers its effective use and means households are unable to access accommodation they need. Furthermore, recent years have seen the needs of the most vulnerable groups increasing. The specific needs of the homeless, rough sleepers and individuals with complex needs, such as

Appendix D Baseline Information

mental health and substance dependency have grown and while their overall numbers are relatively low their needs are severe.

D.49 The District’s housing stock is generally very good across all sectors. Homes are predominantly of post Second World War construction. Council and other affordable housing has achieved the Decent Home Standard. There are instances of poor property energy efficiency in some types of housing, for instance those without mains gas in rural areas. There are high levels of houses in multiple occupation in the Winchester Town area, due predominantly to students [\[See reference 81\]](#).

Gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople

D.50 For the period 2022 to 2040 it has been established that there is a current and future need for 91 pitches for households that met the planning definition. There is also a need for 35 additional plots over the 20-year period for Travelling Showpeople households.

D.51 Table D.9 sets out by five-year periods the identified need for additional plots for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households in Winchester that meet the definitions in the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites.

Table D.9: Additional need for 'Gypsy and Traveller' and 'Travelling Showpeople' households by time periods [\[See reference 82\]](#)

Year	0-5 (2022-2026)	6-10 (2027-2031)	11-15 (2032-2036)	16-17 (2037-2038)	Total
Gypsy and Traveller households	51	15	17	8	91

Appendix D Baseline Information

Year	0-5 (2022-2026)	6-10 (2027-2031)	11-15 (2032-2036)	16-17 (2037-2038)	Total
Travelling Showpeople households	22	4	5	4	35

Services and facilities, including education

D.52 Winchester Town acts a hub as a main employment, retail and leisure centre for both its residents and those in nearby villages. The quality of school and service provision make the City attractive to potential new residents and it also benefits from a thriving tourism sector. Urban areas on the southern fringes of the District have a strong functional relationship with the Southampton/Portsmouth conurbation, rather than Winchester. The remainder of the District has dispersed villages and market towns which vary in their size, character and functional relationships with each other.

D.53 Beyond the Winchester Town the eight larger settlements of the District (Bishop Waltham, Colden Common, Denmead, Kings Worthy, New Alresford, Swanmore, Waltham Chase and Wickham) provide a focal point for their own communities. They also provide some services for nearby smaller villages. Bishops Waltham is a main settlement in the Market Towns and Rural Area. The settlement acts as a District Centre and has higher levels of population, service provision and connections with surrounding communities than other settlements in the plan area. It provides access to a number of key facilities such as medical provision, shops, libraries, education and sports facilities **[See reference 83]**. In 2022 the Council updated the evidence base relating to the settlement hierarchy of market towns and rural villages to inform the new Local Plan. Settlements have been ranked and classified based on the availability and accessibility of a broad range of facilities, their economic role and the presence of environmental constraints to development. The update to the settlement hierarchy reflects how services and facilities have changed over time and considers the availability of new services such as high speed broadband. The

new categorisation of each settlement in Winchester District is outlined in Table D.10 [See reference 84].

Table D.10: Winchester District settlement hierarchy groupings

Category	Settlement
Town	Winchester
Market Towns	Bishop’s Waltham and New Alresford
Larger Rural Settlements	Wickham, Denmead, Colden Common, Kings Worthy and Swanmore
Intermediate Rural Settlements	Hursley, Otterbourne, South Wonston, Sutton Scotney, and Waltham Chase

D.54 The rural character of much of Winchester partly accounts for the unfavourable performance for parts of the district in relation to the Barriers to Housing and Services domain in the IMD 2019. As shown in Figure D.9 (later in this report) rural parts of the district and an area of Winchester Town (within the St Luke ward LSOA Winchester 008c) fall within the 10% most deprived areas of the country in relation to this domain. It should be noted that as well as access to services (including post offices, primary schools, supermarkets and healthcare) this domain also considers access to housing including affordability, homeless and household overcrowding.

D.55 It is the statutory duty of Hampshire County Council to ensure sufficient school places for children in the County. The School Places Plan [See reference 85] sets out the identified need for additional mainstream school places in the primary and secondary sectors across Hampshire up to 2026. The School Places Plan identifies that the Whiteley primary planning area has the potential to be overcapacity in terms of the availability of primary school places at the end of reporting period in October 2026. The figures reported for October 2022 in the District show that the secondary schools in the City of Winchester and Alresford were overcapacity. The three secondary school planning areas were expected to have small amounts of surplus capacity at the end of reporting

Appendix D Baseline Information

period in October 2026. Table D.11 and Table D.12 overleaf show the expected primary and secondary school capacity respectively for the district up to October 2026 which takes into account significant planned housing developments in area.

D.56 Between 2022 and 2026 the County Council has programmed primary school expansions at Bishops Waltham Infant & Junior Schools, Barton Farm Primary Academy, Colden Common Primary School, Four Marks Primary School (just outside the District in East Hampshire) and Sun Hill Infant & Junior Schools which would provide additional capacity for pupils in Winchester District. The expansion at Barton Farm is understood to be currently under construction. Expansions to benefit secondary school capacity in Winchester are also planned for this period at Henry Beaufort School.

Table D.11: Capacity at Winchester Primary Schools

Primary Planning Area	Number of Infant/Primary Schools	Reception Year % Surplus October 2021	Reception Year % Surplus October 2026
Winchester Town	12	16.5%	12.5%
Winchester Rural North	5	22.6%	2.3%
Winchester Rural South	5	23%	21.2%
Bishops Waltham	9	11%	12.6%
Alresford	6	20.6%	3%
Whiteley	2	-7.5%	-11.7%

Table D.12: Capacity at Winchester Secondary Schools

Primary Planning Area	Number of Secondary Schools	Year 7 % Surplus October 2021	Year 7 % Surplus October 2026
Winchester	3	-8.1%	1%
Bishop Waltham	1	1.9%	4.3%
Alresford	1	-4.3%	5.4%

Health

D.57 Health is a cross-cutting topic and as such many topic areas explored in this Scoping Report influence health either directly or indirectly. The latest published information comes from the 2021 census which provides a snapshot of the general health and well-being of residents in Winchester at that time.

D.58 The health of residents of Winchester was described as ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’ by 86.1% of the population, compared to 82.2% for England. Only 3.4% of Winchester’s population described their health as ‘Bad’ or ‘Very Bad’, compared to figure of 5.2% for the England average [\[See reference 86\]](#).

D.59 At the time of writing, the UK including Winchester, is still suffering from some of the longer term effects of the coronavirus pandemic. In Hampshire excess (extra) deaths mostly occurred during wave one and wave two of the pandemic however, not all excess deaths throughout the time had COVID-19 mentioned on the death certificate. Since March 2021, the number of deaths overall has been below or comparable to what we would expect for this time of year. 3,332 people have so far died of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Fifteen deaths mentioning COVID-19 were reported as at the latest week ending the 25 March 2022 [\[See reference 87\]](#).

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.60 For Winchester, data suggests that during the first wave of the pandemic across Hampshire, Winchester experienced faster epidemic growth than the South East of England as a whole, with a steep increase in the number of confirmed cases [See reference 88]. Winchester had the fifth highest age standardised mortality rate for COVID-19 out of Hampshire's 14 Local Authorities.

Life expectancy

D.61 Life expectancy at birth in 2022 in Winchester was 83 years for males and 86.3 years for females, which is higher than the national value of 79.3 years and 83.2 years, respectively [See reference 89]. Data relating to inequalities in life expectancy in the district is not available for 2024, however, life expectancy at birth in Winchester in 2019 was reported as being 5.8 years lower for men and 6.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Winchester when compared to the least deprived areas [See reference 90]. This is lower than average for England where the gap in life expectancy at birth between the least and most deprived areas was recorded as 9.7 years for males and 7.9 years for females [See reference 91].

Obesity

D.62 Being overweight or obese carries numerous health risks, including increased likelihood of type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart and liver disease, stroke and related mental health conditions. It is estimated this health issue places a cost of at least £5.1 billion on the NHS and tens of billions on the wider UK society every year [See reference 92].

D.63 58.8% of adults in Winchester were classed as overweight or obese in 2021, which is lower than the South East average of 62.4% and the national average of 63.5% [See reference 93].

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.64 The number of hospital admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of obesity is not reported at local authority level, however, in 2019/20 Hampshire reported 1,387 persons per 100,000 finishing admissions episodes during this period. This figure is slightly higher than the regional figure of 1,382 and lower than the national figure of 1,869. Admission for females is higher than for males in Hampshire, at 1,689 persons per 100,000 and 1,082 persons per 100,000, respectively [See reference 94]. Across England the number of reported hospital admissions directly attributed to obesity in 2019/20 was 10,780 which is a slight decrease from the 11,117 reported during the previously reporting period. However, the number of admissions where obesity was a factor in 2019/20 (1,022,040) was a substantial increase on the 2018/19 figure (875,663) [See reference 95].

Perception of well-being

D.65 Residents of the District reported having slightly lower levels of life satisfaction (7.7 out of 10.00) than the average for UK (7.4) in the 2022/23 period. The Covid-19 pandemic led to decreased levels of life satisfaction being reported across all of the UK and Winchester was no exception with a decrease to 7.0 reported in 2020/21 from 7.5 reported in the previous year period. Average figures recorded relating to 'feeling the things done in life are worthwhile' and 'happiness' also decreased compared to prior years in the district (both at 7.3) in 2020/21 and were lower than or equivalent to the averages for UK (at 7.7 and 7.3, respectively). Average levels of anxiety recorded for the District fell between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (from 3.6 to 2.9), and were lower than the average for the UK (3.3) [See reference 96]. Perceptions of personal wellbeing and happiness have since increased to 8.0 and 7.2 in Winchester since 2020/21. Whilst perceptions of wellbeing remain higher than the England average 7.73, perceptions of happiness are lower than the England average of 7.38.

D.66 Hampshire County Council has undertaken work to map mental health and well-being in the County. In Winchester, the areas estimated to have lower mental health and well-being are St Luke, St Bartholomew and St Michael (previously St John & All Saints) wards. St Bartholomew and St Michael (previously St John & All Saints) and St Luke are amongst the lowest 20% of

Appendix D Baseline Information

wards in the County for mental health and well-being. St Bartholomew is amongst the lowest 40% of wards in the County.

D.67 St Bartholomew and St Michael (previously St John & All Saints) is reported to perform particularly poorly (ranking lower than 50 out of the 240 wards in Hampshire) in relation to indicators for its population's material well-being, health, life satisfaction, strong and stable families and social capital. St Luke also performs poorly in relation to these indicators as well as indicators relating to enabling infrastructure and local economy.

D.68 The areas estimated to have higher mental health and well-being are Compton & Otterbourne, Swanmore & Newtown, Whiteley, St Paul, Olivers Battery & Badger Farm and Cheriton & Bishops Sutton. These wards are amongst the highest 10% of wards in Hampshire [\[See reference 97\]](#).

Social isolation

D.69 Hampshire County Council has also attempted to map areas most likely to be affected by issues of loneliness and social isolation in the County. The reporting found that social isolation and loneliness are more likely to be prevalent in urban areas rather than rural areas and, that perhaps surprisingly, they are clustered into the most densely populated Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The analysis concluded that areas with higher prevalence of these issues included parts of Winchester [\[See reference 98\]](#).

Overview of health indicators for the district

D.70 Health indicators in which the figures for Winchester are significantly worse than national average are numbers of serious injuries and deaths on the road and infant mortality rate. The plan area performs significantly better than the national and regional averages in terms of the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese, estimated diabetes diagnosis rate, percentage of physically active adults, percentage of adults classified as

overweight or obese and prevalence of obesity among Year 6 students [See reference 99].

Open spaces, sports and recreation

D.71 Open space and sports and recreation facilities in the district provide residents space in which they can undertake physical activity to the benefit of public health. The UK Chief Medical Officers advise that for good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. Over the course of a week adults should accumulate at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity; or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity day; or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity; or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity [See reference 100].

D.72 Additional health benefits relating to green space include acting to mitigate air and noise pollution as well as reducing the potential for residents to be affected by flooding. Human interaction with nature can also promote feelings of happiness and lowered diastolic blood pressure which is linked to stress [See reference 101].

D.73 The 2022 Winchester Open Space Assessment evaluated the specific needs and shortfalls of open space in Winchester and indicated what further open space provision may be required in each area. Villages and parishes within the South Downs National Park area were not included in this assessment. The parishes and wards of Bishops Sutton, Boarhunt, Denmead, Durley, Kingsworthy, Northington, Old Alresford, South Wonston, Southwick & Widley, Sparsholt, Wickham, Micheldever, New Alresford and Wonston have all been identified as having a net deficiency in open space when considering all typologies. This is also the case for the following parts of Winchester Town: St Barnabas Ward, St Luke Ward, St Paul Ward and St Bartholomew [See reference 102].

D.74 A year long survey of 33 open spaces in Winchester undertaken between December 2017 and December 2018 showed that visitors to the parks and

Appendix D Baseline Information

open spaces tend to be younger in age than the Winchester average. At 32 out of the 33 sites at least two-thirds of visitors were 40 or under. The top five open spaces in terms of total visitor numbers per year in the District were North Wall Recreation Ground (276,640 visitors), Orams Arbour (159,952 visitors), Dean Park on Dean Lane (98,852 visitors), Somers Close Recreation Ground (91,364 visitors) and Stanmore Recreation Ground (90,532 visitors) [\[See reference 103\]](#).

D.75 Part of the South Downs National Park lies within the Winchester boundary directly to the east of Winchester Town. The National Park provides a multitude of opportunities for recreation and it is estimated that the park has around 18.8 million visits per year. It is the third largest National Park in England with a population of 2.2 million located within 10km of its boundaries.

D.76 The National Park also contains approximately 3,300km of footpaths, bridleways and byways [\[See reference 104\]](#). The South Downs National Trail starts at Winchester Town passing through the National Park travelling 160km to Eastbourne. There are several other important routes which pass into the city including Clarendon Way, Pilgrims Trail and St Swithuns Way. Pilgrims Trail and St Swithuns Way also allow for access to the National Park and link the City to Bishops Waltham and Alresford within the District. The National Trail, as well as Pilgrims Trail and St Swithuns Way, cross the M3, meaning there are potential barriers to accessing these routes from the city.

D.77 Keats Walk is an important route within the City of Winchester which follows a portion of the River Itchen. Other important walking routes in the plan area include Wayfarers Walk and Ox Drove Way both of which run through Alresford. National Cycle Route 23 also passes through Winchester Town connecting Reading to Southampton via Basingstoke, Alresford, and Eastleigh [\[See reference 105\]](#) [\[See reference 106\]](#) [\[See reference 107\]](#).

D.78 The 2017 Winchester Sports Facility Needs Assessment presents an audit of sports facilities in the plan area considering among other things their quality, size and accessibility. The Assessment concluded that in general, the district is well served by a range of providers of health and fitness facilities, with most of

Appendix D Baseline Information

these operating as private members clubs. Two of the three community accessible health and fitness suites at River Park Leisure Centre and Meadowside Leisure Centre, have been refurbished in the mid-2010s. The other suite at Perins Community School has not been refurbished in over a decade. Key priorities identified in the report are for improved scale and quality of health and fitness facilities. These priorities were partly met through the completion and opening of the new Winchester Sport and Leisure Park in May 2021.

D.79 The opening of this facility also helped to meet the identified shortfall up to 2037 in pool facilities, artificial turf pitches, indoor tennis courts and dedicated gymnastics facilities in the district [\[See reference 108\]](#).

Levels of physical activity

D.80 The most recent Active Lives Survey (reporting for the period November 2022-23) estimated that 13.4% of the population in Winchester is classified as inactive doing less than 30 minutes of moderate exercise per week. This is less than the figure for the South East of England which is 22.2% for this period. In Winchester it is reported that 73.3% of the population met the aerobic guidelines of at least 150 minutes of moderate activity per week. This figure is higher than the regional figure of 66.2% [\[See reference 109\]](#).

D.81 80.6% of adults from the district walk or cycle at least once a week for any purpose. This figure increases to 88.0% of the population when considering those who walk or cycle at least once per month, these figures are higher than those reported for England, with 69.3% walking or cycling at least once per week and 76.4% walking or cycling at least once per month. Rates of cycling for pleasure (at least once per week or once per month) are higher than the national average at 14.1% and 22.3%, respectively compared to 8.5% and 13.4%, respectively [\[See reference 110\]](#).

Crime

D.82 Residents in Winchester are generally more content with the area they live in than those in other areas of the South East, with 95% of residents reportedly satisfied with their local area compared to the average of 80% for the region. Younger people in Winchester reported that the feeling of safety they experienced when walking home at night (44%) and low crime levels (35%) contributed to making the place they lived a great place to live [\[See reference 111\]](#).

D.83 In Winchester 70.21% of the population were reported as 'feeling safe' and 77.26% were reported as 'feeling very safe' in a YouGov Survey in 2018. While confidence in the UK police force decreased up to December 2018, the percentage of residents who have confidence in the Hampshire Constabulary is 78%, which is higher than the national figure of just under 76% [\[See reference 112\]](#).

D.84 Total recorded crime in Hampshire saw a decrease of 6.5% from December 2022 to December 2023. This period saw a decrease in the total level of recorded crime in the South East (1.2%), however there was a reported increase (by 1.2%) in the total level of recorded crime in England. In Hampshire, the overall decrease in crime included decreases in relation to bicycle theft (33%), residential burglary (22%) and public order offences (16%). During the same period, instances of shoplifting (49%), theft from the person (14%) and drug offences (11%) all increased [\[See reference 113\]](#).

Equalities

D.85 The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine 'protected characteristics' and seeks to protect people from discrimination on the basis of these characteristics. It presents three main duties: to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act; to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected

Appendix D Baseline Information

characteristics and persons who do not share it; and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The nine protected characteristics identified through the Act are:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Gender reassignment;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sex; and
- Sexual orientation.

D.86 The potential effects of the plan in relation to groups covered by the nine 'protected characteristics' will be assessed separately in addition to the SA. This work will comprise the EqIA which will be presented in an appendix to the SA.

D.87 While socio-economic status is not a characteristic protected by the Equality Act 2010, the Council is committed to also considering the effects that the plan will have on groups affected by these types of issues. The EqIA will therefore also consider the potential effects on socio-economic groups not limited to but including the following:

- People on low incomes;
- Young and adult carers;
- People living in deprived areas/rural areas; and
- Groups suffering multiple disadvantages.

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.88 The population of Winchester in mid-2020 [See reference 114] was 127,900 compared to the 2011 Census, when 125,925 people lived in the plan area. [See reference 115]. The population in 2021 was split between 62,500 females and 65,400 males.

Age

D.89 Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of Winchester increased by one year, from 42 to 43 years of age. For the 10-year period starting in mid-2010 there was an increase of 1.7 years from 42.0 years. This area had a higher average (median) age than the South East as a whole in 2021 (41 years) and a higher average (median) age than England (40 years).

D.90 Based on figures from the most recent census in 2021 the age profile for Winchester was broadly similar to that for England and Wales as a whole although as a proportion there were slightly less 20 to 29 year olds and slightly more people aged 60 or more than in the general population [See reference 116]. A more detailed breakdown of the estimated age makeup of the population for Winchester in 2020 is provided in Table D.13 below.

Table D.13: Estimated breakdown of Winchester's 2021 population by age group [See reference 117]

Age Group	Total
4 years and under	4.7%
5 to 9 years	5.8%
10 to 15 years	7.3%
16 to 19 years	6%
20 to 24 years	6.4%
35 to 49 years	18.5%

Appendix D Baseline Information

Age Group	Total
50 to 64 years	20.1%
65 to 74 years	10.5%
75 to 84 years	7.2%
85 years and over	3.2%

D.91 It is expected that the ratio of those residents who are state pension age or older to those of working age will increase in the future across the UK. Increases in population in Winchester are forecast mainly amongst the older age groups [See reference 118]. Based on data from Census 2021, Winchester (346.0) has a relatively high old age dependency ratio compared to the South East (310.0) which indicates that the number of people of state pension age per 1,000 people of working age is comparatively high. In Winchester, this figure is expected to rise to 400.0 by 2043, which is in line with the figure for the South East by this time. The Child Support Ratio in Winchester is also forecast to increase in the future. The figure is expected to rise from 31.2 to 31.6 child dependents per 100 people of working age from 2019 to 2026.

Disability

D.92 The 2021 census presented figures on people with disabilities in the UK. 5.1% of Winchester residents are identified as being disabled and limited a lot, which is a 0.7% reduction from 2011. The decrease in the proportion of residents who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot was less than the regional average in the South East (from 7.2% to 6.2%) and the national average which fell by 1.6 percentage points, from 9.1% to 7.5% [See reference 119].

Marriage and civil partnership

D.93 Also from 2021 census data, 50.6% of Winchester’s population were married whilst 33.2% were single. The percentage of adults in Winchester that had divorced or dissolved a civil partnership remained at 8.2% [See reference 120].

Pregnancy and maternity

D.94 In recent years, the number of births to mothers over the age of 35 has increased in Winchester as has the number of births to non-British mothers. While the number of births which have occurred outside of marriage has fallen during the most recent reporting period of 2015-2016, the trend up until the mid-2010s was an increase in this figure. Table D.14 presents the percentage of births Winchester occurring to mothers aged 35 or over, occurring outside of marriage and occurring to non-British mothers.

Table D.14: Breakdown of selected figures relating to births in Winchester

	2001	2005	2011	2015	2016
% live births to mothers aged 35+	26.0	29.4	24.8	32.3	31.6
% live births outside of marriage	25.0	27.0	33.8	33.4	31.8
% live births born to non-British born mothers	12.6	13.6	13.9	14.0	15.6

Race

D.95 The ONS publishes detailed population estimates by ethnic group for areas in England and Wales following each census. However, there are currently no reliable population estimates by ethnic group available at the local

Appendix D Baseline Information

authority level for the years between censuses. Therefore, the most recent census data presents the most reliable overview of the likely ethnic make-up of Winchester. In Winchester, around 93.6% of Winchester's the population reported as being 'White' in 2021, compared with 95.7% in 2011. The Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnic groups account for 3.1% of the overall population, while the Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African ethnic group accounts for 0.6% of the overall population. The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the "Other" category ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group") increased from 0.3% in 2011 to 0.7% in 2021 [\[See reference 121\]](#).

D.96 Migration figures for Winchester show that area has experienced a small net inflow of both internal and international migration during most years from 2010 to 2020 (the exception being international migration for the period mid-2019 to mid-2020 when a small net outflow was experienced). In all reporting years internal migration has greatly outweighed international migration. During the most recent reporting period (mid-2019 to mid-2020) the inflow of long-term international migration was recorded as 894 individuals and the outflow was recorded as 917 individuals. During the same period the inflow of internal migration was recorded as 10,435 individuals and the outflow was recorded as 9,442 individuals [\[See reference 122\]](#).

Religion

D.97 In 2021 the majority of Winchester's population considered themselves to be Christian, with 48.6% residents falling within this classification. Those who reported to have no religion accounted for 42.2% residents, which represents a decrease of 14.5% from 2011. 0.5% of residents are reported to have other religions, but no figures are provided by the ONS to show the split between specific religions [\[See reference 123\]](#).

D.98 There is little baseline information available that is directly relevant to other protected characteristics including pregnancy and maternity, gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

Deprivation

D.99 In 2019, Winchester ranked 293 out of 317 local authorities in England (1 being the most deprived), compared with a ranking of 307 in 2015 [See reference 124] [See reference 125]. Winchester performs particularly strongly in terms of measures relating to income, employment, education skills and training, health and disability, crime, income deprivation affecting children and income deprivation affecting older people. The area performs less favourably (ranked 195 out of 317) in relation to living environment which considers the quality of housing as well as air quality and road traffic accidents. It also performed particularly poorly (ranked 99 out of 317) in relation to barriers to housing and services which considers the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services.

D.100 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) uses Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) to measure deprivation at local authority and county level. Figure D.4 overleaf shows the LSOAs in the District and each areas' level of deprivation as per the findings for the IMD 2019. The seven distinct domains of deprivation (Income; Employment; Health Deprivation and Disability; Education and Skills Training; Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services; and Living Environment) which when weighted and combined form the IMD 2019 have been mapped for the District in Figure D.4 to Figure D.11 which are also below.

D.101 In 2019, Winchester had no LSOAs within the 10% most deprived or within the 11% to 20% most deprived areas in England. For comparison, the neighbouring local authority areas in Hampshire County and the number of LSOAs within the 10% most deprived and 11% to 20% most deprived areas in England are shown in Table D.15.

Table D.15: Number of LSOAs in Winchester and surrounding local authority areas in 10% most deprived and 11% to 20% most deprived areas in England [See reference 126]

Area (Number of LSOAs in each area are in brackets)	Number of LSOAs in the 10% Most Deprived Areas in England	Number of LSOAs in the 11%-20% Most Deprived Areas in England
Basingstoke and Deane (109)	6	17
East Hampshire (72)	0	0
Eastleigh (77)	0	1
Fareham (73)	0	0
Gosport (53)	1	7
Havant (78)	6	17
Portsmouth (125)	15	15
Test Valley (71)	0	1
Winchester (70)	0	0

D.102 However, areas within Winchester Town in the St Bartholomew and St Michael (previously St John and All Saints) wards (LSOA Winchester 006c) are within the 30% most deprived areas in England. Also, within the city parts of the St Bartholomew ward (LSOA Winchester 006a) and the St Luke ward (LSOAs Winchester 008a and Winchester 008b) are within the 40% most deprived areas in England [See reference 127].

D.103 Substantial portions of the rural areas of the district to the north west, north east and south are within the 10% most deprived in terms of the housing domain which considers the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. This domain reflects both affordability of housing and homelessness issues and ‘geographical barriers’ to services. Much of the eastern portion of the district is within the 10% most deprived in terms of the living environment domain. This domain considers both the ‘indoors’ living

Appendix D Baseline Information

environment of residents (i.e. the quality of housing) as well as the 'outdoors' living environment which measures air quality and road traffic accidents.

D.104 Within Winchester Town, areas within the St Bartholomew and St Michael (previously St John and All Saints ward) wards (LSOA Winchester 006c) are within the 20% most deprived in terms of the education domain which considers the lack of attainment and skills in the local population for both children and young people and adult skills. These areas are also within the 30% most deprived in terms of the income and employment domains. The income domain measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income including those out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings. The employment domain measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market including those affected by sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.

D.105 Parts of the St Bartholomew ward (LSOA Winchester 006a) are within the 20% most deprived in terms of the crime domain which considers the risk of personal and material victimisation. These areas are also within the 30% most deprived in terms of the income domain. Parts of the St Luke ward (LSOAs Winchester 008ba and Winchester 008b) are within the 10% most derived in terms of the education domain and within the 20% or 30% most deprived in terms of the housing domain [\[See reference 128\]](#) [\[See reference 129\]](#).

D.106 According to Public Health England, while Winchester is one of the 20% least deprived districts/unitary authorities in England, around 10.1% (2,342) children live in relative low-income families, whilst 8.1% (1,894) live in absolute low income families [\[See reference 130\]](#). It was estimated that 3,996 out of 50,887 households were fuel poor in 2020, which equates to 7.9% of all households in the district. This is lower than the figure for South East of England which is 8.6% [\[See reference 131\]](#). The fuel poverty levels for the South East are the lowest in England [\[See reference 132\]](#).

D.107 In Winchester 2.6% of the population provided unpaid care for 20 hours or more, whilst for England and Wales the figure is 3.8% [\[See reference 133\]](#).

Appendix D Baseline Information

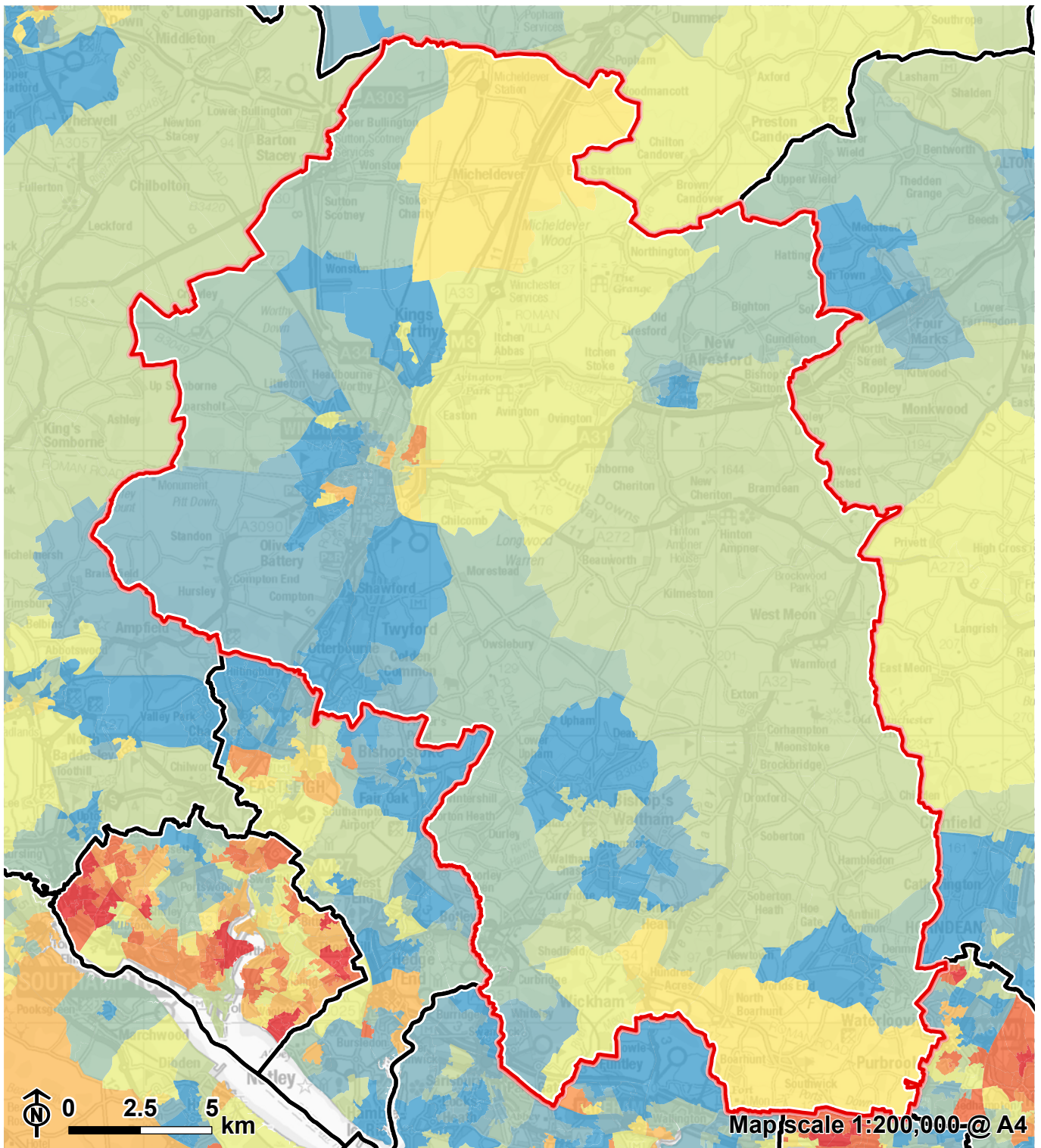
D.108 Further information regarding unemployment levels and income is provided in the Economy section below.

Educational attainment

D.109 In Winchester as of January 2017 only 588 pupils (out of a total of 8,499) are reported to attend primary schools that have been rated as 'requiring improvement' or 'inadequate' by Ofsted. All pupils in secondary school are reported to attend schools which are rated by Ofsted as 'outstanding' or 'good'.

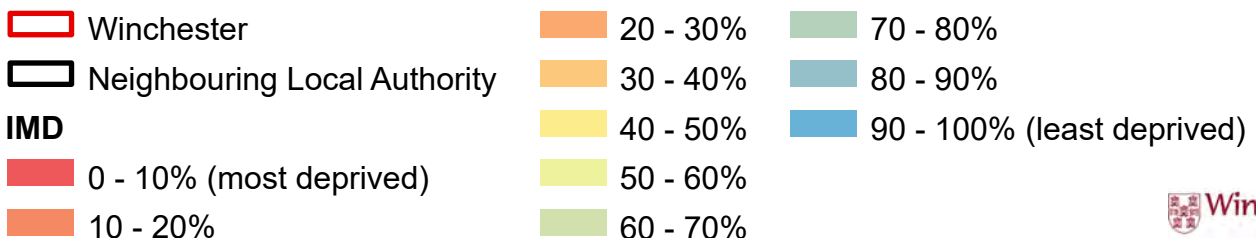
D.110 Pupils in the District perform more favourably than the national average for Attainment 8 scores for English and Mathematics. For English, the average score for the district in 2015/16 was 11.8 and national average is 10.6, while for Mathematics the average score for the district was 11.2 and the national average was 9.8. Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals and disadvantaged pupils also perform more favourably for these subjects, than the national averages for these groups.

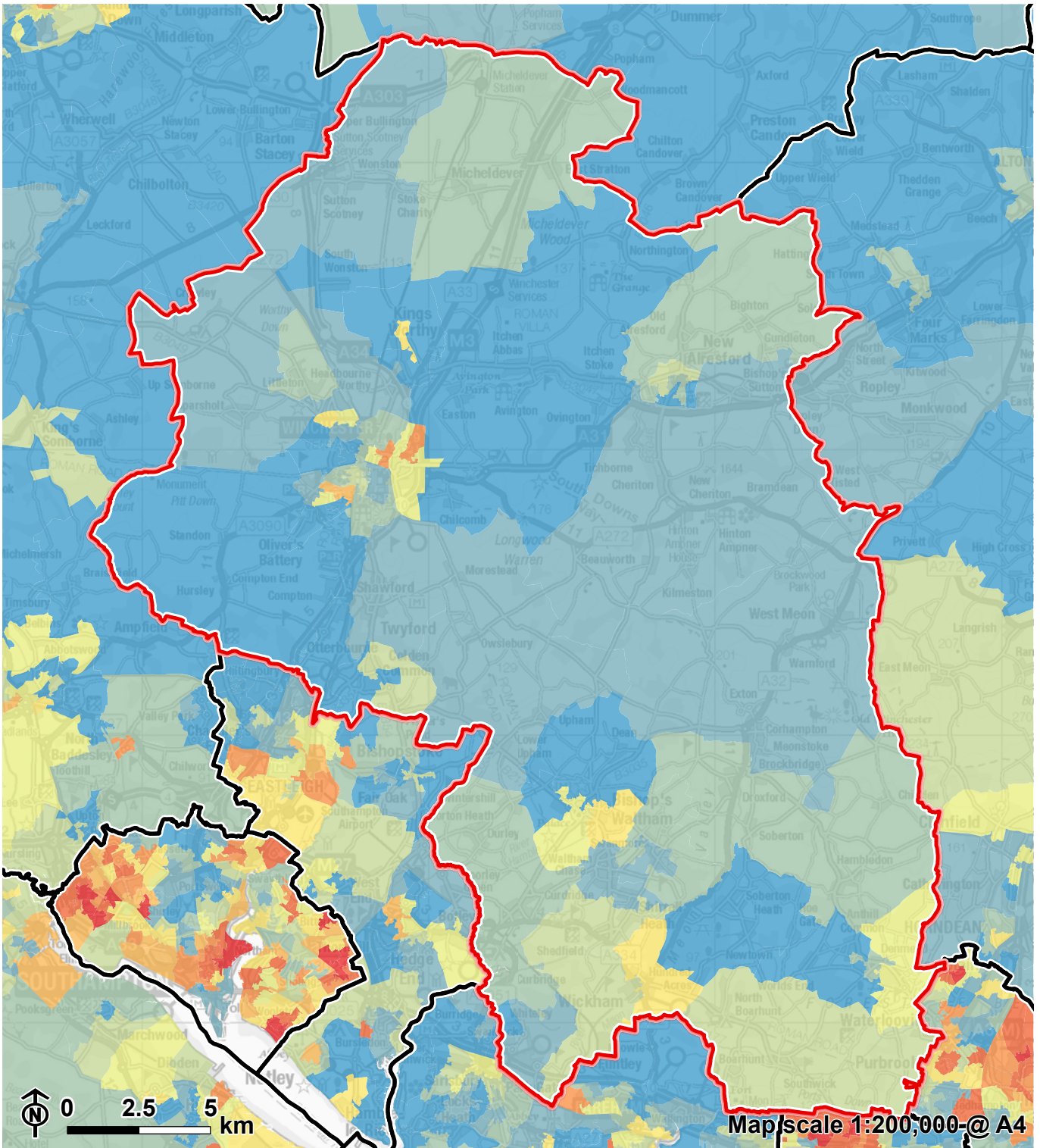
D.111 The district also reported a higher percentage (78.4%) of pupils attaining grades A to C in both English and Mathematics than the English average (63.3%) for the same period [[See reference 134](#)].



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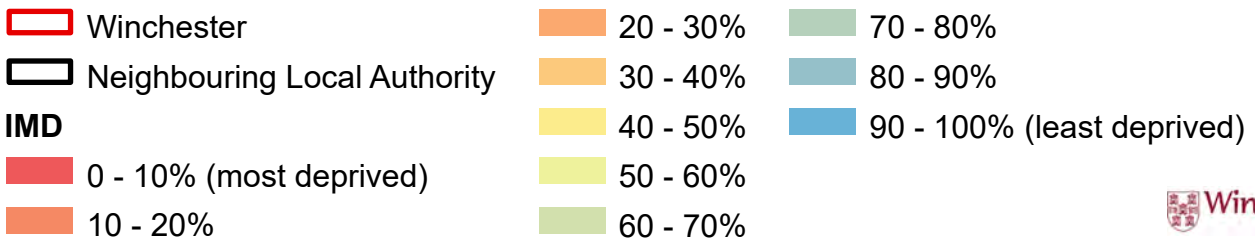
Figure D.4: Index of Multiple Deprivation (overall)

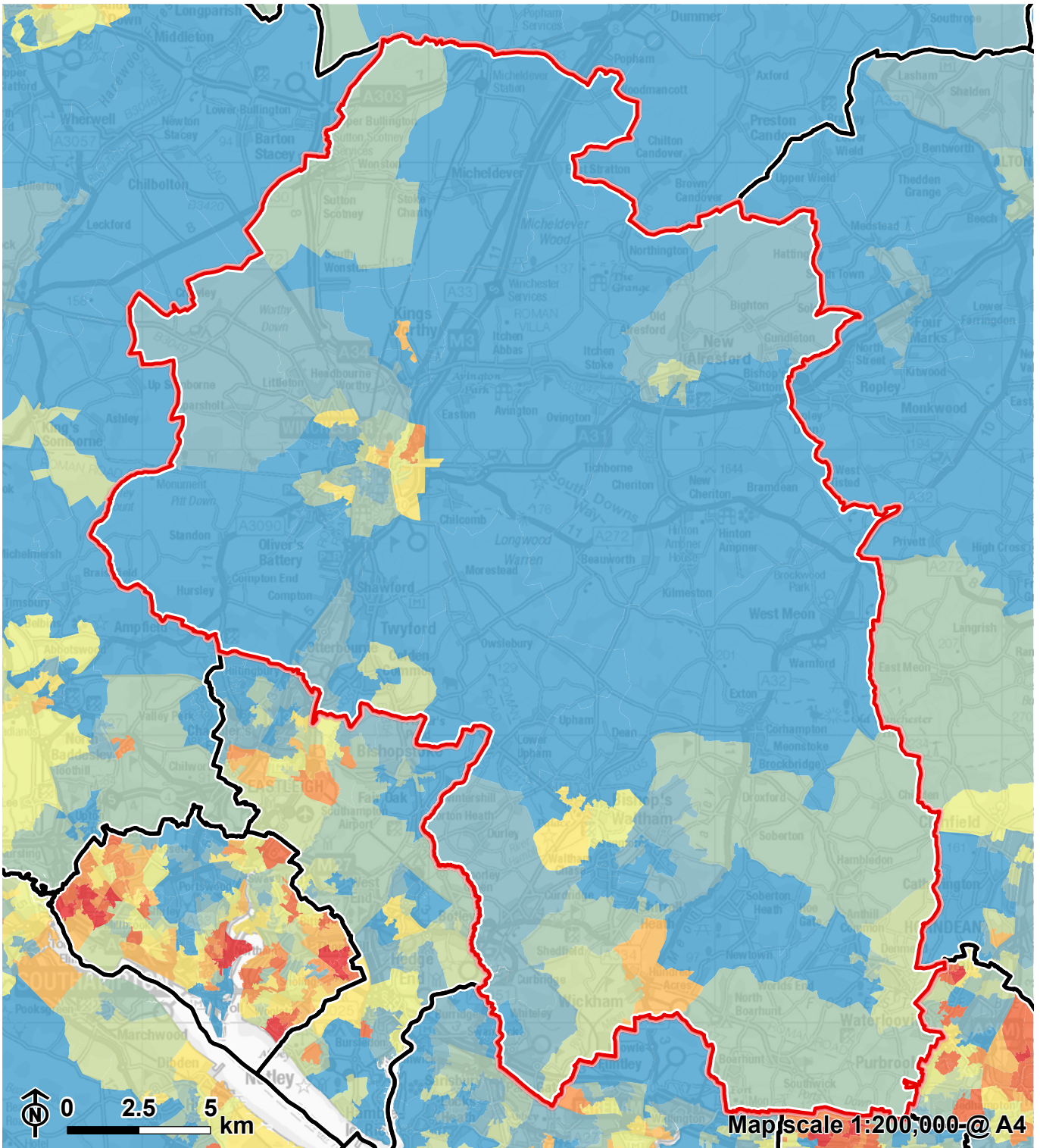




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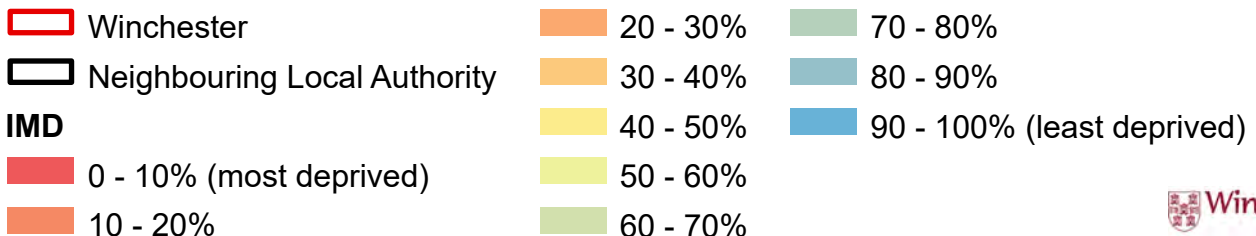
Figure D.5: Index of Multiple Deprivation (income domain)

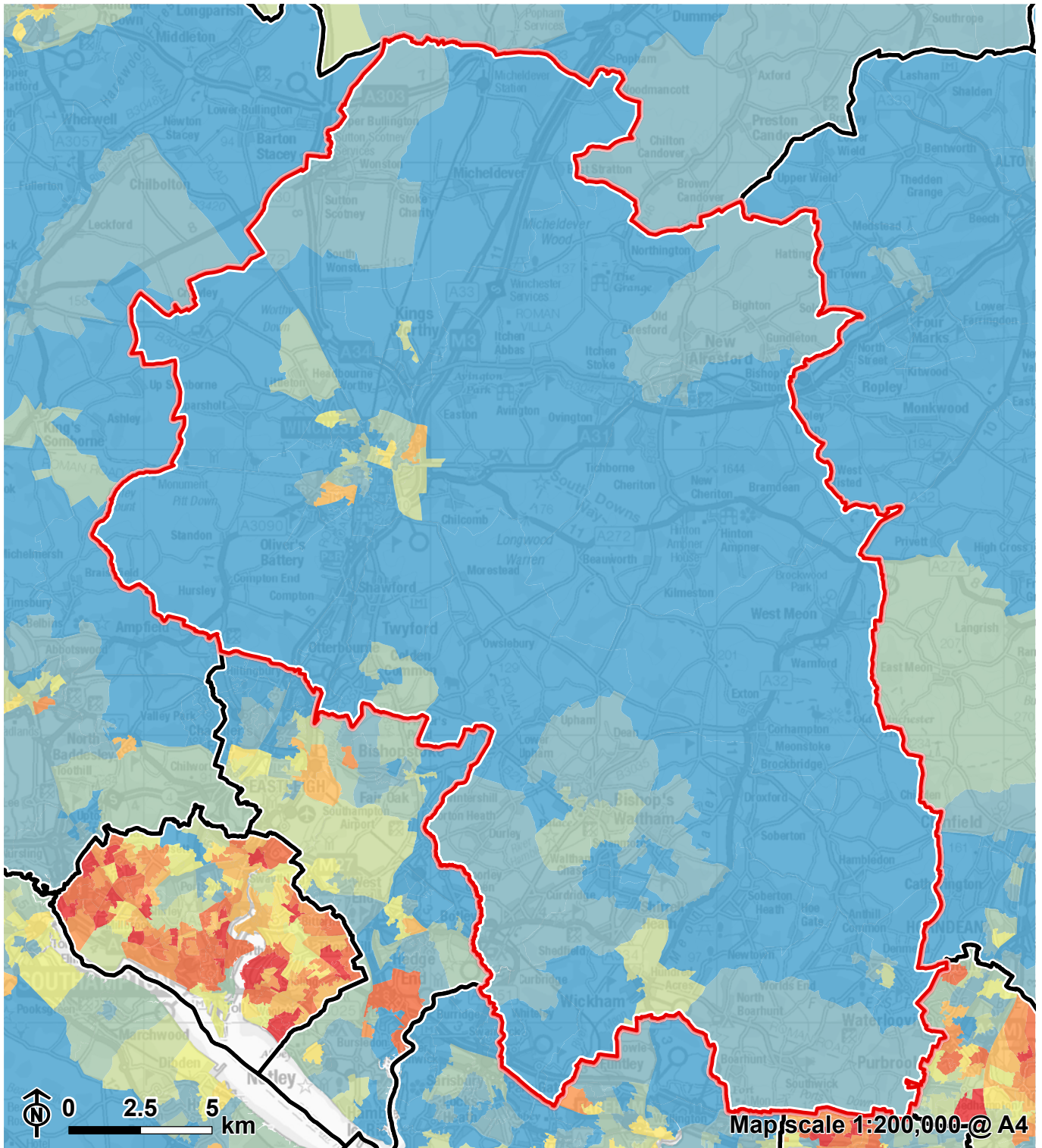




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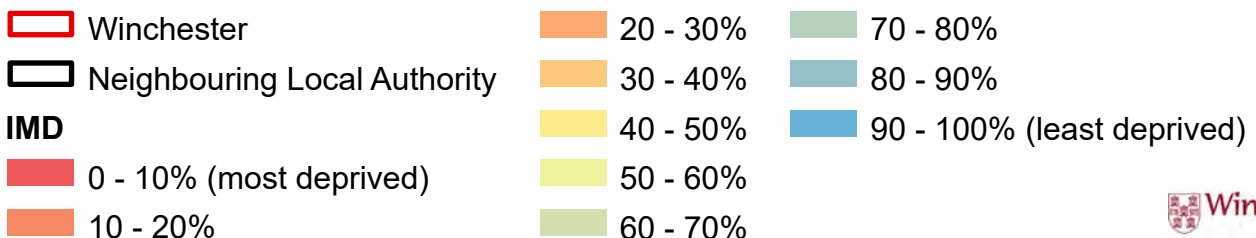
Figure D.6: Index of Multiple Deprivation (employment domain)

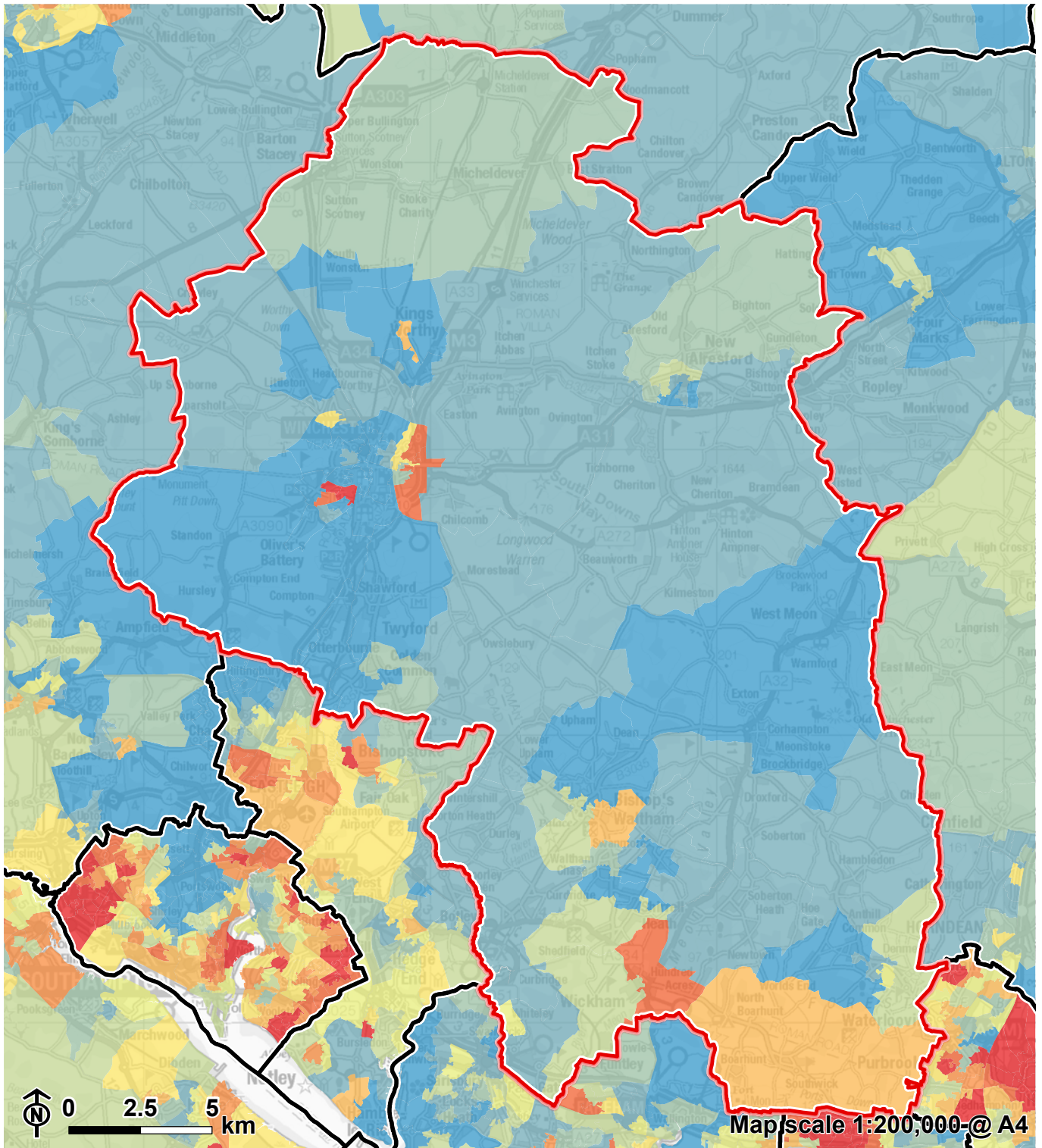




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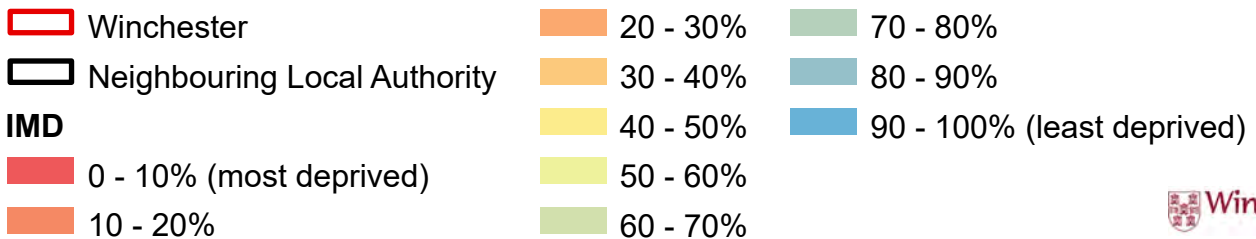
Figure D.7: Index of Multiple Deprivation (health deprivation and disability domain)

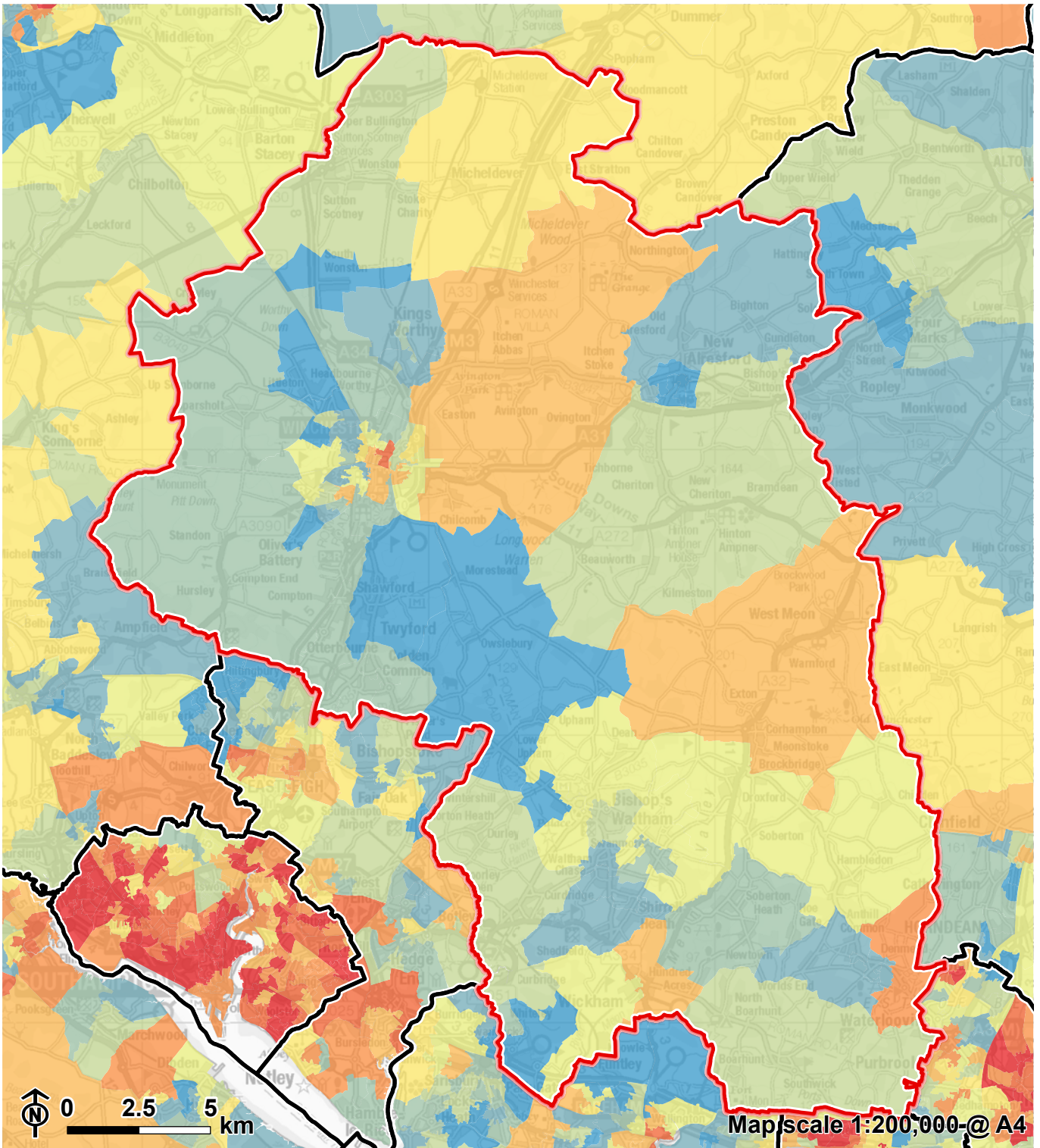




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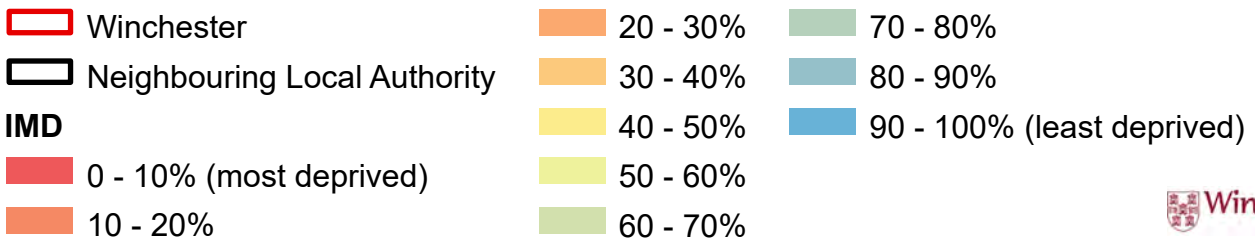
Figure D.8: Index of Multiple Deprivation (education and skills training domain)

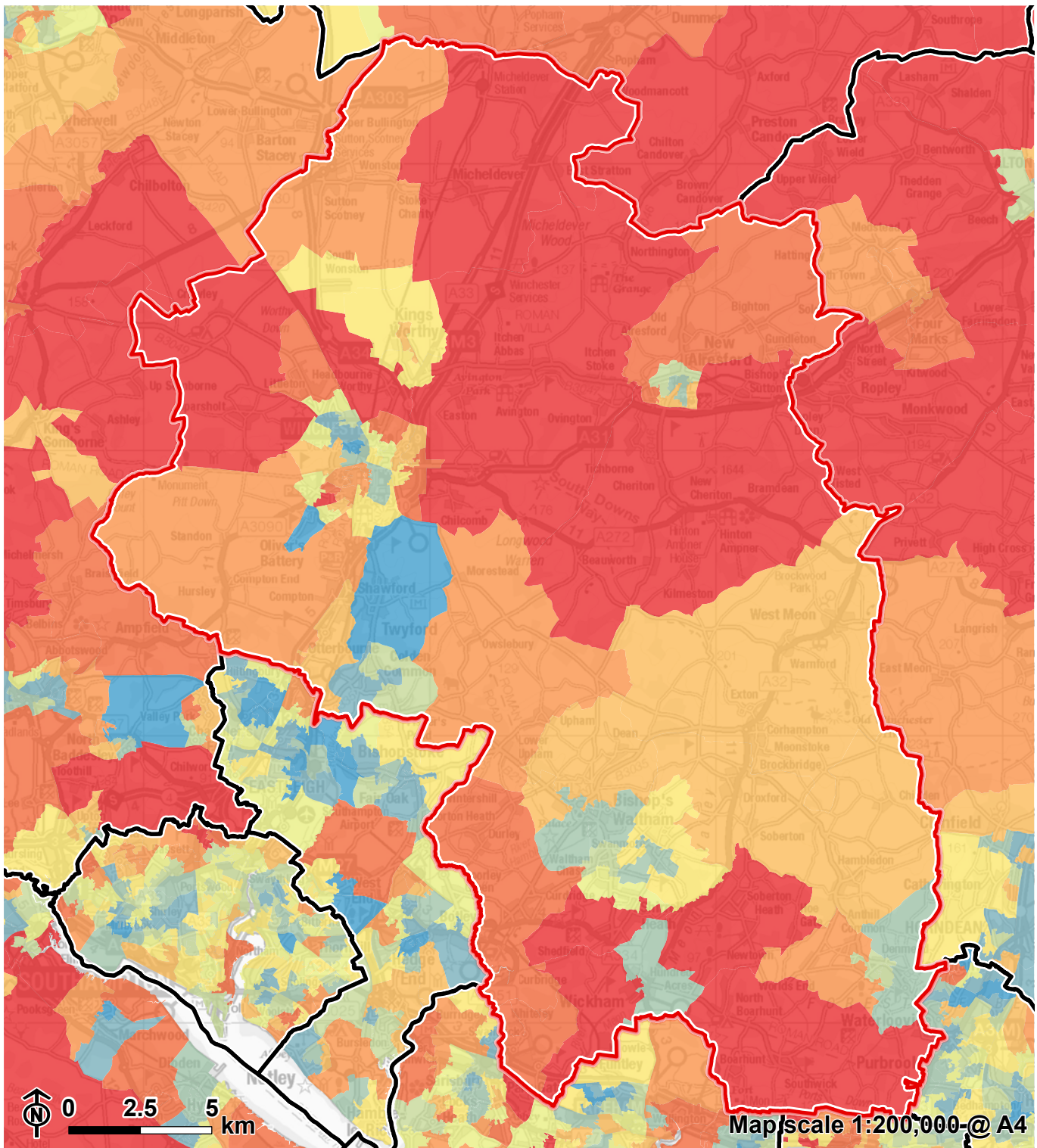




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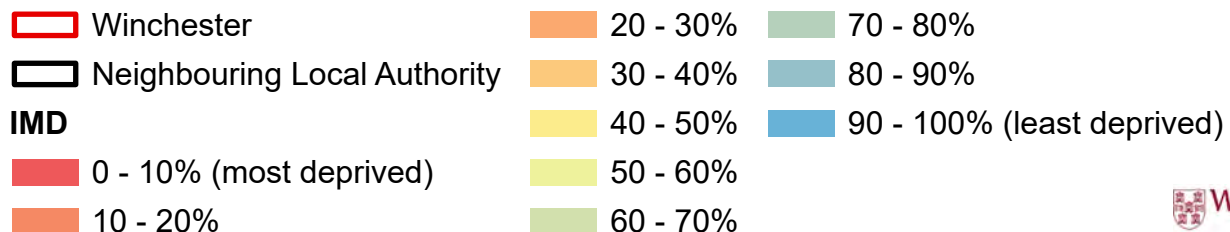
Figure D.9: Index of Multiple Deprivation (crime domain)

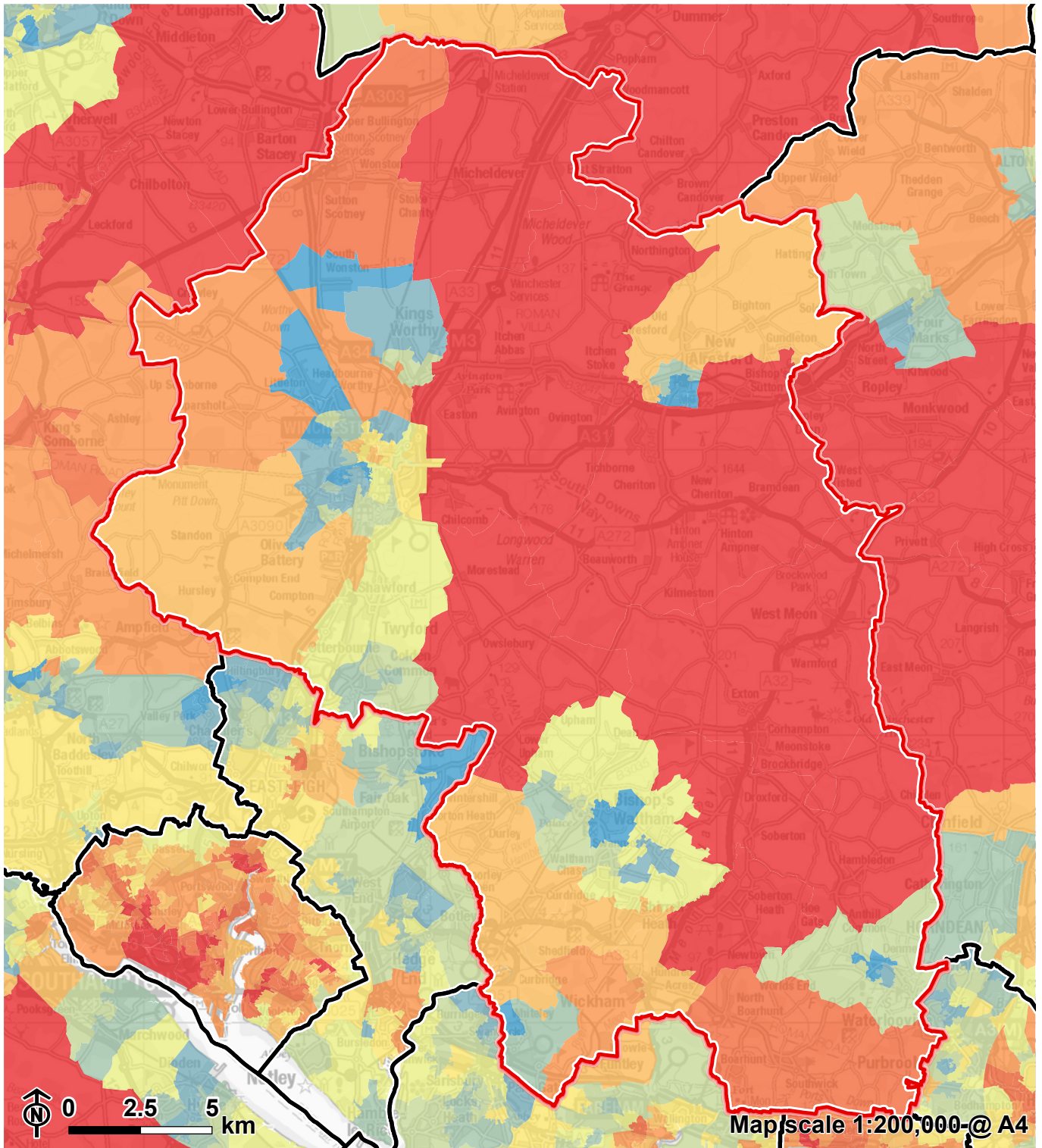




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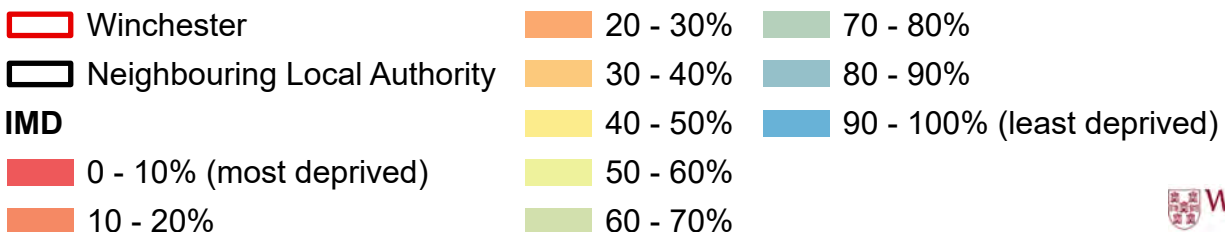
Figure D.10: Index of Multiple Deprivation (barriers to housing and services domain)





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Figure D.11: Index of Multiple Deprivation (living environment domain)



Economy

D.112 Winchester is the fastest growing economy in Hampshire, also with the highest levels of economic prosperity. In 2015, the total output (Gross Value Added, GVA) in Winchester reached £4.8 billion and it was the second highest in the Hampshire County Council Area [See reference 135]. The trend of GVA for Winchester has been increasing in recent years, in 2014 GVA was £4.45 billion, in 2015 it increased to £4.7 billion [See reference 136]. For the wider region of the South East, the GVA for 2017 was £267,126 million and it has increased from £258,902 million in 2016 [See reference 137].

D.113 Under the current Local Plan and Economic Strategy the District is divided into three sub areas: Winchester Town; South Urban Hampshire; and Market Towns and Rural Area. South Urban Hampshire covers the strategic allocations of North Whiteley and West of Waterlooville and the area close to Welborne strategic development area in Fareham Borough Council. The Market Towns and Rural Area includes the following settlements: Bishop Waltham, Colden Common, Denmead, Swanmore, Wickham, and Waltham Chase.

D.114 The district's three sub areas are of similar size in terms of total output as measured in GVA:

- Winchester Town – Accounting for approximately £1.65 billion (34% of the total GVA in Winchester District);
- South Winchester – Accounting for approximately £1.59 billion (33% of the total GVA in the District); and
- Market Towns and Rural – Accounting for approximately £1.58 billion (just under 33% of the total GVA for the District) [See reference 138].

Business sectors and employment rates

D.115 The Office for National Statistics reported a growth rate of 4.1% in 2022 for businesses in the South East of England, which is the third highest for a region in the UK [See reference 139].

D.116 Winchester contains a range of businesses in sectors including those in the professional, scientific and technical, retail, construction, information and communication, and health sectors. Table D.16 below shows the breakdown of business stock in the district, which is predominantly dominated by professional, scientific and technical services [See reference 140].

Table D.16: Major business sectors in Winchester

Selected Business Sectors	Number of Businesses	% Growth p.a. 2010-2016
Professional, Scientific & Technical	1,695	4.9%
Retail	940	2.5%
Business Administration	705	6.1%
ICT	608	3.1%
Health	385	3.1%

D.117 In 2021 the rate of economically active residents in Winchester was 83.4%. During the same period the figure for the South East was 81.7% [See reference 141]. In Winchester, the unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2022 was 2.9%, which is lower than Hampshire’s unemployment rate. Furthermore, in Hampshire 8.2% were self-employed, and 2.6% unemployed, with the remaining either full-or part-time employed [See reference 142]. 10.2% of economically active people were self-employed, and in terms of the ratio of labour demand there was 68.8% of full time and 31.2% part-time jobs [See reference 143].

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.118 In 2021, gross weekly pay in Winchester was around £789.40. The regional average during that year was £723.50 and the national average was £682.60, demonstrating that Winchester has higher average pay than the regional and national averages [\[See reference 144\]](#).

D.119 The 2020 Employment Land Study for Winchester City Council [\[See reference 145\]](#) identified that between 2009 and 2019, Winchester District has seen some exceptional growth, including growth in sectors which have elsewhere declined. The report estimated that there has been a 18% growth in jobs in the district during this period, which is higher than both the Hampshire (8%) and UK values (12%). In addition, growth of FTE jobs in Winchester of 23% was also higher than Hampshire (11%) and UK (14%) estimates.

D.120 This “super growth” cannot be duplicated until the correct market circumstances and land supplies in Winchester are replicated. Despite of the recent high levels of growth reported, it may not be practicable or practical for Winchester to project forward similarly high levels of economic growth. It is possible that the next cycle of relocations in and around South Hampshire may look much more favourably on urban sites than in previous years.

D.121 Table D.17 below shows that, in terms of numbers of jobs, the most significant occupations in the district are in tourism, retail/wholesale, ICT, education and financial and professional [\[See reference 146\]](#).

Table D.17: Major employment sectors in Winchester with strong growth

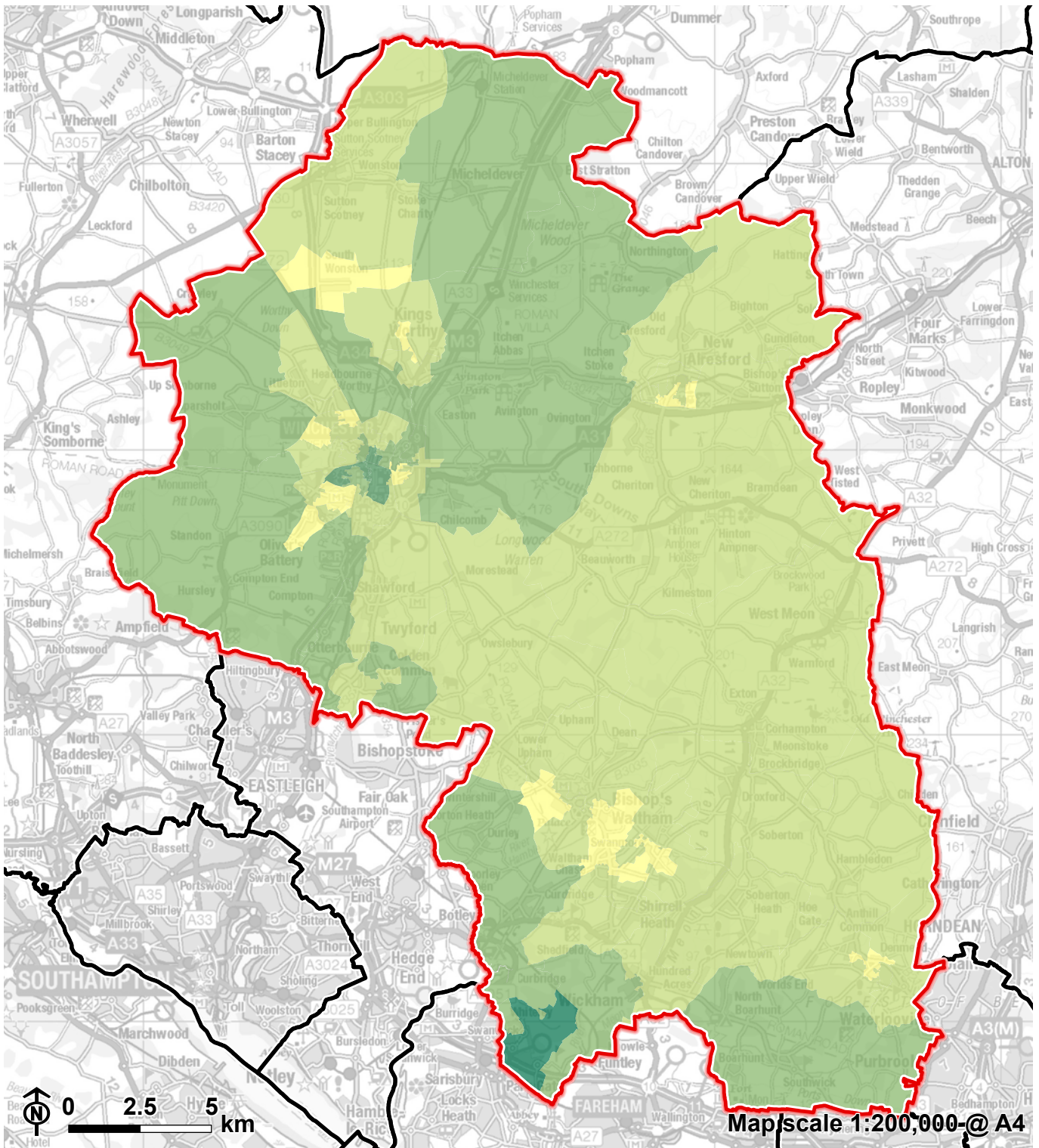
Selected Sector	Number of Jobs	% Growth p.a. on 2010
Tourism	7,000	7%
Retail/Wholesale	13,000	5.4%
ICT	6,000	5.9%
Education	7,000	3.1%
Financial & Professional	8,000	2.7%

Business stock and employment locations

D.122 In 2020, industrial floorspace in the district was reported as being in extremely short supply, with discussions with local commercial agents pointing to a level of demand pushing against almost non-existent availability. More recent developments were coming forward at Logistics City (Fulcrum, Whiteley), Concorde Way (Whiteley) and Proxima Park (Waterlooville) with potential to absorb some demand. Demand was evidence in the district in high-tech, clean industries for generally smaller space (below 50,000 sq ft). The market was reported tight across the entire District, with dated existing stock around Winchester Town.

D.123 The ELS [See reference 147] identified that while the district's office sector is slightly smaller than its industrial market, it is performing strongly, with two different markets centred on Winchester Town and Solent Business Park, in the Whiteley area. Away from these areas, the office market is more specialised, with a focus on bespoke stock in converted buildings. The offices within the market towns and rural areas are reported as being mostly dated and lacking critical mass. This includes existing stock at Church Green Close, Kings Worthy; Alresford; Southern House, Otterbourne; Colden Common; Bishops Waltham; Wickham and Denmead. The reported vacancy rate of office stock for the district for 2020 was 5.8% of floorspace and 4.6% in a number of units.

D.124 The number of jobs by LSOA in the District is shown in Figure D.12 overleaf.



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Figure D.12: Number of jobs by LSOA in the district

- Winchester
 - Neighbouring Local Authority
- | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| Number of jobs | | 0 - 250 |
| | | 250 - 1,000 |
| | | 1,000 - 3,000 |
| | | 3,000 - 8,000 |
| | | 8,000 - 17,000 |

Town centres and retail

D.125 There are two town centres (Winchester and Whiteley), three district centres (Bishop's Waltham, New Alresford and Wickham) and five local centres (Denmead, Kings Worthy, Oliver's Battery, Stockbridge Rd, and Weeke) in the district [\[See reference 148\]](#).

D.126 The most recent Retail, Leisure and Town Centre Study for the District was published in July 2020. The study identifies Winchester Town as a unique and thriving centre that boasts a good range of quality high street and independent retailers, but also a very strong offer in food and beverage and other commercial leisure. There is low shop unit vacancy in the town centre (7.9%, lower than the national average of 11.7%) and these are mostly located in secondary streets. Of the town centres and district centres which sit below Winchester Town in the settlement hierarchy, only New Alresford was identified as having a particularly high number of vacant shopping units. Of the six vacant units were recorded in the centre, only one was in the primary shopping area and two were in the process of being re-occupied.

D.127 The study identifies that of the total convenience expenditure for the area, 41.6% is retained in Winchester District with large out of centre food stores (including Sainsbury's at Badger Farm and Tesco at Easton Lane) attracting the biggest share of that expenditure. Food stores in Eastleigh, Fareham and Hedge End Retail Park serve as the district's main competition for grocery shopping [\[See reference 149\]](#).

D.128 Winchester District retains 23.8% of the comparison goods study area expenditure. The town, district and local centres attract 18.3% of the total comparison goods area expenditure. Southampton City and its surrounding out of centre retail destinations (at 23.9%) and online shopping (at 26.3%) provide the main competition for comparison goods expenditure in the District. Online sales account for a higher proportion of total comparison goods expenditure in the study area than the UK average (23.4%).

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.129 There is limited capacity up to 2024 to support new convenience floorspace in the district, with the potential to support a further capacity of 853 sqm net sales of new convenience floorspace up to 2029. This assessment is considerate of committed convenience floorspace. There is capacity to support up to 2,961 sqm of net sales comparison goods floorspace in Winchester District by 2029, with forecast capacity falling to 1,852 sqm net sales up to 2036. The decreased total in comparison goods retail need beyond 2029 reflects a fall in housing supply sites after that period.

D.130 In light of the coronavirus pandemic, it is likely that town centre businesses in the district that were already struggling will be faced with additional and potentially insurmountable challenges. The instability surrounding the pandemic means that the potential for diversification of town centres could play an ever-increasing role in their long term sustainability [\[See reference 150\]](#).

Shop occupancy and vacancy

D.131 Shop unit vacancy rates across the entirety of Winchester District are lower than the UK average at 8.2% of units compared with 11.7% nationally and 6.2% of floorspace (10.3% nationally). In all the current retail and service offer in the district accounts for 70,569sqm of floorspace. Of this total floorspace, comparison shopping accounts for the highest proportion at 27,945sqm or 39.6%. This is higher than the national average of 33.9%. The district also has a relatively high area of restaurant/cafe floorspace represented as the percentage of total retail and service offer floorspace at 9,653sqm or 13.7%. This is higher than the national average of 6.9% [\[See reference 151\]](#).

D.132 The Winchester Authority Monitoring Report shows that between 2018 and 2019, there was a loss of 1,332m² of commercial floor space of A1 class in Winchester City, and simultaneously there were gains in commercial floorspace of other Use Classes such as A3, A5, B1 and D1. Overall, there was a downward trend of A1 commercial floorspace across Market Towns in Winchester District, and an upward trend for commercial floorspaces of other classes [\[See reference 152\]](#).

Transport, air quality and noise

D.133 The transport network in Winchester District is shown below in Figure D.13.

Public transport network

D.134 Public transport in the district offers a range of connections provided by bus and train services. Hampshire County Council provides a bus routes map with the timetables [See reference 153]. There are frequent bus services between Winchester and Southampton, Winchester and Harestock, and Winchester and Springvale.

D.135 Public transport also provides access between Park and Ride facilities and Winchester Town Centre. There are four key Park and Ride facilities from which Winchester Town Centre can be accessed. These are South Winchester Park & Ride, East Winchester Park & Ride, Barfield Park & Ride and Pitt Park & Ride.

D.136 Traffic congestion within the city centre mean that local bus services can be irregular and unreliable, making them less attractive as an alternative to the car. Inbound routes experience delays especially in the north of the city and in the city centre. The outbound services experience delays in the north-west and the south of the city, as well as in the city centre itself [See reference 154].

D.137 From Winchester, there are direct train connections to London Waterloo, Southampton, Bournemouth, Weymouth, Micheldever, Shawford and Botley. There are also connections to Guilford and Portsmouth via Woking, and to Exeter via Salisbury [See reference 155]. Coach services offered by National Express provide connections to Basingstoke, Heathrow and London [See reference 156].

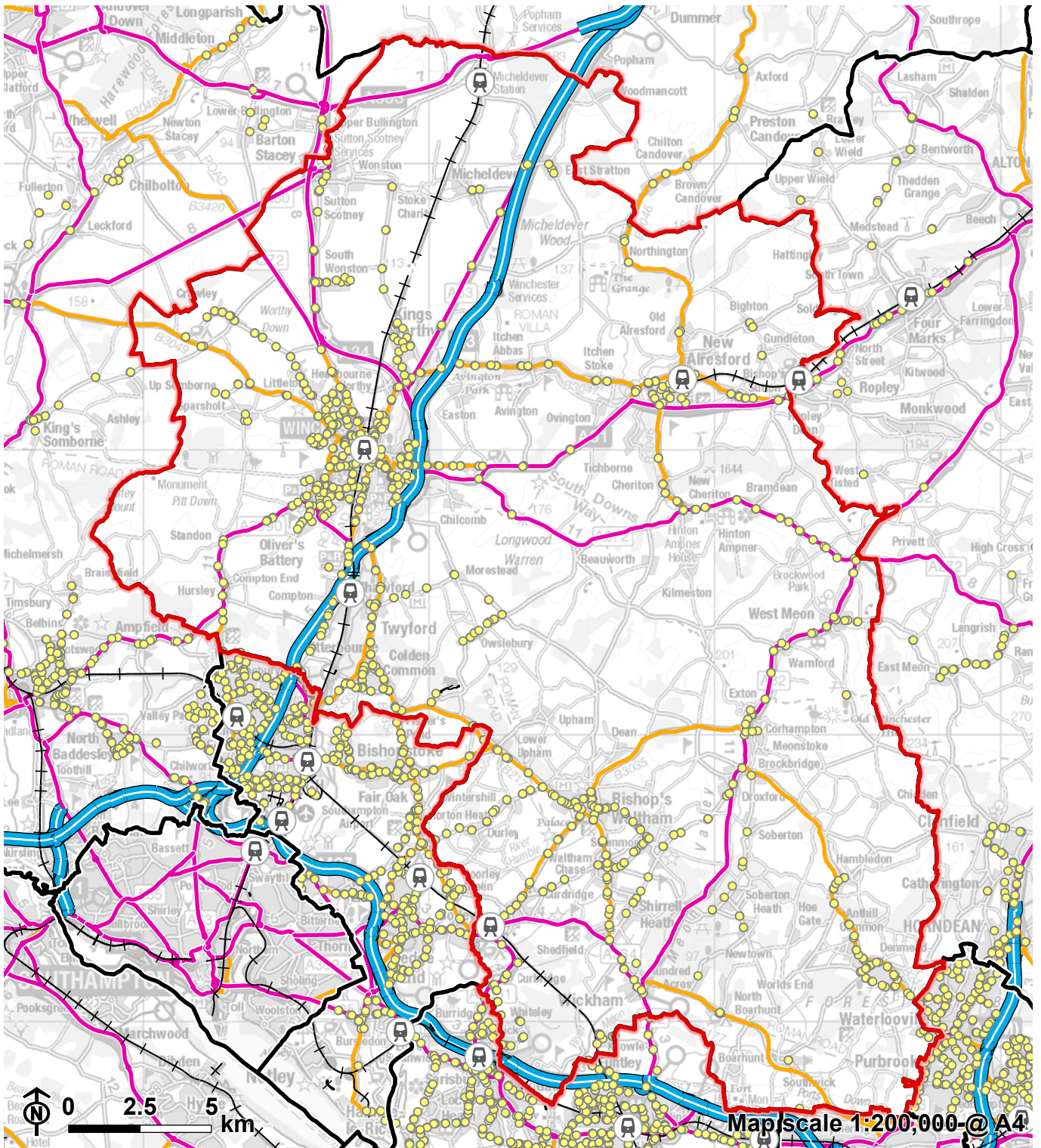
D.138 The City of Winchester Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) [See reference 157] provides a summary of travel patterns and behaviour in the town. The Plan highlights that the majority of the district's key destinations are located in the south of the city, with the top three being the rail station, High Street and Jewry Street. The Plan sets out that there is a large area that contain residents who live and work in Winchester to the south west of the city centre, with another area of this type located within a corridor stretching around the area towards the M3 and Junction 9. It also highlights that there are relatively high proportions of households that have no car or van households within the city centre and to the east and south of the settlement, and that many Winchester students walk to school. The settlement contains a high number of off-street footpaths, though they do not form a coherent network. National Cycle Network 23 provides the main spine of the district's existing cycle network. More extensive local routes connecting to the national network include Stockbridge Road to Bridge Road and Andover Road to the Rail Station which connect to the west and north west. Connections to the north of the settlement are provided via the Worthy Road, Jewry Street and Southgate Street link. The Plan includes proposed improvements to the walking and cycling networks. Improvements include the incorporation of two way segregated cycle tracks along sections of the Andover Road to the Rail Station link and a one way segregated cycle track along part of the Stockbridge Road to Bridge Road link. Contraflow cycle lanes are proposed in the parts of the city centre. Many of the higher priority walking routes mapped in the Plan align with the north-south and westerly cycle routes in Winchester Town.

D.139 Hampshire County Council are presently working with Winchester City Council to develop an updated LCWIP for the Winchester district in two phases. Firstly the "rural" District phase was published for consultation between May and July 2024. Secondly the "urban" City phase is expected to be published for consultation in early 2025.

D.140 Winchester City Council supports community transport initiatives such as "Dial-A-Ride", Voluntary Car Share schemes and "Wheels to Work" [See reference 158]. "Dial-A-Ride" minibuses are specially adapted with handrails and low steps, a lift, or a ramp to assist wheelchair and walking frame user. The service is quite limited as it runs only from Monday to Friday between 8:30 and

Appendix D Baseline Information

16:30. “Wheels to work” is a scooter loan scheme designed for people who do not have access to public or private transport to get to work, vocational training or to attend interviews. It can be loaned from 3 to 12 months depending on circumstances.



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Figure D.13: Transport network

- Winchester
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Bus stop
- + Railway
- B road
- A Road
- Motorway

Road network

D.141 The key components of the road network in Winchester are:

- The M3 is an important corridor that runs from Eastleigh to London via Winchester and Basingstoke. The southern part of the road links with the M27 route that directly connects Winchester with Southampton, Fareham, and Portsmouth;
- A small section of the M27 passes within Winchester district to the south of Whiteley. The motorway can be accessed from the district via the dual carriageway along Whiteley Way;
- The A31 is an alternative corridor to London that passes via Farnham and Guildford;
- The A34 connects Winchester with Oxford via Newbury;
- The A303 passes through the north of Winchester District and links with the A34 in Bullington and with the M3 in North Waltham;
- The A272 provides a connection between Petersfield and Winchester; and
- The A3090 connects Hursley with Winchester.

D.142 The remainder of the road network in the district comprises primarily B roads and rural roads.

Traffic growth and road projects

D.143 The key routes in Winchester that were identified as experiencing congestion and requiring improvements by the now dissolved Enterprise M3 and Solent LEPs include:

- A3090 corridor from north of Hursley to Pitt Roundabout experiences patches of congestion along the section, with am peak congestion on the northbound approached to the B3043 junction at the Potter's Heron Pub and the A3090 Pitt Roundabout;

Appendix D Baseline Information

- B3040 Romsey Road corridor in Winchester, from its junction with A3090 Pitt Roundabout to the mini-roundabout at Upper High Street [[See reference 159](#)];
- A272 link leading to and from the Three Maids Hill Roundabout in the north of Winchester;
- B3335 corridor north of Twyford to M3 Junction 10; and
- Whiteley Way leading off M27 Junction 9 [[See reference 160](#)].

D.144 Currently there are plans to redesign the Winchester junction, where the M3 interchanges with the A34. Improvements to the junction are include the creation of dedicated free flow lanes which will allow drivers travelling between the M3 and the A34 to travel freely between the two roads to avoid using the junction roundabout [[See reference 161](#)].

D.145 The district experiences a substantial amount of both in commuting and out commuting. This topic has been addressed earlier in this chapter under the Travel and energy consumption section.

Air quality and noise

Air quality

D.146 The most significant source of air pollution is from transport from major roads M3, A34, A31 and A303. However, the only AQMA in the District is located in Winchester Town Centre where high levels of traffic congestion are prevalent [[See reference 162](#)]. Other pollution sources, including commercial, industrial and domestic sources, also make a contribution to background pollution concentrations. The district has very few large industrial processes and is therefore industrial activity is light in nature meaning it has relatively little impact on air quality.

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.147 The main pollutant of concern is nitrogen dioxide which currently exceeds the annual mean air quality objective in areas close to busy roads and within the city centre. Winchester City Council currently monitors nitrogen dioxide concentrations at various locations throughout Winchester.

D.148 Results from the monitoring network show that there are still areas, especially along the main roads, that fail to meet the UK annual mean objective. These failures are centred within the one-way system around the city centre and on Romsey Road.

D.149 Between 2013 and 2021, a decreasing trend in nitrogen dioxide concentrations has been observed at the majority of monitoring locations, with some year-to-year variability. In 2016 this trend continued at around half of the sites. Prior to 2018, no monitoring of particulates PM10 and PM2.5 was carried out within Winchester. Since December 2018, the Council begun to monitor for nitrogen dioxide and PM2.5 and 10 by installing a continuous monitor (AQMesh) at Romsey Road.

D.150 The Council's 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report states that compliance with the annual mean objective for NO₂ within the AQMA were observed at all monitoring locations in 2022. The highest concentration observed was 38.1 µg/m³ at City 25 (Romsey Road West End Terrace) which is also below the objective [\[See reference 163\]](#).

D.151 Currently, the only declared AQMAs are in Eastleigh which lies adjacent to the district and include:

- Eastleigh (AQMA) No.1 (A335);
- Eastleigh (AQMA) No.2 (M3);
- Hamble Lane Area AQMA; and
- High Street Botley [\[See reference 164\]](#).

D.152 Figure D.16 to Figure D.18 (overleaf) show air quality (including concentrations of NO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) in the district. Figure D.19 shows

where AQMAs are designated in the district and the surrounding areas. This clearly shows that air pollution follows the main road transport corridors, with concentrations in the urban areas exceeding pollution thresholds.

Noise

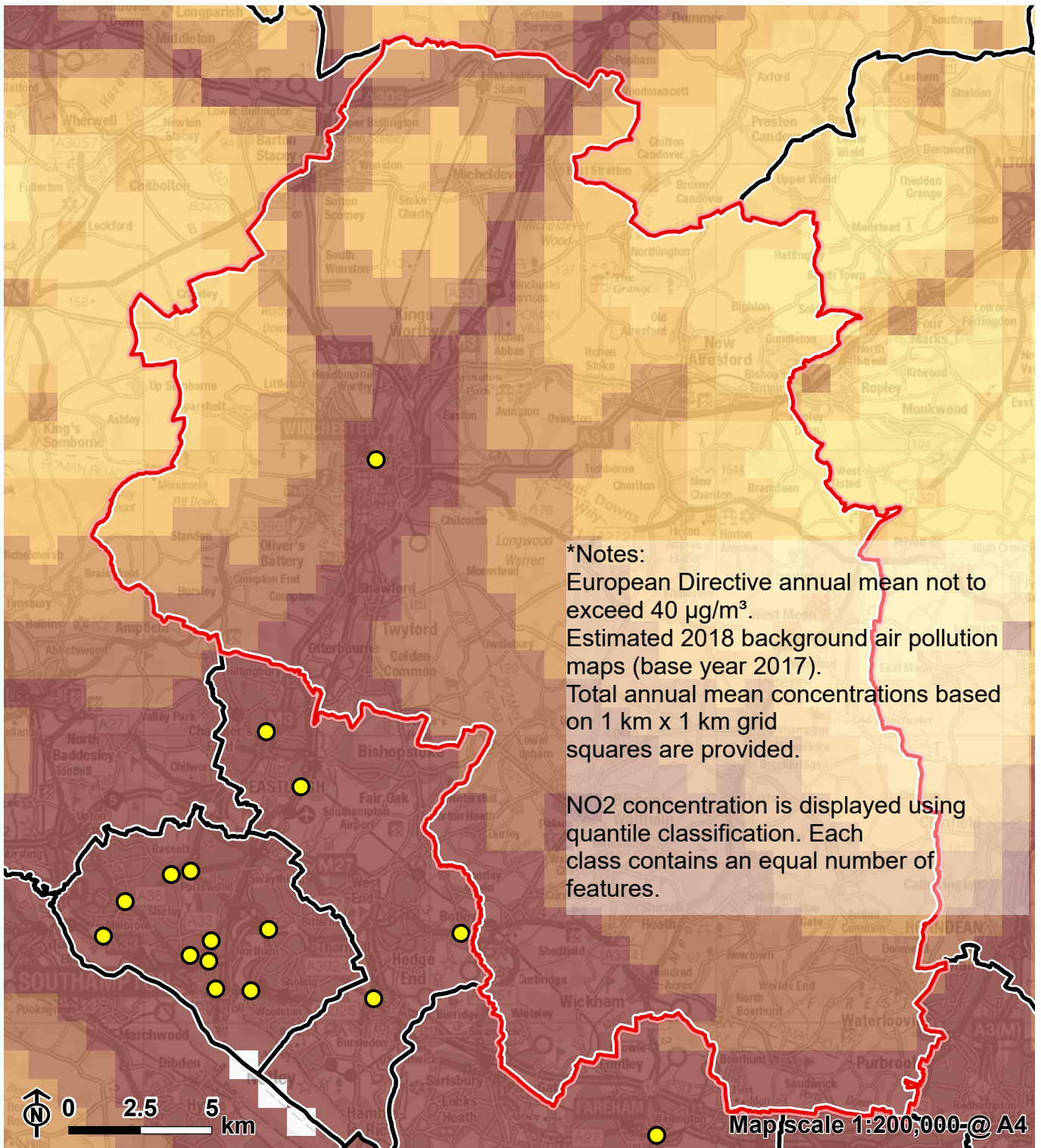
D.153 Noise is a common problem arising from transport, and studies have shown it can have major negative direct and indirect effects on health and well-being, on quality of life and on wildlife. Exposure to noise can increase stress levels, disrupt communications and disturb sleep. There is scope for transport's noise emissions to be reduced including through reducing the number of cars on the road, by installing low-noise road surfacing and noise barriers.

D.154 Noise pollution is not a major issue in Winchester City and no planning application were refused for failing to comply with Policy DM20 (development and noise) in the period of 2018-2019 [See reference 165]. Noise pollution in the wider District is mostly associated with the main transport corridors, as shown in Figure D.20, and also with the Southampton Airport, which is located in Eastleigh District (south of Winchester District).

D.155 Noise pollution from Southampton Airport has been mainly an issue for the communities living in Eastleigh Borough and Southampton district, although noise contours associated with aircraft movements also extend into the southern periphery of Winchester District, near Colden Common. However, in 2019 the airport submitted a planning application for an expansion of the airport's runway by additional 164m to the north. Such an expansion would enable larger jet aircraft to use the airport and facilitate an increase in the number of flights. As a result, aircraft noise could affect a larger area and be of increased intensity and may impact settlements in the southern part of Winchester District. Figure D.19 and Figure D.20 show the existing (2016) aircraft noise contours and those predicted under the proposed airport expansion for 2037.

Appendix D Baseline Information

D.156 The planning application for airport expansion was approved by Eastleigh Borough Council in April 2021. While the decision was subject to a judicial review challenge, this was ultimately dismissed in May 2022. Both Southampton and Winchester Councils had previously objected to the application based on concerns relating to noise pollution and climate change [\[See reference 166\]](#) [\[See reference 167\]](#).

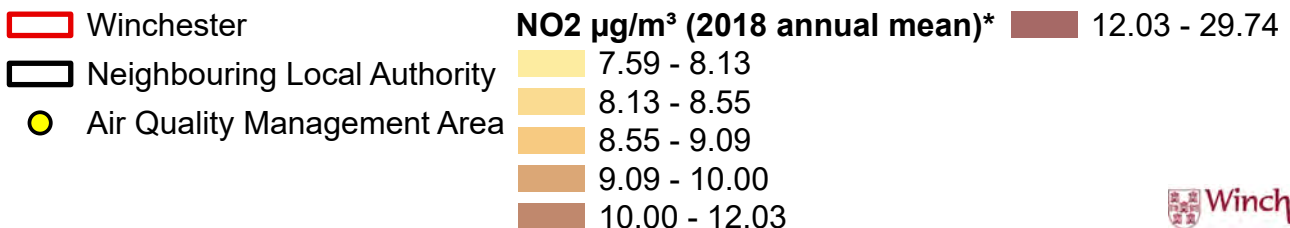


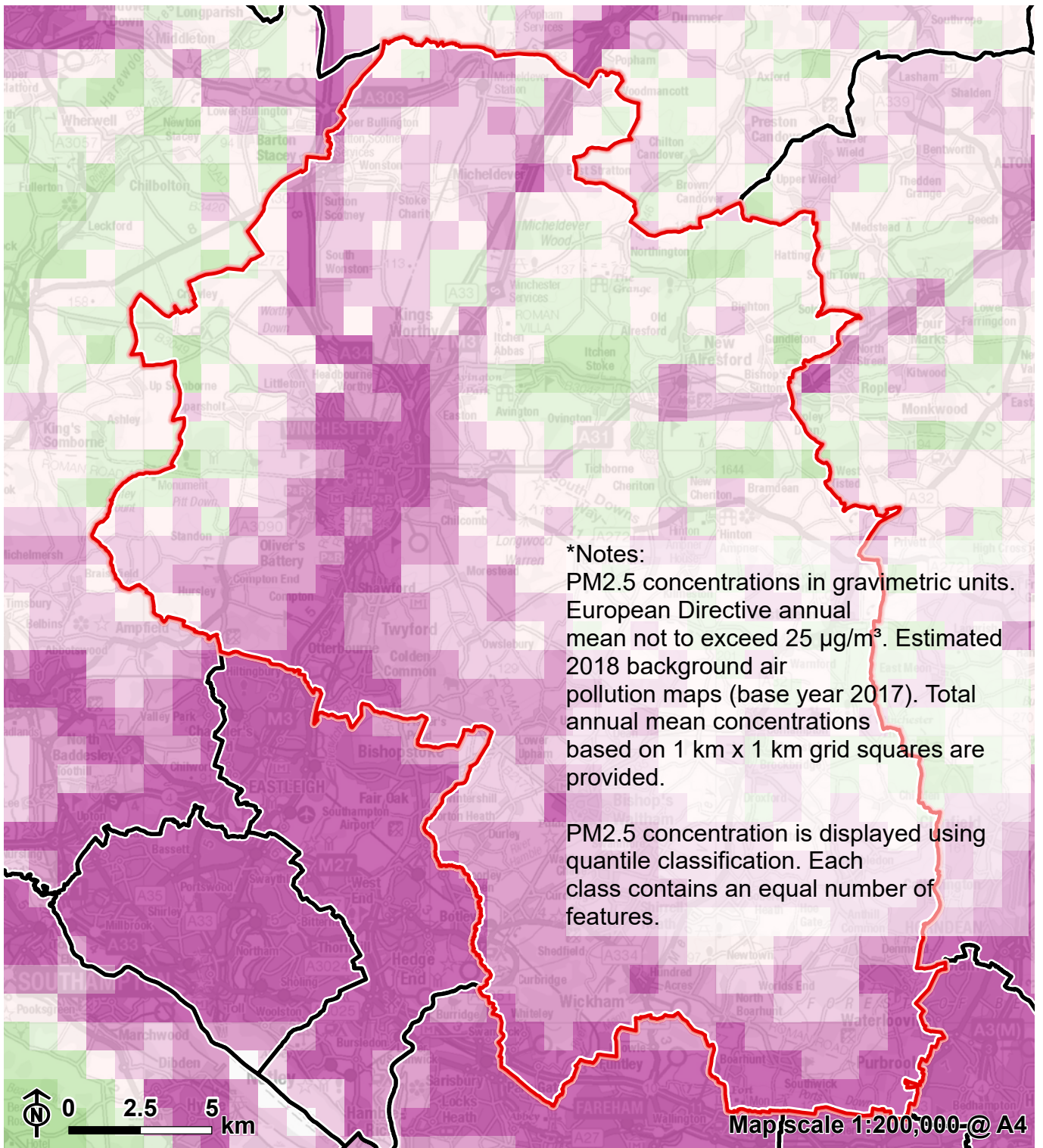
*Notes:
 European Directive annual mean not to exceed 40 µg/m³.
 Estimated 2018 background air pollution maps (base year 2017).
 Total annual mean concentrations based on 1 km x 1 km grid squares are provided.

NO₂ concentration is displayed using quantile classification. Each class contains an equal number of features.

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Figure D.14: Air quality (NO₂)





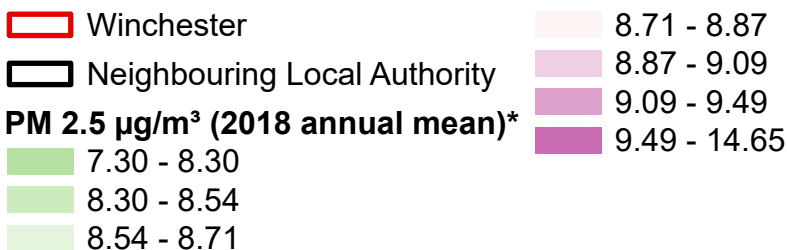
*Notes:
 PM2.5 concentrations in gravimetric units. European Directive annual mean not to exceed 25 µg/m³. Estimated 2018 background air pollution maps (base year 2017). Total annual mean concentrations based on 1 km x 1 km grid squares are provided.

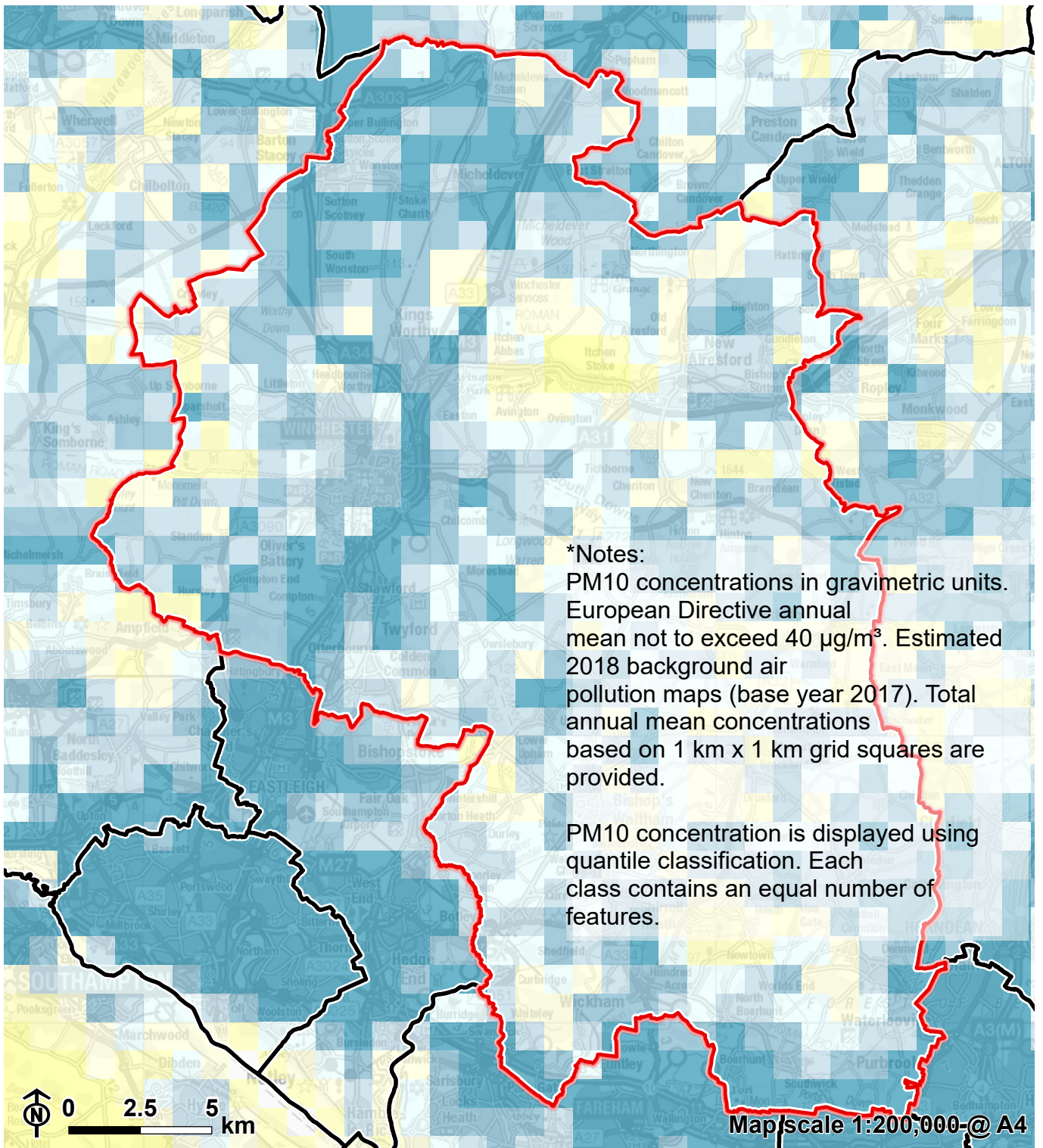
PM2.5 concentration is displayed using quantile classification. Each class contains an equal number of features.

Map/scale 1:200,000-@ A4

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Figure D.15: Air quality (PM2.5)





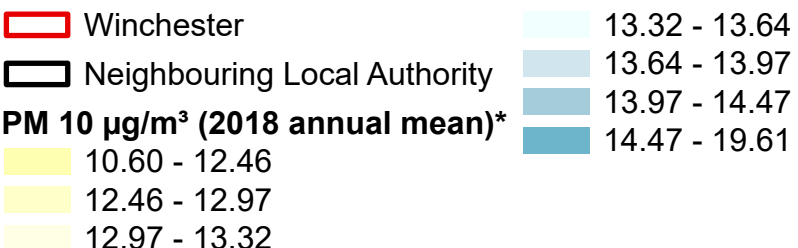
***Notes:**
 PM10 concentrations in gravimetric units. European Directive annual mean not to exceed 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Estimated 2018 background air pollution maps (base year 2017). Total annual mean concentrations based on 1 km x 1 km grid squares are provided.

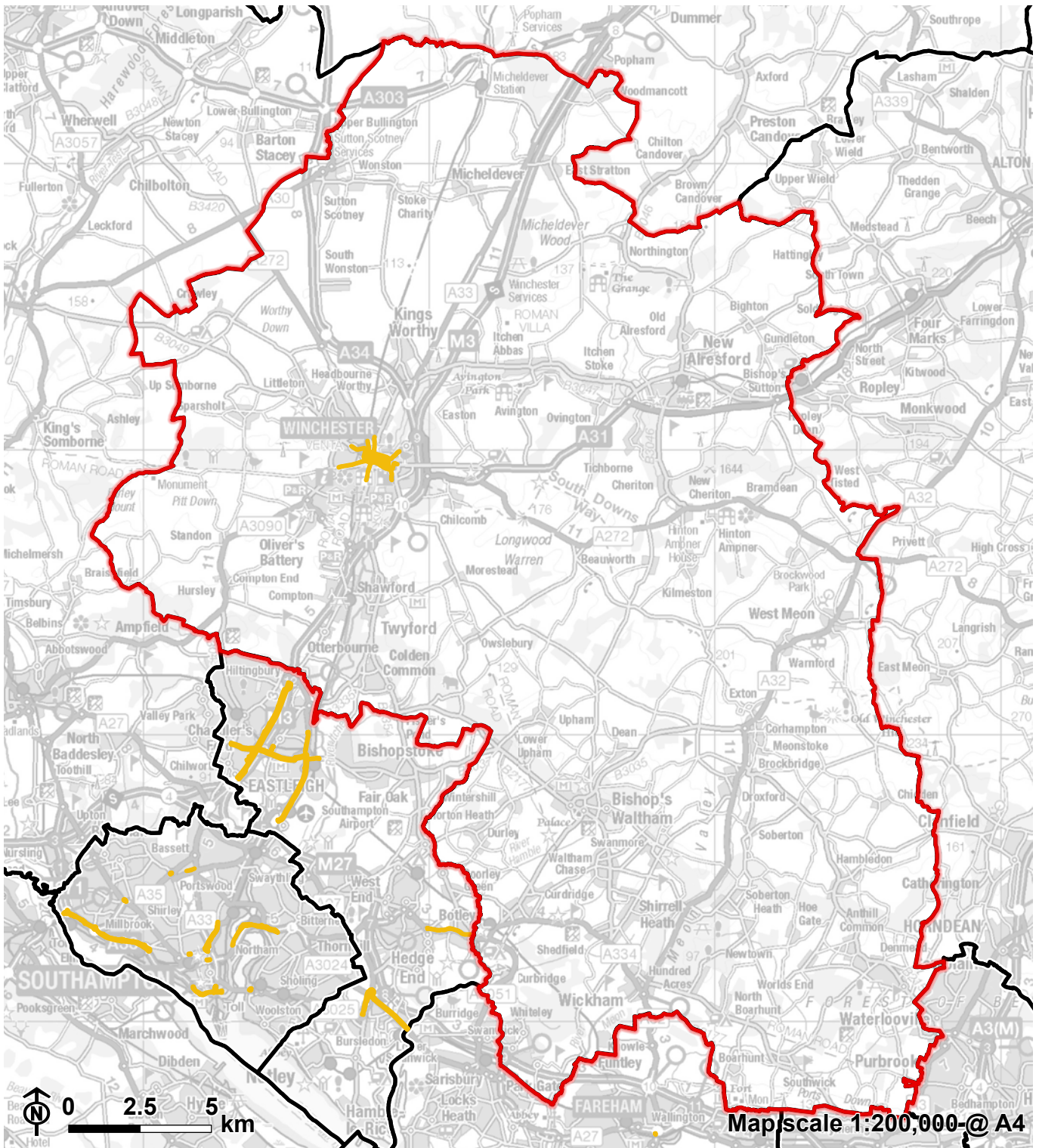
PM10 concentration is displayed using quantile classification. Each class contains an equal number of features.

Map/scale 1:200,000-@ A4

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Figure D.16: Air quality (PM10)

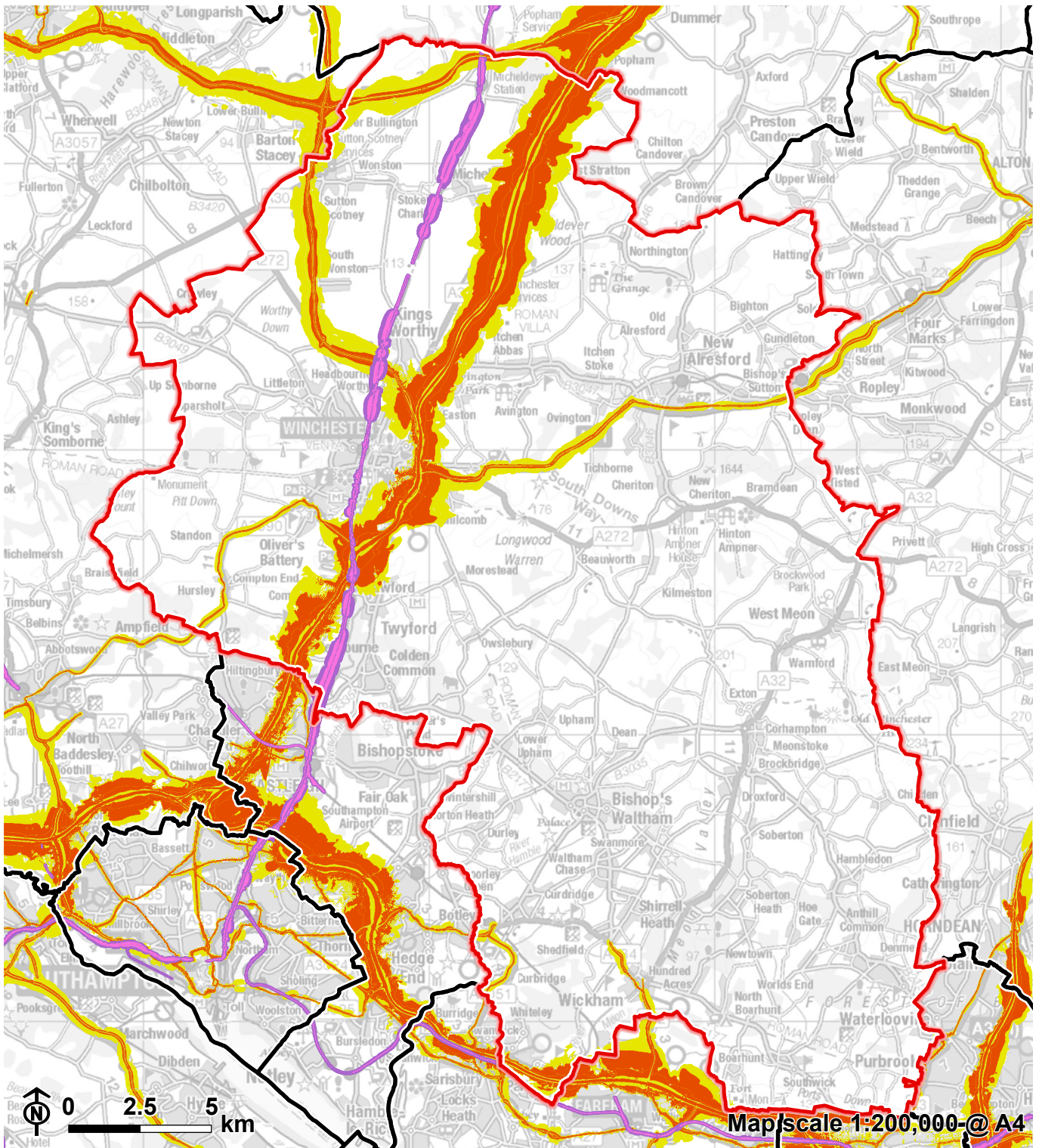




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Figure D.17: Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

- Winchester
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- AQMA



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Figure D.18: Noise pollution

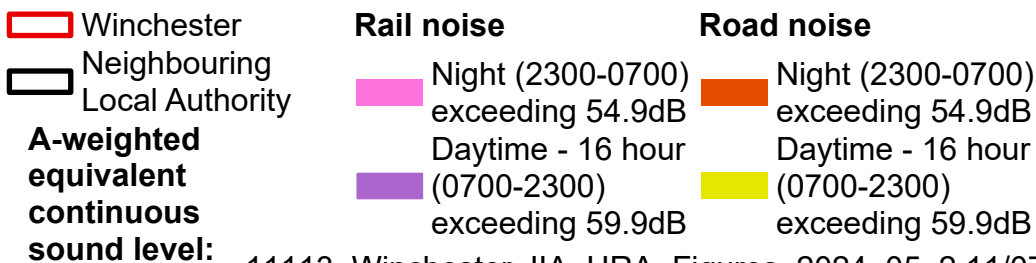


Figure D.19: Southampton Airport aircraft noise contour (2016) [See reference 168]

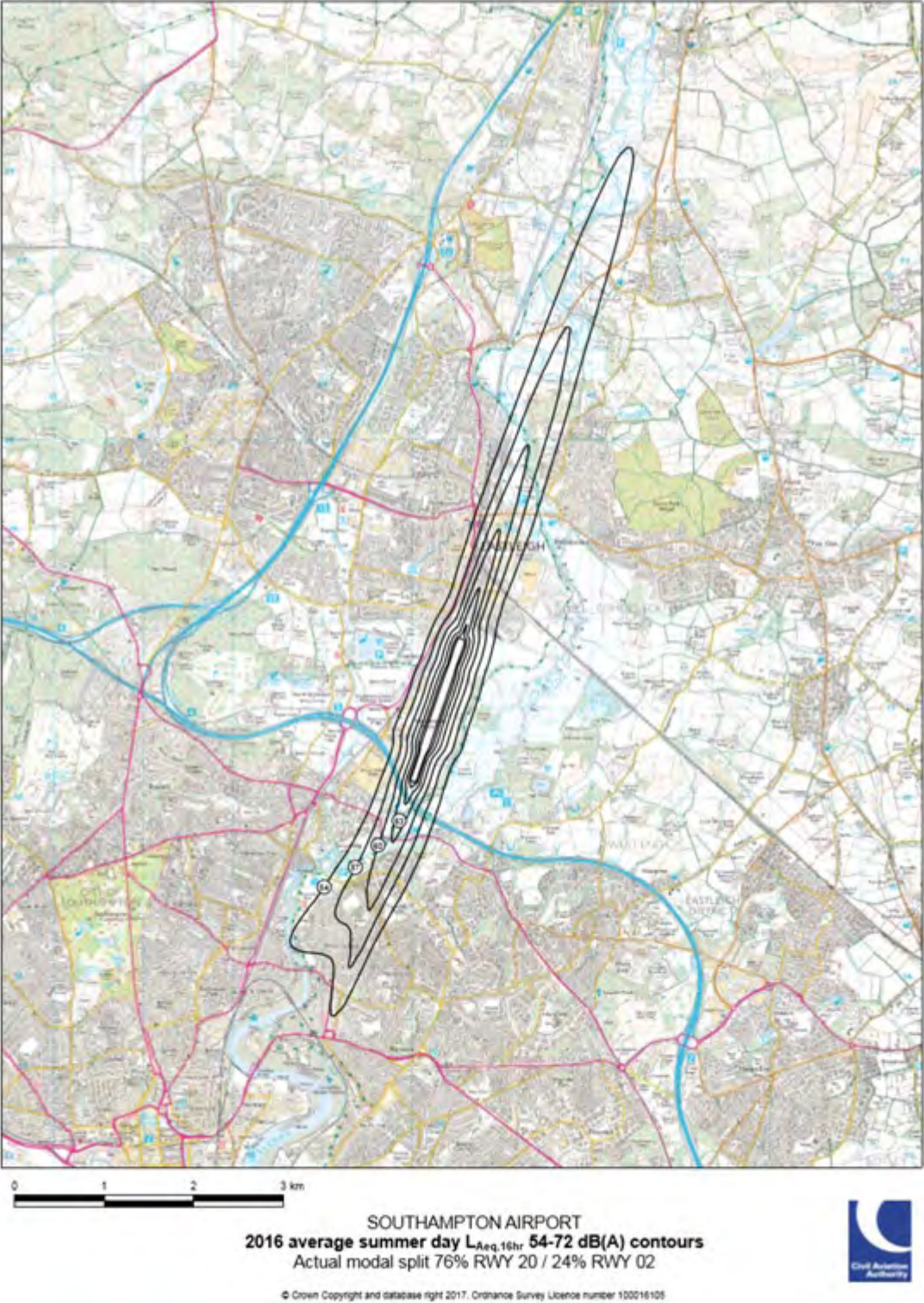
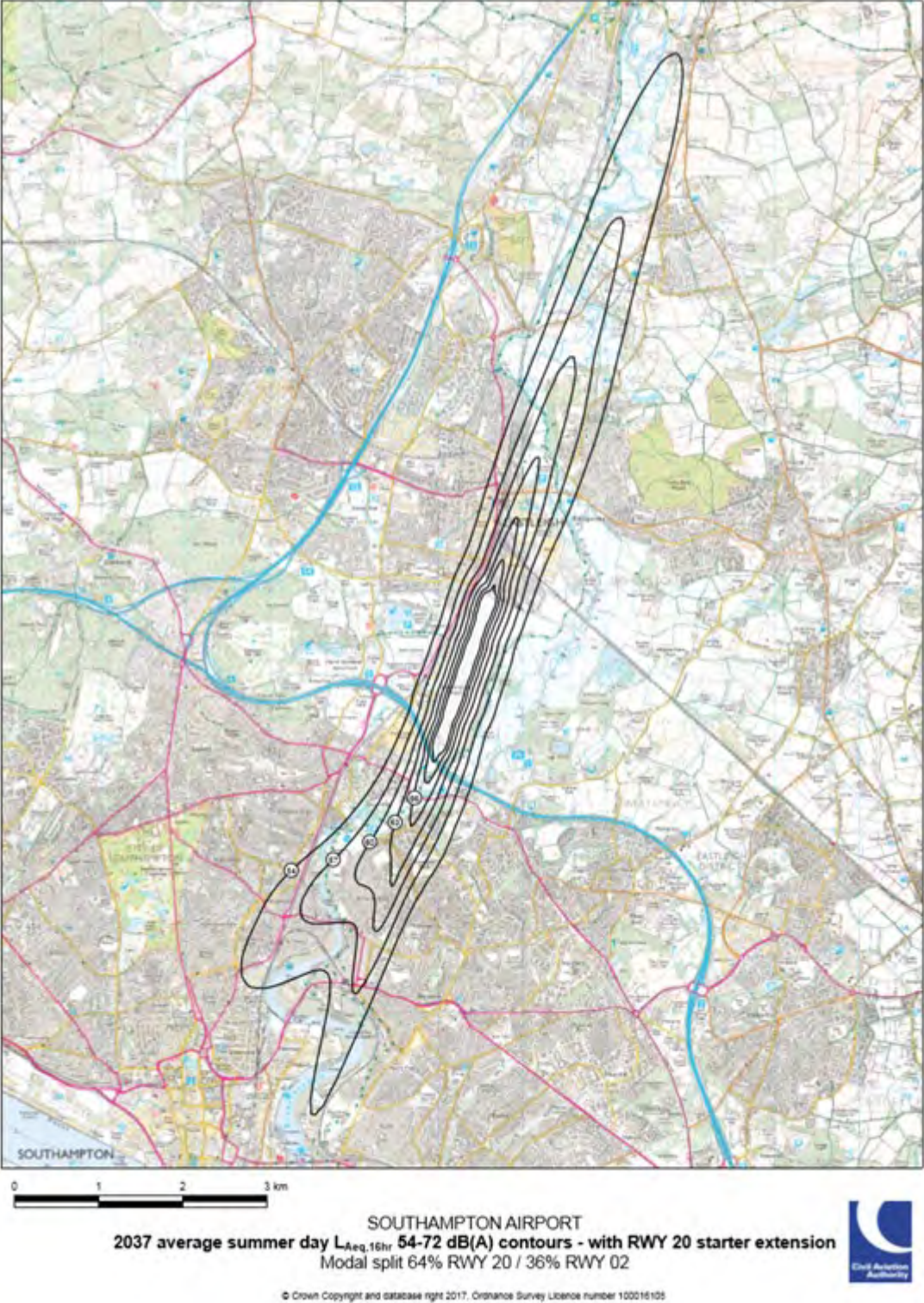


Figure D.20: Southampton Airport aircraft noise contour (2037) [See reference 169]



Land and water resources

Geology and minerals

D.157 Hampshire's landscape has been formed by a number of influences including peri-glacial activity that created gravel terraces and plateau deposits particularly by the coast and along river basins. The most important sand and gravel deposits are in the west on Hampshire in the Avon Valley.

D.158 Significant parts of Hampshire's landscape are considered to be of high quality and are covered by nature conservation and landscape designations **[See reference 170]**.

D.159 Principal mineral sources in Winchester District include sharp and soft sand, gravel, and some deposits of bedrock deposits, chalk and brick making clay **[See reference 171]**.

D.160 The Hampshire Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) conducted in 2019 details the current and predicted supply of aggregates to meet housing and infrastructure needs in Hampshire. The assessment suggest that the planned level of infrastructure construction appears to be a significant uplift from the current build out rates and will require an increase in aggregate supply. According to the assessment, Hampshire's reliance on other mineral planning authorities for supplies of crushed rock will need to be taken into consideration in the review of mineral local plans, as Hampshire is not meeting the required landbank based on its local requirement. Based on the 2019 LAA Rate, only the minimum requirements are met **[See reference 172]**.

D.161 According to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan **[See reference 173]**, the most recent forecast and county appointment on sand and gravel requirement agreed by the Hampshire County Council in 2013 was 1.56mt per annum. Hampshire will need to provide 30 million tonnes of aggregate by 2030 in the form of:

Appendix D Baseline Information

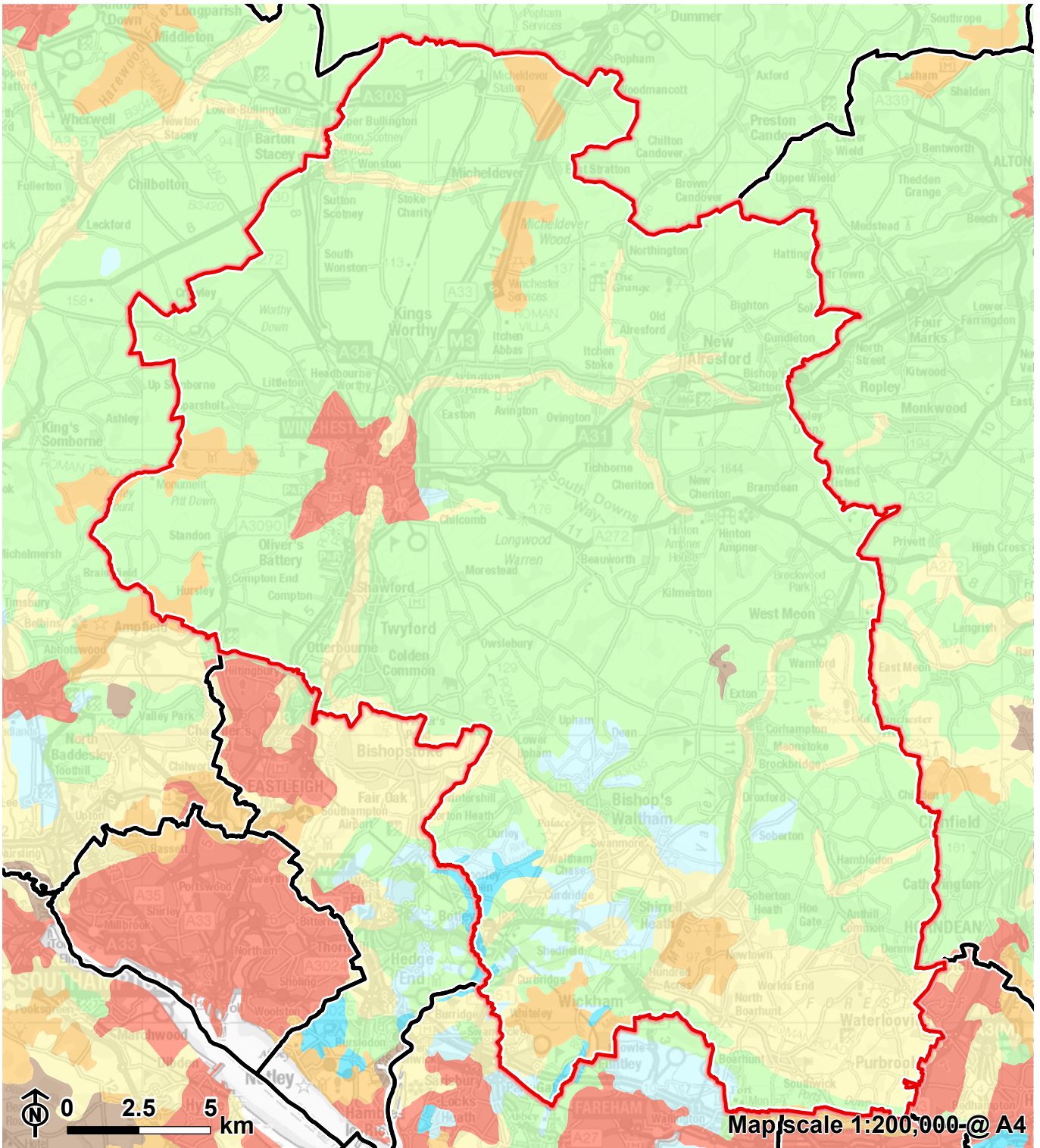
- Existing (permitted) reserves – 16.44mt;
- Sites identifies within the Plan, including extensions and new sites – 11.57mt; and
- Unallocated opportunities – 3.08mt.

D.162 The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan sets out a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA) for Hampshire which includes hard sand and gravel, soft sand, silica sand and brick-making clay resources. The MSA safeguards land containing the mineral deposits from development, as well as making sure that there are road and rail facilities for importing and exporting minerals. In Winchester District, it is a case of safeguarding border areas of South Downs National Park which contain deposits of clay along the southern border and hard sand and gravel along north west border [See reference 174]. At present GIS data is not available to map the MSAs in the District. However, this data will be worked up and will be used to inform the appraisal of the new Local Plan.

Soils

D.163 The underlying geological minerals in the district influence the quality of the Winchester's soils. This in turn impacts the capacity for agriculture and woodlands in the area. The majority of land within Winchester District is Agricultural Land Classification Grade 3, 4 or 5 (i.e. good to moderate, poor and very poor quality agricultural land respectively). To the south of the district there are areas of Grade 2 agricultural land that provide a good quality fertile land for horticultural activities [See reference 175].

D.164 Figure D.21 below shows the range of agricultural land grades within the district.



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Figure D.21: Agricultural land classifications

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| Winchester | Grade 3 |
| Neighbouring Local Authority | Grade 4 |
| Agricultural Land Classification | Grade 5 |
| Grade 1 | Non Agricultural |
| Grade 2 | Urban |

Contaminated land

D.165 In accordance with Section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council is required to maintain a public register of contaminated land, which serves as a permanent record of all regulatory action undertaken to ensure remediation of any site that has been classified as contaminated.

D.166 Currently, there are no areas of contaminated land identified within the district [\[See reference 176\]](#).

Waste

D.167 Hampshire's Minerals and Waste Plan (2013) states that the County has a good network of existing facilities for waste management, with the capacity of 5.75mt per annum. On average 40% of waste in the County is recycled and approximately 90% is diverted from landfill [\[See reference 177\]](#). The growing population in the plan area will place pressure on existing resources and there will be a requirement to meet growing needs.

D.168 The household recycling rates trends for Winchester in 2017 was 22.0% and the number has dropped compared to the previous years. In 2012, the recycling rate was about 25.5% [\[See reference 178\]](#).

Water

D.169 Winchester District is within the Itchen River Basin. The River Itchen is one of the classic examples of chalk rivers in southern England. There are only around 200 chalk rivers known globally, and 85% of these are found in southern and eastern England. Therefore, Winchester's Itchen and Test rivers are of high importance [\[See reference 179\]](#). River Itchen is recognised for its river habitat which compromises the river channel, its banks, and parts of its riparian zone. Winchester is in the Test and Itchen Water Management Catchment

Appendix D Baseline Information

Partnership. The idea behind this partnership is to engage a wide range of stakeholders to safeguard and improve the health of the catchment's freshwater, estuarine and coastal ecosystem. This Catchment Partnership is co-hosted by the Wessex Chalk Stream and River Trust and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust [\[See reference 180\]](#).

D.170 There is an ongoing concern from Natural England in relation to the inputs of both nitrogen and phosphorus to rivers draining to the Solent, which are increasing eutrophication and adversely affecting the protected habitats and bird species within the Solent. These nutrients arise from either from agricultural sources or from wastewater from existing housing and other development. The Solent area is covered by the highest levels of European designation – SAC, SPA and Ramsar designations cover much of the area and it is one of the UK's most important for wildlife [\[See reference 181\]](#).

D.171 Natural England has recently published guidance (updated in June 2020) [\[See reference 182\]](#) on the need for and methods to achieve nutrient neutrality for new development in the Solent region. It states that:

There is uncertainty as to whether new growth will further deteriorate designated sites. This issue has been subject to detailed work commissioned by local planning authorities (LPAs) in association with Natural England, Environment Agency and water companies. This strategic work, which updates early studies, is on-going. Until this work is complete, the uncertainty remains and the potential for future housing developments across the Solent region to exacerbate these impacts creates a risk to their potential future conservation status.

One way to address this uncertainty is for new development to achieve nutrient neutrality. Nutrient neutrality is a means of ensuring that development does not add to existing nutrient burdens and this provides certainty that the whole of the scheme is deliverable in line with the

requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

D.172 In relation to planning, Winchester City Council has agreed a position statement backed by Natural England where mitigation can be 'direct' through upgrading sewage treatment works and through alternative measures, e.g. interceptor wetlands or 'indirect' by offsetting the nitrogen generated from new development by taking land out of nitrogen-intensive uses (e.g. agriculture).

D.173 Southern Water provides for Winchester District's water supply and wastewater treatment. In Winchester 100% of public water supply is taken from groundwater. According to the Water Resources Management Plan, the area is in a serious water stress. Consequently, the Management Plan includes a range of measures to prevent water shortages such as reducing leaks, promoting water efficiency, desalination of water, water recycling and transferring water from other areas that are not prone to droughts [See reference 183]. The Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 [See reference 184] presents options based on four priorities:

- Efficient use of water and minimal wastage across society means we'll help customers reduce how much water they use and cut leaks by at least 50% by 2050.
- New water sources that provide resilient and sustainable supplies, including desalination, water recycling, reservoirs and transfers from other regions.
- A network that can move water around the region means making the best use of the water we already have and moving it to where it's most needed.
- Catchment and nature-based solutions that improve the environment we rely upon to help increase the resilience of our existing sources.

D.174 Wastewater treatment works (WwTW) operated by Southern Water within the District or close to the district were identified in 2018 as likely to require capacity upgrades to meet planned growth within Winchester. This includes WwTW at Bishops Waltham, Budds Farm Havant, Peels Common,

Appendix D Baseline Information

Southwick, Wickham and Chickenhall Eastleigh [See reference 185]. This is likely to be even more necessary, as all new developments must achieve nutrient neutrality to get planning consent under Natural England's June 2020 guidance on nutrient neutrality for new developments in Solent region.

D.175 The current Local Plan Part 1 states that the most important groundwater resources in the district are at 'poor' status. Additionally, ground water resources in the district are amongst the most sensitive in the region and are highly vulnerable to pollution. 80% of the district is underlain by principal aquifer and 46% of the District is within Source Protection Zones [See reference 186].

D.176 Source Protection Zones (SPZs) are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites and they provide additional protection to safeguard drinking water quality by constraining the proximity of an activity that can impact the quality of drinking water [See reference 187]. They cover the area surrounding Winchester City with an exception for the North West of the City. As for the wider District, SPZs mainly cover the areas in the South and the East of the District, especially in the North West of Bishop's Waltham and also in the North East from New Alresford [See reference 188].

D.177 Drinking Water Safeguard Zones (Surface Water) are catchment areas that influence the water quality for their respective Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface Water), which are at risk of failing the drinking water protection objectives. These non-statutory Safeguard Zones are where action to address water contamination will be targeted, so that extra treatment by water companies can be avoided. Safeguard Zones are a joint initiative between the Environment Agency and water companies. Safeguard Zones are one of the main tools for delivering the drinking water protection objectives of the Water Framework Directive. This data includes what substances are causing the drinking water protected area to be 'at risk'.

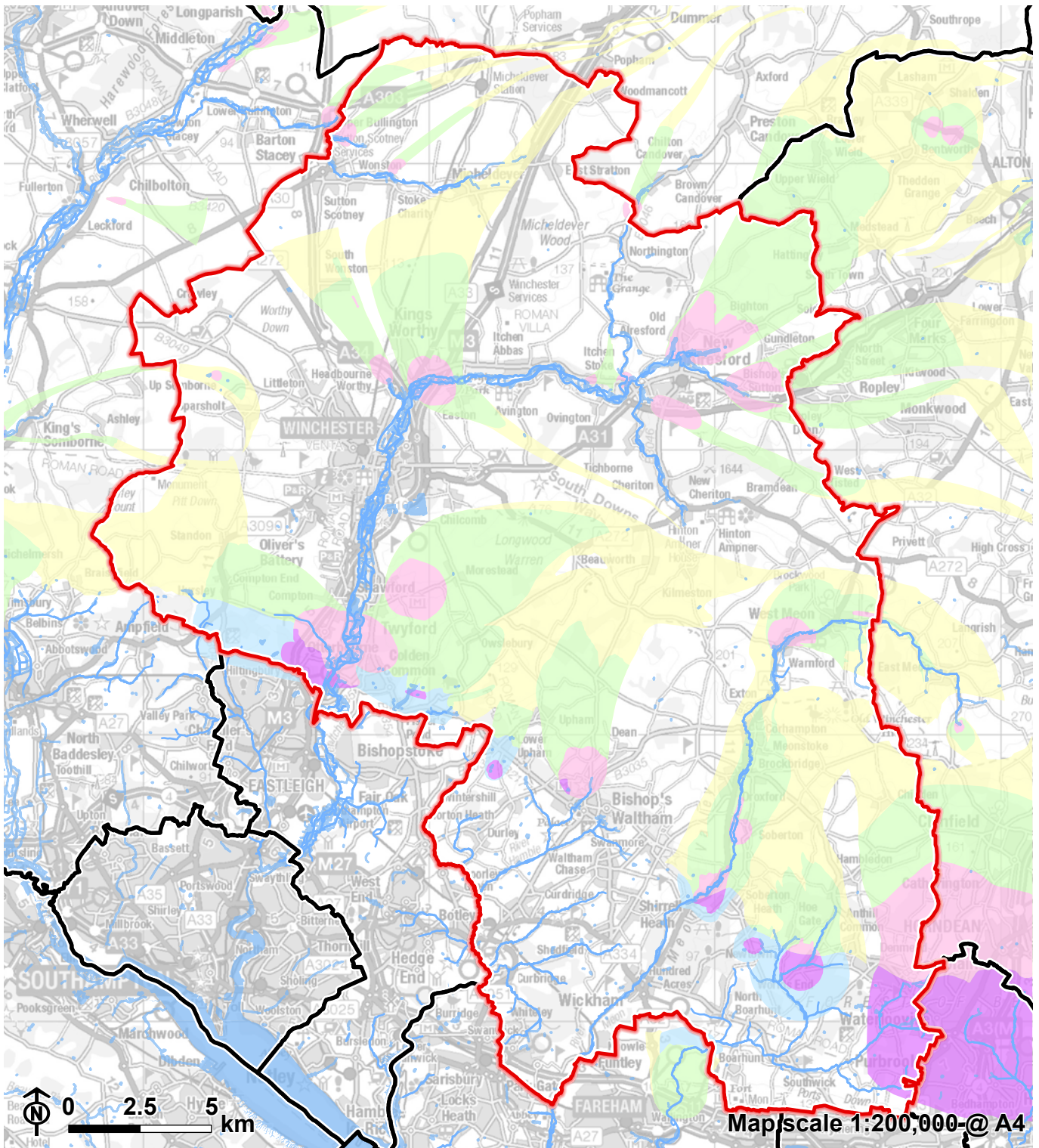
D.178 In April 2022, Solent and South Downs had much below average rainfall receiving only 36% (19mm) of the long term average (LTA) (54mm). Monthly mean river flows across the Solent and South Downs ranged from notably low to normal. Groundwater levels ranged from normal to below normal. Moreover,

Appendix D Baseline Information

soil moisture deficits across the area ended the month above the LTA. End of month reservoir stocks were average at Ardingly Reservoir (Ouse Catchment) and below average at Arlington Reservoir (Cuckmere catchment) [\[See reference 189\]](#).

D.179 Key waterbodies within Winchester District include the Arle, Bow Lake, Candover Brook, the Itchen (and Cheriton Stream), Monks Brook and Nun's Walk Stream which form part of the Itchen operational catchment. The River Dever that forms part of the Test Upper and Middle operational catchment also flows into the District. Within the East Hampshire operational catchment, the Upper Wallington, the Meon, the Upper Hamble, Moors Stream and Horton Heath Stream also flow into the District. The majority of these waterbodies have been classified as 'good' overall considering their ecological and chemical condition. However, Candover Brook, Monks Brook, the Moen, Upper Hamble and Upper Wallington have been assessed as being in 'moderate' condition overall. Within the District, only Bow Lake has been reported to be in a 'bad' condition overall [\[See reference 190\]](#). Some of the key reasons why water bodies are classified as being in 'bad' condition include the provision and occupation of urban development, sewage discharge, poor soil management, groundwater abstraction, contaminated land and poor livestock management [\[See reference 191\]](#).

D.180 The location of SPZs and the main watercourses in the District are shown in Figure D.22, below.



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Figure D.22: Watercourse and Source Protection Zones

- Winchester
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Watercourse
- Zone 1
- Zone 1c
- Zone 2
- Zone 2c
- Zone 3

Biodiversity

D.181 Winchester District contains a number of areas which are valued for their natural beauty and contribution to biodiversity. Notable among these are the Itchen Chalk River and coastal habitats of the Solent and Southampton Water. These sites are protected through European Directives (Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)) and international Ramsar designations for important wetland sites. Further detail regarding the qualifying features and key sensitivities of these European designated sites and others within 15km of the District is provided in the HRA Scoping Report.

D.182 There are 17 SSSIs, almost 600 sites of Nature Conservation (SINCs) and nine Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Winchester District. The areas of ancient woodland and designated biodiversity sites that are present in the District is shown in Figure D.25 and Figure D.26, below. At present data is not available to map the SINCs and Nature Recovery Network in the District and therefore this detail is not shown on Figure D.25 or Figure D.26. However, this data will be worked up and will be used to inform the appraisal of the new Local Plan.

D.183 Out of the 18 SSSIs within Winchester District, five are in entirely favourable condition (Beacon Hill, Warnford SSSI, Ratlake Meadows SSSI, Waltham Chase Meadows SSSI, Peake Wood SSSI and Galley Down Wood SSSI). The condition of Crab Wood SSSI is 100% unrecorded. The following SSSIs were found to be partly or entirely within unfavourable condition:

- Botley Wood and Everett's and Mushes Copses SSSI: 75.00% of this SSSI is in unfavourable and recovering and 25% is partially destroyed.
- Lye Heath Marsh SSSI: 100% of this SSSI is in unfavourable and recovering condition.
- The Moors, Bishop's Waltham SSSI: Around 33% of this SSSI is in favourable condition and around 66% is in unfavourable and declining condition.

Appendix D Baseline Information

- River Itchen SSSI: Around 15.8% of this SSSI is in favourable condition, 21% in unfavourable and recovering condition, 10.5% in unfavourable condition with no change, 10.5% in unfavourable and declining condition and 5.3% partially destroyed.
- St. Catherine's Hill SSSI: Around 50% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and recovering and 50% is recorded as partially destroyed.
- Alresford Pond SSSI: 50% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and declining and 50% is unfavourable condition with no change.
- Hook Heath Meadows SSSI: 33.3% of this SSSI is in favourable condition.
- Old Winchester Hill SSSI: Around 62.5% of this SSSI is in favourable condition, 12.5% is in unfavourable condition and recovering, and 25% is in unfavourable condition with no change.
- River Test SSSI: Around 15.4% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition with no change.
- Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI: Around 33.3% of this SSSI is in unfavourable condition and recovering and around 66.7% is in unfavourable condition and declining.
- Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods SSSI: Around 20% of this SSSI is in favourable condition and 40% is in unfavourable and declining condition.
- Cheesefoot Head SSSI: 50% of this SSSI is in favourable condition and 50% is in unfavourable and recovering condition.

D.184 The latest Winchester Authority Monitoring Report states that 61% of priority habitats lie within designated sites. In all priority habitats cover 8,152ha or 12.33% of the plan area [See reference 192]. Non-statutory designated sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in Winchester cover 6,534ha in Winchester District.

D.185 Winchester City Council has mapped its ecosystem services including areas of importance for pollination [See reference 193], mitigation heat island effect [See reference 194] and for regulating surface water runoff [See reference 195]. This mapping is to be used by the Council to inform planning

Appendix D Baseline Information

decision making in the district. The key areas that provide all three of the above ecosystem services include:

- Green spaces along River Itchen and River Meon;
- Farley Mount Country Park;
- Blackwood Forest;
- Forest areas along the M3 road in the northeast from Winchester;
- Forest areas located East of Whitley;
- Rookesbusy Park;
- Creech Wood in the South West from Denmead; and
- Woodland and hedge patches spread across the western part of South Downs National Park.

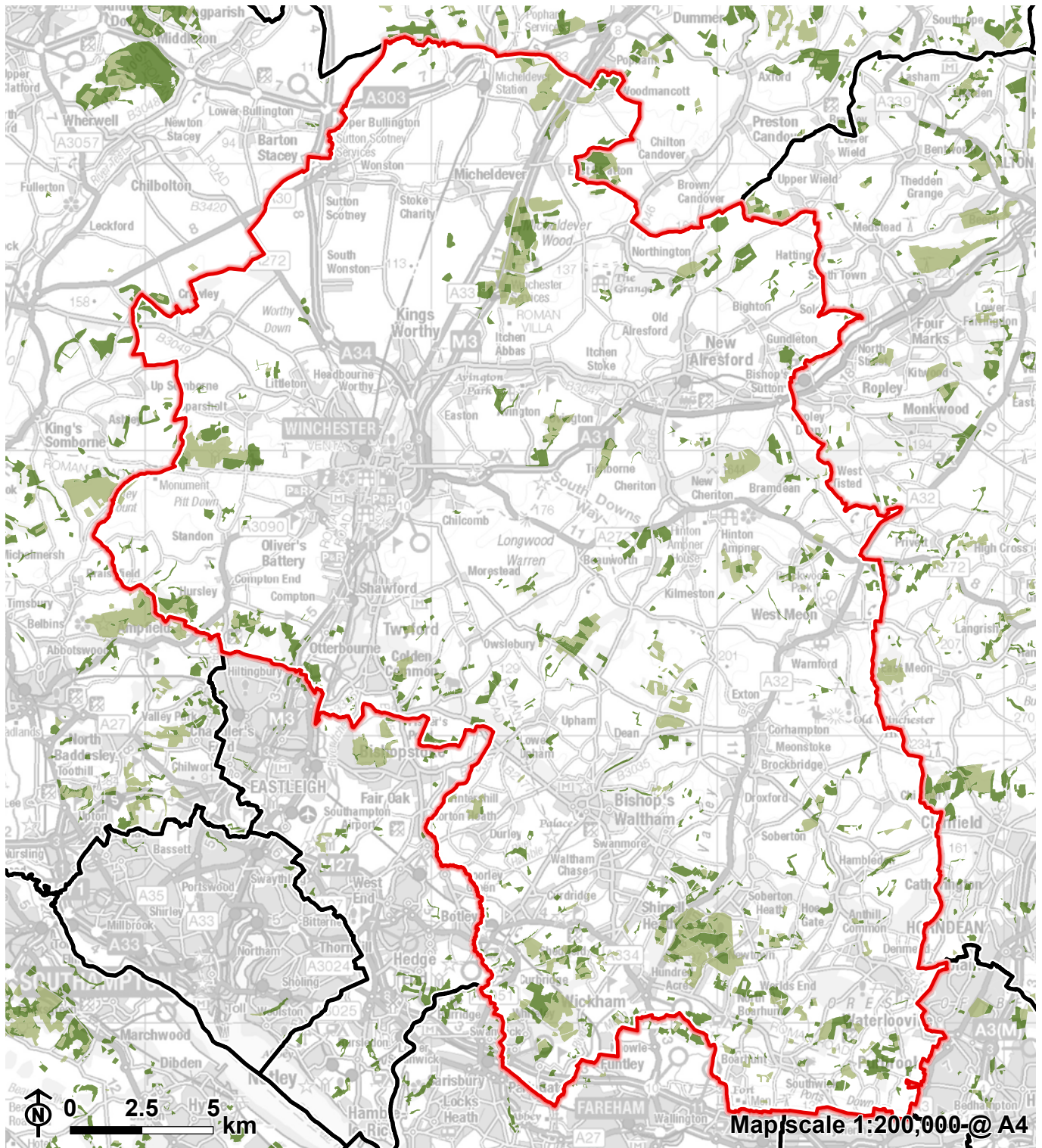
D.186 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre have created a Nature Recovery Network map for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Counties. Mapping has identified the absolute no-go areas for development that include places such as nature reserves and the internationally protected areas, and it also identified areas which can deliver greatest benefits for wildlife. This ecological network map presents a bigger picture that allows for larger perspective to evaluate cumulative effects of individual planning and land use decisions [See reference 196].

D.187 In 2021 Winchester City Council published their new Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) [See reference 197]. The BAP extends beyond the designated sites in the district and prioritises and directs resources and work relating to biodiversity. The plan sets out priorities for the conservation of species and habitats which are particularly threatened or declining in the UK. The document forms part of the Council's wider response to the declared Climate Emergency.

D.188 The Government reintroduced the Environment Bill in 2020 and in 2021 it became law. The Act sets out a requirement for development to achieve mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The Act requires at least a 10%

Appendix D Baseline Information

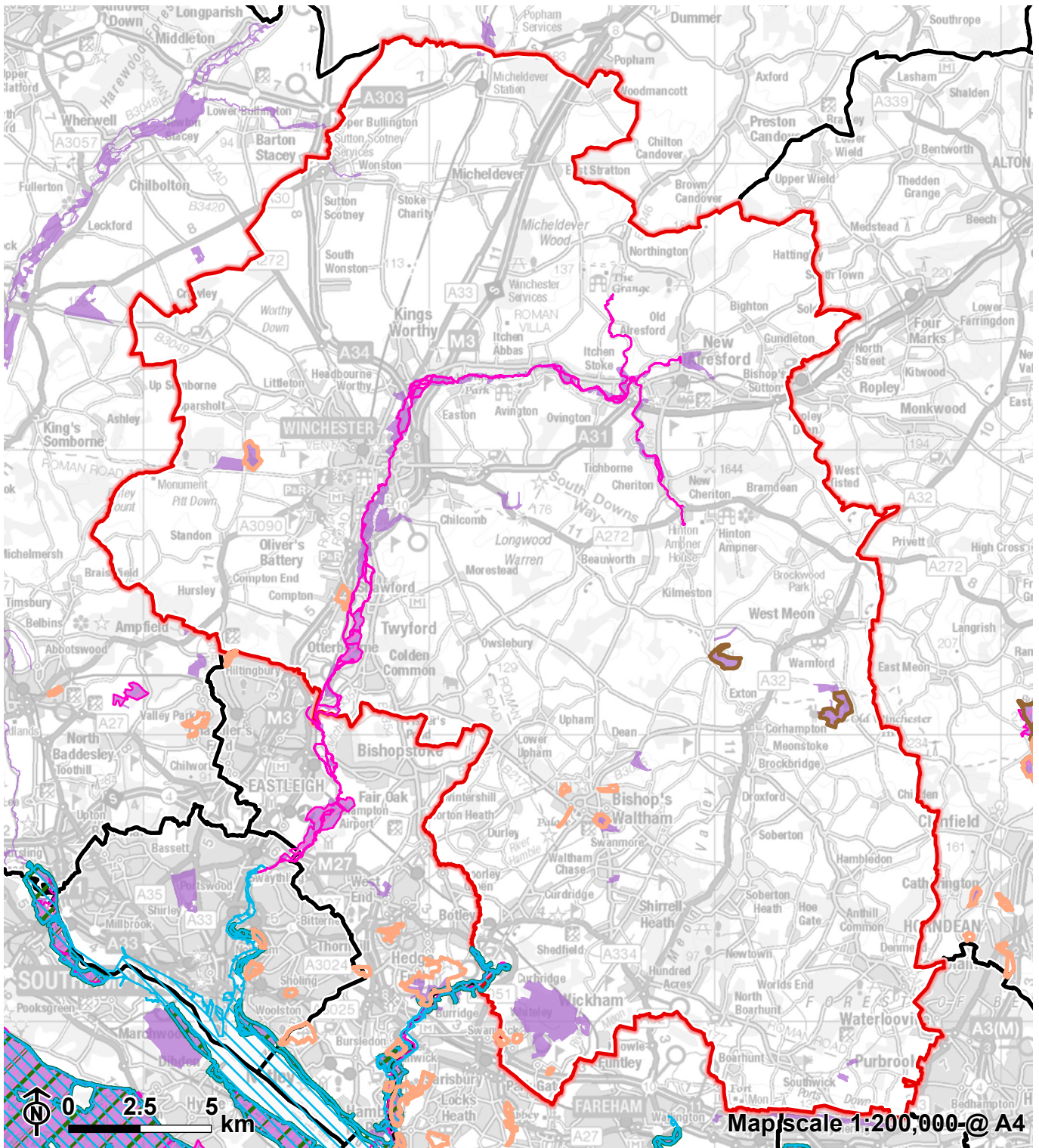
improvement in biodiversity value. This approach follows on from the Government's aim in the 25 Year Environment Plan [\[See reference 198\]](#) to "leave the environment in a better state than we found it". In Winchester District a minimum 10% measurable BNG is required for all applications as evidenced through reporting using the DEFRA metric which was developed as part of the Biodiversity 2020 strategy.



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Figure D.23: Ancient Woodland

- Winchester
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland



Map/scale 1:200,000-@ A4

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Figure D.24: Designated biodiversity assets

- Winchester
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- Ramsar
- National Nature Reserve
- Local Nature Reserve

Historic environment

Heritage assets

D.189 Winchester District has a range of unique heritage assets that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the district. These assets include Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and a range of listed buildings (Grade I, II and II*), as shown in Figure D.25 and Figure D.26, below.

D.190 Highlighted in the National Planning Policy Framework, non-designated heritage assets are singular buildings, structures and monuments or landscapes that are believed to have a degree of heritage significance and make a significant contribution to local character, identity and sense of place. However, despite their level of heritage significance, these sites do not meet the criteria set out for statutory listing through Historic England [\[See reference 199\]](#).

D.191 The Winchester Future 50 Conservation Area Project is currently being undertaken in the district. Through this project, a pilot in a form of Non-Designated Heritage Asset list for a part of Winchester has been devised and will be published on completion [\[See reference 200\]](#).

D.192 In Winchester District currently there are 110 Scheduled Monuments, 2,271 listed buildings, 11 historic parks and gardens, 37 Conservation Areas and a historic battlefield at Cheriton within South Downs National Park [\[See reference 201\]](#).

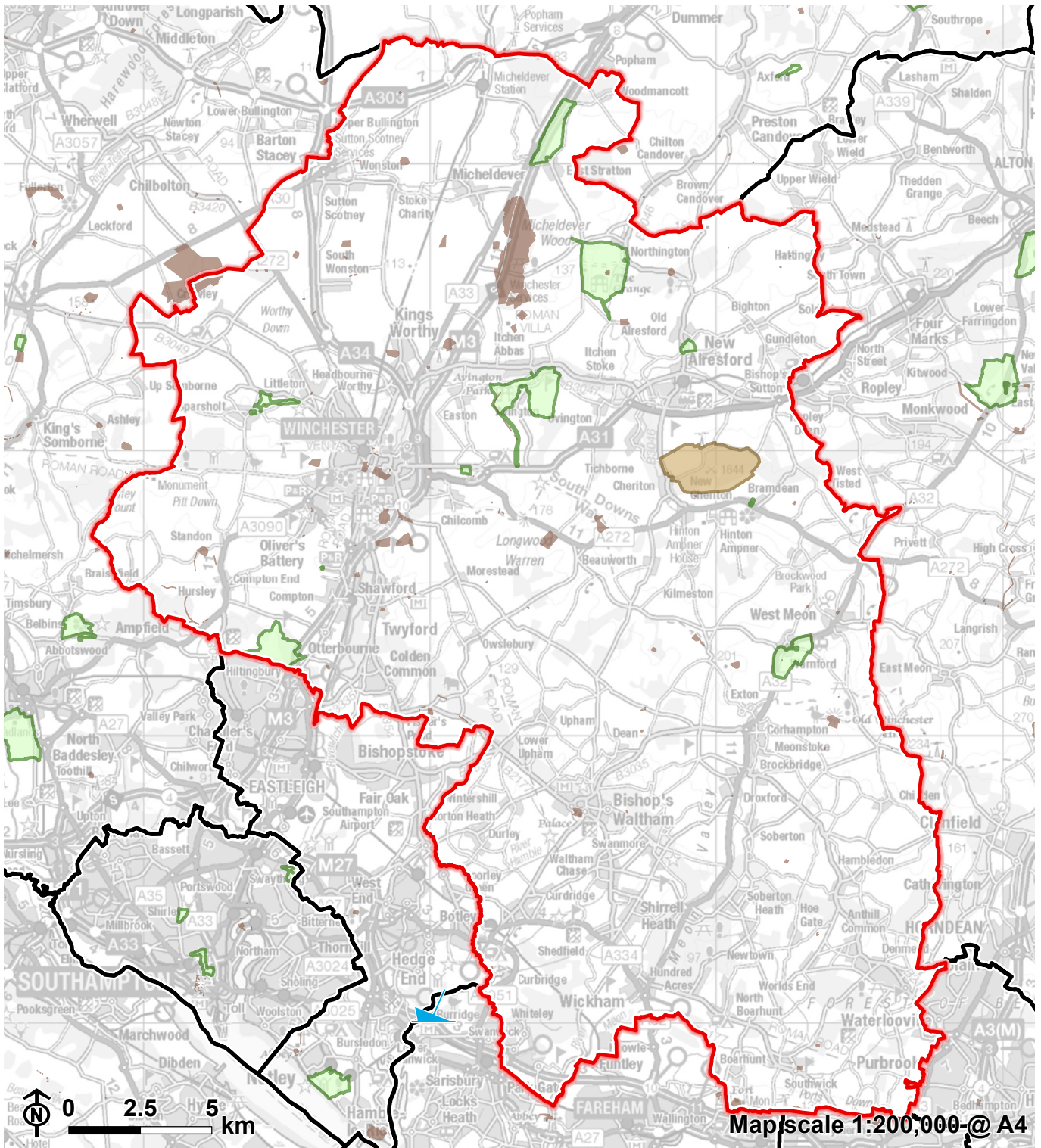
D.193 Winchester District has a wealth of historic parks and gardens that contribute to the character, diversity and distinctiveness of its landscape. Equally, the District has many important archaeological resources from pre-historic period to the military history of the last century [\[See reference 202\]](#).

D.194 A Conservation Area is defined as “an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”.

Appendix D Baseline Information

There are 37 designated Conservation Areas in the District, which vary in size from small villages such as Ovington to the urban centre of Winchester. All Conservation Areas in the District currently benefit from Technical Assessments which set out the special qualities of those areas [\[See reference 203\]](#).

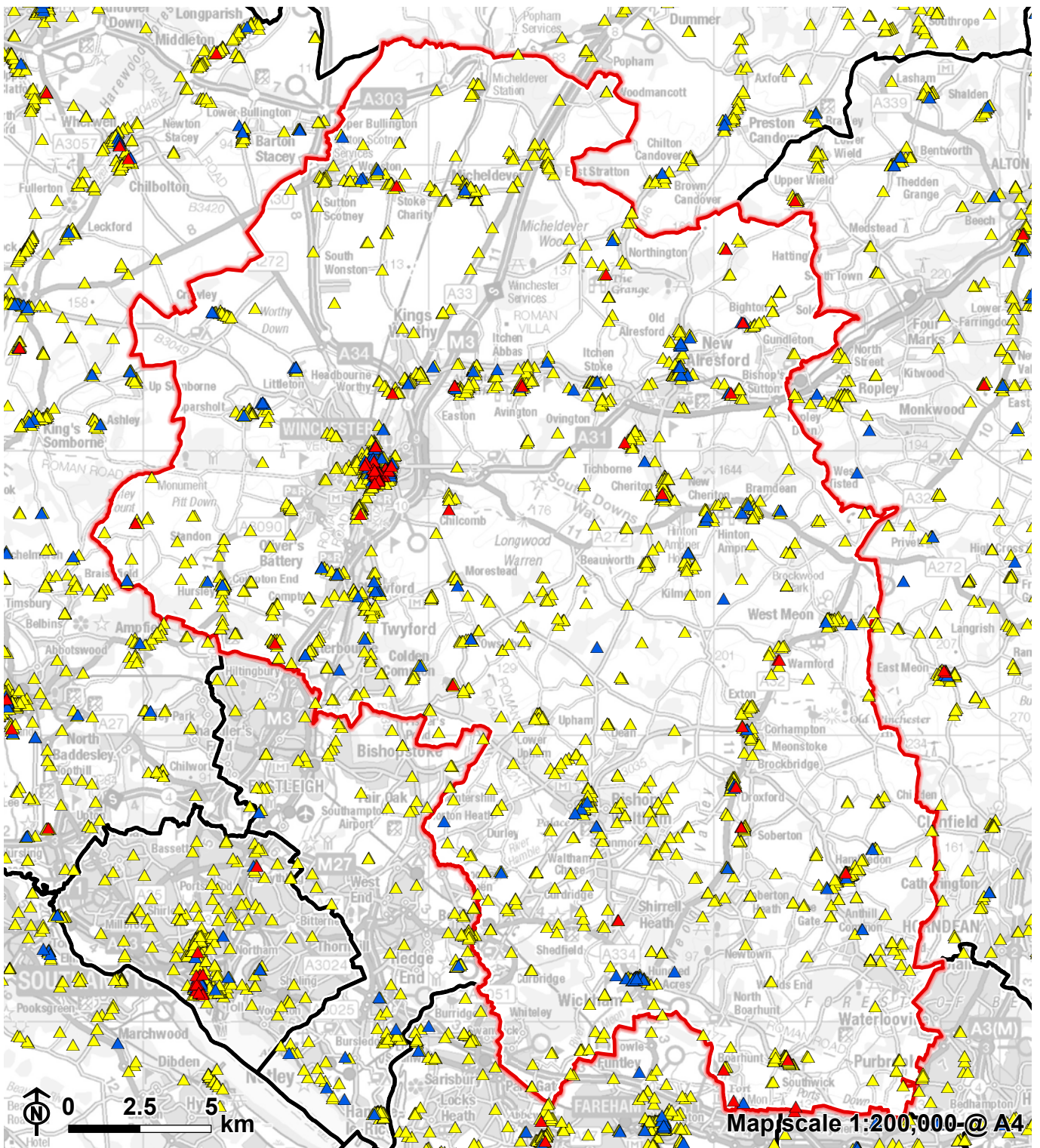
D.195 During the most recent reporting year (2022/23) a number of planning applications were refused for being in conflict with the adopted Local Plan's policy relating to preventing the loss of or harm to designated heritage assets through development. This includes 1.2% which could affect a historic park and garden, 23.8% which would constitute development within a Conservation Area, 20.2% which could affect heritage assets and 1.2% which could affect the South Downs National Park Heritage and Landscape Character [\[See reference 204\]](#).



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Figure D.25: Heritage assets

- Winchester
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Scheduled monument
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Registered battlefield
- ↙ Protected wreck



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Figure D.26: Listed buildings

Winchester ▲ Grade II

Neighbouring Local Authority

Listed building

- ▲ Grade I
- ▲ Grade II*

Heritage at Risk

D.196 Historic England has a Heritage at Risk Register [See reference 205] which includes historic buildings, of Grade II* and Grade I listed buildings (Grade II listed buildings are only included for London), sites and Conservation Areas at risk of being lost through neglect, deterioration or decay. The register aims to highlight those places and buildings in greatest need of repair.

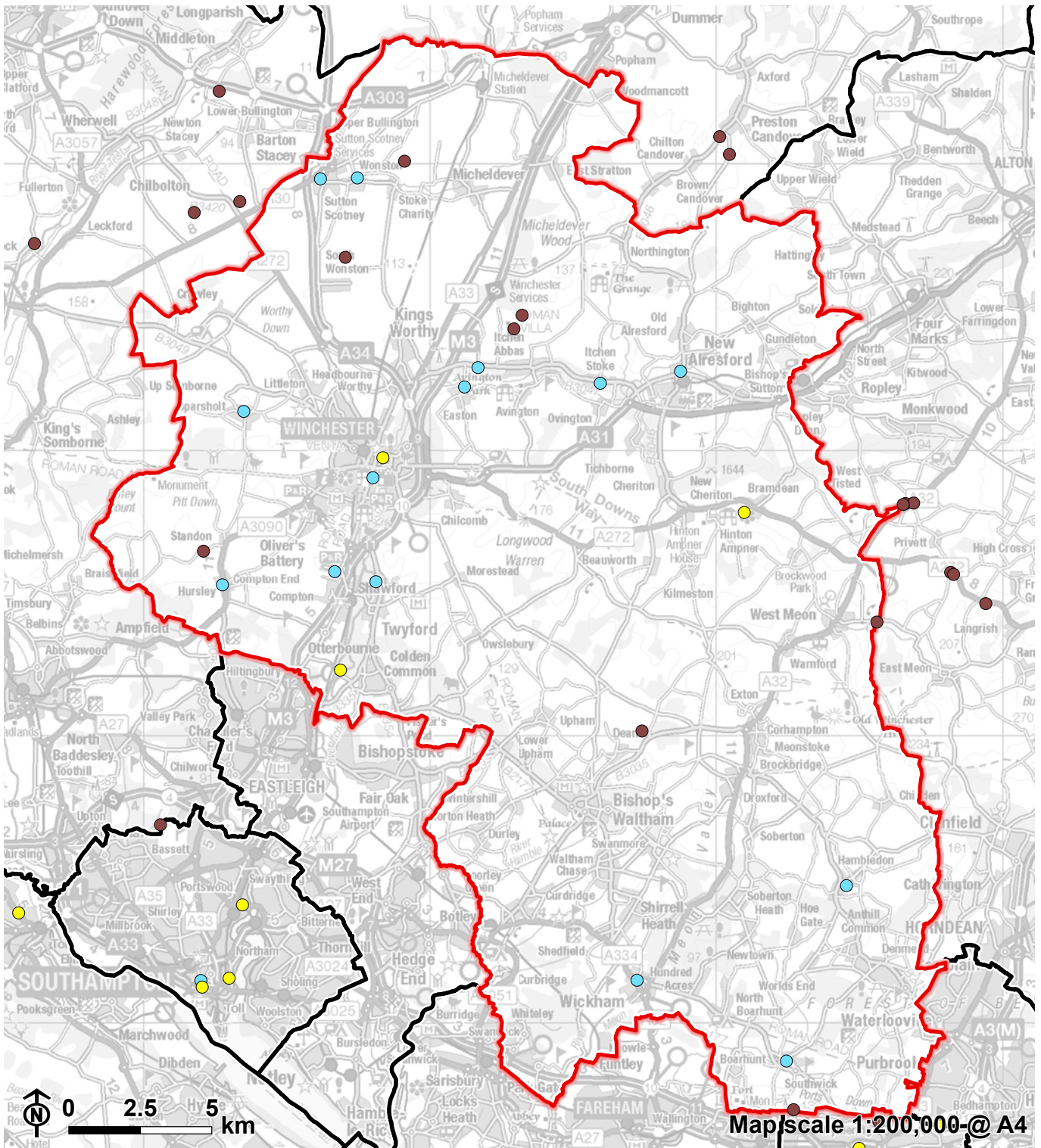
D.197 The heritage assets (including Conservation Areas) identified on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register as being at risk in the district are shown in Figure D.27 below, and information about their heritage category and condition [See reference 206] are provided in Table D.18 below. The Council presently does not have a local Heritage at Risk Register.

Table D.18: Heritage assets on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register in Winchester District

Designated Site Name	Heritage Category	Condition
Compton Street	Conservation Area	Very Bad
Hursley	Conservation Area	Fair
New Alresford	Conservation Area	At risk
Southwick	Conservation Area	At risk
Sparsholt	Conservation Area	At risk
Sutton Scotney	Conservation Area	At risk
Wickham	Conservation Area	At risk
Wonston	Conservation Area	At risk
Easton	Conservation Area	At risk
Hambledon	Conservation Area	At risk
Itchen Stoke	Conservation Area	At risk

Appendix D Baseline Information

Designated Site Name	Heritage Category	Condition
Martyr Worthy	Conservation Area	At risk
Twyford	Conservation Area	At risk
Church of the Holy Trinity, North Walls, Winchester	Listed Building grade II*	Poor
Norsebury Ring hillfort, Micheldever	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
Roman villa in Bottom Copse	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
Long barrow and bowl barrow 440m north west of Sanctuary Farm, Wonston	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
Boundary earthwork and barrow at Sheepbridge	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
St Catherine's Hill hillfort	Scheduled Monument	Generally satisfactory but with minor localised problems
Roman villa and earlier prehistoric settlement 400m west of Lone Farm, Itchen	Scheduled Monument	Extensive significant problems
Fort Southwick		Parts of the monument are in poor condition.



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Figure D.27: Heritage assets at risk

Winchester ● Scheduled monument

Neighbouring Local Authority

Heritage at Risk

- Conservation area
- Listed building

Landscape

D.198 National Character Area (NCA) profiles created by Natural England are used to define the specific combination of landscape, geodiversity, biodiversity, history, culture and economic activity in an area. NCAs follow natural lines in the landscape instead of administrative boundaries [\[See reference 207\]](#). The National Character Areas are shown in Figure D.28, below.

D.199 Winchester District runs through four NCAs: Hampshire Downs (130), South Hampshire Lowlands (128), South Downs (125) and South Coast Plain (126), summarised below.

- Hampshire Downs (130) is found in the central southern England belt of Chalk. The majority of the area is an elevated, open, rolling landscape dominated by arable fields with low hedgerows on thin chalk soils, scattered woodland blocks and shelterbelts [\[See reference 208\]](#).
- South Hampshire Lowlands (128) is a low-lying plain between the chalk hills of the Hampshire and South Downs and Southampton Water. The NCA is dominated by the city and port of Southampton and its adjoining towns and suburbs (29% of the area is urban). Rural areas comprise a mixture of farmland and woodland [\[See reference 209\]](#).
- In South Downs (125) NCA the majority of the area falls within the South Downs National Park. About 8% of the NCA is classified as urban area, comprising the coastal conurbation of Brighton and Hove in the east. The South Downs NCA is an extremely diverse and complex landscape with considerable local variation representing physical, historical and economic influences. It is defined by a prominent ridge of chalk that stretches from Winchester in the west to Eastbourne and the East Sussex in the east. About 90% of the NCA falls within the South Downs National Park. The area consists of large fields and nationally and internationally important chalk grassland [\[See reference 210\]](#).
- South Coast Plain (126) is a flat, coastal landscape with an intricately indent shoreline. The coastline includes several major inlets which have particularly distinctive local landscapes and intertidal habitats of

Appendix D Baseline Information

international environmental importance for wildfowl and waders [[See reference 211](#)].

D.200 Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment conducted in 2004 was aimed at helping the planning system to conserve, restore and enhance the character of the district's landscape and the settings of its settlements. It also highlighted trends and issues that threaten the character of the landscape and set out strategies for improvements [[See reference 212](#)]. Currently, the Landscape Character Assessment for the District is being updated.

D.201 The previous 'Winchester District Landscape Assessment' was timed to support the 'Winchester District Local Plan' which was adopted 22nd April 1998. That assessment identified nine Areas of Special Landscape Quality (ASLQs), some of which are now in the South Downs National Park. Should the update to the Landscape Character Assessment identify any equivalent, locally important landscapes, the potential effects of the Local Plan on these will be considered by the SA.

D.202 A Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal [[See reference 213](#)] conducted in 2014 was prepared to inform land use and land management policy and the need to assess the main attributes of landscape as a basis for gauging sensitivity. For the purposes of the SA of the Local Plan, this is being superseded by a landscape sensitivity appraisal of the SHELAA sites. This work has been undertaken by the Council, using an assessment method based on the revised Natural England Methodology published in March 2019.

D.203 Part of the South Downs National Park lies within the boundaries of Winchester District and the Local Plan Review will cover the areas of land located on the edge of the National Park (the National Park itself is covered by its own Local Plan). The location of the South Downs National Park is shown in Figure D.31 below.

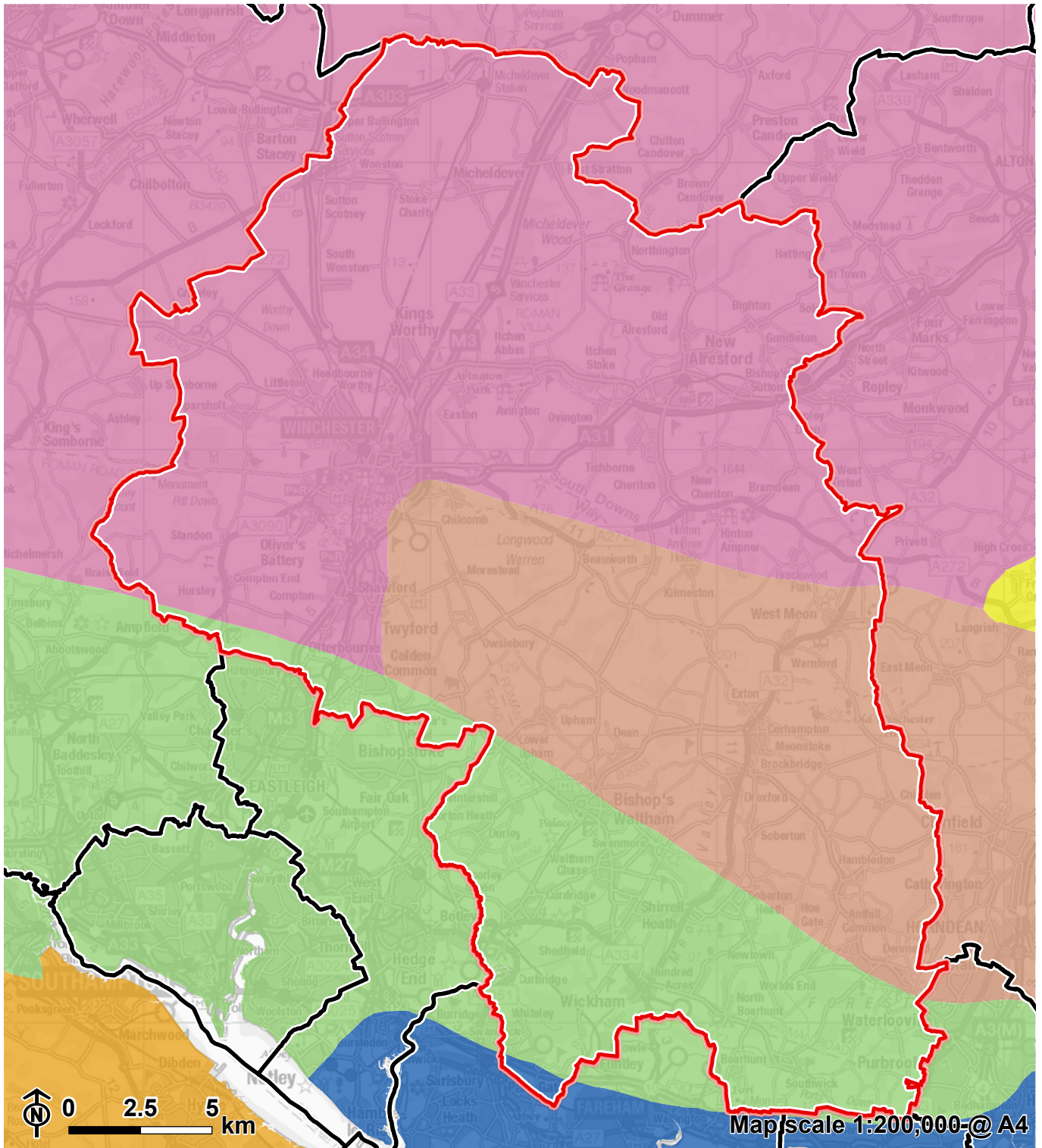
D.204 The South Downs National Park includes some of the most valued lowland landscapes in England. There are two distinct areas of the South

Appendix D Baseline Information

Downs National Park that fall within Winchester district, and they include the Western Downs and the Dip Slope.









D.205 The Western Downs are characterised by large-scale open farmland with remnants of ancient woodland. The landscape in the Western Downs contains some of the most tranquil areas and darkest night skies [\[See reference 214\]](#). The areas surrounding Winchester City are of relatively low tranquillity. Wildlife in the Western Downs is rich, and it supports a variety of rare and internationally important species. Access to the park is more dispersed than in other areas of the National Park with a larger population close at hand. The area has a rich cultural heritage and historical features, including the site of the Battle of Cheriton and the National Trust House and garden at Hinton Ampner [\[See reference 215\]](#).

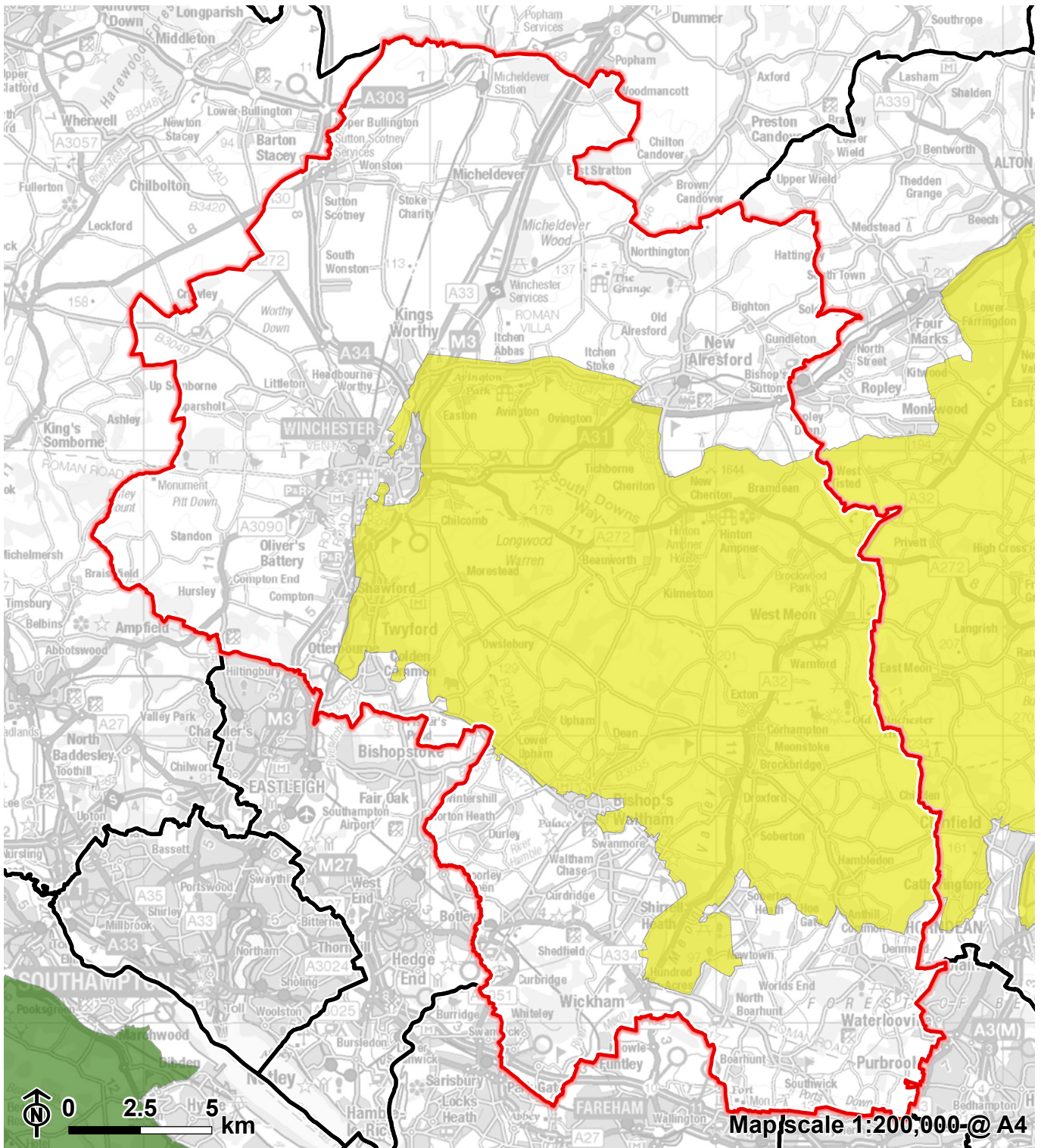
D.206 The Dip Slope extends along the entire length of the South Downs. In terms of landscape, the south-facing chalk Dip Slopes are intersected by river valleys (River Itchen, Meon, and Lavant). The area has a rich variety of wildlife, there are extensive areas of deciduous and coniferous woodland. The majority of the Dip Slope is Grade 3 agricultural land with some pockets of Grade 2. The area has many access opportunities with Rights of Way linking the coast to the crest of the South Downs. It also has a rich cultural heritage and historical features [\[See reference 216\]](#).



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Figure D.28: National Character Areas (NCA)

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Winchester |  126: South Coast Plain |
|  Neighbouring Local Authority |  128: South Hampshire Lowlands |
| NCA |  130: Hampshire Downs |
|  120: Wealden Greensand |  131: New Forest |
|  125: South Downs | |



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Figure D.29: National parks

- Winchester
- Neighbouring Local Authority

National Park

- New Forest
- South Downs

Appendix E

Site Assessment Criteria

IIA objective 1: To minimise the district's contribution to climate change through a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from all sources and facilitate the aim of carbon neutrality by 2031

E.1 IIA objective 1 was appraised in relation to travel-related carbon emissions by consideration of access to essential services and facilities, public transport, open space, and employment. The same criteria were applied and the same SA scores reported as for IIA objectives 2 and 7.

E.2 People often travel much longer distances to access employment than other services and facilities and there is no guarantee that a major employment site close to where people live will offer jobs that are suited to those local residents. Rather than proximity to major employment sites, accessibility of residential sites options to employment was appraised by reference to 2011 Census data indicating the main commuting destinations from each MSOA in the plan area. Residential development in areas with relatively low average commuting distances were rated as having better access to employment than residential development in areas with relatively high average commuting distances.

E.3 It is considered that there more limited potential for travel patterns to be greatly influenced by proximity of employment site options to services and facilities. These sites have been considered making use of census data available on the method of travel to work by Middle-layer Super Output Area (MSOA).

E.4 Note that due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place on Census day (21/3/21) detailed Census 2021 data is not likely to be representative of long term commuting trends. As such the site options were appraised based on 2011 Census data.

E.5 Other aspects of this IIA objective depend on factors such as the promotion of energy efficient design, water efficient design, and provision and use of renewable energy. These factors do not depend on the location of the site and were taken into account by the SA of development management policies and site-specific requirements set out in allocation policies.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 1 criteria (excluding employment sites)

Each criterion is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Scores are totalled and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by number of criteria). Significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is then scored as follows:

- Significant positive $\geq +2$
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Minor negative <0 to <-2
- Significant negative ≥ -2

Significance scoring for IIA objective 1 criteria (for employment sites)

If the criterion scores major positive then the significance of the effect of the site vs. the IIA objective is significant positive.

If the criterion scores minor positive then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is minor positive.

If the criterion scores major negative then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is significant negative.

If the criterion scores minor negative then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is minor negative.

All other sites have a negligible effect vs. the IIA objective.

Table E.1: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 1

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For residential-led sites 1a: GP surgeries	<=400m from nearest NHS GP surgery	401-800m from nearest NHS GP surgery	N/A	801-1,200m from nearest NHS GP surgery	>1,200m from nearest NHS GP surgery OR Loss of facility within the site	GP surgeries (excludes opticians, pharmacies, hospitals, any private healthcare facilities)
For residential-led sites 1b: Primary schools	<=400m from primary school	401-800m from primary school	N/A	801-1,201m from primary school	>1,200m from primary school OR Loss of facility within the site	Primary schools (middle schools not present in Hampshire; excludes private schools)
For residential-led sites 1c: Secondary schools	<=500m from secondary school	501-1,000m from secondary school	N/A	1,001-2,000m from secondary school	>2,000m from secondary school OR Loss of facility within the site	Secondary schools (excludes private schools)
For residential-led sites 1d: Town centres	<=400m from town centre	401-800m from town centre	N/A	801-1,201m from town centre	>1,200m from town centre	Town centres (Winchester, Whiteley)
For residential-led sites 1e: District and local centres	<=200m from district or local centre	201-400m from district or local centre	N/A	401-800m from district or local centre	>800m from district or local centre	District centres (Bishop's Waltham, New Alresford, Wickham) Local centres (Denmead, Kings Worthy, Oliver's Battery, Stockbridge Road, Weeke)
For residential-led sites 1f: Rail	<= 500m from a railway station	501-1,000m from a railway station	N/A	1,001-2,000m from a railway station	>2,000m from a railway station	Railway Stations
For residential-led sites 1g: Bus	<= 300m from a bus stop	301-600m from a bus stop	N/A	601-1,000m from a bus stop	>1,000m from a bus stop	Bus Stops
For residential-led sites 1h: Open space [See reference 217]	<=300m from open space, open country, or registered common land	301-800m from open space, open country, or registered common land	N/A	801-1,200m from open space, open country, or registered common land OR	>1,200m from open space, open country, or registered common land OR	Open spaces

Appendix E Site Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
				Loss of one of these (<25% development site area)	Loss of one of these (>=25% development site area)	
For residential-led sites 1i: Employment	Sites in areas where average commuting distance is in lowest 20% of distances for the plan area	Sites in areas where average commuting distance is in 20-40% range for the plan area	Sites in areas where average commuting distance is in 40-60% range for the plan area	Sites in areas where average commuting distance is in 60-80% range for the plan area	Sites in areas where average commuting distance is in 80-100% range for the plan area	2011 Census travel to work data (relative performance to be confirmed once distribution of commuting distances from the plan area is known)
For employment sites 1a: Potential for a large proportion of trips to be undertaken by more sustainable modes	Sites in areas where 40-50% of commuters to that area use public transport or active modes	Sites in areas where 30-40% of commuters to that area use public transport or active modes	Sites in areas where 20-30% of commuters to that area use public transport or active modes	Sites in areas where 10-20% of commuters to that area use public transport or active modes	Sites in areas where 0-10% of commuters to that area use public transport or active modes	2011 Census travel to work data (WU03EW - Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work (MSOA level))

IIA objective 2: To reduce the need to travel by private vehicle in the district and improve air quality

E.6 The effects of residential site options in relation to IIA objective 2 were tested in the same manner as IIA objective 1.

E.7 The proximity of sites to Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) does not robustly test the potential for such sites to generate road traffic through AQMAs. Furthermore, individual sites options are unlikely to significantly affect air quality. Instead, the Local Plan's spatial strategy options were appraised via qualitative consideration of potential movement patterns. Once a preferred spatial approach was selected, any available transport and air quality modelling will be used to inform appraisal of the total effects of the Council's preferred spatial strategy and site allocations.

IIA objective 3: To support the district's adaptation to unavoidable climate change

E.8 IIA objective 3 was scoped out of the appraisal of site options. This IIA objective deals with design of developments to mitigate the effects of climate change and creation and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure. These factors do not depend on the location of the site and were taken into account by the SA through appraisal of development management policies and site-specific requirements set out in allocation policies.

IIA objective 4: To improve public health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in the district

E.9 The effects of site options in relation to IIA objective 4 were tested by spatial analysis of their proximity to areas likely to have negative (e.g. high levels of noise pollution) or positive (e.g. access to open space) effects on health and well-being.

E.10 Footpath and cycle path networks are more likely to constitute a recreational resource if they are in or easily link to rural areas but those in urban areas may be important for commuting by active modes therefore both were considered.

E.11 Many other factors within the scope of the Local Plan could affect achievement of this IIA objective but these were tested by the SA of Local Plan policies (for instance in relation to provision of new or enhancement to existing healthcare facilities, open spaces, and sports and recreation facilities).

Significance scoring for IIA objective 4 criteria

Each criterion is scored:

- Major positive +3
- Minor positive +1
- Negligible 0
- Minor negative -1
- Major negative -3

Appendix E Site Assessment Criteria

Scores are totalled and then averaged (i.e. total score divided by number of criteria). Significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is then scored as follows:

- Significant positive $\geq +2$
- Minor positive >0 to <2
- Minor negative <0 to <-2
- Significant negative ≥ -2

Table E.2: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 4

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For all sites 4a: AQMAs	N/A	N/A	All other sites	Site <= 500m from an AQMA	Site within an AQMA	Air Quality Management Areas
For all sites 4b: Noise pollution from roads and railways	N/A	N/A	All other sites	Lnight 50.0-54.9 dB, or Laeq,16 55.0-59.9 dB	Lnight >=55.0 dB, or Laeq,16 >= 60.0 dB	Strategic noise mapping
For all sites 4c: Noise pollution from airports	N/A	N/A	All other sites	Within 54dB Laeq,16 noise contour	Within 57dB or higher Laeq,16 noise contour	Southampton Airport noise contours
For all sites 4d: Odour and dust from waste facilities	N/A	N/A	All other sites	N/A	<=400m to wastewater treatment works, or <=500 m to anaerobic digestion (AD) facility, or <=250 m to waste management facility	Waste water treatment works Waste Management Sites
For all sites 4e: GP surgeries	<=400m from nearest NHS GP surgery	401-800m from nearest NHS GP surgery	N/A	801-1,200m from nearest NHS GP surgery	>1,200m from nearest NHS GP surgery OR Loss of facility within the site	GP surgeries (excludes opticians, pharmacies, hospitals, any private healthcare facilities)
For all sites 4f: Open space	<=300m from open space, open country, or registered common land	301-800m from open space, open country, or registered common land	N/A	801-1,200m from open space, open country, or registered common land OR Loss of open space, open country and registered common land (<25% development site area)	>1,200m from open space, open country, or registered common land OR Loss of open space, open country or registered common land (>=25% development site area)	Open spaces (from WCC) Open country Registered common land
For all sites 4g: Public Rights of Way (PRoW) / Cycle Paths	<=200m from PRoW / Cycle Paths	201-400m from PRoW / Cycle Paths	N/A	401-800m from PRoW / Cycle Paths	>800m from PRoW / Cycle Paths	PRoW Cycle paths (no data available for local cycle network so limited to national network)

IJA objective 5: To support community cohesion and safety in the district

E.12 IJA objective 5 was scoped out of the appraisal of site options.

Performance of the Local Plan in relation to this IJA objective relates to factors such as its ability to deliver development that integrates well with existing neighbourhoods, that meets the needs of specific groups, that will benefit both new residents and existing ones, that is designed to provide spaces for informal interaction, and that is designed to reduce crime and the fear of crime. These factors do not depend on the location of the site and were taken into account by the SA through appraisal of development management policies and site-specific requirements set out in allocation policies.

IJA objective 6: To provide housing of a decent standard to meet needs in the district

E.13 IJA objective 6 was scoped out of the appraisal of site options.

Performance of the Local Plan in relation to this IJA objective relates to factors such as its ability to deliver the right types and tenures of housing at prices that people can afford, as well as addressing the needs of specialist groups. These factors do not depend on the location of the site and were taken into account by the SA through appraisal of development management policies and site-specific requirements set out in allocation policies.

IIA objective 7: To ensure essential services and facilities and jobs in the district are accessible

E.14 Similarly, to IIA objectives 1 and 2, the effects of site options in relation to IIA objective 7 were tested by spatial analysis of their access to essential services and facilities, public transport, open space, and employment. The same criteria were applied and the same SA scores reported as for IIA objectives 1 and 2.

IIA objective 8: To support the sustainable growth of the district's economy

E.15 Potential negative effects were identified where allocation of a residential site would lead to loss of an existing employment use at the site but IIA objective 8 was otherwise scoped out of the appraisal of residential site options. Effects for all residential sites (including negative effects identified for sites presently supporting an employment use) are uncertain, given that they are based on information provided by site promoters on the call for sites forms. These forms have not always been completed by site promoters to the same level of detail.

E.16 Site options for employment use were considered in relation to their potential protect and enhance the district's most important employment locations as identified in the Employment Land Review. The accessibility of residential sites to employment opportunities was addressed under IIA objectives 1, 2, and 7. The provision of new homes across the plan area will create job opportunities, particularly during the construction phase, but this will not vary between site locations.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 8 criteria (residential sites)

If the criterion scores major negative then the significance of the effect of the site vs. the IIA objective is uncertain significant negative.

If the criterion scores negligible then the significance of the effect of the site vs. the IIA objective is uncertain negligible.

All other sites have an uncertain effect vs. the IIA objective.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 8 criteria (employments sites)

If the criterion scores major positive, then the significance of the effect of the site vs. the IIA objective is significant positive.

If the criterion scores minor positive, then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is minor positive.

If the criterion scores negligible, then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is uncertain minor positive.

Table E.3: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 8

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For residential sites 8a: Existing employment land	N/A	N/A	Site not in existing employment use	N/A	Site in existing employment use	Existing use Source: Call for Sites form
For employment sites 8a: Employment space provision in relation to existing designations in the plan area	Site would provide employment within or adjacent (taken to be within 10m) to the settlement boundary of Winchester town	Site would provide employment within or adjacent to the settlement boundary of the existing larger settlements in the PfSH area (Whiteley, West of Waterloo, Colden Common, Bishops Waltham, Swanmore, Waltham Chase, Wickham or Denmead)	Site would provide employment at any location beyond Winchester town or the larger settlements in the PfSH area.	N/A	N/A	Settlement boundaries

IIA objective 9: To support the district's biodiversity and geodiversity

E.17 Development sites that are close to an internationally, nationally or locally designated conservation site have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites/features, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, or increased recreation pressure. Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, uncertainty exists (shown with '?'), as appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. In addition, the potential impacts on biodiversity present on each site, or undesignated habitats and species adjacent to the potential development sites, cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This should be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.

E.18 Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) defined by Natural England are used to provide an initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals to: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. IRZs define zones around each biodiversity site which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. Note that all SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are also designated as SSSIs, therefore SSSIs were used as a proxy for all these designations in the SA. European sites are underpinned by the SSSI designation and their interest features and sensitivities are covered by the SSSI IRZs. Where the notified features of the European site and SSSI are different, the SSSI IRZs are set so that they reflect both. ""Residential"" IRZs define unique scales of proposed housing development above which there is a potential for adverse impacts and this was taken into account in the appraisal. The effects of the Local Plan as a

Appendix E Site Assessment Criteria

whole and of preferred policies and site allocations on European sites were assessed by a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment.

E.19 A zone of influence of 250 m was assumed for all sub-nationally designated wildlife sites and ancient woodland, based on professional judgement.

E.20 At the level of detail of a Local Plan, it is not possible for effects to be determined with certainty therefore uncertainty is attached to all the effects scores.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 9 criteria

If any of the criteria score major negative then the score is significant negative.

If two or more criteria score minor negative, then the score is significant negative.

If only one criterion scores minor negative, then the score is minor negative.

All other sites score negligible (0).

Table E.4: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 9

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For all sites 9a: Internationally and nationally designated biodiversity assets	N/A	N/A	All other sites	Residential sites: Intersects with 'residential' or 'all planning applications' IRZ Employment sites: Intersects with 'any development that could cause air pollution' [See reference 218] or 'all planning applications' IRZ.	Intersects with designated site	International and national wildlife and geological designations covered by the extent of the UK's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). See Appendix 3 of IRZ Guidance for further guidance: magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI IRZ User Guidance MAGIC.pdf
For all sites 9b: Locally designated wildlife sites and ancient woodland	N/A	N/A	All other sites	<=500m from designated site boundary	Intersects with designated site	Local Nature Reserves Local Wildlife Sites Ancient Woodland
For all sites 9c: Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat	N/A	N/A	All other sites	<=200m from Local BAP habitat	Intersects with Local BAP habitat	Local BAP Priority Habitats
For all sites 9d: Water course	N/A	N/A	All other sites	<=100m from water course	N/A	HBIC appraisal of site options
For all sites 9e: Geological sites	N/A	N/A	All other sites	<25% intersects with county/local geological site	>=25% intersects with county/local geological site	County and Local Geological Sites

IIA objective 10: To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the district's landscapes

E.21 As part of its SHELAA, the Council carried out a landscape sensitivity assessment based on Natural England guidance. The SA of site options made reference to the findings of that assessment. Sites assessed as having a low sensitivity were identified as “green” in the SHELAA. Sites assessed as having medium sensitivity or above were identified as “amber” in the SHELAA. The rationale for rating sites with medium and those higher than medium landscape sensitivity under the same rating (‘amber’) was to reflect the potential for impacts to be mitigated through screening or limiting development to part of the site.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 10 criteria

If the criterion scores minor negative then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is minor negative.

All other sites have a negligible effect vs. the IIA objective.

Table E.5: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 10

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For all sites 10a: Sensitive landscapes	N/A	N/A	Site has "low" overall landscape sensitivity	Site has "medium or higher" overall landscape sensitivity	N/A	WCC Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

IIA objective 11: To conserve and enhance the district’s historic environment including its setting

E.22 As part of its SHELAA, the Council carried out an assess of whether or not designated heritage assets might be impacted upon by the development of a site. The SA of site options made reference to the findings of that assessment.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 11 criteria

If the criterion scores major negative then the significance of the effect of the site vs. the IIA objective is uncertain significant negative.

If the criterion scores minor negative then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is uncertain minor negative.

If the criterion scores negligible then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is uncertain negligible.

Table E.6: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 11

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For all sites 11a: Heritage impact	N/A	N/A	Site rated "green" for risk of effects on heritage assets	Site rated "amber" for risk of effects on heritage assets	Site rated "red" for risk of effects on heritage assets	HCC high level heritage impact assessment

IIA objective 12: To support the efficient use of the district’s resources, including land and minerals

E.23 Prioritisation of previously developed land over greenfield sites will have a positive effect on this IIA objective. Potential harm to soil quality through the development of greenfield land was assessed by reference to the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) used by Natural England to give advice to planning authorities and developers. The classification is based on the long-term physical limitations of land for agricultural use. The ALC system classifies land into five grades, with Grade 3 subdivided into Subgrades 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a by policy guidance (see Annex 2 of NPPF), however, data to subdivide the plan area into grades 3a and 3b was not available for the plan area. Minerals Consultation Areas (MCAs) have been designated in the district by Hampshire County Council, within which consultation is required in relation to potential for development to result in loss of safeguarded mineral resources. The potential for loss of mineral resources is reflected as a negative effect on this IIA objective.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 12 criteria

If any of the criteria score major negative or two or more score minor negative, the overall significance of the effect of the site vs. the IIA objective is significant negative.

If only one criterion scores minor negative then the significance of the effect is minor negative.

Appendix E Site Assessment Criteria

All other sites have a negligible effect vs. the IIA objective.

Table E.7: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 12

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For all sites 12a: Greenfield land	Majority (>50%) of site is brownfield	N/A	N/A	N/A	Majority (>50%) of site if greenfield	Brownfield vs. greenfield site status (per WCC initial SHELAA)
For all sites 12b: Agricultural Land	N/A	N/A	All other sites.	Significant proportion (>=25%) of site on Grade 3 agricultural land OR Site consists partly of Grades 1 and/or 2 agricultural land, but <25% of site.	Significant proportion (>=25%) of site on Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land.	Agricultural Land Classifications
For all sites 12c: Minerals safeguarding	N/A	N/A	All other sites.	Significant proportion of site (>=25%) is within a Minerals Consultation Area	N/A	Minerals Consultation Areas

IIA objective 13: To protect the quality and quantity of the district's water resource

E.24 Effects of development on water resources were not appraised on a site by site basis; support of the Local Plan for water efficient design of new development was considered in the SA of development management policies.

E.25 Effects of development on water quality will partly depend on adoption of good practice site layout and construction techniques as well as the inclusion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) within the design; these factors were considered in the SA of development management policies.

E.26 In addition, development could affect surface water quality due to additional discharges of wastewater, for example because there is insufficient treatment capacity at the local wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) or because of nutrient enrichment issues in the receiving waters. These issues are generally managed at the catchment scale and were considered by the SA of the spatial strategy and policies on the amount of development to be delivered rather than for individual site options.

E.27 Development could affect water quality in drinking water resources during construction or occupation. Source protection zones (SPZs) are areas designated to protect groundwater sources used for public drinking water supply. They relate to the risk of contamination of the water source from various activities, this increasing as the distance between the source of contamination and the groundwater abstraction point decreases. Drinking Water Safeguard Zones are catchment areas that influence the water quality for associated Drinking Water Protected Areas that are at risk of failing drinking water protection objectives. Site options were appraised in relation to these zones.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 13 criteria

If the criterion scores major negative then the significance of the effect of the site vs. the IIA objective is significant negative.

If the criterion scores minor negative then the significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is minor negative.

All other sites have a negligible effect vs. the IIA objective.

Table E.8: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 13

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For all sites 13a: Drinking water quality	N/A	N/A	All other sites.	Site falls within a Source Protection Zone 2 or 3 OR Site falls within a drinking water safeguard zone (groundwater) OR Site falls within a drinking water safeguard zone (surface water)	Site falls within a Source Protection Zone 1.	Source Protection Zones Drinking Water Safeguard Zones

IIA objective 14: To manage and reduce flood risk from all sources

E.28 Development on greenfield land would increase the area of impermeable surfaces and could therefore increase overall flood risk, particularly where the sites are within high risk flood zones. The Government's Planning Practice Guidance identifies residential properties as a 'more vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of Flood Zone 1 and 2 but would require an exception test in flood zone 3a, and is unsuitable in flood zone 3b. This point considered, the assessment of site options adopted a precautionary approach in relation to considering flood risk. Employment sites were assessed on an equal footing to residential sites in this regard with similarly adverse effects identified for both types of sites when they fall within areas of higher flood risk.

E.29 Surface water flooding occurs when intense rainfall overwhelms drainage systems. Groundwater flood risk can occur via permeable superficial deposits (these generally occur in the flood plain, and can be mistaken for fluvial flooding), via high spring flows, and via high bedrock groundwater levels.

E.30 Other aspects of the Local Plan affecting flood risk were assessed via the SA of development management policies, for example requirements to incorporate SuDS, or site-specific policies, for example requirements for flood-resilient design.

Significance scoring for IIA objective 14 criteria

Appendix E Site Assessment Criteria

If any criterion scores major negative or two or more criteria score minor negative, the overall significance of the effect of the site vs. the IIA objective is significant negative.

If only one criterion scores minor negative, then the overall significance of the effect vs. the IIA objective is minor negative.

All other sites have a negligible effect vs. the IIA objective.

Table E.9: SA site assessment criteria for IIA objective 14

Criteria	Major positive	Minor positive	Negligible	Minor negative	Major negative	Datasets
For all sites 14a: Environment Agency Flood Risk Zones	N/A	N/A	All other sites.	Significant proportion ($\geq 25\%$) of site within Flood Zone 2	Significant proportion of site ($\geq 25\%$) of site within Flood Zone 3a or 3b	Environment Agency Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3
For all sites 14b: Surface water flood risk areas	N/A	N/A	All other sites.	Significant proportion of site ($\geq 25\%$) has a 1 in 100 year risk of surface water flooding	Significant proportion of site ($\geq 25\%$) has a 1 in 30 year risk of surface water flooding	Surface water flooding areas (Environment Agency data 'Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (Basic)' identifies areas with a 1 in 100 years or greater risk of surface water flooding)

Appendix F

Site Assessment Proformas

F.1 The detailed site assessment proformas for the residential-led and employment site options are presented in this appendix by the parishes within which they lie. The tables below set out the page numbers at which the proformas for both types of sites grouped by parish can be found.

Table F.1: Index of site assessment proformas for residential-led site options

Parish	Page number
Bighton	
Bishops Sutton	
Boarhunt	
Colden Common	
Compton and Shawford	
Crawley	
Curdridge	
Denmead	
Durley	
Headbourne Worthy	
Hursley	
Itchen Stoke and	
Itchen Valley	
Kings Worthy	

Appendix F Site Assessment Proformas

Parish	Page number
Littleton and Harestock	
Micheldever	
New Alresford	
Newlands	
Northington	
Old Alresford	
Olivers Battery	
Otterbourne	
Shedfield	
Soberton	
South Wonston	
Southwick and Widley	
Sparsholt	
Swanmore	
Upham	
Whiteley	
Wickham	
Winchester Town	
Wonston	

Table F.2: Index of site assessment proformas for employment site options

Parish	Page number
Bishops Waltham	

Appendix F Site Assessment Proformas

Parish	Page number
Compton and Shawford	
Headbourne Worthy	
Itchen Stoke and Ovington	
Kings Worthy	
Shedfield	
Southwick and Widley	
Whiteley	
Winchester Town	

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- 217** Note that for the purposes of the site assessment, the definition of open space did not include golf courses. This type of space is often accessible only to those who have a membership or pay a fee.
- 218** It is assumed that employment uses could potentially involve those that contribute to air pollution and would also potentially be likely to require increased numbers of deliveries and haulages by heavy goods vehicles than residential sites to support their continued use.