

Oundle Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Report

Appendix 2: Baseline Data



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1 Introduction

This appendix presents baseline data which is relevant to the area of the Oundle Neighbourhood Plan. The data is organised into topics. The relationship between these topics and those required by the SEA Regulations is explained within Table 1. The topics have been expanded into a number of sustainability topics to include socio-economic topics as well as environmental topics. Interrelationships between topics are considered (where appropriate) within the proposed SA Framework of Objectives in Table 7 within the main SA Report.

Table 1: Oundle Neighbourhood Plan SA topics compared with SEA topics	
SEA Regulations topics required to be considered	SA topics adopted for this appendix
Population	Population and Health Economy and Employment
Human Health	<i>Included in Population and Health</i>
Material Assets	Transport and Accessibility Housing & Community Facilities
Air	Air, Noise & Light Pollution
Climatic Factors	Climatic Factors
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
Landscape	Landscape and Townscape
Soils	Soils
Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage
Water	Water

The Oundle Neighbourhood Plan Area is shown in Figure 1 in the accompanying SA Report. Most published data sets are only available for the East Northamptonshire District and not for the



Neighbourhood Plan area. Where data has been available for the Neighbourhood Plan Area (Oundle Parish), this has been identified within this appendix.

Appendix 3 provides figures which present the following baseline information:

- Figure 1 Education deprivation
- Figure 2 Flooding
- Figure 3 Health deprivationFigure 4 Housing deprivation
- Figure 5 National Character Areas
- Figure 6 Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- Figure 7 Priority Habitats

2 Baseline Data Table

Table 2 outlines the key baseline data for the Parish along with key baseline issues and the potential future evolution on the baseline conditions without the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 2: Baseline Data		
Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
Economy and Employment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of the 12 months ending 2018 Q2, the overall employment rate of East Northamptonshire was 81.6% of a working age population of approximately 55,000 individuals. This was above the mean average of 77.2% for all local authority districts within the East Midlands¹. East Northamptonshire is a net exporter of employees². 64% of residents leave the East Northamptonshire district for employment¹⁷. The job density of East Northamptonshire was at 0.62 at the time of the East Northamptonshire Economic Growth, Tourism and Regeneration Strategy 2017 – 2020 being developed. This followed a five year increase from a job density of 0.54 in 2010. Despite this increase, the job density in the district remains lower than the nationwide average of 0.80 during the same period. Unemployment stands at 2.2% in Oundle, which is lower than the district (2.9%), regional (3.9%) and national averages (4.2%). The percentage of individuals who are self employed is less than district and national averages, although greater than the regional average. The most common occupation in the District is 'skilled trade occupations' at 19.6%, which is above the national (10.1%) and regional (11.2%) averages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need for increased provision of employment opportunities within the Parish, to reduce the net outflow of employees commuting for work; There is a need to increase the percentage of population who have qualifications; There is a need to increase the percentage of population with NVQ Level 3 or below, or equivalent qualifications; There are disparities in attainment of qualifications, skills and training at LSOA level; An ageing population will reduce the number that are of working age in the Parish which could result in a need for valuable workplace skills; and Attainment of 5 A*-C grades at GCSE is lower than both the national and regional average. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the population continues to age, the proportion that are of working age will decline. High rates of retirement will create significant replacement demand for labour, as well as a need for valuable workplace skills amongst the District and Parish's existing employers.

¹ Nomis, Annual Population Survey: East Northamptonshire [accessed 6/12/18]

² East Northamptonshire Council, East Northamptonshire Economic Growth, Tourism and Regeneration Strategy, 2017 – 2020

Table 2: Baseline Data

Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<p>The second largest occupation is 'Associate Professional & Technical' at 18.9%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of people claiming out of work benefits (7.0%) is lower than that of the East Midlands region (10.7%), as well as the national average (11.0%)³. The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance as a percentage of the working age resident population was 0.5% in East Northamptonshire as of November 2016, which is below the East Midlands average (0.7%) but below the national average (1.1%). In 2017, the average gross weekly pay for residents of ages 16 and above in full time work in East Northamptonshire was £600.80. This figure is above the regional average of £529.90 per week and the national average of £571.10 per week³. The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities⁴. The Parish isn't considered to be deprived with regards to employment, however there is some disparity. Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) 002D (north of the town centre) is considered to be in the top 50% of least deprived neighbourhoods, whilst the other three neighbourhoods in the Parish are in the top 10-20% of least deprived neighbourhoods⁵. 		

³ Nomis 2018 Labour Market Profile <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157157/report.aspx?town=oundle> [Accessed on: 11/12/2018]

⁴ Department of Communities & Local Government, The English Indices of Deprivation 2015: Technical Report, 2015

⁵ English Indices of Deprivation, Domains of Deprivation, 2015

Table 2: Baseline Data		
Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of residents obtaining NVQ4 is above the district and regional average, although lower than the national average. The percentages of individuals obtaining an NVQ1 – NVQ3 in the Parish is lower than that across the district, region and nation. Those with no qualifications within the Parish is a higher percentage than those with no qualifications across the region and Great Britain. 51.6% of pupils achieve 5A*-C grades (including English & Maths) at GCSE in 2017. This lower than both the national (57.8%) and regional average (55.1%)⁶. LSOA 002D is considered to be in the top 40% of most deprived neighbourhoods with regards to education and skills. 		
Landscape and Townscape		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oundle is a medium sized market town on the northern edges of East Northamptonshire. The Parish of Oundle covers approximately 900ha of land including the town Oundle Golf Club and Oundle Wood to the West; Park Wood to the North; bounded by the River Nene.⁷ The town is a <i>'favoured destination for tourists, who appreciate the high quality townscape, particularly the long rows of mellow limestone houses, and the attractive setting next to the River Nene'</i>⁸. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both the Northamptonshire Vales and Rockingham Forest NCAs are facing degradation; There is potential for development to impact on sensitive landscapes; and The town has a unique character which contributes to the distinctiveness of the local area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk of landscape character degradation in parts of the District will continue without planning intervention to guide development to address identified issues and reinforce local character. Larger scale developments could come forward without the plan, which could have a considerable impact on the Parish's unique townscape.

⁶ Public Health England, Public Health Profiles, 2018

⁷ Oundle Neighbourhood Plan 2011 – 2031 Regulation 14 Consultation Draft

⁸ East Northamptonshire Council – Oundle Conservation Area Character Appraisal, 2009

Table 2: Baseline Data			
Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan	the
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oundle is located within both the Northamptonshire Vales and Rockington Forest National Character Areas (NCA). • The Northamptonshire Vales NCA consists of a series of low-lying clay vales and river valleys, including the valleys of the rivers Nene and Welland and their tributaries⁹. • Key issues in the Northamptonshire Vales NCA include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dutch elm disease ▪ Agricultural activities on adjacent areas have caused impoverishment of woodland flora ▪ Habitat fragmentation ▪ Urban development ▪ Neglect of hedgerows ▪ Loss of semi natural habitats ▪ Large-scale mineral extraction • Rockingham Forest National NCA is consists of a broad, low, undulating ridge underlain by Jurassic limestone which falls away from a prominent, steep northern scarp overlooking the Welland Valley.¹⁰ • Key issues in the Rockingham Forest NCA include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neglect of woodland coppices due to a combination of ongoing management costs, lack of a viable market for coppice products and the impacts of the high deer populations ▪ loss of hedgerow trees, has changed the field patterns ▪ Agricultural intensification has led to hedgerow removal and decline 			

⁹ Natural England, NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales, 2014

¹⁰ Natural England, NCA Profile: 92 Rockingham Forest

Table 2: Baseline Data		
Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development pressures ▪ Loss of biologically rich grassland ▪ Neglect of ancient woodlands 		
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oundle is approximately 6km north of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site. This area is characterised by reclaimed gravel pit workings and provides a wetland habitat of international importance for over-wintering birds. • In 2012 the Government established 12 Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), of which the Nene Valley was one. This area extends beyond the boundary of the SPA; it includes parts of Oundle. See Figure 6 in Appendix 3. • There is a component site of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site located over 5km to the south of Oundle. The HRA screening of the Oundle NP has concluded that the plan is unlikely to result in any significant effects on the SPA and Ramsar site. • There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located within the Parish. The nearest SSSI is located at Ashton Wold to the east and Glapthorn Cow Pasture to the North West. • Oundle and Park Woods are both designated as ancient woodland and Local Wildlife Sites of county importance. Snipe Meadow, located on the north-east edge of the town and Biggin Fishpond on the northern edge of Oundle Wood are also recognised as Local Wildlife Sites. • There are six priority habitats in the Parish (see Figure 7 in Appendix 3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh ▪ Deciduous woodland ▪ Lowland calcareous grasslands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to protect the Nene Valley and the Nature Improvement Area, ensuring the NIA objectives are followed; • There is the potential for development to have an effect on the Parish's Local Wildlife Sites; • There is a need to promote Green Infrastructure (GI) corridors and identify and deliver local corridors; • There is a need to consider and plan for the impacts of climate change on species and habitats; and • The Parish has poor access to greenspace and GI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure on biodiversity and geodiversity in the Parish is likely to increase with development required to meet housing and employment targets. • Further housing development could also reduce the Parish's access to greenspace. • Climate change is also likely to exacerbate pressure on habitats and species as habitats become less suitable and species may need to adapt to survive. • Facilitating the movement of species across the Parish and creating a network of natural greenspaces would help improve biodiversity and help species adapt to climate change.

Table 2: Baseline Data		
Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lowland fens ▪ Traditional orchard ▪ No main habitats but additional habitats present • Access to Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends that everyone, no matter where they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace¹¹: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ of at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m from home ▪ at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of home ▪ one accessible 100ha site within 5km of home, and ▪ one accessible 500ha site within 10km of home • Oundle has very little public open space and falls well below Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt)¹² • In order to address this greenspace deficit, Barnwell Country Park plans to expand, increasing the site area to over 20ha, which will cover Oundle¹². 		
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oundle Conservation Area is focused around the town centre, which provides a 'text-book' example of a medieval planned settlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are areas of historic importance in Oundle that should be preserved and enhanced; • There are a large number of Listed buildings in Oundle, which future development could potentially affect; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continual growth in the District and the increasing demand for housing may well mean development could encroach on the Parish's Conservation Areas and could negatively affect heritage assets.

¹¹ Natural England, 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, Peterborough: Natural England, 2010

¹² North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan Draft v2, 2014

Table 2: Baseline Data		
Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high concentration of listed buildings form almost continuous frontages along West Street, New Street, the Market Place and North Street¹³ The town has 175 listed buildings, of which four are Grade I listed, 156 are Grade II listed and 12 are Grade II* listed¹⁴. In addition there are three scheduled monuments. There are a small number of unlisted buildings within the existing conservation area have been identified as being buildings of townscape merit or 'positive' buildings. There are no buildings or monuments listed on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register. There is evidence for pre-historic settlement near Oundle, with occupation sites dating back to the Neolithic and Bronze Ages¹³. A late Bronze Age or possibly early Iron Age ring fort has also recently been identified to the east of Thrapston, to the south of Oundle¹³. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Conservation Areas, heritage assets and artifacts are preserved or enhanced; and New developments should respect the historic context and leave a positive architectural legacy. 	
Air, Noise & Light Pollution		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main source of air pollution in the District is from road traffic emissions from major roads, notably the A5028, A6 and A4515. The Oundle NP Area experiences good air quality. Following DEFRA's review of the East Northamptonshire 2016 ASR, it was suggested that monitoring sites be reviewed and relocated following consistently low measurements across the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no air quality issues in the Plan Area; There is significant reliance on the petrol or diesel-fueled private car as the main mode of transport within the District and emissions may rise with predicted population growth; There is a need to protect the Parish's darker skies; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing good air quality in Oundle is likely to continue without the Oundle NP. It is possible that air quality may become a more prominent issue in the District due the reliance on the private car and predicted increases in traffic. Continued growth across the District will increase the demand for

¹³ East Northamptonshire Council – Oundle Conservation Area Character Appraisal, 2009

¹⁴ Historic England, National Heritage List for England Search, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/thelist/results/?searchType=NHLE+Simple&search=oundle> [Accessed on: 12/12/2018]

¹⁵ East Northamptonshire Council, LAQM Annual Status Report, 2018

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Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Four monitoring sites have consequently been removed, and five new sites introduced. Two non-automatic air quality monitoring stations are present in Oundle, ENC 22 and ENC 23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Noise pollution is the result of high levels of noise or an unpleasant sound that causes temporary disruption. This can be applicable to sounds or noises that are unnatural in either their volume or their production. Poor urban planning can increase exposure to unwanted sounds; however, the EU Environmental Noise Directive (END) aims to manage noise and preserve quiet areas by engaging the public, local authorities and operators. Key Sources of noise pollution in Oundle includes traffic on the A605; • Light pollution is caused by excessive or intrusive artificial light arising from poor or insensitive design. Light pollution can have a detrimental effect on the character and amenity of an area after dark. • The eastern part of the Parish generates high levels of light pollution with levels between 16-32 nano Watts/cm²/sr¹⁶. • Conversely the western part of the Parish generates very little light pollution, with levels between 0.25 – 0.5 nano Watts/cm²/sr¹⁶. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the potential for adverse impacts on wellbeing if inappropriate new development is located near a major source of noise; and • Noise, air and light pollution could be generated through construction works in the Parish, resulting from allocation of development sites. 	<p>housing and could subsequently result in more cars on the road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further population growth and the increasing need for new development is likely to generate additional light pollution and enhanced intensification of lighting levels in certain areas of the Parish. Additional construction work as a result of development may also lead to noise complaints.
Climatic Factors		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2016, per capita CO2 emissions for East Northamptonshire were 5.6 tonnes, which was the same as the county average and above the national average (4.7 tonnes). This is a decrease from 7.9 tonnes per capita in 2005. There has been an overall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per capita emissions are above the national average; • There is reliance on the petrol or diesel-fueled private car as the main mode of transport; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of climate change are expected to be warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. Increased levels of rainfall could lead to increase levels of flooding.

¹⁶ CPRE, England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies

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Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<p>downward trend in per capita carbon emissions for East Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire and the United Kingdom since 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total carbon dioxide emissions in East Northamptonshire during 2016 was 515.0kt, of which transport emissions made up the greatest proportion, followed by domestic and then industry and commercial. The River Nene flows along the eastern edge of the district and is prone to flooding. The Lyveden Brook flows from west to east through the centre of the Parish eventually joining the River Nene at a confluence, south of the Oundle town centre. The brook is also prone to flooding. In addition to fluvial flooding, the parish is prone to surface water, groundwater and sewer flooding. Figure 2 in Appendix 3 shows flood zones in the Parish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to work with communities to help tackle climate change Significant numbers of properties and businesses are at risk of flooding within the Parish New development will need to incorporate sustainable drainage systems to sustainability reduce flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the reliance on the private car as the main mode of transport within the District, increasing private vehicle ownership and the demand for housing, it could be considered likely that greenhouse gas emissions will rise in the future. However, there is the potential for advances in technological solutions and changes in policy to begin to stabilise and reduce emissions over time.
Soils		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil quality has a strong influence on the quality of agricultural land. The Agricultural Land Classification system provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. The majority of land within the Parish comprises of Grade 3 agricultural land (good to moderate), however the District also has pockets of high quality, versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 and 2). The majority of the district is used for arable farming and to a lesser degree dairy and livestock production. Certain parts of North Northamptonshire have a greater risk of ground contamination, arising predominantly from historic industrial processes, mineral extraction, landfill or intensive agricultural processes. Contamination can occur in other locations, including in the countryside (e.g. by inappropriate spreading of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to protect the Parish's high quality agricultural land; and Any previously developed land may be subject to contamination from previous uses, which can pose risk to surface water, human health and the wider environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soils are sensitive to effects of climate change; higher temperatures and repeated cycles of drought will have an effect on the soil's ability to retain/process water and nutrients for plants and habitats. Given Oundle's susceptibility to flooding, soils may become increasingly waterlogged. Both of these have potential to change the chemistry of the soil-water system and, consequently, soil aggregation. Loss of soil aggregation impacts agriculture by decreasing soil quality and crop production.

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<p>materials such as sludges, or as a result of contamination being moved from its original source).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some areas may be affected by the natural or background occurrence or potentially hazardous substances, such as radon, methane or elevated concentrations of metallic elements. 		
Population & Health		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of the 2011 census, the resident population of Oundle Parish stood at 5,735. Of those, 2,862 (49.9%) were male and 2,873 (50.1%) were female. The median age within the Parish was 41, the mean age, 39.717. The population density at this time was 6.4 people per hectare. The population projections for East Northamptonshire predict that the population will increase by 7.7% between mid-2016 and mid-2026. This would equate to a population increase of 7,057 individuals¹⁸. The largest increase in age groups by 2041 will be in the 90+ category, with a rise of 2.11%. The second biggest rise will be in the 85-89 age group with a rise of 1.35%. Conversely, decreases are expected in the majority of younger age groups. The town is characterised by a significant school student population, with Oundle School providing boarding to pupils aged 11 and over. The school has over 1000 pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the population continues to grow so does the demand for housing, infrastructure, facilities and employment; and The population is ageing and adequate support and facilities will be needed to support older residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population of the Parish is predicted to rise over the next 20 years. Current trends indicate that the population is likely to become older, which could put additional strain on the District's resources. The continued growth in population is likely to cause an increase in demand for housing, services and infrastructure. There will also be an ongoing need to provide inclusive services in order to meet the needs of all residents.

¹⁷ Office for National Statistics. 2011 Census, 2011

¹⁸ Office for National Statistics. Population change for local authorities in England between mid-2016 and mid-2026, 2016

Table 2: Baseline Data

Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the 2018 East Northamptonshire Health Profile¹⁹, the health of people in East Northamptonshire is varied compared with the England average. About 11% (1,800) of children live in low income families. However, the health of people in East Northamptonshire is generally similar or better to the England average. • Average life expectancy in East Northamptonshire for both men (79.9) and women (83.6) is slightly above the regional average (79.4 years for males and 83.0 for females), as well as the average for England (79.5 years for males and 83.1 for females). • Approximately 86% of the population of Oundle Parish reported Good or Very Good Health at the time of the 2011 census. • 8.3% of the population of Oundle Parish reported Bad or Very Bad health at this time. • On the whole Oundle is not considered deprived in regards to health deprivation and disability domain. However, LSOA 002D (north of the town centre) is in the top 40% of deprived neighbourhoods in England, with regards to health. • According to the 2011 Census, 91% of the population considered themselves to be White British, 3.9% consider themselves to be White Other and 1.2% considered themselves to be British Chinese. The remaining population come from various ethnic backgrounds¹⁷. 		

¹⁹ Public Health England, available at <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/9/gid/1938132696/pat/6/par/E12000004/ati/101/are/E07000152> [accessed 05/12/18]

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Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population density is 130 people per km. This is far lower than the national average of 427¹⁷. There are 2383 households in the Parish, of which 19% are Married or same-sex civil partnership couples with dependent children, 15% are aged 65+ and 8% are lone parent households. Crime is relatively low with 303 crimes reported last year. The top three reported crimes last year were anti-social behaviour (28%), violent and sexual offences (24%) and arson (14%)²⁰. The parish is not considered to be deprived in relation to crime and safety. 		
Housing & Community Facilities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the whole, the Parish is not deprived with regards to barriers to housing, however, more rural parts of the Parish are considered slightly more so. The average house price in the area is £336,497, which is above the UK average of £232,554²¹. As of the end of March 2018, the median house price in East Northamptonshire was £215,000, whereas for the East Midlands region, this was £180,000²². 100% of residents within the Parish live in unshared dwellings, 95.2% of which have at least one usual resident. The largest percentage of dwelling type within the Parish is whole houses or bungalows which are detached. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of affordable housing in the Parish; There is a need to protect community facilities and ensure people can access them; There is a need to ensure that recreational and sports facilities are accessible to all within the Parish; There is a need to address the housing needs of older people and small households, especially in rural communities; and The Parish primary school is reaching full capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in the area is likely to boost house prices, which could increase the demand for affordable homes. The ageing population structure will require additional suitable housing needs. There will be greater demand for smaller homes to support the ageing population, but there is need for the Council to maintain a stock of family homes. An increase in population could put increasing pressure on the Parish's facilities, in particular exacerbating the current lack of school places. Without further intervention, residents

²⁰ UK Crime Stats, 2018 <https://www.ukcrimestats.com/Subdivisions/PRW/7260/> [Accessed on: 14/12/2018]

²¹ HM Land Registry, UK House Price Index, 2018

²² Office for National Statistics, Median house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 9, 2018

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Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67% of the Parish population own their homes, 37.5% of whom own their homes outright, whilst the remaining 29.5% own their homes with a mortgage or loan. Oundle is 'one of the main centres within East Northamptonshire; it acts as a rural service centre for a number of smaller villages in the surrounding area which have limited services and rely on the town for shopping and education'²³. The Parish has a Primary school (Oundle CofE Primary School), pre-school (Oundle Community Pre-School), a secondary school (Prince William School) and an independent school (Oundle School) and prep school (Luxton Junior School). Prince William Secondary School is currently running at 83% capacity, whilst Oundle Primary school is running at 96% capacity²⁴. The town has two supermarkets (Co-op and Waitrose), a number of banks and smaller retailers, as well as a variety of pubs, cafes and restaurants. The town provides a number of sports pitches and facilities, however, in response to the Oundle 2020 Vision questionnaire²⁵, 25% of respondents stated that there is a need for better access to sports facilities. 43% of respondents stated that public access to a leisure centre and swimming pool was ranked highest on their list of facilities. 		<p>in the Parish may have to travel further to access education.</p>

²³ Oundle Town Council, Oundle Town Design Statement, 2018

²⁴ Department for Education, Get information about schools, 2018, <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/?SelectedTab=Establishments&SearchType=Location> [Accessed on: 13/12/2018]

²⁵ Oundle 2020 Survey, 2014

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Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oundle School provides a number of sports facilities for town and supports a number of the Parish's sports clubs. • The Parish has two GP practices and two dental surgeries (one NHS and one private). • The nearest hospitals are at Corby, Peterborough and Kettering, with only Peterborough and Kettering offering A&E services. 		
Economy & Employment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the north-east of East Northamptonshire, the urban areas of Rushden, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby are closely interlinked along a north-south corridor. Smaller market towns in East Northamptonshire, such as Oundle, also play an important role in supporting the rural economy²⁶. • The eastern half of the county is also a key corridor with the Midland Main Line railway running north-south, and the A14 running east-west offering good links to the Haven Seaports. Excellent road and rail connections, coupled with the County's central location have laid the foundations for a strong distribution sector, largely roads-based, but with large rail-served freight distribution sites at Eurohub near Corby and the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal. • The east and west of the county are linked via the A45 and the A43 corridors, which also connect the A14 to the M40. In anticipation of increased population and employment opportunity growth within the county, emphasis is likely to be focused on existing towns in the Arc Northamptonshire area. This encompasses the larger towns of Northampton, Daventry and Towcester in the west and south; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is significant out-commuting of workers; • Accessibility and sustainable transport links need to be improved to and from the Parish; • There is a high reliance upon private cars; • There are high levels of congestion particularly at peak times; • There is a need to improve the future viability of rail and bus services; and • Continual growth in car ownership may contribute to air pollution, and associated impacts on climate, human health and biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite planned improvements to the network, the effect of growth will principally increase traffic within the county. Anticipated greater car ownership may lead to increased road congestion, parking problems, car dependency, and environmental impacts such as air pollution, noise pollution and carbon emissions. This has the potential to restrict economic growth and prosperity. • Accessibility and sustainable transport links need to be improved within the rural areas of the District. As stipulated within the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan, contributions from developers will likely be sought in order to improve public transport infrastructure, which may include improved services.

²⁶ Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Transportation Plan: Fit for Purpose, 2012

Table 2: Baseline Data		
Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Kettering and Corby in the north; and Wellingborough, Rushden, Oundle and Thrapston in the east.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Northamptonshire Arc has identified connectivity issues as well as infrastructure deficit, which, if not solved through the implementation of various initiatives, may prevent the county from achieving sustainable growth. According to the 2011 Census data, 14.3% of residents in Oundle had no cars or vans in their household, which is significantly lower than the national average of 25.8%. 45.2% of Oundle residents had one car or van in their household which is higher than the national average of 42.2%, and 32% had two cars or vans in their household which is higher than the national average of 24.7%. Oundle has several bus stops located within the Parish, located at several places along the A427 including West Street, Market Place and North Street. These stops are served by bus routes 203, 206 and X4, connecting the Parish with Northampton, Peterborough (X4), Irchester and Burton Latimer (203 and 206 - restricted to certain days). The X4 service operates half hourly. 		
Water		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Northamptonshire District is located within an identified area of water stress. Water supply is derived from the Rivers Nene and Welland. This is pumped into a storage reservoir at Rutland Water for treatment before distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing water demands in an area of low rainfall and an area of water stress³¹; Opportunity to improve water quality in areas that are not currently meeting good ecological status; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that over the next 25 years (as of 2017), water use will decrease by 19% per person. This will likely be due to improvements in technology, water metering and better education around water consumption.

³¹ East Northamptonshire Council, Local Plan Part 2 (site specific policies): Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, 2017

Table 2: Baseline Data

Characteristics of the Area	Baseline Issues	Likely Evolution without the Neighbourhood Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply, used water treatment and sewerage network are all provided by Anglian Water. Oundle has several underlying aquifers, including Principal, Secondary A and Secondary B bedrock aquifers. The east/southeast of the town also includes a Secondary A superficial drift aquifer²⁷. The vast majority of these aquifers are minor aquifers with intermediate – high vulnerability²⁸. These aquifers are capable of supporting water supplies at a local scale and of supporting surface water features. Due to its underlying aquifers, Oundle is partially within a Drinking Water Protected Area. The entire plan area is within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone²⁹. Development can have a significant impact on water resources, from putting additional strain on existing supplies, to affecting flood patterns by changing both the way that water flows across and percolates into land³⁰. It should be ensured that North Northamptonshire's water environment is protected, that there is sufficient water and wastewater infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development should be avoided if it would lead to deterioration of, or compromise the ability of, a water body or underlying groundwater to meet good status standards in the Anglian River Basin Management Plan; North Northamptonshire's aquifers are vulnerable to contaminants. There is the potential for point source pollution to arise as a result of development³². This may be particularly pertinent when considering the redevelopment of contaminated land. Development has the potential to adversely affect the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) or overall water quality within the catchment; and Whilst there is a presumption against the use of non-mains foul drainage, it may occur where proven that it is not reasonable to use mains drainage, taking into account cost, practicality and sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water usage forecast for the area suggests that water availability will be in place for the next 25 year forecast period (as of 2017). Increased levels of development within the Parish could lead to deterioration in biological water quality unless carefully managed.

²⁷ Environment Agency, Aquifers Webpage (redirected from WIYBY) [accessed 26/02/19]

²⁸ Environment Agency, Groundwater Vulnerability Zones [accessed 26/02/19]

²⁹ Environment Agency, Drinking Water Protected Areas [accessed 12/12/18]

³⁰ North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011 – 2031, adopted 2016

³² Environment Agency, Guidance: Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution, March 2017