

**Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating Strategic
Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)
Scoping Report**

King's Somborne Neighbourhood Development Plan

NOVEMBER 2018

**Report prepared by the South Downs National Park
Authority on behalf of King's Somborne Parish Council**

I. Introduction

Background

- I.1** King's Somborne Parish Council is preparing a neighbourhood plan for the parish of King's Somborne. To support this work a **sustainability appraisal, incorporating strategic environmental assessment (SA/SEA)** is being prepared.
- I.2** This is the SA/SEA Scoping Report which forms the first stage of the assessment.

About SA/SEA

- I.3** King's Somborne Parish Council as the qualifying body preparing the Neighbourhood is required to ensure that sustainable development is promoted throughout a plan's preparation. To assist in this process the Parish have commissioned a report assessing the sustainability of the plan it is preparing. This is done through the process of undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The aim of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development by assessing how well or otherwise a plan will help achieve environmental, economic and social objectives. A Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA is an assessment required when preparing a plan to ensure that a high level of protection is given to the environment. These should be undertaken in a proportionate manner depended on the scope of the plan and the likely levels of development proposed.
- I.4** The aim of the process is to make a plan more sustainable and more responsive to its effects by identifying its likely significant environmental, social and economic impacts and ways of minimising its negative impacts. To be effective, the appraisal process must be fully integrated into the plan making process and applied at each stage of document production. It will also be used to monitor the effectiveness of the plan during its implementation. SA/SEA is also undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2001 (the SEA Regulations)
- I.5** To undertake the SA/SEA process the following five stages should be completed:
- Stage A - Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope;
 - Stage B - Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects;
 - Stage C – Preparing the sustainability appraisal report;
 - Stage D – Seeking representations on the sustainability appraisal report; and
 - Stage E – Post adoption reporting and monitoring.
- I.6** The guidance for undertaking a SA/SEA is contained in the Planning Practice Guidance (ID 11-030), which emphasises that it must “only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of the neighbourhood plan” and on the “environmental impacts that are likely to be significant”. It states that this “does not need to be done in any detail, or using more resources, that is considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the neighbourhood plan”.
- I.7** This Scoping Report forms the first stage, Stage A, and is split into 5 areas of work. The aim is to bring together the evidence base early in the plan-making process in order to identify significant problems, act as a base for future assessment, monitor the effects and inform the identification of reasonable alternatives to what is being proposed.

A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives;
A2: Collecting baseline information;
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems;
A4: Developing the SA framework which will be used to test policy and allocation options in the plan;
A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

- I.8** It is normal to combine the processes of SEA and SA, as they share a number of similarities. Whilst there are formalised approaches for both SA and SEA, only through the SEA is there a legal obligation to perform certain activities.

Compliance with the SEA Directive

Where this report addresses the requirements of the SEA Directive, for clarity this will be set out in a box like this.

The King's Somborne Neighbourhood Plan (KSNDP)

Compliance with the SEA Directive

Outline the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship to other plans (Annex I (a) of the Directive)

- I.9** The neighbourhood area is shown in Figure I and covers the entire Parish. The Parish is comprised of six settlements, the largest being King's Somborne together with the three smaller linear settlements strung out along single roads of Up Somborne, Horsebridge and Brook and the three small hamlets of Compton, Furzedown and Marsh Court.

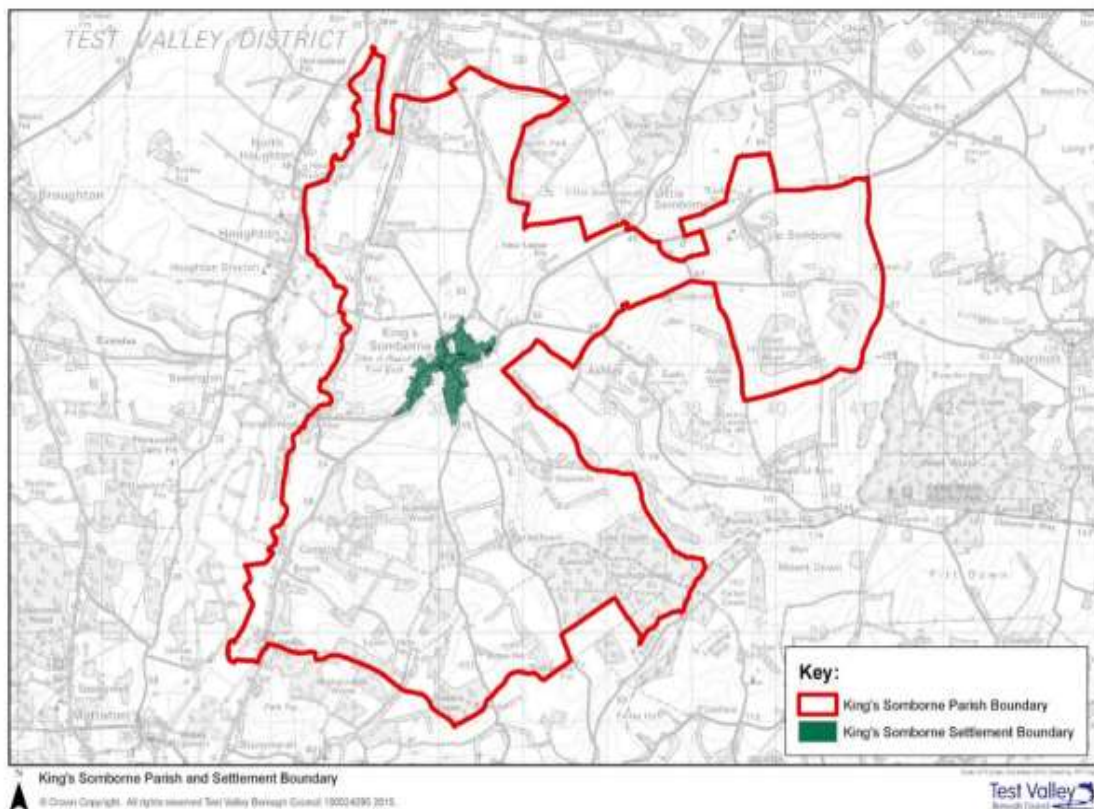


Figure I: King's Somborne Parish Boundary

- I.10** The village of King's Somborne and its significant features are shown in Figure 2. The village is a predominately linear settlement sitting at the bottom of a minor V-shaped valley. It sits alongside the ephemeral winterbourne stream (the Somborne) which is one of the tributaries of the River Test. The village lies within a wider landscape of open chalk downland that has a gently rolling, undulating landform. This landscape comprises predominantly expansive and open, large arable fields with very few intervening hedgerows or trees. In contrast, a small number of woodlands, shrubs and trees are located in the valley bottom adjacent to the village providing shelter and a sense of enclosure.

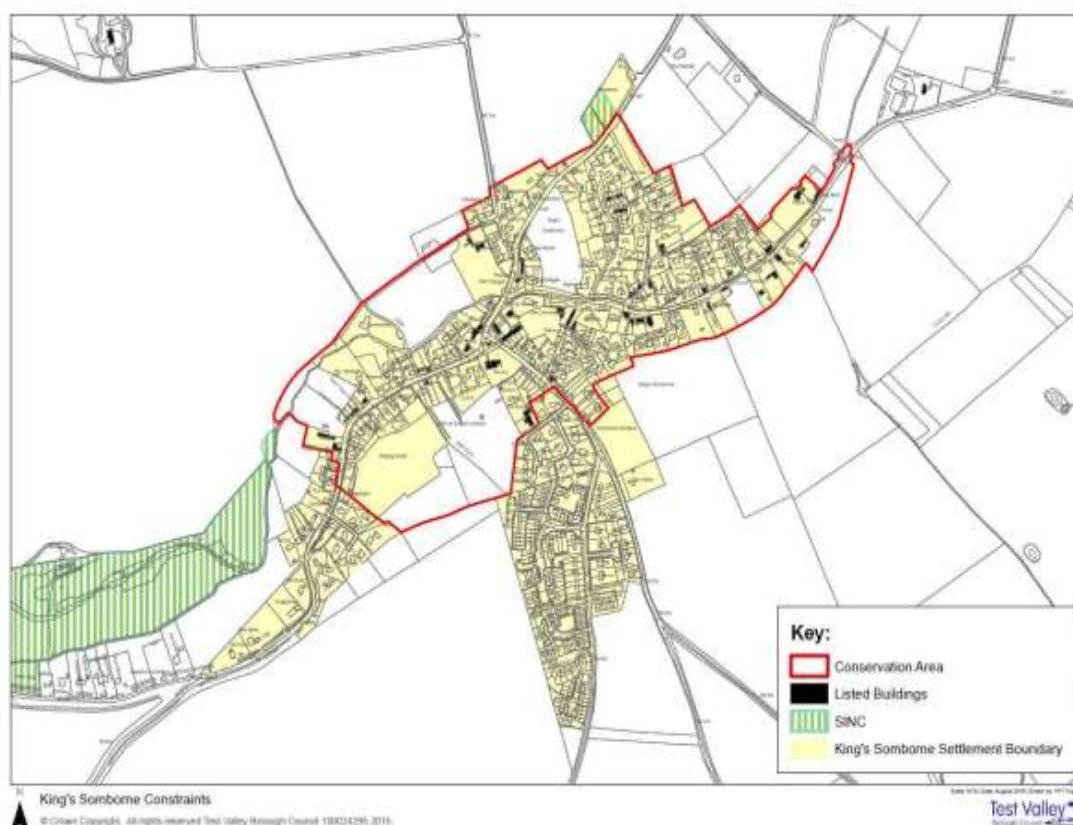


Figure 2: Key features of King's Somborne village

I.11 In summary, the principal features of the Parish are:

- The King's Somborne Conservation Area (Figure 2).
- The 148 predominately Grade II listed buildings of the Parish of which 60 fall within the village of King's Somborne concentrated within the Conservation area including the medieval church of St Peter and St Paul.
- Flood Zones 2 & 3 associated with the Somborne which is one of the tributaries of the River Test joining it at Horsebridge.
- Sites of importance to Nature and Conservation (SINC) close to King's Somborne and throughout the Parish.
- Proximity of Mottisford SAC, important for Barbestelle bats.
- River Test SSSI, of which the Somborne is a tributary.
- Historic linear valley bottom settlement character of King's Somborne is still clearly recognisable.
- Trees typical at the break in slope between valley bottom and sides.
- Rural ridgeway tracks and narrow drove roads. Secondary routes run perpendicular to the main road.
- Views towards ridgelines.
- The agricultural setting of King's Somborne is tangible from within the village.

Summary of the NDP proposal

I.12 The NDP has been developed through a programme of community consultation, public steering group meetings with Q&A sessions, attendances at various public events and

workshops building on an original NDP survey. A consultation was held on a first draft of the plan in May / June 2018.

- I.13 The Community vision set out with the plan focusses on ensuring that King's Somborne Parish retains its cherished rural identity whilst striving to be a sustainable and forward-looking community which is an attractive place to live, work and visit; supporting people of all ages.
- I.14 The King's Somborne Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to national policy and guidance (i.e. the NPPF) and be in general conformity with the current adopted Development Plan, which in this case is the Test Valley Revised Local Plan 2011 – 2029 adopted in January 2016. The policies of the NDP will be centred round the preservation of landscape features, views, settlement form, open space, biodiversity and historic buildings whilst identifying sites to deliver around 33 – 42 new homes. Due to the constraints of the current settlement boundary of the village, the NPD will have to include site allocations for new development outside of the boundary. The plan will also include design policies linked to the King's Somborne Design Guidance as well as policies on community assets / facilities and infrastructure provision.

2. Stage A1: Sustainability and policy context

Compliance with the SEA Directive

The environmental protection objectives established at international, [European] Community or [national] level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation (Annex I (e) of the SEA Directive)

- 2.1** A plan will be influenced in various ways by other plans, policies or programmes and by external objectives such as those laid down in national policies or legislation. The King's Somborne NDP is being prepared in the context of the Test Valley Revised Local Plan 2011-2029. The Test Valley Local Plan is the overarching policy document for the Borough and sets out the strategy, development management policies and some site allocations over the period until 2029.
- 2.2** Table 2.2.1 below illustrates some of the key and most influential plans, programmes or policies (PPPs) likely to influence the approach taken in the Kings Somborne NDP. This list does not repeat many of the higher level regional / national or international plans that have already been considered through the preparation and appraisal of the Test Valley Revised Local Plan and the recently prepared Test Valley Scoping Report 2017.

Table 2.2.1: Most influential Plans, Programmes and Policies

Plan	Key issues / messages
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied and provides the framework within which locally-prepared plans can be produced. The NPPF sets out a framework for planning to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and includes the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A presumption in favour of sustainable development - Delivering a sufficient supply of homes - Building a strong and competitive economy - Promoting healthy and safe communities - Achieving well designed places - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change - Conserving and enhancing the nature environment - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
DEFRA 25 Year Environment Plan	A plan to improve the UK's air and water quality and protect threatened plants, trees and wildlife species. It establishes an extensive set of targets and objectives.
Test Valley Revised Local Plan 2011-2029	<p>The following are the social, economic and environmental objectives of the for the Borough:</p> <p><u>Local Communities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Providing for the future housing needs, types and tenures within the Borough. 2) Promote appropriate scale of development in settlements in keeping with their size, character and function.

	<p>3) Create sustainable communities, locating development where daily needs for employment, shopping, leisure, recreation, education, health and other community facilities are accessible by sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p><u>Local Economy</u></p> <p>4) Providing a range of job opportunities.</p> <p>5) Supporting Andover and Romsey town centres and Stockbridge local centre to enable them to remain successful destinations.</p> <p><u>Environment</u></p> <p>6) Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment, conserve and enhance the local character, identity and cultural heritage.</p> <p>7) Ensure development takes full account of climate change including implementing water efficiency measures.</p> <p>8) Protect high standards of water and air quality.</p> <p>9) Conserve and enhance the countryside and landscape and improve access to it.</p> <p>10) Conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Leisure, Health and Wellbeing</u></p> <p>11) Provide for leisure, recreation, culture and tourism needs.</p> <p>12) Creating opportunities for improving the health and wellbeing of communities.</p> <p><u>Transport</u></p> <p>13) Encourage use of public transport, cycling and walking networks to help reduce reliance on cars and provide choice.</p> <p><u>Community Safety</u></p> <p>14) Create high quality, low crime environments and spaces.</p> <p><u>Education and Learning</u></p> <p>15) Raise skill levels and reduce economic disparities across the Borough.</p>
Sustainability Appraisal of the Test Valley Revised Local Plan 2011-2029 and Test valley Scoping Report 2017	The Sustainability Appraisal for the Test Valley Revised Local Plan provides a sustainability framework and assesses the proposals of the Test Valley Local Plan against this framework. This Framework has recently been updated through the publication of the Test Valley Scoping Report 2017 and will form the basis of the Framework used for the SA/SEA of the Kings Somborne NDP.
Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Test Valley Revised Local Plan 2011-2029	The objective of the assessment is to identify any aspects of the Local Plan that would cause an adverse effect on the integrity of Natural 2000 sites, otherwise known as European sites (Special Areas of Conservation / Special Protection Areas) and Ramsar sites, either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects; and, to advise on appropriate policy mechanisms for delivering mitigation where such effects are identified. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening states that a HRA should be conducted in light of the plan area being within 2.5km of the

	Mottisfont SAC to assess the effect on the loss of bat foraging habitats.
The Hampshire Local Transport Plan Part A Long Term Strategy 2011-2031	The Hampshire Local Transport Plan Part A Long Term Strategy 2011-31 (LTP3) sets the strategy for making progress on the County Council Corporate Priorities of developing and supporting stronger safer communities, maximising wellbeing and enhancing quality of place.
Test Valley Biodiversity Action Plan 2008	The Test Valley BAP provides a framework for the maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity of the Borough. It was prepared in conjunction with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.
King's Somborne Parish Plan Updates 2011	The King's Somborne Parish Plan sets out what is important to the local community of King's Somborne Parish. It was published in 2005 and updated in 2011, and covers a wide range of issues including social, economic and environmental issues.

3. Stage A2 - Collecting baseline information and Stage A3 - Identifying sustainability issues and problems

Compliance with the SEA Directive

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan. (Annex I (b))

The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. (Annex I (C))

Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated as SPAs and SACs. (Annex I (d))

The environmental characteristics that the report must assess the likely significant effects on include biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscapes and the interrelationship between the above factors. The baseline information in this chapter therefore includes what is known about all these factors in respect of King's Somborne.

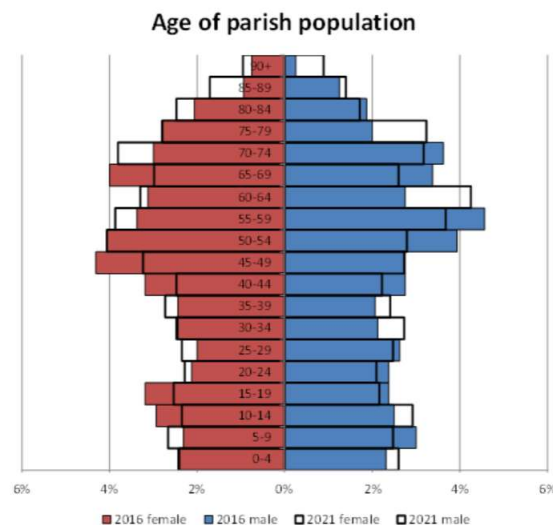
- 3.1 It is important to identify the current state of the environment in order to judge the impact and effectiveness of the plan during implementation. This is achieved by collecting baseline data that will provide a starting point for predicting and monitoring social, economic and environmental effects and identifying sustainability issues within the area. It focuses on the key issues that the plan may have a significant effect on.
- 3.2 The SEA Directive also requires consideration of the likely evolution of the area without the implementation of the plan or programme. It is important to note that this situation would not result in a policy vacuum as the Parish is already covered by a significant number of designations and planning policies, such as those contained in the Test Valley Local Plan, that must be met before permission is granted for a development.
- 3.3 The collection of baseline information is grouped by topic and is closely linked to that collected and included in the **Test Valley Scoping Report (2017), published by Test Valley Borough Council** to be used in the preparation of planning policy documents in the Borough. This baseline information is followed by the establishment of a range of sustainability objectives against which the policy options within the Neighbourhood Plan will be tested. These are generally a simplified or more focused version of the objectives in the Test Valley Scoping Report.

Social Sustainability

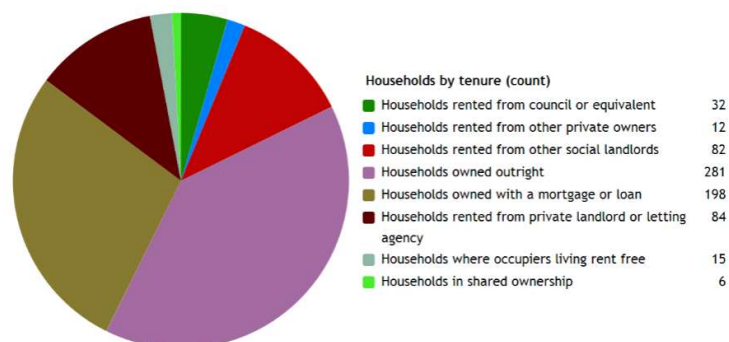
3.4 Population and community

Current baseline

- 3.4.1** The estimated 2016 population of Kings Somborne parish is 1,600. This is expected to fall slightly by 2021 to 1,576 (a fall of 1.5%). Young people (0-19) currently make up 21.1% of Kings Somborne's population; this is expected to fall to 20.2% by 2021. With the exception of young people, the proportion of all other age groups is expected to rise slightly or remain about the same. The population is over 98% white.



- 3.4.2** King's Somborne has 710 households split by tenure as shown below.



- 3.4.3** There are very slightly more privately rented and socially rented properties in the Parish than the Test Valley average. Almost 42% of properties are occupied by 2 people, followed by approximately 22% being occupied by 1 person. In April 2017, 31 households were on the housing register seeking properties in the Parish. Test Valley Borough Council give priority for vacancies to households with a relevant local connection.
- 3.4.4** According to Zoopla, the average house price in Kings Somborne (as of October 2018) was £612,861 (albeit this is based on a small number of sales). This has increased by about 30% in the last five years. In 2016 it was estimated that 39.4% of households in central rural Test Valley cannot afford to buy a private property. The King's Somborne Housing Needs Survey

Final Report January 2017 Completed by Action Hampshire (see Annex 2.7) concludes the following: *“The majority of survey respondents seek owner occupied accommodation with many wanting to downsize to a smaller property. The survey has identified a high demand for detached homes and bungalows from survey respondents. A demand for retirement housing has also been identified. The majority of survey respondents seek alternative accommodation with two or three bedrooms.”* The current two-bedroom housing stock represents approximately twelve percent of the total.

3.4.5 34.0% of Kings Somborne's residents have achieved level 4 qualifications and above compared to 30.5% in Test Valley as a whole. 13.9% of Kings Somborne's residents have no qualifications, compared to 18.4% in the Borough.

3.4.6 The parish has a range of services centred on King's Somborne. This includes:

- King's Somborne C of E Primary School which has an annual admissions number of 20 pupils and has 4 classes
- 3 public / village halls, including King's Somborne Village Hall which can hold up to 200 people and the Somborne Working-mens club.
- St Peter & St Paul's Church
- Two public houses with one in the centre of King's Somborne and the other in neighbouring Horsebridge
- Small number of shops including Cross Stores and Post Office

3.4.7 Outdoor sports facilities are available with a football pitch, cricket pitch, MUGA and playground located in the centre of Kings Somborne, a trim trail located in the area adjacent to John O'Gaunt palace and a further recreation ground on Muss Lane. There is also a fully equipped playground and recreation area in Up Somborne. The Parish has a strong sense of community with many activities and events taking place throughout the year and plans are progressing to build pre-school facilities in the village.

3.4.8 King's Somborne lies within one of the least deprived parts of the Borough but the physical and financial accessibility of housing and key local services is a key issue (Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015).

3.4.9 The key sustainability issues are therefore the potential for slight population loss, particularly in the younger age group coupled with an aging population. This is compounded by high house process and limited availability of property particularly at the less expensive and smaller end of the market. The King's Somborne NDP through the allocation of sites for housing can deliver a small increase in the mix and type of housing available focussed on smaller homes, particularly 2 bedroom homes. There is also a need for ongoing support to retain and even increase local services and facilities.

3.4.10 Without the Neighbourhood Plan the material assets of the Parish in the form of housing and community facilities will remain and are protected by existing policies however, there may be a slight increase as a result of the NDP. There are strong links between the population and community theme and the health and wellbeing theme within this assessment.

Main Data Sources

- King's Somborne Parish Profile 2016
- Parish Council website
- Test Valley Scoping Report (2017)

Proposed SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

Objective 1: Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home (Based on Test Valley Objective 11)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it support the delivery of an appropriate level of accommodation relative to identified needs? b) Will it support the delivery of affordable homes to help meet identified needs? c) Will it provide an appropriate mix of homes to meet local needs?	a) Will it help to deliver affordable homes for the Parish? b) Will it provide smaller homes to meet local needs?	Population Material Assets

Objective 2: Maintain and improve access to key services and facilities (Based on Test Valley Objective 3)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it retain / sustain / support existing facilities and services (including community, leisure / recreation and cultural facilities, services and assets? b) Will it provide new facilities, services and infrastructure to meet arising needs and will such provisions be located close to those they serve?	a) Will it support existing facilities and services in the village? b) Will it provide new facilities / services to meet existing or growing needs in locations close to those they serve? c) Will it provide housing in locations with easy access to local services and facilities in the village?	Population Material Assets

3.5 Health and wellbeing (including leisure and culture)

Current baseline

- 3.5.1** The Test Valley Sustainability Appraisal (2017) reports that generally the health of residents in the Borough is good and in some regards is better than the average for England; however, there are variations within the Borough associated with deprivation levels. Life expectancy (at birth) for residents of Test Valley is 81.2 years for males and 84.3 years for females, which is above the average for England. The only indicator reported within the health summary for Test Valley where the local position is significantly worse than the England average relates to those killed and seriously injured on roads.
- 3.5.2** People are living longer, but with this comes additional pressures on health and social care resources and infrastructure. There are also growing numbers of people with dementia. Changes in the age structure of the area may have implications on the types of healthcare and associated infrastructure that would be required.
- 3.5.3** The Parish contains a number of local leisure facilities:
- Sports Grounds / Formal Recreation -1.7ha (consisting of the King's Somborne Recreation Ground)

- Informal Recreation areas – 2.3ha (King’s Somborne Recreation Ground, Muss Lane, Hunters Close and the Recreation Ground, Up Somborne)
- Childrens play space – 0.12ha
- Furzedown Road Allotments – 0.96ha

3.5.4 In addition, there are allotments centrally located on Furzedown Road which help bring the community together. The Public Open Space Audit (2012) identified that the provision of children’s play space in the Parish was low. In the wider area there are larger attractions such as Mottisfont Abbey, Houghton Lodge Gardens and Farley Mount Country Park. Nearby, Romsey and Winchester contain a far greater range of leisure and cultural facilities including leisure centres, theatres and museums. It is important to ensure continuing availability of facilities to support communities and new residential development which may increase pressure on existing resources. One of the strengths of the Parish is the active community and access to a wide variety of clubs, facilities and events.

3.5.5 Green infrastructure can include a variety of types of space, many of which can provide multiple benefits, including links to biodiversity, access to green space (with potential health benefits) and in some cases supporting the local economy. A Green Infrastructure Strategy (2014 – 2019) has been prepared for Test Valley. Within it the following initiatives are identified for the rural Test Valley area:

- Retaining the settlement character and pattern e.g. through supporting Neighbourhood Plans.
- Maintaining and creating green corridors through identifying opportunities to link existing areas of ecological importance.
- Maintaining and creating green spaces through support community led initiatives to enhance existing green spaces and create new green spaces.
- Improving access to natural greenspace through identifying opportunities to improve the links from villages to the adjoining countryside through the Test Valley Access Plan and Borough Cycle Strategy.

3.5.6 In conclusion the health of residents is generally good, but an ageing population will bring with it increasing demands for health and social care. In rural locations social isolation can become an issue due to the high car dependency of residents. These trends in health and wellbeing will continue with or without the Neighbourhood Plan but the plan can add value by identifying and protecting specific areas of open space, creating further green infrastructure and linking areas of ecological character.

3.5.7 Health and wellbeing is linked to many other topics within the assessment e.g. population, air quality, access to sustainable modes of transport, facilities and services section.

Main Data Sources

- Hampshire’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment / Joint health & Wellbeing Strategy.
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015
- Test Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy (2014 – 2019)
- Test Valley Scoping Report (2017)
- Public Open Space Audit (2012)

Objective 3: Seek to maintain and improve health and wellbeing of the population. (Based on Test Valley Objective 12)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it encourage opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices? b) Will it provide appropriate health and care infrastructure?	a) Will it provide or enhance access to the countryside and areas of open space? b) Will it provide opportunities for improved health and wellbeing of the Parish?	Population Human Health

Economic Sustainability

3.6 Employment and retail

Current baseline

- 3.6.1** The percentage of economically active residents in King's Somborne is 71.1%, which is similar to Test Valley.
- 3.6.2** Looking at future projections, the Test Valley Scoping Report estimates that between 2015 and 2035 the number of people employed in Test Valley will increase by over 6,000, representing about an 11% increase (which is broadly comparable to the rise expected for England and Wales but below that for Hampshire). It is anticipated that this will be accompanied by more people working until an older age and more in-commuting into the Borough to fill jobs as the size of the working age population stabilises.
- 3.6.3** The availability of appropriate infrastructure will continue to be important in supporting the local economy, this includes transport, utilities and broadband. In relation to the latter, Hampshire County Council is rolling out a Hampshire Superfast Broadband Programme.
- 3.6.4** King' Somborne, the largest settlement in the parish is identified as a rural village in the Test Valley Revised Local Plan 2011- 2029 Settlement Hierarchy. Rural villages are recognised as having a limited range of facilities and employment opportunities; experience the highest proportion of out-commuting in the Borough; and, have the highest proportion of highly qualified people. Residents of King's Somborne Parish will tend to travel to large towns in the borough (such as Andover, Romsey and Stockbridge) or to the cities outside the Borough (Salisbury, Winchester and Southampton) for employment. The proximity of Winchester is also key for those commuting to London. The decline in rural facilities and local employment has been taking place for some time with changes in lifestyles and availability of services via the internet having a significant impact. In recent years, King's Somborne has seen the closure of a basket shop. The village garage and general building and construction contractor have also both closed, the sites sold off and the businesses replaced with housing. This has reduced employment within the Parish.
- 3.6.5** The key sustainability issues are therefore the limited employment in the parish which combined with limited access to public transport means there is a reliance on the car with most journeys to work via this mode. There is therefore a need to support people who are working at home who in turn might also make greater use of local services and facilities during the day. The trend towards working from home is likely to increase and small businesses operating from home will provide local very small-scale employment. The NDP may have a role to play in supporting this and promoting continued advancements in Information

Technology infrastructure within the Parish. There will be an ongoing need to support the remaining services in the village through a range of community measures as well as use of planning powers to protect the premises and their use.

Main Data Sources

- King's Somborne Parish Profile 2016
- Parish Council website
- Test Valley Scoping Report (2017)

SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

Objective 4: Ensure the local economy is maintained and advances in the use of new technology are supported (Based on Test Valley Objective 2)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it support the Borough's economy? b) Will it help maintain rates of employment? c) Will it support job creation, including more high skilled jobs? d) Will appropriate infrastructure be provided (including broadband)? e) Will it provide appropriate access to education, skills and training (encouraging lifelong learning)?	a) Will it support the Parish's economy e.g. existing shops / businesses? b) Will it support job creation? c) Will appropriate infrastructure be provided to support business (particularly information technology)?	Population

3.7 Transport

Current Baseline

- 3.7.1** The Test Valley Local Plan reports that the rural nature and the relative wealth of most of the Borough is reflected in high car ownership rates. The 2011 Census identified that the percentage of households without a car was 13.5%. This high ownership rate is reflected in the high use of cars for travelling to work and low number of residents using public transport. Accessibility to services in the area is quite poor with households located further away from key facilities than both the rural county and regional averages.
- 3.7.2** Based on the 2011 Census, the top five destinations for out-commuting from Test Valley were Southampton, Winchester, Eastleigh, Wiltshire and Basingstoke and Deane. It is also understood that many people in the village and parish commute to London from Winchester Station.
- 3.7.3** The availability of public transport to and from King's Somborne has reduced significantly over recent years. A limited bus service is provided only on school days by Stagecoach to Winchester and Salisbury. Wheelers operates between Stockbridge and Winchester on weekdays and a service Saturdays until lunch time. Returns from Winchester are not viable from four thirty in the afternoon. There is no longer a bus service to Andover or Romsey, necessitating travelling by car or taxi to link with rail services if travelling further afield
- 3.7.4** The Test Valley Cycle Strategy and Network SPD describes a section of the Test Way as providing a good off-road route north to south through rural areas of Test Valley and has recently been designated as part of NCN 246. Where possible the Borough Council will seek

to improve this and links to it, and to NCN 24 which crosses east to west. This will enable more residents within the rural villages safe access to the cycle routes and at the same time will allow cyclists access to the services and facilities in the rural settlements such as Kings Somborne.

3.7.5 Two significant long-distance footpaths pass through the parish: the Monarch's Way and the Clarendon Way. The parish also has a network of local public rights of way.

3.7.6 In conclusion the key sustainability issue is an over reliance on non-sustainable forms of transport and limited public transport. The dual aims of increasing accessibility to services and facilities (thereby reducing the need to travel) and supporting more sustainable modes of travel is shared by a number of plans and policies already covering the King's Somborne area. The NDP will not have a significant role to play in increasing levels of public transport but has a role to play in protecting and improving the services and facilities already within the Parish thereby reducing the need to travel. In addition, the NDP can look to support or improve footpath links.

Main Data Sources

- On-line public transport information.
- Test Valley Cycle Strategy and Network SPD (2015)
- Test Valley Scoping Report (2017)

SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

Objective 5: Reduce the need to travel and increase the proportion of travel by sustainable modes. (Based on Test Valley Objective 3)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
c) Will it make it easier / quicker to access key services and facilities (ideally via sustainable modes of travel)? d) Will it support the retention / enhancement of sustainable modes of travel and maximise opportunities to use these modes? e) Will it integrate with existing transport networks?	Will it enable convenient and safe access to foot and cycle paths? Will it reduce the need to travel?	Population Climatic Factors Air Human Health

Environmental Sustainability

3.8 Air quality

Current Baseline

- 3.8.1** Air quality within the Borough is reported as being generally good, with road transport being one of the main sources of pollution. The most recent monitoring within the Borough did not identify any exceedances of the current air quality objectives. Although there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Borough, there are AQMAs in neighbouring authorities and so traffic flows to and from Test Valley will to some degree have implications for air quality in these locations.
- 3.8.2** The Test Valley SA concludes that it is difficult to predict likely future changes in air quality, when accounting for the range of factors that can influence it. Air quality targets should continue to provide an impetus to improve air quality / reduce levels of pollutants, for example with continuing improvements in emissions from vehicles.
- 3.8.3** No air quality issues specific to the parish have been identified and the level and type of development proposed within the NDP will have a minimal impact. This is assessed through the Local Plan and can be scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.

Main Data Sources

- Test Valley Scoping Report (2017)

3.9 Biodiversity

Current Baseline

- 3.9.1** No Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites lie within the Neighbourhood area. However, King's Somborne is within 2.5km of the Mottisfont Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is designated for its important population of the rare barbastelle bat. Mottisfont contains a mix of woodland types including hazel coppice, broadleaved plantation and coniferous plantation which the bats use for breeding, roosting, commuting and feeding. Habitat deterioration can be caused by:
- fragmentation of habitats (on-site);
 - direct loss of supporting habitats (i.e. off-site), including fragmentation of foraging areas and severance or disruption of commuting routes;
 - declining water quality (effects on supporting habitats);
 - declining water resource (effects on supporting habitats).
- 3.9.2** The plan therefore needs to be assessed on the basis of any effect of development on the loss of bat foraging or commuting habitats and disturbance to the species.
- 3.9.3** The Somborne feeds into the River Test which is a designated SSSI. The River Test is a chalk stream and one of the most species-rich lowland rivers in England. Therefore development proposals should be assessed for potential impacts on the SSSI.
- 3.9.4** The village of King's Somborne is situated in a river valley amidst open rolling chalk downland, principally used for cereal and other crops, interspersed with wooded areas.

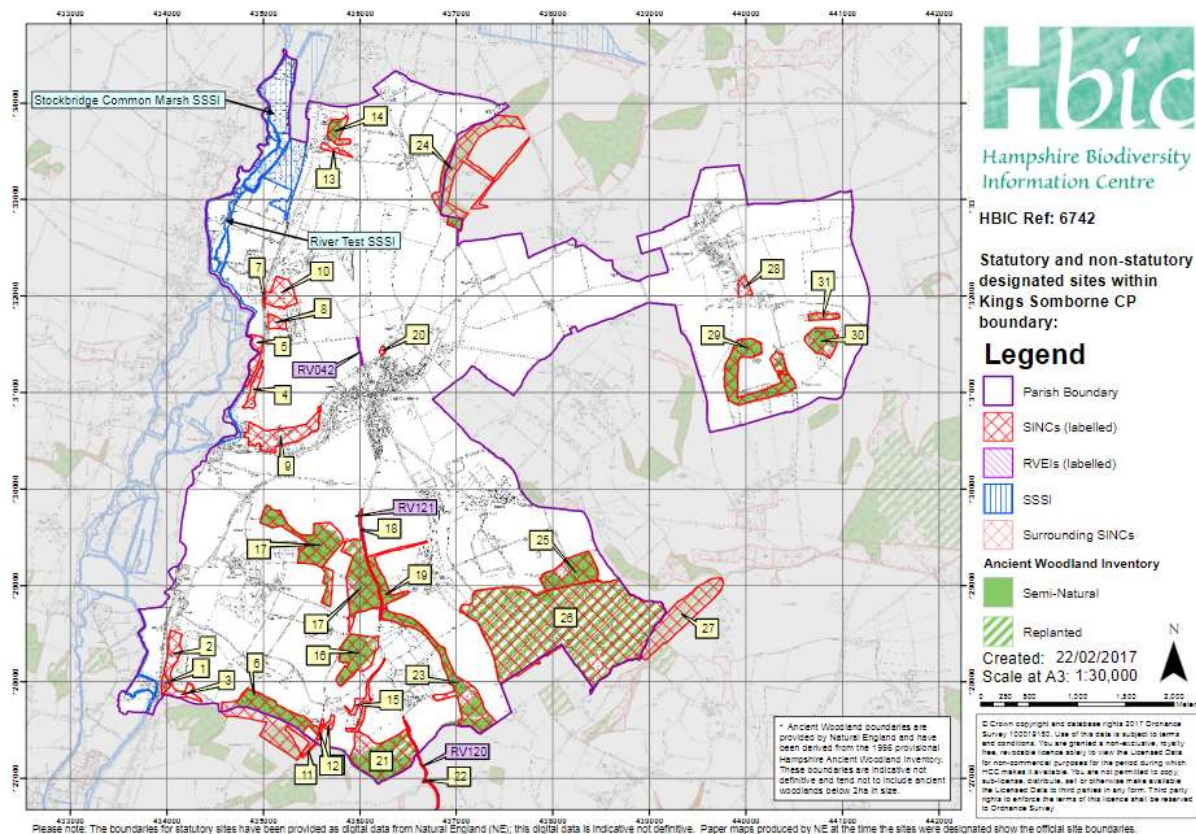


Figure 3: Key habitats within King's Somborne

- 3.9.5** To the south of the parish is Bere Ashley Biodiversity Opportunity Area. The Hbic entry describes the area as lying on the Hampshire Upper Chalk plateau. It contains the Crab Wood SSSI in the east, and several ancient semi-natural woodland and relic downland SINCs. The SINCs are a mixture of relic downland and remnant ancient semi-natural woodland, and plantations on ancient woodland sites which retain a good ground flora. Key targets for habitat creation centre around Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland and Lowland Calcareous Grassland.
- 3.9.6** To the north of the parish is the Somborne Woods Biodiversity opportunity Area. The Hbic entry describes this area as comprising the Windovers Farm Woodlands & the Heath House Estate Woods and sits adjacent to Stockbridge Down SSSI. Together these woods form the largest concentration of worked hazel coppice in south east England and have had a history of continuous coppice management for at least several centuries. Some areas have become derelict in recent years. The woodlands are all SINCs and are also important for Pearl-bordered fritillary, Duke of Burgundy and Grizzled skipper. Relic areas of chalk grassland occur and there is a large area of chalk downland which supports over 30 species of butterfly. Part of the area is also important for rare arable weeds. Key targets for habitat creation centre on Lowland Calcareous Grassland and Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland.
- 3.9.7** All the SSSI's in the Parish are in favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition.
- 3.9.8** Pressures on biodiversity within the Parish can be as a result of the direct effects of development including the loss or degradation of habitats used by foraging bats and a reduction in the water quality of the Somborne. Indirect effects as a result of development can include increased pressures from the use of sites and disturbance to wildlife. Development can also provide opportunities to enhance or restore biodiversity, in particular Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Calcareous Grassland and the riverine environment alongside

the Somborne which may not otherwise be deliverable. Changes to the environment as also predicted to arise as a result of climate change (through direct and indirect routes).

Main Data Sources

- Test Valley Habitats Regulations Assessment
- The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Test Valley
- Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
- Test Valley Scoping Report (2017)

SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

Objective 6: Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity (Based on Test Valley Objective 10)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it help avoid loss, deterioration or harm to habitats / species of importance? b) Will it conserve biodiversity? c) Does it deliver opportunities to restore or enhance biodiversity, including promoting the connectivity of habitats as part of an ecological network?	a) Will it ensure that designated sites within or adjoining the Parish are protected? b) Will it help avoid loss, deterioration or harm to priority habitats and species including the Barbastelle Bat? b) Does it help to retain or restore biodiversity, including the connectivity of habitats, in particular Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Calcareous Grassland and the riverine environment alongside the Somborne	Biodiversity (including Flora and Fauna)

3.10 Climate change

Current Baseline

- 3.10.1** The climate is forecast to get warmer and wetter in winter and hotter and drier in summers, with an increased risk of extreme weather events.
- 3.10.2** The Test Valley Scoping report (2017) explains that given the legal requirements, greenhouse gas emissions should continue to reduce into the future although the ability to make reductions is likely to become more challenging. In Test Valley, a key source of emissions relates to transport, which is difficult to address in a largely rural parish like King's Somborne.
- 3.10.3** It is anticipated that the generation of renewable energy is likely to continue to grow in the future, although changes to funding mechanisms and government policies may influence the rate of increase and the specific technologies that provide this growth. Finally, it should be noted that average recycling rates in Test Valley are lower than the national average.
- 3.10.4** The Test Valley Scoping Report (2017) explains that climate changes are likely to occur without the impact of any new / updated planning policy documents within Test Valley. Given the scale on which the climate is affected, any proposals within plans for Test Valley are unlikely to significantly alter these predictions but may have a cumulative effect in combination with other plans and policies.

3.10.5 At this very local level the impact of a Neighbourhood Plan on climatic factors is likely to be negligible. The plan is required to be in conformity with the policies already in the Test Valley Local Plan and Building Regulations will be used to ensure sufficient carbon reduction methods are incorporated into new build properties. The cumulative long-term effects are therefore already considered through the assessment of these overarching plans. Climate change will be most readily felt within the Parish as a result of increasing risks from flooding.

3.10.6 The nearest watercourse is the Somborne which flows south-west through King's Somborne to its confluence with Park Stream. The Somborne rises from a number of springs and is culverted in some place including beneath a number of roads and driveways. Flooding occurs following extreme rainfall and / or when groundwater levels are high including most noticeably in 2014 when a number of properties were damaged.

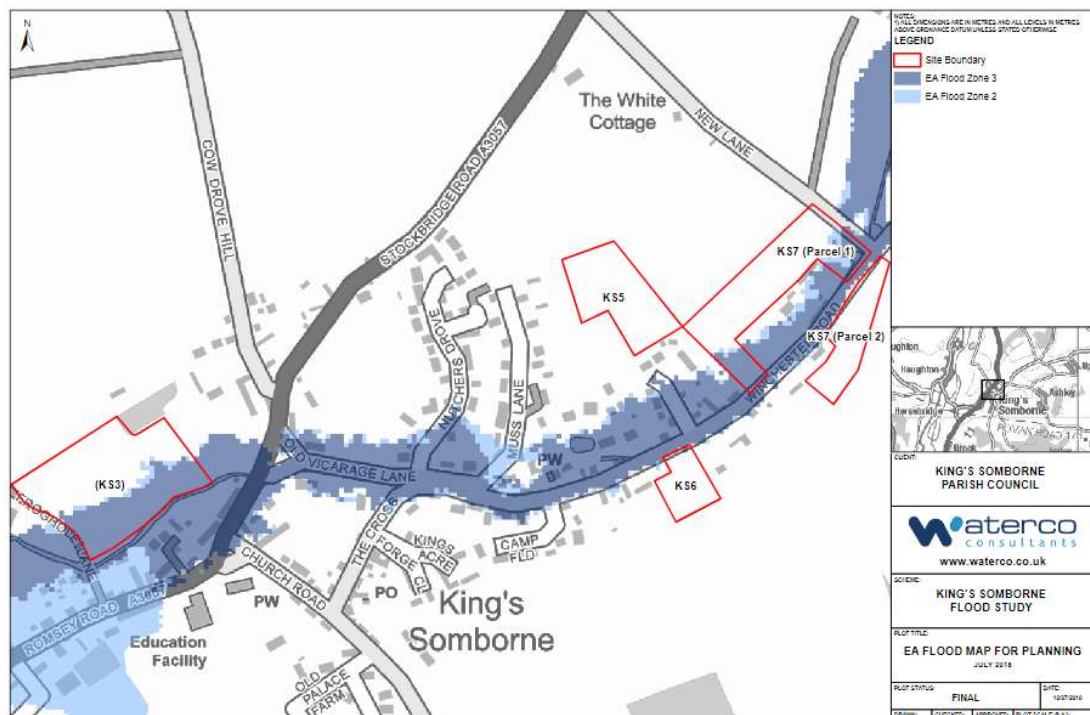


Figure 4: Fluvial flood risk

3.10.7 Surface water flooding occurs in places throughout the Parish when rainwater does not drain away through the normal systems. King's Somborne Parish have also identified a number of occasions of flooding as a result of high groundwater levels.

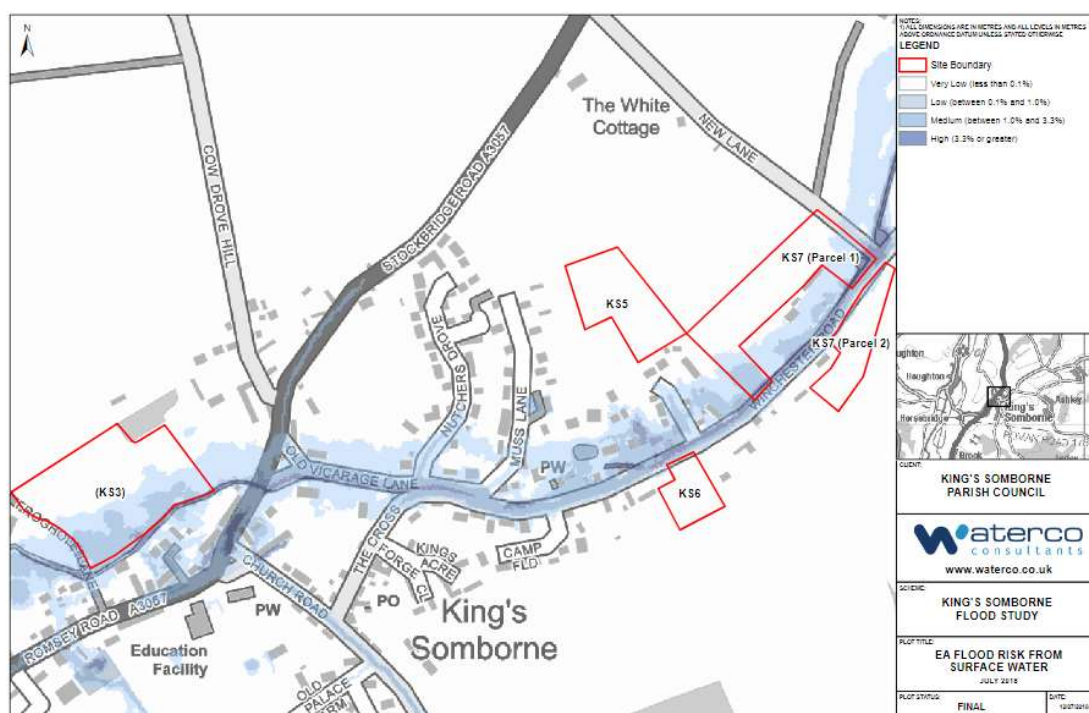


Figure 5: Surface water flood risk

3.10.8 The flood risk assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan concluded that fluvial and groundwater flooding are the main potential sources of flood risk in the Parish. The frequency and magnitude of flood events could increase for example as a result of changes in rainfall patterns (including total amount, seasonality and intensity).

Main Data Sources

- Test Valley Scoping Report (2017)
- King's Somborne Neighbourhood Plan Flood Risk Assessment (2018)

SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

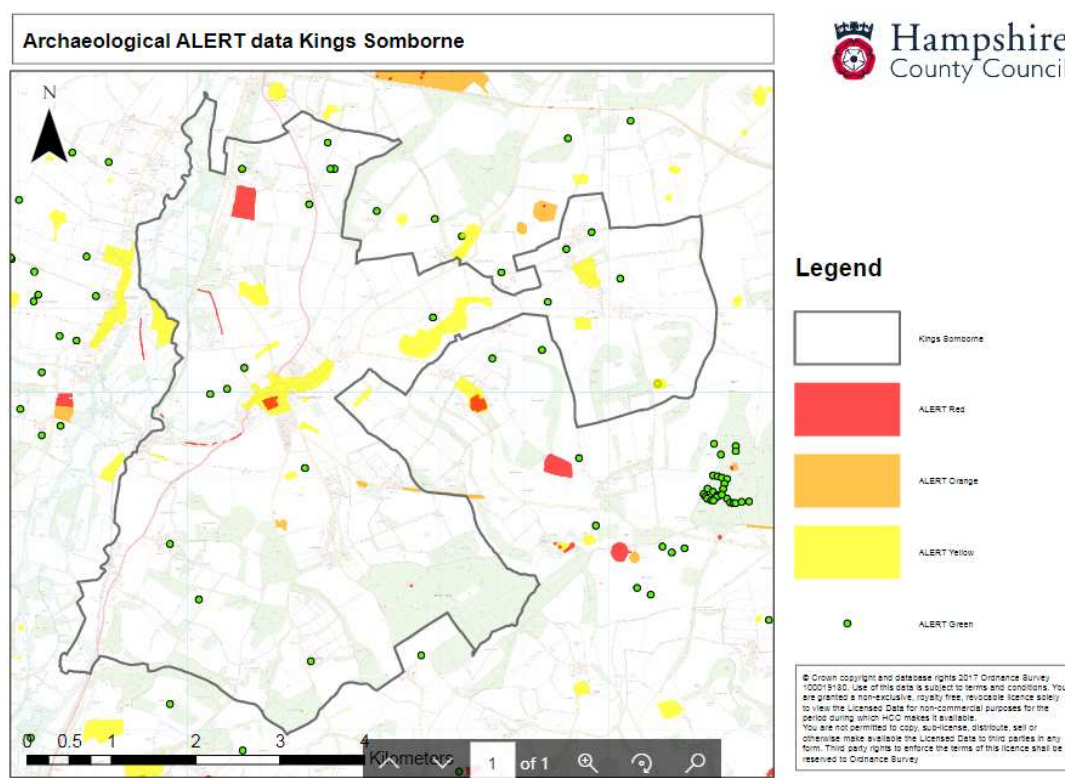
Objective 7: Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding. (Based on Test Valley Objective 6)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it involve inappropriate development within an area of moderate or high flood risk? b) Will it help to reduce the risk of flooding (e.g. through the provision of sustainable drainage systems)?	a) Will it involve inappropriate development within flood zones 2 and 3? b) Will it be at risk of ground or surface water flooding? c) Will it help to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere (e.g. through use of sustainable drainage systems)?	Water Biodiversity Human Health Climatic Factors

3.1.1 Historic environment

Current Baseline

- 3.1.1.1** King's Somborne was included in the Domesday survey in 1086 when it was owned by the King in lordship and known as 'Sunburne'. The population included 25 villagers, 8 smallholders, 2 slaves and 7 freedmen. Three mills and two churches are also noted in the survey together with land for 10 ploughs and areas of meadow land and pasture. The present church of St Peter and St Paul, part of which dates to the early 13th century, probably occupies the site of one of the original churches.
- 3.1.1.2** The 'Sombornes' comprise the scattered village of King's Somborne, together with the hamlets of Little Somborne, Up Somborne, and Ashley. Little Somborne has the small but charming church of Saxon origin, redundant but conserved in the 1970s and now used for two services a year. Up Somborne, a ribbon of houses among farmland, is under one mile from Little Somborne.
- 3.1.1.3** Between King's Somborne and the river at Horsebridge lies John of Gaunt's Deer Park and to the south the Romans had a river crossing. The Deer Park covers an area of almost 200ha, was created in the late 1100's and contains a number of ancient yew trees.
- 3.1.1.4** At Ashley, near Farley Mount, the Normans built a large castle. At Eldon is the tiny 12th-century Church of St John the Baptist, (now redundant). The ecclesiastical Parish of Somborne with Ashley has three restored or conserved redundant churches within its boundaries.
- 3.1.1.5** King's Somborne is described as a nucleated settlement, however it is not densely developed for the most part. The roads and spaces between built forms, contribute significantly to its character. Traditional building materials include brick and flint, brick and chalk cob walls with thatch, clay tile and slate roofs. Within the Conservation Areas there are a number of notable buildings, and the site of John of Gaunt's Palace, which ranks as an Ancient Monument.
- 3.1.1.6** There are over 2,000 listed buildings in Test Valley. None are on the Heritage at Risk Register (which covers Grade I and II*). King's Somborne Conservation area is one of 36 in the Borough and was designated in 1971 and extended in 1987.

3.11.7 Many parts of the Parish are covered by archaeological alert zones giving a general indication of where there is the greatest potential for archaeological finds.



3.11.8 With a high-quality built environment which contributes significantly to residents' sense of place and community, it is important to ensure new development is planned for sensitively taking account of potential implications on heritage assets (and their setting) not just designated heritage assets. The existing planning and regulatory system help to achieve this but the Neighbourhood Plan can add local detail and understanding. The allocation of land for development has the potential to impact on heritage assets and their setting.

Main Data Sources

- King's Somborne Conservation Area Appraisal
- Listed building entries
- Hampshire Historic Environment Rectors
- Scheduled Ancient Monument records
- Historic Park and Garden Register

SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

Objective 7 Conserve and enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets. (Based on Test Valley Objective 9)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it conserve or enhance the heritage assets (including designated and locally important assets), their significance, and their setting? b) Will it conserve the historic built environment and its setting? c) Will it provide for increased access to and enjoyment of the historic environment?	a) Will it conserve or enhance built heritage, their significance, and their setting? b) Will it conserve or enhance the King's Somborne Conservation Area and its setting? c) Will it provide for increased access to and enjoyment of the historic environment?	Cultural Heritage

3.12 Landscape and Townscape

Current Baseline

3.12.1 The Landscape Character Assessment for Test Valley provides a comprehensive assessment of the landscape within the Borough. The King's Somborne Chalk Downland is part of the Open Chalk Downlands landscape character type. The King's Somborne Chalk Downland is described as being distinguished by its openness and more limited vegetation cover. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve the openness whilst restoring a pattern of hedgerows and small copses across the downs at King's Somborne Chalk Downland'

3.12.2 Built Development guidelines for the Open Chalk Downloads landscape character type are:

- Development to respond to the local characteristics of the landscape
- Seek opportunities to enhance roadside planting and minimise visual and noise intrusion
- Avoid intrusive development of tall and large structures except where they can be successfully integrated into the landscape

3.12.3 King's Somborne River Valley Floor is part of River Valley Floor character area and is noted as the river setting to King's Somborne within an open arable landscape. The overall strategy is therefore to enhance and restore the small-scale riverine character of King's Somborne River Valley Floor.

3.12.4 The Parish is not within an AONB.

3.12.5 The Test Valley Scoping Report (2017) identifies many potential sources of change in the landscape including the impact of climate changes, agricultural / land management and pressure from built development, traffic, tourism and recreation. In some areas of the Borough there has also been an increase in telecommunications and overhead transmission lines and windfarms. Finally use of the land for minerals and waste managements as well as for the military can lead to change. The key objectives are therefore:

- to maintain the sense of remoteness and tranquillity, in the chalk downlands;
- restore lost hedgerows on former hedgerow lines; and,
- protect / restore unimproved chalk grassland.

3.12.6 Alongside this there is a need to preserve the pastoral character of the winterborne areas including traditional hedge management. The allocation of sites in the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to affect the landscape and townscape quality of the Parish on an individual basis and in combination with each other, this impact would be permanent.

Main Data Sources

- Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment

SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

Objective 8 Conserve and, where possible enhance the Parish's landscape and settlement character (Based on Test Valley Objective 8)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it respect the purpose / objectives of statutory designations? b) Will it conserve or enhance landscape character? c) Will it conserve or enhance settlement character? d) Will it conserve or enhance settlement identity, including distinction between settlements and sense of place? e) Will any new development be appropriately integrated with existing development and the surrounding environment? f) Will it conserve or enhance the character of the countryside?	1) Will it conserve or enhance the Open Chalk Downloads landscape character area or the King's Somborne River Valley Floor character? 2) Will it conserve or enhance settlement character including maintaining a distinction between settlements and creating a sense of place? 3) Will it ensure that the design of new development does not detract from the local townscape?	Landscape Cultural Heritage

3.13 Geology and soil

Current Baseline

3.13.1 The basic underlying geology of both Test Valley and King's Somborne Parish is chalk. At a more local level along the course of the Somborne there are superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel some of which are fluvial in origin.

3.13.2 There are no Regionally Important Geological sites in the Parish.

3.13.3 There are a mix of soil types in the Parish ranging from shallow lime-rich soils over chalk which are freely draining to a small spur of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils with high fertility along the valley of the Somborne,

3.13.4 No specific land or soil contamination issues have been identified in the Parish. Test Valley does not have a heritage of extensive heavy industry and therefore at a District level this has not created many highly contaminated sites.

3.13.5 Given the very rural nature of the Parish, there is only very limited previously developed land as evidenced through survey work undertaken by the Parish Council and therefore future development will take place predominantly on greenfield sites.

3.13.6 The Test Valley Scoping Report states that it is difficult to predict how the soil environment will change in the future. Additional development on greenfield sites is likely to have a direct and permanent impact on soil resources through the development itself and associated changes (e.g. systems to manage the movement / drainage of water). Changes in climate may also have an effect on the condition / quality of soil, for example in relation to soil moisture levels, whilst other uses of the land may equally have an effect (e.g. through agricultural and other land management activities / operations). There is nothing to indicate that King's Somborne Parish differs from this assessment and it is considered that the preparation of the NDP is likely to have only minimal influence on these key sustainability issues

Main Data Sources

- Test Valley Contaminated Land Strategy 2017
- Test Valley Community Landscape Project
- Test Valley Scoping report 2017

SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

Objective 9 Improve the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources (Based on Test Valley Objective 4)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it encourage the re-use of previously developed land, or the reuse of buildings? b) Will it encourage the efficient use of land? c) Will it conserve soil resources (including best and most versatile agricultural land)? d) Will it avoid the risk of land contamination and provide opportunities to address potential historic contamination?	a) Will it encourage the re-use of previously developed land, or the reuse of buildings? b) Will it encourage the efficient use of land?	Soil Material Assets

3.14 Water quality

Current Baseline

3.14.1 The Somborne is a chalk stream and feeds into the River Test. The River Test dominates the geography of the Borough. The Parish is underlain by chalk which is a principal aquifer. Across the Borough there are a large number of public and private water supplies drawing from this aquifer. The River Test and its tributaries are also fed by groundwater. The protection of groundwater is essential. The Parish falls within a Groundwater Safeguarding zone and parts are within groundwater source protections zones where it is particularly important to avoid risks of pollution.

3.14.2 The Test Valley Scoping Report covers issues of water supply, identifying the difficulties in forecasting future requirements and limitations on some waste water treatment works. It is concluded that the position needs to be kept under review and that it is important to ensure that sufficient infrastructure capacity is available to support new development. Minimising the amount of water required by new development and maximising the replenishment of

groundwater sources are particularly important within the Borough. The picture in King's Somborne reflects the trends in the Borough as a whole.

3.14.3 The quality of the water in the Somborne is important to the health of the River Test into which it flows. The River Test is a chalk fed stream and designated as a SSSI.

3.14.4 The use of sustainable drainage systems is advocated in the Test Valley SA and the SFRA accompanying the Neighbourhood Plan as a way to try and manage flood risk, whilst also potentially having opportunities in relation to water quality (maintaining quality or potentially improving it). Such systems need to be tailored to the specific area and circumstances, for example, accounting for geology, soil types and topography. In addition, it recommends that finished floor levels should be set above surrounding ground levels to avoid groundwater flooding.

3.14.5 In summary the key sustainability issues are the protection of water quality and the risks associated with groundwater and fluvial flooding. Policies exist at both national and Borough level to prevent inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, but the Neighbourhood Plan can add further value by looking at where there are opportunities for improvement and enhancement, particularly in relation to development proposals.

Main Data Sources

- King's Somborne Flood Risk Study, 2018, Waterco Consultants

SA/SEA Objectives and appraisal questions for this theme

Objective 10 Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources. (Same as Test Valley Objective 5)		
Test Valley Tests	Proposed King's Somborne Tests	SEA Topic(s)
a) Will it conserve (and enhance) the quality of the water environment? b) Will it safeguard groundwater resources? c) Will it avoid increases in demand for water and ideally reduce demand? d) Will sufficient water infrastructure be available (in time to avoid adverse effects)?	a) Will it conserve and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment? b) Will it safeguard groundwater resources?	Water Biodiversity Human Health

Stage A4 - Summary of proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The following brings together all of the proposed objectives against which the King's Somborne NDP will be tested.

Objective		Decision aiding questions
1	Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home	Will it help to deliver affordable homes for the Parish? Will it provide smaller homes to meet local needs?
2	Maintain and improve access to key services and facilities	Will it support existing facilities and services? Will it provide new facilities / services to meet existing or growing needs in locations close to those they serve? Will it provide housing in locations with easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
3	Seek to maintain and improve health and wellbeing of the population	Will it provide or enhance access to the countryside and areas of open space Will it provide opportunities for improved health and wellbeing of the Parish?
4	Ensure the local economy is maintained and advances in the use of new technology are supported	Will it support the Parish's economy e.g. existing shops / businesses? Will it support job creation? Will appropriate infrastructure be provided to support business (particularly information technology)?
5	Reduce the need to travel and increase the proportion of travel by sustainable modes.	Will it ensure that residents can use sustainable forms of transport? Will it reduce the need to travel?
6	Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity	Will it ensure that designated sites within or adjoining the Parish are protected? Will it help avoid loss, deterioration or harm to priority habitats and species including the Barbastelle Bat? Does it help to retain or restore biodiversity, including the connectivity of habitats, in particular Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Calcareous Grassland and the riverine environment alongside the Somborne
7	Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding.	Will it involve inappropriate development within flood zones 2 and 3? Will it be at risk of ground or surface water flooding? Will it help to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere (e.g. through use of sustainable drainage systems)?
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	Will it conserve or enhance built heritage, their significance, and their setting? Will it conserve the King's Somborne Conservation Area and its setting? Will it provide for increased access to and enjoyment of the historic environment?

9	Conserve and enhance the Parish's landscape and settlement character	Will it conserve or enhance the Open Chalk Downloads landscape character area or the King's Somborne River Valley Floor character? Will it conserve or enhance settlement character including maintaining a distinction between settlements and creating a sense of place? Will it ensure that the design of new development does not detract from the local townscape?
10	Improve the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources	Will it encourage the re-use of previously developed land, or the reuse of buildings? Will it encourage the efficient use of land?
11	Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment	Will it conserve and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment? Will it safeguard groundwater resources?

4. Stage A5 – Consulting on the scope

- 4.1.1** It is a statutory requirement that the Scoping Report be sent to the three Environmental Consultation Bodies¹. In addition, to ensure the widest possible consultation takes place at this stage, relevant local stakeholders will be invited to take part as well. Consultation at this stage is fundamental to ensure that the Scope of the SA is fully identified and the subsequent report comprehensive enough.

Compliance with the SEA Directive

“The bodies identified by the UK Government as being likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing the plan have been consulted in deciding” (Annex I (d)) – Article 5 (4)

5. Next Steps

- 5.1.1** Following the consultation, the baseline and objectives will be updated as appropriate. The objectives will then be used to test a range of reasonable alternatives. This testing will identify the sustainability merits or otherwise of a scheme now and in the future. It will also help to identify potential mitigation. The results of the testing will feed back into the King’s Somborne Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 5.1.2** The final component of the Framework is a series of indicators that will be used to provide a basis for future monitoring. These will allow an assessment of whether or not policies are effective in addressing the sustainability objectives and will be developed later.

¹ Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England