Appendix I: context review and baseline data

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Environmental quality

Sustainability Context

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency published updated River Basin Management plans (RBMPs) in February 2016[1]. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD, namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) regarding soils include:

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) regarding air quality include:

- 'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'. •
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

In terms of the local context, CDC is required to monitor air quality across Cotswold District, report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area.

[1] Available [online] at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015

Baseline Summary, Environmental Quality

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Air quality	Cotswold District Council declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2008 in respect of nitrogen dioxide at the Air Balloon Roundabout junction on the A417. Nitrogen dioxide levels are exceeding the National Air Quality Objective of 40µgm3 (expressed as an annual mean) and it is also likely that the 1-hour objective of 200 µgm3 (not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year) is being exceeded[2]. The elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution are due to traffic emissions as this is a busy junction on a major trunk route with difficult topographical features and a high mix of heavy goods vehicles. There is relevant public exposure as there are residential properties within the area.	Measures outlined in the Air Quality Action Plan are likely to result in improved air quality over time. However, proposed development in the district has the potential to have adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants –in particular, nitrogen dioxide. The plan can have a bearing on the need to travel by the private car / the degree to which people choose to use sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.
Soil	The number of housing completions on previously developed land decreased from 63% in 2006/2007 to 37% in 2010/2011 to 20% in 2011/2012.	Due to the rural nature of the Parish the extent of previously developed land is limited and this trend is likely to continue, meaning that a higher proportion of development may occur on areas of agricultural land
Water resources	There are a number of groundwater source protection zones located in the District. A large proportions of the district is also covered by Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.	The requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality is also likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies. Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

[2] Birdlip – Air Balloon Roundabout Air Quality Action Plan 2011 [online] available at: http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/353262/Air-quality-action-plan-2011.pdf

Biodiversity

Sustainability context

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy[3] was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively planning for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)[4] sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signaled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

At the local level the Gloucestershire's Local Nature Partnership, was formally recognised by Defra in 2012. Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment.

The LNP's Mission Statement is "to improve the prospects for Gloucestershire's natural environment while demonstrating its vital role in our health & well-being, its significant contribution to a thriving economy and to a better quality of life for all".

[3] European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

[4] Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf

Baseline summary, Biodiversity

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Priority habitats	As a result of devolution, and new country-level and international drivers and requirements, much of the work previously carried out by the UK BAP is now focused at a country-level rather than a UK-level, and the UK BAP was succeeded by the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' in July 2012. The UK list of priority habitats, however, remains an important reference source and has been used to help draw up statutory lists of priority habitats in England and elsewhere in the UK under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. In this context, a significant number of 'priority habitats' that are characteristic of Gloucestershire and for which Gloucestershire makes a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan are found within the district.	Although the BAP Priority Habitats are currently protected under Section 41 of the 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006'; development proposed for Cotswold over the emerging plan period has the potential to negatively impact on the condition and extent of these Priority Habitats. The significance of these impacts and subsequent effects will be dependent on the site allocation strategy.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	The SSSIs present within the district are as follows: **Sites** Barnsley Warren Barton Bushes Bourton Down Boxwell Brassey Reserve and Windrush Valley Bushley Muzzard, Brimpsfield Campden Tunnel Gravel Pit Cockleford Marsh Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods Cotswold Water Park Crickley Hill and Barrow Wake Elmlea Meadows Foss Cross Quarry	The current condition of SSSI units, providing a likely indication of future trends, are as follows: **Favourable / unfavourable – recovering** **Favourable** **Favourable** **Favourable** **Favourable / unfavourable – recovering** **Favourable** **Favourable** **Unfavourable –recovering** **Favourable / unfavourable – recovering** **Unfavourable – declining** **Favourable / unfavourable – recovering** **Favourable / unfavourable – recovering** **Favourable**

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
	Hampen Railway Cutting	Unfavourable – declining
	Harford Railway Cuttings	N/A
	Hornsleasow Quarry	Favourable
	Huntsman's Quarry	Favourable
	Juniper Hill, Edgeworth	Favourable / unfavourable - recovering / unfavourable –no change
	Kemble Railway Cuttings	Favourable
	Knap House Quarry, Birdlip	Favourable
	Kingscote and Horsley Woods	Favourable / unfavourable – recovering
	Lark Wood	Favourable
	Lineover Wood	Favourable
	New Park Quarry	Favourable
	Notgrove Railway Cutting	Unfavourable – declining
	Puckham Woods	Favourable / unfavourable –no change
	Salmonsbury Meadows	Unfavourable – recovering
	Stony Furlong Railway Cutting	Favourable
	Veizey's Quarry	N/A
	Wellacre Quarry	Favourable
	Whelford Meadow	unfavourable –no change
	Wildmoorway Meadows	Favourable
	Winson Meadows	Favourable / unfavourable – declining

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs)	Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs) are landscape-scale areas defined by the Gloucestershire Nature Partnership where there is opportunity for both the maintenance of and the restoration/expansion of Priority Habitat. In this context there, are three SNAs located in the district **Cotswold Escarpment and Valleys** The slopes of the escarpment support nationally important beech woodland and limestone grassland. Although hedged fields divide up much of the scarp's pastures, there are also surviving commons. Around Stroud and Winchcombe, incised, deep, wide valleys create a distinctive landscape to contrast the scarp face. **Cotswold High Wolds** The Gloucestershire Nature Partnership states that this SNA is a generally open landscape, characterised by blocks of woodland and arable farmland which contrast with narrow, enclosed valleys which are also present. **Cotswold Water Park** The area extends across the broad, shallow vale that follows the east - west alignment of the course of the upper reaches of the River Thames. Within the floodplain of the Thames this low lying area is characterised by almost flat or very shallow slopes. While most of this former farmland would have comprised traditional floodplain pastures interspersed with areas of arable land, the mineral restoration process has created a wetland landscape supporting extensive biodiversity rich habitats of standing water together with associated marginal vegetation of woodlands and scrub. The Water Park has emerged the most extensive marl lake system in Britain.	SNAs represent a useful aid to targeting nature conservation action into the future. The condition and future trend of assets within these SNA's will depend on a wide range of factors. New development has the potential to lead to incremental changes in the character and quality in these SNAs. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact.

Climate Change

Sustainability context

In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.[5] In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 20086. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
    - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
    - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
    - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
    - positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
    - encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The Flood and Water Management Act[7] highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings)
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)[8]

Further guidance is provided in the document planning for SuDs.[9] This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

[5] Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF
[6] The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% By 2050, and reductions in CO_2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.
[7] Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents
[8] N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and make it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.
[9] CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDs – making it happen [online] available at: http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465

Baseline summary, Climate Change

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Effects of climate change	The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team[10]. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction. As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the south west by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario[11] are likely to be as follows: • the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.1ºC and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.7ºC; and • The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 17% and summer mean precipitation is –20%.	Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Cotswold District, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding). As such, there will be an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

[10] The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/
[11] UK Climate Projections (2009) South West 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Greenhouse gas emissions	In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that Cotswold district has had consistently higher per capita emissions than for Gloucestershire, the South West and England since 2005. The district has also seen a smaller reduction in emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (12.4%) compared to Gloucestershire (17.5%), the South West (18.3%) and England (a 17.7% reduction).[12] In relation to CO^2 emissions by end user, between 2005 and 2012 the proportion of emissions originating from transport-related sources in Cotswold district were (proportionally) significantly higher than those for domestic sources and industrial and commercial sources, relative to other comparators.	In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However, increases in the built footprint of the Plan area may lead to increases in overall emissions, and the rural nature of the Parish will mean that C02 emissions are likely to remain proportionally higher than county, regional, and national averages due to more limited public transport options than found in urban areas.
Fluvial flood risk	There are 16 main rivers in the Cotswold District which flow through 19 key settlements. The top 10 communities at risk of fluvial flooding – listed by the number of properties at risk is shown below: • Cirencester: 253 • St John Priory: 122 • Somerford Keynes: 68 • Bourton on the Water: 57 • Lechlade: 36 • Fairford: 35 • South Cerney: 30 • Moreton-in-Marsh: 29 • Whelford: 14 • Bledington: 8	On larger main rivers in wider valleys such as the River Churn and the River Thames, the estimated increase in flow under climate change scenarios has been modelled. The effect tends to be a noticeable increase in the mapped flood extent. Smaller watercourses in Cotswold (e.g. River Cam, Blockley Brook, and upper River Windrush) tend to be in areas of steeper topography with quite confined floodplains, and in these cases increases in flow do not result in a significant increase in flood extent. However, climate change does not just affect the extent of flooding. It is important to remember that even where the extents do not significantly increase; flooding is likely to become more frequent under a climate change scenario. For example, what is currently an event with a 2% probability of occurring in any one year, may increase to say a 5% probability under climate change.

[12] Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions, UK local and regional CO2 emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities) available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates 2005 to 2012

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Surface water Flooding	The Flood Map for Surface Water predominantly follows topographical flow paths of existing watercourses or dry valleys with some isolated ponding located in low lying areas. The geology and topography of the district contribute to the rainfall response within the district and therefore the likelihood and nature of surface water flooding. In light of this, surface water flooding is a significant problem for many parts of the district. In addition, areas with an abundance of impervious surfaces may also be at risk of surface water flooding, especially when local intense rainstorms occur. Any site-specific FRA would need to adequately assess the risk from surface water flooding. Surface water flooding is a problem throughout the district with reported incidents referring to runoff from hills and drains being unable to cope with storm water. In the July 2007 event, surface water was the most frequently cited source of flooding throughout the district.	Climate change is predicted to increase rainfall intensity in the future by up to 30%. This will increase the likelihood and frequency of surface water flooding, particularly in impermeable urban areas, and areas that are already susceptible such as Moreton in Marsh and Fairford.
Groundwater Flooding	In comparison to fluvial and tidal flooding, the understanding of the risks posed by groundwater flooding is limited and mapping of flood risk from groundwater sources is in its infancy. The risks and mechanisms of groundwater flooding have traditionally been poorly reported. However, under the Flood and Water management Act (2010), the Lead Local Flood Authority now has powers to undertake risk management functions in relation to groundwater flood risk. The Great Oolite aquifers in the district are not considered to be a major risk of flooding directly from groundwater emergence. In the north west of the district the Oolites are unconfined and receive direct recharge from rainfall. Spring lines are well-developed at the boundary with the underlying Lias Clays and provide significant baseflow to rivers, and properties located near springs may experience flooding problems. Local changes in groundwater levels may occur due to abstraction and this should be considered in more detailed studies. Further south the Oolites are confined and flood risk is low.	The effect of climate change on groundwater flooding problems, and those watercourses where groundwater has a large influence on winter flood flows (such as the River Churn), is more uncertain. Milder wetter winters may increase the frequency of groundwater flooding incidents in areas that are already susceptible. However, warmer drier summers may counteract this effect by drawing down groundwater levels more during the summer months, meaning that lower levels are experienced at the start of winter and it takes longer for recharge to occur.

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Flooding from reservoirs / canals / artificial sources	The risk of inundation to Cotswold District as a result of reservoir breach or failure of a number of reservoirs within the area was assessed as part of the National Inundation Reservoir Maps (NRIM) study. Reservoir flooding is very different from other forms of flooding. It may happen with little or no warning and evacuation will need to happen immediately. The likelihood of such flooding is very difficult to estimate, but it is less likely than flooding from rivers or surface water. It may not be possible to seek refuge from floodwaters upstairs as buildings could be unsafe or unstable due to the force of water from the reservoir breach or failure. The Environment Agency maps represent a credible worst case scenario. In these circumstances it is the time to inundation, the depth of inundation, the duration of flooding and the velocity of flood flows that will be most influential. There is one canal located within the district. The Thames and Severn Canal is located at the northern extent of the district and runs parallel to the River Frome for much of its length. There are no records of breach or overtopping of this canal in the District.	Climate change is predicted to increase rainfall intensity in the future by up to 30%. This may increase the volume of water reaching artificial water bodies - particularly in impermeable urban areas. This may increase the volume of water in such bodies and increase the risk of canal breaches and over topping.

Historic Environment and Landscape

Sustainability context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Develop 'robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics'.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England[13] sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

80% of the district is located within the Cotswold AONB. An AONB is a designation which recognises an area as a special landscape and which safeguards it for future generations. In 2000, the Countryside Rights of Way Act confirmed that AONBs, in addition to National Parks, hold the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The government also placed new responsibilities on local authorities to ensure further protection for designated landscapes.

The Cotswold AONB Board has a statutory duty to prepare and review a management plan at five-yearly intervals and that plan must set out the Board's vision of how it will deliver its aims and purposes. The Cotswold AONB Management Plan for 2013-18 sets out objectives and policies, and provides a vision for the future of the AONB over the next 20 years. It is designed as a guide for local authorities, statutory agencies and other bodies such as businesses and individuals working within the AONB.

[13] HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx

Baseline summary, Historic Environment and Landscape

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Historic Environment	There are 42 features listed on the Heritage at Risk register. This includes 27 scheduled monuments, six Grade I and II* listed buildings, one registered park/garden and eight listed places of worship.[14] In total the 4,988 building listings in the Plan area. Of these there are: • 106 grade I • 219 grade II* • 4,667 grade II In addition there are the following in the district: • 32 listed parks and gardens • 6,410 Archaeological sites of interest • 238 Scheduled Ancient Monument Listings • 144 Conservation Areas	There has been a reduction of scheduled monuments deemed to be at risk since 2014, from 33 to 27. Compared to other districts Cotswold has a high number of scheduled monuments/listed buildings at risk. This reflects the large number of heritage features in the district, which in turn mirrors the large area of the district.
Landscape	The Cotswold AONB, which was designated in 1966, covers 2,038 square kilometres, and covers 80% of the district. It is the largest of 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the second largest protected landscape in England after the Lake District National Park. The primary purpose of an AONB designation is 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area'. In this context, the central features of the Cotswold AONB are the Cotswolds Hills which rise from the upper Thames to an escarpment above the Severn Valley and Evesham Vale.	New development in the district has the potential to impact on the fabric and landscape character. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. However, it should be noted that existing landscape designations and historic environment designations will offer a degree of protection to landscape character and cultural heritage assets and their settings.

[14] Heritage at Risk (HAR)Register, 2015

Population and Communities

Sustainability context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

Baseline summary, Population and Communities

<table>
<tr><th>Element of theme</th><th>Data</th><th>Future Trends</th></tr>
<tr><td>Population / Population Growth</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Population Growth 2001-2011[15]</th><th>Cotswold</th><th>South West</th><th>England</th></tr>
<tr><td>2001</td><td>80,376</td><td>4,928,434</td><td>49,138,831</td></tr>
<tr><td>2011</td><td>82,881</td><td>5,288,935</td><td>53,012,456</td></tr>
<tr><td>Population Change 2001-2011</td><td>+ 3.00%</td><td>+ 7.31%</td><td>+ 7.88%</td></tr>
</table>

Cotswold District has a population of 84,000 (as of 2016[16]) spread over an area of 1,165 sq km. Cotswold District has seen a 3% increase in population between 2001 and 2011, this is significantly lower than the growth seen in the South West (7.31%) and in England (7.88%).</td><td>The population of the District showed a much slower growth between 2001 and 2011 than regional or national averages. This trend may continue into the future.</td></tr>
</table>

[15] ONS (2011) Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (UV041)
[16] Cotswold District Local Plan submission Draft

<table>
<tr><th>Element of theme</th><th>Data</th><th>Future Trends</th></tr>
<tr><td>Age profile</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Age Structure (2011)[17]</th><th>Cotswold</th><th>South West</th><th>England</th></tr>
<tr><td>0-15</td><td>16.6%</td><td>17.6%</td><td>18.9%</td></tr>
<tr><td>16-24</td><td>9.3%</td><td>11.3%</td><td>11.9%</td></tr>
<tr><td>25-44</td><td>21.8%</td><td>24.6%</td><td>27.5%</td></tr>
<tr><td>45-59</td><td>22.4%</td><td>20.1%</td><td>19.4%</td></tr>
<tr><td>60+</td><td>30.0%</td><td>26.4%</td><td>22.3%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total population</td><td>124,220</td><td>5,288,935</td><td>53,012,456</td></tr>
</table>

The District has a lower proportion of residents within the 0-15 age group (16.6%) than the South West average of (17.6%) and the national average of 18.9%. There are also a lower proportion of residents within the 16-24 age group in the district (9.3%), than regional (11.3%), and national averages (11.9%).

The proportion of residents between the ages of 25 and 44 in the district (21.8%) is lower than the South West average of 24.6%, and the national average of 27.5%. The percentage of population that falls within the 45-59 age bracket (22.4%) is marginally higher than the average for the South West (20.1%) and England (19.4%).

The proportion of residents in Cotswold aged 60 and over (30.0%) is higher than the South West average of 26.4%, and the national average of 22.3%</td><td>In line with other areas population trends have the potential to result in a further increase in the proportion of older people within the district.</td></tr>
</table>

[17] ONS (2011) Census 2011, Age structure (KS102EW)

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Housing	Although the area has high property values, the median earned income of full time employees in the Cotswold District is £26,933, which is £500 higher than the average Gloucestershire income but lower than Stroud and Cheltenham. The median income of all employees (both full time and part time employees) is £19,131, the lowest of all districts in Gloucestershire. Consequently, significant sections of the community experience social and financial deprivation, particularly access to housing. The problem is exacerbated by private sector rents rising faster than earnings across the county. The affordability of homes has decreased since the 2010 Housing Needs Assessment. In this context ratio of house price to earnings in the district decreased from 10.88 in 2009 to 11.15 in 2013.	Resulting from increasing house prices / rents, an increase in households seeking affordable housing is likely.
Deprivation	Cotswold is ranked 266th out of 326 Districts in England (1 = most deprived). 25 Cotswold LSOAs are within the most deprived or lowest 10% nationally for geographical barriers. 19 Cotswold LSOAs nationally in lowest 10% for barriers to housing and services. Cotswold has a higher proportion of households which are not deprived in any dimension when compared to southwest and national averages and lower proportion of those deprived in four dimensions[18]	The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing is less likely to meet local requirements in the absence of the plan. Unplanned development may also have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure or the natural environment.

[18] ONS (2011) Census 2011, Households by Deprivation Dimensions, 2011 (QS119EW)

Health and Wellbeing

Sustainability context

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- A core planning principle is to 'take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities'
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives[19] ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that that there is: "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

[19] The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf

Baseline summary, Health and Wellbeing

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Health	The health of people in Cotswold is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 9.2% (1,200) children live in poverty. Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average.[20] At the time of the 2011 census, 48.8%% of the population considered themselves in 'very good' health, which was higher than the proportion in the South West (46.9%), and England (47.2%). A lower proportion of residents in the district consider themselves in bad health (3.9%) than regional (4.0%) and national (4.2%) averages. 0.8% of the district residents reported that they were in very bad health. This is slightly lower than compared with 1.1% in the South West, and 1.2% in England.	Broadly speaking, the health of the population in the district is generally better than regional and national averages. Ongoing cuts to community services have the potential to lead to effects on health and wellbeing over the longer term.
Obesity / smoking / alcohol	In 2012, 20.0% of adults are classified as obese. The rate of alcohol related harm hospital stays was 566 per 100,000 of the population, This is better than the average for England. This represents 510 stays per year. The rate of smoking related deaths was 200, better than the average for England. This represents 123 deaths per year. Estimated levels of adult smoking are better than the England average.	Obesity is also seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer. Levels of smoking may continue to decrease – however alcohol use may remain an issue for health in the district.
Disability	In terms of reported disabilities, the proportion of residents in the district reporting that their day-to-day activities are limited 'a lot' by disability (6.5%) was lower than for the South West (8.3%), and England as a whole (8.3%). While the proportion of residents who feel their day-to-day activities are not limited by disability (83.9%) is higher than, regional (81.6%) and England (82.4%) averages	Disability levels in the district are lower than national averages, and an ageing population may increase the prevalence of disability and has the potential increase pressures on healthcare services.

[20] Cotswold Health Profile 2015 [online] available at: http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=171882

Economy and Enterprise

Sustainability Context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- The planning system can make a contribution to building a strong, responsive economy by 'ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure'.
- Capitalise on 'inherent strengths', and to meet the 'twin challenges of global competition and of a low carbon future'.
- Support new and emerging business sectors, including positively planning for 'clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries'.
- Support competitive town centre environments.
- Edge of town developments should only be considered where they have good access. This should be followed with an impact assessment to ensure the town centre remains viable in the long term.
- Enhance and retain markets is also outlined.
- Support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas and promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.

GFirst is the Local Enterprise Partnership for Gloucestershire. The Strategic Economic Plan for Gloucestershire was adopted by GFirst in March 2014 and seeks to grow Gloucestershire's economy by 493 million between 2015 and 2021. This includes through the creation of 33,909 jobs.

The key objectives of the Strategic Economic Plan are as follows:

- A resilient broad-based economy
- A high quality natural environment
- A high level of start-ups and start-up survivals
- Businesses in growth sectors with export potential
- A strong partnership between education and business
- The nuclear and renewable energy industry
- The potential of the M5 motorway corridor
- Availability of sites
- A joint approach to planning
- A strong partnership between education and business

Baseline Summary, Economy and Enterprise

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Employment	In 2013 there were 51,000 jobs in Cotswold equivalent to 15.8 per cent of all jobs in Gloucestershire. Since 2010 the number of all employee, self-employment jobs, Government supported trainees and HM Forces have increased by 8,000 or 18.6 per cent. Job growth in Employee and VAT / PAYE registered self-employed jobs is stronger than the Gloucestershire average, increasing by 2,700 between 2009 and 2014 with a significant rise of 1,300 jobs between 2013 and 2014. However, much of Cotswold job growth since 2010 is concentrated amongst self-employed people not registered for VAT or PAYE including strong growth in self-employed people over 64 years of age. The number of jobs in the district has increased faster than the working age population. In 2013 there were 1.01 jobs per resident aged 16-64. This is much higher than the England and Gloucestershire average.	Past trends have shown that the number of jobs have increased faster than the working age population. There is currently low growth in this age group in Cotswold due to a number of factors including affordability issues. If this is to continue there may not be a large enough proportion of working age people to support the economy and the number of jobs may fall correspondingly.

Element of theme	Data	Future Trends
Industry	Wholesale & Retail Trade is by far the largest employment sector in Cotswold. It comprises 18.5 percent of employment compared to 15.2 per cent in Gloucestershire. The retail sector employs a similar proportion of people in Cotswold as across England. The number of retail jobs has declined since 2009 and more sharply than across the rest of Gloucestershire and England. This was due to sharp falls in jobs in the Other Retail Sale of New Goods in Specialised Stores and the Retail Sale of Other Household Equipment in Specialised Stores. The Accommodation & Food Services sector also represents a much higher share of all jobs in Cotswold than across England and there has been strong growth in jobs. Cotswold also has high concentrations of jobs in hotels, beverage serving activities, insurance, construction, real estate, engineering, secondary education, computer programming and recreational activities. The tourism sector is important for employment in Cotswold, employing more than one in six people working in the district. The number of jobs in tourism-related sectors has increased since 2009 and at a much faster rate than nationally, driven by an increase in jobs in Hotels & Similar Accommodation and Public Houses & Bars.	Wholesale & Retail Trade will be highly likely to remain the largest employment sector in Cotswold. The tourism sector will also remain important due to the district's numerous visitor assets (including the Cotswold AONB).
Business	Despite strong jobs growth, Cotswold has experienced weak growth in the number of businesses since 2004. The number of business start-ups is low in Cotswold but survival rates of existing businesses are high. The largest numbers of businesses in Cotswold are in Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities, Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, and Construction. The share of all businesses that are in the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing sector is very high in Cotswold compared to the rest of Gloucestershire and England. There has been a strong increase in the number of Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities businesses and jobs in the past six years, alongside decline in the number of retail, wholesale, construction and financial & insurance businesses.	Business growth in Cotswold is likely to be releatively restrained when compared to neighbouring authorities due to the rural nature of much of the district. However the growth of professional services and jobs predominantly carried out online are likely to see the largest growth.