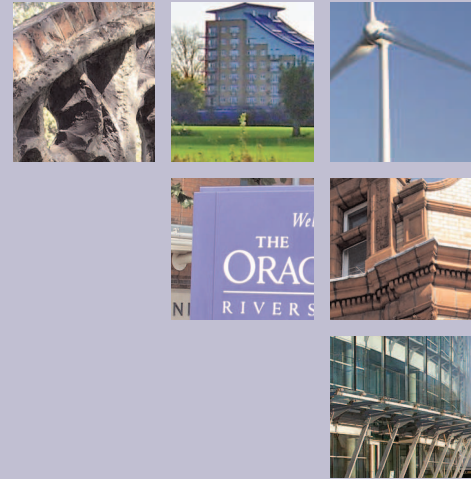


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Reading Borough Local Development Framework



Annual Monitoring Report 2005/2006

December 2006



Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06
Local Development Framework
December 2006
Reading Borough Council

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Monitoring Report is the second to be produced by Reading Borough Council, in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Ultimately Annual Monitoring Reports will be able to identify if policies contained in the Local Development Framework are achieving their objectives and targets, have any unintended consequences, and deliver sustainable development. As the Local Development Framework has not been fully established, the current Development Plan, that is the current legislation by which development is assessed against in the Borough, consists of the Berkshire Structure Plan, and the Reading Borough Local Plan.

Annual Monitoring Reports will provide an analysis of the system of policy making. They will test whether objectives and assumptions behind policies are still relevant. Prior to the 2005-06 reporting year, no development documents were released, so no monitoring of new documents has occurred. A Statement of Community Involvement was adopted during the reporting year, this document may be monitored in future AMR's. The information in this Report essentially includes the Core Indicators, relates these to the existing development plan, and provides Contextual and Local Indicators. This Report also illustrates milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme, outlines the relationship between the existing Documents in the Local Development Framework, and details the development of the monitoring framework.

For ease of reference, the report is split into three main sections, Section A which provides an introduction and some context, Section B which provides information on the Local Development Scheme implementation, and Section C, which provides the Core, Local and Contextual Indicators. Supporting information, where necessary, is contained in the appendices.

The report presents many key findings, some of these include: the prevalence of development, both employment and residential on previously developed land; Reading's housing completions (636) continue to be above the targets in the Berkshire Structure Plan; Reading is densely populated compared to the South-East of England, and the rest of England; Reading is highly connected, with almost 100% of new development within 30 minutes public transport travel time of necessary services; and Reading is achieving renewable energy targets.

Reading Borough Council is committed to monitoring and review of the Local Development Framework to ensure that it remains appropriate and relevant to current issues of environmental, social and economic importance. The Council will continue to develop its information and monitoring systems so it can monitor the targets and indicators of the evolving Local Development Framework and South East Plan.

SECTION A INTRODUCTION

SECTION A1. Background to the Annual Monitoring Report

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Planning Authorities to monitor and review the progress made with the preparation of Local Development Schemes (LDS) and the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents (LDD) are being successfully implemented. The published Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) assesses progress towards meeting the timetable and milestones set out in the LDS and reports on a number of indicators which measure the effectiveness of planning policies. This technique of measuring, reviewing, and adjusting policy, is part of the Government's 'plan, monitor and manage' approach to the planning system.

This AMR is the second to be produced under the new planning system, and as such the Local Development Framework is still evolving. This AMR therefore concentrates on monitoring the core indicators as required by Central Government.

As the LDF continues to evolve, more detailed monitoring will be undertaken, and this will enable future AMRs to introduce additional locally relevant indicators. Future AMRs will also more accurately report on significant effects indicators as identified in the Sustainability Appraisals of LDDs.

Section A provides the outline to this Report, as well as an introduction, some background to the Report and the planning context.

Section B provides an overview of the Local Development Framework, and includes the monitoring of the implementation of the Local Development Framework, information on the Statement of Community Involvement, and an overview of the development of the monitoring framework being established in the Local Development Framework.

Section C provides the Core, Contextual and Local Indicators. Each part is structured in a similar format to aid in the ease of understanding of the document. Every chapter begins with a paragraph on **Context** relevant to that set of indicators. The **Core**, **Local** or **Contextual Indicator** is then stated, followed by the indicator, usually presented in a tabular format. **Relevant Objectives** and **Relevant Policies** from both the Regional and Local level, are listed next. Where relevant, a brief **Commentary** is given to provide additional information or explanation relevant to the indicators. An appraisal of **Policy Effectiveness** follows and any **Actions Required** to better implement the policies are included. As the nature of each of the indicators are quite different, not all the above headings are always relevant, where not necessary the heading has been omitted.

SECTION A2. Characteristics, Issues and Challenges

In 2001, 144,100 people lived within the Reading Borough boundary, while around 220,000 live in the contiguous urban area centred on Reading (2001 Census). The population is now estimated to be 147,000 (Greater London Authority). Reading's population is ethnically diverse, has a high proportion of young adults (20-35 year olds) and a growing elderly population. Reading ranks fourth in the South East⁴ for population density, with 35.4 people per hectare. Over 13% of the population is made up from people from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities.

Unemployment is relatively low at 2.2% (August 2006), however this disguises the fact that unemployment is relatively high in a number of more deprived areas. Although, as a whole, Reading is an affluent town, two wards within the town are considered relatively deprived in national comparisons (2000 Index of Multiple Deprivation). The town has good general health, although there are pockets of poor health in several parts of the Borough. Over 40% of Reading's households have a gross income of less than £15,000 (See Experian Income profiles, Idea Knowledge⁵).

Reading is an ancient town with over 1000 years of history, and contains a wealth of archaeology and historic buildings. The historic environment has been, and is, important in forming the identity of the town and its people.

The housing market in Reading continues to boom with rapidly rising house prices being well above the UK average. This market is increasingly putting sale and rental levels above those that can be afforded by many sections of the population.

The completion of the Oracle Shopping Centre propelled Reading's retail ranking from 26th in 1998 to 8th in 2001, although that ranking has slipped back in recent years. Property rents in the centre compare favourably with competing centres in the South East.

Reading is extremely well connected in terms of the rail system. Over 2 million people arrive at or depart from the station every year. It is the second biggest interchange station outside London on the UK rail network and offers direct services to 360 towns and cities nationally. Reading Buses carry over 20 million customer journeys a year.

Reading, as the capital of the Thames Valley is an important cultural centre, with a growing range of facilities and attractions. The historic and built environment are significant cultural assets of the town.

⁴ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

SECTION A3. Planning Context

The Council has drawn on a range of research studies, plans, documents and consultation exercises to highlight the key issues facing the Borough that must be addressed in the Local Development Framework. Visions for Reading were derived from the City 2020 Vision, the Structure Plan, and the Community Strategy. All three are complementary. For the purposes of the LDF, it is proposed to combine these visions to produce an overall vision as follows: -

“The vision is to maintain and improve the quality of life in Reading, embracing the challenges of a dynamic, inclusive urban community of the 21st century. Everyone will have the opportunity to benefit from all that Reading can offer. Everyone has a part to play in shaping its future.

Reading’s communities will be sustainable and have good access to a range of local facilities, services (including healthcare), housing and employment. The quality of the environment will continue to improve, and become a clean, safe and desirable place in which to live, work and visit. Reading will continue to develop as a regional centre serving the wider Thames Valley and providing commensurate opportunities for shopping and entertainment. It will provide headquarters for a number of major national and international companies and will be an environment where new business can start up and flourish. The centre will provide a quality environment and facilities accessible to all members of society, with good access to open space and waterspaces. The conditions to enable a high quality of life for residents in the centre will be sought as part of developments. The centre will also contribute towards maintaining and improving the quality of life for all those who live in, work in and visit Reading.

In the suburbs, appropriate development of housing and services in locations with good links to public transport services will continue. The district and local centres will perform an increasing role of providing services to local populations. Travel from the suburbs to the centre will for many people usually take the form of improved public transport. Green corridors along the Rivers Thames and Kennet will be protected and enhanced as a recreational and ecological resource”.

Reading Borough Council also currently has three strategic aims for Reading. These broad priorities continue to underpin the work of the Council.

- To develop Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley.
- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.
- To establish Reading as a learning City and a stimulating and rewarding place to live and visit.

The existing Development Plan for Reading Borough comprises:

- Berkshire Structure Plan (BSP) 2001-2016, adopted July 2005;
- Reading Borough Local Plan (RBLP) adopted October 1998

- Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire (RPLP) incorporating alterations adopted in December 1997 and May 2001; and
- Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (WLP) adopted December 1998.

The RBLP will be replaced in stages by as the Local Development Framework (LDF) evolves. The programme for production of the LDF, and individual Local Development Documents, is set out in the Local Development Scheme. Local Development Documents will include the Core Strategy, the Reading Central Area Action Plan (RCAAP), Site Specific Allocations, and an Adopted Proposals Map. A number of policies from the RBLP will remain as saved policies until the Core Strategy is adopted, and this is expected to take place in late 2007. For a list of saved policies please see Appendix A.

SECTION B CREATING THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

SECTION B1. Monitoring of Local Development Scheme Implementation

This Section reviews the progress of documents evolving under the Local Development Scheme, and contains other requirements from section 35 of the Act and Regulation 48.

The original Local Development Scheme gained approval from Government Office for the South East⁶ (GOSE) in March 2005. It sets out the timetable and milestones for the production of documents within the LDF. The original LDS was replaced by an updated LDS submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2006. A holding direction was issued and the finalised timeline is currently the subject of discussions between Reading Borough Council and the Government Office of the South East.

Documents adopted or approved within the report period

The Review of the Battle Hospital Development Brief was adopted in July 2005.

The Core Strategy 'Preferred Options' Report for Issues and Alternative Options Consultation period concluded in June 2005.

The Pre-Submission Draft of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Date for Publication of Pre-Submission Draft June 2005 and submission to Secretary of State in October 2005.

Caversham Lock Development Brief Draft was produced in October 2005. The Brief was adopted in 20th March 2006.

Annual Monitoring Report 2004-5 submitted to the Secretary of State December 2005.

Revised Sustainability Scoping Report adopted March 2006.

Station Hill South Planning and Urban Design Brief Consultation Brief were produced in May 2006.

Reading Central Area Action Plan will be released in January 2007.

⁶ <http://www.gos.gov.uk/gose/planning/?a=42496>

Progress against the Local Development Scheme March 2006

	imetable												
													13
Core Document and Spatial Strategy ⁷													
Reading Central Area Action Plan													
Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Document ⁸													
Detailed Waste Development Control Policies and Preferred Areas for Development. ⁹													

Local Development Document Preparation Milestones

1. Pre-production, including commencement of document preparation.
2. Preparation of the scoping report for the sustainability appraisal.
3. Preparation of Issues and options and initial sustainability appraisal report, including public consultation.
4. Public Participation on preferred options and Sustainability Appraisal report.
5. Consider representations and discussions with community and stakeholders
6. Preparation of submission development document and any amendments to the sustainability appraisal report.
7. Submission of development plan document and sustainability appraisal report to Secretary of State;
8. Public consultation period on submission development plan document and sustainability appraisal report.
9. Pre-examination consideration of representations
10. Pres-examination meeting
11. Examination period including commencement of examination;
12. Receipt of Inspectors Binding Report
13. Adopting and publication of document and revised proposals map, publication of a statement setting out how the sustainability appraisal and consultations influenced the preparation of the plan and publication of monitoring measures.

⁷ www.reading.gov.uk/environmentplanning/planning/strategicplanningservices/General.asp?id= SX9452-A7806486

⁸ www.berks-jspu.gov.uk/content/main.asp?pid=27

⁹ <http://www.berks-jspu.gov.uk/content/main.asp?pid=27>

	timetable					
						6
Open Space Provision ¹⁰						
Guidance on Implementation of Design and Development Policies						
Review of Battle Hospital Development Brief ¹¹						
Dee Park Development Brief ¹²						
Station Area Development Briefs						
Station Hill South						
Sustainable Design and Construction						
Civic Area Development Brief						
Briefs for sites in East side of Central Reading						
Meadway School Development Brief						

Supplementary Planning Document Preparation Milestones

1. Pre-production, including commencement of document preparation
2. Preparation of the scoping report for the sustainability appraisal.
3. Preparation of draft supplementary planning document
4. Draft supplementary planning document planning document and sustainability appraisal report issued for public participation.
5. Consideration of consultation representations
6. Adoption and publication of document, publication of a statement setting out how the sustainability appraisal and consultation influenced the preparation of the plan and publication of monitoring measures.

Statement of Community Involvement

Timetable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Position									

1. Preparation of Draft Statement of Community involvement
2. Public Participation on draft statement
3. Preparation of submission statement
4. Submission of statement to the Secretary of State
5. Pre-examination consideration of representations.
6. Pre-examination meeting
7. Examination period, including commencements of the examinations
8. Receipt of Inspectors Binding report
9. Adoption and Publication of document.

Although the SCI will be formally reviewed at least every 5 years. It is the role of the AMR to report on any issues arising as a result of the SCI consultation exercises. If necessary certain factors could be identified by the AMR which could trigger a

¹⁰ <http://www.reading.gov.uk/environmentplanning/parksandopenspaces>

¹¹ <http://www.reading.gov.uk/environmentplanning/planning/strategicplanningservices/>

¹² <http://www.reading.gov.uk/general.asp?id=sx9452-a780bc27>

review of the SCI before the five years include: demographic changes, changes in the Council's consultation policy or significant changes in best practice. There have been no significant issues arising out of the operation of the SCI since its adoption in July 2006. The SCI is discussed further in section B2.

Policies (including 'saved' policies) that the authority has decided it no longer wishes to include in the LDF.

There are no policies that the authority no longer wishes to include in the LDF, for a list of the saved policies, please see Appendix A.

Factors affecting the achievement of LDS milestone

There continue to be issues related to staff resources, and the LDF process is much more resource intensive than anticipated, however there are no specific issues affecting the achievement of milestones.

SECTION B2. Statement of Community Involvement

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 brought about substantial changes to the planning system, including an objective to achieve more effective involvement of the community in planning. As part of this, Council is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This document sets out how the authority intends to achieve continuous community involvement in the preparation of local development documents. The SCI also covers how people and the community will be engaged in decisions on planning applications for major development.

In addition to complying with government guidance, the SCI was developed to comply with Council's Consultation and Participation Policy and accord with the advice in the Council's Consultation Guidance Pack.

The SCI was subject to independent examination, as if it were a development plan document. Individuals and groups who have an interest in planning have been able to make representations on this SCI, and these representations were considered by the Planning Inspectorate during the examination.

Pre-production on the SCI commenced in 2004, with pre-submission of the SCI production in June 2005. Submissions were accepted in October 2005, and the SCI was officially adopted in July 2006 in accordance with the March 2005 LDS.

The SCI will be formally reviewed at least every five (5) years. Future AMRs will report on any issues arising as a result of the SCI consultation exercises. Factors that could trigger a review of the SCI before the five (5) year period include: demographic changes, changes in the Council's consultation policy, or significant changes in leading practice.

SECTION B3. Developing the Monitoring Framework

This Annual Monitoring Report is the second to be produced by Reading Borough Council, in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. As the Local Development Framework has not been fully established, the current Development Plan consists essentially of the Berkshire Structure Plan, and the Reading Borough Local Plan. This monitoring report focuses on presenting the Core Indicators, and Local and Contextual Indicators where the data is available. With the implementation of the Core Strategy, future AMRs will identify if policies contained in the Local Development Framework are achieving their objectives and targets, having any unintended consequences, and delivering sustainable development.

Annual Monitoring Reports are to provide a feedback loop within the process of policy making, and test whether objectives and assumptions behind policies are still relevant. Monitoring allows the actual significant effects of implementation of the Core Strategy to be tested against those significant effects predicted within this appraisal.

This is an important process as it will help ensure that any problems that arise during implementation of the Core Strategy can be identified and future predictions made more accurately. It will also enable, at an early stage, any unforeseen impacts of implementation, and allow appropriate remedial action to be taken.

Effective monitoring and review is also essential to the successful delivery of the objectives and policies contained within the LDF. It will provide an important feedback mechanism to assess the performance of the policies, identify any unforeseen circumstances and enable adjustments and revisions to be made if necessary. In addition, monitoring will be key to updating the evidence base underpinning the Core Strategy.

In producing the Core Strategy, the Council has adopted an objectives -policies - targets - indicators approach. Each of the policies contained within the Core Strategy have a corresponding section relating to targets and output indicators. These have been set to measure movements towards or away from the policy objectives over time. Wherever possible, the core output indicators contained within the Government's good practice guide to LDF monitoring¹³ have been included.

The indicators for each policy details what information or data is to be gathered and included within the AMR. This mechanism will allow for the effective review of the performance the policies and highlight any need to adjust or revise them.

One of the key core indicators to be monitored is for housing delivery. The Council has included a housing trajectory within the AMR, and this will be updated on an annual basis. The trajectory monitors both past and anticipated housing

¹³ Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2005)

completions across the plan period and will help to identify at an early stage whether any steps need to be taken to ensure planned requirements are met. In the event that the planned requirements are not predicted to be met, the Council will use development briefs and supplementary planning documents in order to bring sites forward for development.

The AMR will also include the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal monitoring for the Core Strategy. The significant effects of the Core Strategy that were predicted as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process will be monitored using the targets and indicators set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Report¹⁴. This will provide a further feedback mechanism to review the performance of the policies in relation to the Councils Sustainability objectives and highlight any need to adjust or revise them.

Reading Borough Council recognises the importance of monitoring to spatial planning. Monitoring enables the examination of trends and comparison against existing targets and policies, indicating where a review of these policies may be needed. The Core Strategy is implemented it will have a comprehensive monitoring framework, and this will be evident in future AMRs.

¹⁴ Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Core Strategy Submission Draft

SECTION C INDICATORS

SECTION C1. Business Development

Context The most recent figures on Reading's economy are based on the 2004 Annual Business Inquiry. It shows that Reading shares in the overall affluence of the south east region. The town is a centre for the regions business, shopping and entertainment in the Thames Valley, and the RBLP aims to maintain this role. Reading differs from the national average with a higher proportion of jobs in transport, storage and communication, financial intermediation, and real estate renting and business. Reading has an under representation in health and social work and public administration¹⁵. The Borough has a strong industrial base with new technology industries, a strong service sector and several manufacturing and distribution firms. Details of the employment structure of the district are given in Appendix B. Core Indicators 1a to 1f present details of economic activity in the district. Activity rates are higher than regional and national rates, while unemployment rates are lower than average.

Core Indicator 1a: Amount of floor space developed for employment by type in Reading Borough 2005-06

							B8
		-					
Total for Central Reading	0	0	1,047	0	0	0	0
Total for rest of Borough	0	3,385	583	0	181	1,067	8,470
							8,470

*Gross floor space calculated here is external floor space as there is currently no means to calculate internal floor space.

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RBLP Paragraph 2.1

Relevant Policies: BSP E1 Location of employment development; E3 Diversity of Employment; RBLP EMP1 Proposals for Major Employment - Generating Development outside the Town Centre; EMP3 Acceptability of Employment; EMP4 Maintaining a Variety of Premises; EMP7 Major Industrial Areas.

Commentary: Core Indicator 1a shows that the majority of employment floor space developed in 2005/06 was for storage and distribution uses. The table also shows that not surprisingly most of this was developed outside the area of Central Reading. The major contributor to floor space within the Reading Central Area was office other than professional or financial services. The figures are for external floor space, rather than gross internal floor space as specified in Indicator 1a, as this is the data currently recorded on planning applications and for monitoring purposes and data on internal floor space is not available.

Policy Effectiveness: RBLP policies have proven to be effective in the financial year even in the face of tough economic conditions in the commercial property sector. Examples of this include EMP1 has delivered more than 14,000 sqm of employment generating floor space outside the town centre, EMP4 has delivered a variety of different types of floor space, and EMP7 has seen the development of B8 floor space at all three major industrial areas in the Borough. The policies have

¹⁵ neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

effectively delivered the objectives of the RBLP providing opportunities for continued economic growth, maintaining the variety of jobs in the Borough.

Actions Required: Develop system to monitor internal floor space for future AMRs.

Core Indicator 1b: Amount of floor space developed for employment by type, in employment or regeneration areas.

		-					B8
Central Reading	0	0	1,047	0	0	0	0
Forbury Industrial Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gasworks Site	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
							0
Acre Road/Bennet Road	0	0	0	0	0	1,067	0
Manor farm/Gillette Way	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rose Kiln Lane S/Boulton Road	0	0	0	0		0	5,170
Rose Kiln Lane N/Elgar Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worton Grange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portman Road/Deacon Way	0	3,385	0	0	0	0	1,249
Green Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiff Road/Richfield Avenue	0	0	0	0	181	0	2,051
Other Business Areas	0	3,385	0	0	181	1,067	8,470
							8,470

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04;RBLP Paragraph 2.1, 2.62.

Relevant Policies: BSP E3 Diversity of Employment; S1 Major Retail and Leisure Development in Town Centres; S2 Retail Development outside Major Town Centres, S3 Leisure Development outside Major Town Centres; RBLP EMP3 Acceptability of Employment Development; RET3A District and Major Local Shopping Areas; RET3B Other Local Shopping Centres; RET4 Improvements to Local Shopping Centres; LEI3 The Provision and Improvement of Leisure and Recreation Facilities; LEI6 New Leisure facilities; and CEN10 Recreation, Entertainment and Leisure Facilities.

Commentary: The above table shows the amount of employment floor space developed in the Employment Areas designated in the RBLP. The majority of new development is located within these areas.

Policy Effectiveness: Policies are effectively delivering a variety of premises as stated in RBLP paragraph 2.62.

Actions Required: Develop system to monitor internal floor space for future AMRs.

Core Indicator 1c: Percentage of 1a, by type, which is on Previously Developed Land.

Amount of floor space by employment type on PDL in square metres in Reading Borough 2005-06

			Total for Reading Borough
B1	0	0	0
B1-B8 Mix	0	3,385	3,385 (100%)
B1a	1,047	583	1,630 (100%)
B1b	0	0	0
B1c	0	181	181 (100%)
B2	0	1,067	1,067 (100%)
B8	0	8,470	8,470 (100%)

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RBLP Paragraph 2.1.

Relevant Policies: BSP DP1 Spatial Strategy; RBLP EMP2 Control of Major Development throughout the Borough; EMP3 Acceptability of economic development.

Commentary: All new employment floor space developed on Previously Developed Land (PDL) in 2005/06. This is in keeping with the BSP's DP1 Spatial Strategy which advocates limiting developments outside of existing settlements.

Policy Effectiveness: The table demonstrates that 100% of new employment land was on Previously Developed land, and indicates that the policies have been extremely successful.

Actions Required: Ensure future Development Plan Documents continue the emphasis on priority for development of previously developed land.

Core Output Indicator 1d: Employment Land Available by Type in hectares.

Sites in LDF/RBLP/S106 Applications in Reading 2005-06

-		-					B8
Total for Central Reading	2.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total for Rest of Borough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
							0.00

Outstanding Permitted development in Reading 2005-06.

-		-					B8
Total for Central Reading	0.04	0.00	4.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total for Rest of Borough	9.88	0.50	13.70	0.00	0.30	0.00	3.00
							3.00

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RCLP Paragraph 2.1.

Relevant Policies: BSP E1 Location of Employment Development; E2 Acceptability of Employment Development; E3 Diversity of Employment; RBLP EMP2 Control of Major Development throughout the Borough; EMP3 Acceptability of Economic Development; EMP4 Maintaining a Variety of Premises; EMP6 Units for Small Firms.

Policy Effectiveness: There is a good supply of land available for employment use. These provide an opportunity for a diversity of employment uses within the Borough.

Actions Required: This data reflects the need for continued review of the need to release employment land for alternative uses.

Core Output Indicator 1e: Losses of employment land in (i) employment/regeneration areas and (ii) local authority area.

Core Output Indicator 1f: Amount of employment land lost to residential development.

Losses of employment land in employment/regeneration areas in square metres in Reading 2005-06 (note, all losses were to residential uses).

										Other
Central Reading	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forbury Industrial Park	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gasworks Site	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
										0.00
Acre Road/Bennet Road	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manor farm/Gillette Way	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rose Kiln Lane S/Boulton Road	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rose Kiln Lane N/Elgar Road	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Worton Grange	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Portman Road/Deacon Way	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Green Park	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cardiff Road/Richfield Avenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Business Areas	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
										0.00

Losses of employment land in Local Authority Area (note, all land was lost to residential uses).

		-					B8
Total for Central Reading	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total for Rest of Borough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
							0.00

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RBLP Paragraph 2.1; 2.72; 2.76.

Relevant Policies: BSP E4 Future uses of Employment Land; RBLP EMP7 Major Industrial Areas.

Commentary: The loss of B1a is due to the conversion of some vacant offices to housing. This is a reflection of the strong demand for housing relative to the demand for office space, and this outcome is generally considered acceptable. Whilst both RPG9 and the emerging SEP contain policies referring to the need to prioritise the use of previously developed land, neither the BSP nor the RBLP contain policies that refer specifically to this issue. Policy E1 of the BSP encourages development within the Major Town Centres and within settlement boundaries, obviously most of these opportunities are on previously developed land. The RBLP's EMP1 has allocated sites outside the town centre for employment generating potential, again most of these sites are previously developed. Policy E4 of BSP emphasizes the need for local authorities to consider the requirements of communities for other uses of employment land, particularly housing.

Policy Effectiveness: Policies have effectively retained most employment land for employment uses. There is still a reasonable supply of land available for employment use. These provide an opportunity for a diversity of employment uses within the Borough. Employment data in this AMR and other data suggests that there is adequate economic growth in the Borough, and perhaps alternative uses (such as housing) could be considered for some previously developed land.

Actions Required: Future policies should give due assess future demand and supply for employment sites, and balance this with the need for land for other uses, including housing.

Contextual Indicators

Contextual Indicator - Full Time Weekly Earnings						
						2005
Where Reading is the Place of Residence	Not Available	Not Available	£452.70	£461.80	£489.10	£471.70 ¹⁶
Where Reading is the Place of Work	£411.70	£417.50	£458.60	£445.10	£497.00	£528.2 ¹⁷

Figure showing median gross full-time weekly earnings 2000-2005

National Statistics Annual survey of hours and earnings (ASHE) Residence data was only included in the ASHE from 2002

Contextual Indicator - Number of VAT registered businesses ¹⁸						
						2005
Opening Stock	4,265	4,340	4,410	4,455	4,365	4385
Registrations in Year	540	465	490	430	480	480
De-Registrations in year	465	395	445	520	460	485
Net Change	+75	+70	+45	-90	+20	-5

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RBLP Paragraph 2.1; 2.72; 2.76.

Relevant Policies: BSP E3 Diversity of Employment; E4 Future uses of Employment Land; RBLP EMP6 Units for Small Firms; EMP7 Major Industrial Areas.

Commentary: The evidence in the tables above, and other government data show the economy of Reading is healthy and steadily growing. The minor loss in VAT registered businesses is less than 1% of the total, and not seen as a serious threat to Reading's economy.

Actions Required: Continue to develop policy to address the amount of space available for small businesses.

¹⁶ http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2005/Table8_1a.xls

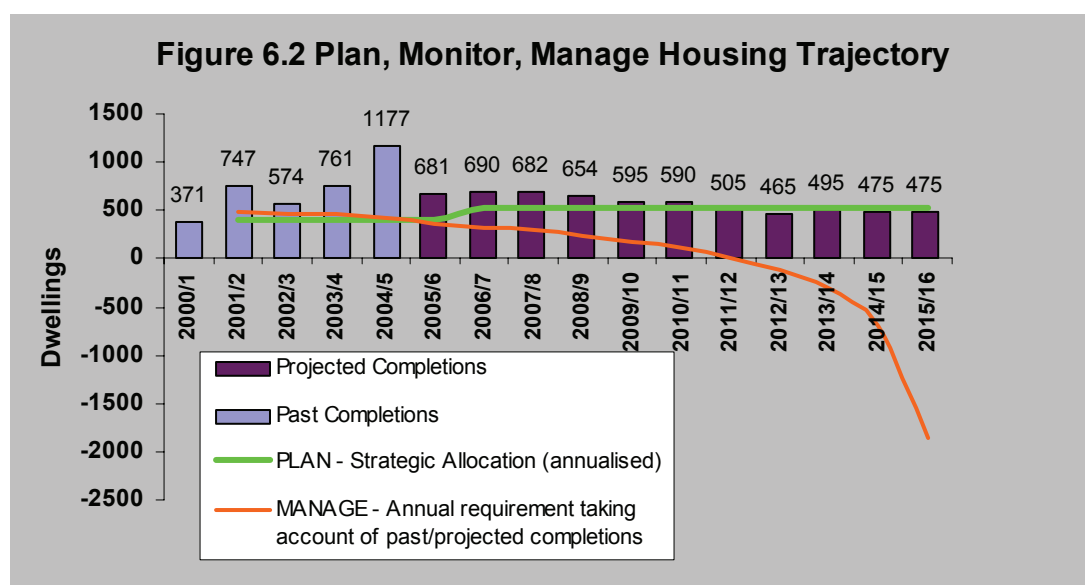
¹⁷ http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2005/Table7_1a.xls

¹⁸ <http://www.sbs.gov.uk/sbsgov/action/layer?r.12=7000000243&r.11=7000000229&r.s=tl&topicId=7000011757>

SECTION C2. Housing.

Context The housing market in Reading continues to boom, with rapidly rising house prices being well above the national average. The average house price increased by approximately 44% between 2000 and 2005, thus making it increasingly difficult for low wage earners to find affordable accommodation (HM Land Registry, 2005) The Housing Needs and Aspirations Survey (carried out in 2002) indicates that over each of the next five years, Reading will require some 6,660 annual housing “transactions” (i.e. sales/ purchases and lettings/ re-lettings) across its entire housing market, to meet both the *demand* for open-market housing and the *need* for affordable housing. This equates to a shortfall in housing supply of some 1,056 units in each of the five years. Approximately 66% of these households would require some form of affordable housing. The survey revealed a need for a wide range of housing, including the provision of disabled persons units and adaptable housing, large and family sized accommodation etc. National statistics indicate that social housing is across the board more expensive than the average for both the South East and the rest of England. The majority of households in Reading, (60%) have one or two people per household, compared to an average of household size of 2.36 for England and Wales. Community concern exists in some areas over the number of modern developments and resulting impact on the character of the area and increased pressure on available services and infrastructure. More detailed data on housing is presented in Appendix C.

Core Output Indicator 2a. Housing Trajectory

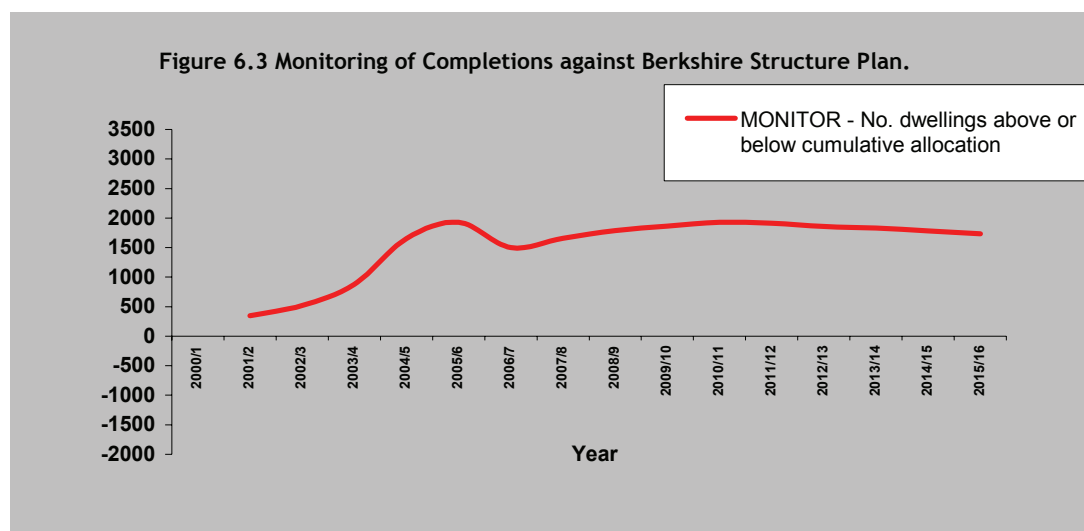


Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.05; RBLP Paragraph 1.47 and 1.19

Relevant Policies: BSP H1 Overall Housing Provision; H6 Residential Density and Dwelling Mix; BCLP HSG1 Housing Provision and Identified Sites; HSG9 Location of Residential Development.

Commentary: The site-based trajectory compares past performance on housing supply to future anticipated supply. Completions for the year were only slightly lower than forecast in 2005/06, due mainly to later than anticipated starts on some of the larger sites with planning permission.

Current commitments, allocated sites and anticipated windfall sites have been phased over the current plan period. The resultant graph illustrates the anticipated high level of housing completions over the next few years. While a significant element of the total housing provision is expected to be achieved through conversions, changes of use, and redevelopment of existing buildings Reading will be required to consider the development of greenfield or ‘windfall’ sites. Policy HSG9 sets the criteria by which proposals for residential development are judged. The Urban Potential Study (2003) identified some windfall sites, however it is expected that the market will provide additional sites.



Policy Effectiveness: Local Plan policies have been successful in delivering the Structure Plan housing requirement.

Actions Required: The Site Allocations DPD will need to make provision for additional allocations of housing land for completion in the period post 2016. Conducting an Urban Capacity Study and further analysis of windfall rates will provide details of sites and numbers likely to become available for housing.

Core Output Indicator 2b: Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land

		%PDL
636	323	96%

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.05; RBLP Paragraph 1.47 and 1.19

Relevant Policies: BSP H3 Location of Housing Development; RBLP KEY 4 Areas of Development

Policy Effectiveness: As the graph illustrates, the level of dwellings is currently well above the cumulative allocation.

Actions Required: An Urban Capacity Study and Site Allocations DPD are required to inform the development of future residential areas.

Policy Effectiveness: Limited residential development outside settlement boundaries indicates that policies are proving effective.

Actions Required: To continue to monitor location of developments.

Core Output Indicator 2c: Percentage of new dwellings completed at (i) less than 30 dwellings per hectare; (ii) between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare; and (iii) above 50 dwellings per hectare.

	Large and Medium Sites - dwellings per ha					
			-			%
631	0	0%	62	10%	569	90%

* In line with Annual Monitoring Housing returns to SEERA, the figures are gross.

Losses through demolition, conversions, changes of use, and sites less than 10 units have been excluded from these figures.

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RBLP Paragraph 1.8; 3.1; 3.42; 3.43

Relevant Policies: BSP H6 Residential density and dwelling mix; RBLP HSG5 Residential Design Standards.

Target: Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016. Encourage developments in excess of 30 dwellings per hectare as required in PPG3

Commentary: Reading has a very high population density relative to the rest of England. Government statistics show that the population density (persons per hectare) for Reading is 35.42 compared with for 4.20 the South East, and 3.77 for England¹⁹.

Policy Effectiveness: PPG3 has essentially ensured that the larger housing sites have been developed at densities greater than 30 dwellings per hectare. Only 3% of dwellings were constructed at a density of <30 per hectare, this indicates that the current policies are effective.

Actions Required: Continue to monitor residential densities and ensure future density policies reflect PPG3.

Core strategy 2d: Affordable Housing Completions

		% Affordable
656	311*	47%

* This figure includes 39 Key Worker Living Homebuy Units.

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RBLP Paragraph 2.1; 2.20; 2.21; 3.23; 3.24.

Relevant Policies: BSP H5 Affordable Housing; RBLP HSG2 Affordable Housing.

Relevant Targets: RBLP at least 2000 homes during the plan period. Normally this is to be achieved by the involvement of a housing association or similar body, and be secured for successive occupiers.

Supplementary Planning Guidance Planning Obligations: On sites of 15 or more dwellings, the Council will negotiate to secure 50% of the units as affordable units, on a site by-site basis, having regard to market and site conditions'. In addition affordable housing contributions may be sought from residential-only

¹⁹ neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

developments, mixed-use developments and major B1 employment developments of more than 2,5000 sq.m.

Policy Effectiveness: Whilst existing policies and SPG have been effective in delivering affordable housing,

Actions Required: Ensure that the Core Strategy continues to set a framework for the future provision of affordable and key worker housing. Consider the impact of the Planning Obligations Circular 5/05, and future revisions to PPG3 on future policies on affordable housing. Develop the evidence base for housing needs and the housing market and consider the implications of the revision of existing policies.

Contextual Indicator - Reading Housing Stock

								2005
Total Housing Stock	57,360	57,942	58,346	59,123	59,747	60,292	61,154	61,810

Contextual Indicator - Reading Average Residential Property Prices

		-			Overall
June 2005	£352,472	£198,095	£160,513	£145,734	£187,513
June 2004	£338,798	£190,410	£154,286	£140,080	£180,239
June 2003	£324,315	£182,270	£147,690	£134,092	£172,534
June 2002	£300,183	£168,707	£136,701	£124,114	£159,695
June 2001	£256,300	£144,044	£116,717	£105,970	£136,350
June 2000	£248,365	£139,585	£113,103	£102,689	£132,129

Source: HM Land Registry

Policy Effectiveness: The continued increase in provision of residential property is in keeping with Reading's housing commitments, however the increase in price may suggest that supply is still not meeting demand.

Actions Required: Future LDF policies will need to have an emphasis on providing affordable accommodation and investigate releasing land for residential uses to meet market demands.

SECTION C3. Transport

Context: Reading's small size and high population density would make public transport a viable option, however car ownership levels in the south east are higher than that across Britain with only 17% of households not having a car compared with 26% nationally. Similarly the percentage of one and two car households is higher than the national averages²⁰. Reading's major roads include the M4 motorway, A4 and the A33, with smaller trunk roads crossing the Borough. Public transport within Reading is facilitated by regular bus services. Reading Train Station is located on the edge of Reading Central Area, and it provides regular fast train services to London, as well as connecting the Borough to other parts of the UK.

The Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), which formed the basis for the transport policies in the Draft South East Plan, introduces the concept of regional hubs and spokes as priorities for investment. Hubs will encourage the development of concentrations of higher density land uses including interchange facilities to create living centres. Hubs and spokes will support the concentration of future development in existing urban areas and improved access into those areas for those accessing services and facilities. Reading is identified as a hub. In pursuing its strategy, the RTS gives priority to the development of public transport systems in the region including public transport interchanges, mass rapid transit systems, travel planning advice and information services.

The Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016 indicates that a good transport system in Berkshire is of key importance, not only for the economy, but also for people's quality of life. The Reading Borough Council Local Transport Plan 2006-2011²¹ is built around several themes, including, an Accessibility Strategy, a Parking Strategy (in preparation), a Bus Strategy, a Rail Strategy, an Urban Traffic Management & Control, Local Area Enhancements, Community Strategy Partnerships, and Highway & Bridge Maintenance.

Core Indicator 3a. Amount of completed non-residential development within UCOs A, B and D complying with car-parking standards as set out in the Local Development Framework.

Commentary: There is currently no policy framework for car-parking standards, and as such there is no measure for this Core Indicator. Reading currently has a draft Parking Policy, which will eventually be implemented into the LDF.

Actions Required: The Local Development Framework will adopt a reasonable parking strategy in the near future.

²⁰ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D7797.xls>

²¹ LTP2, RBC, March 2006. www.reading.gov.uk/transport

Core Output Indicator 3b. Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP, a hospital; a primary school; a secondary school; areas of employment; and a major retail centre.

	GP	Hospital	Primary School	Secondary School	Employment nodes	Major Retail Centre
New Residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of:	100%	96%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.05; Paragraph 3.06; RBLP Paragraph 1.8

Relevant Policies: BSP H1 New residential development; M4 Highway measures associated with new development; M6 Cycling and walking; M8 Public Transport; RBLP KEY1 Equality of Access to development; HSG9 Location of Residential Development; TRN1 A Balanced Transport Strategy; TRN2 Bus priority and interchange.

Commentary: The table presents the results of an analysis of the accessibility of residential sites approved in 2005/06 using the Accession software package. The methodology is presented in Appendix D. The results show an extremely high level of accessibility from newly developed residences. Integration of transport is the key message of PPG13, within and between different types of transport.

Policy Effectiveness: The local transport plan and relevant policies have successfully ensured that development is accessible via sustainable transport modes. This has reduced the need to travel by car.

Actions Required: Future LDF policies will continue to place an emphasis on development in sustainable and appropriate locations.

SECTION C4. Local Services

Context: In recent times, Reading town centre has evolved into a regional centre in terms of office, retail and leisure facilities. Reading also has seven (7) smaller town or district centres within the Borough. A recent report by Colliers CRE, entitled *Retail and Leisure Study of Reading* (2005), indicated that Reading town centre has been improving as a shopping and leisure destination over a number of years, principally due to the increased investment and development that has occurred.

Reading is generally well served by its existing open spaces in terms of overall supply against need, albeit that overall provision is less than recreational guidelines recommend. However, an audit of open space and analysis of need suggest that there is an uneven distribution of open space across areas of the Borough in terms of access and in certain types of open space, particularly provision for children's play areas. In addition, many existing open spaces are in need of upgrading to improve the facilities offered. Reading has multiple sites of natural importance, however there are no sites managed to Green Flag award standards in the 2005-06 reporting year. Forbury Park and the Abbey Ruins have achieved Green Flag award status since the end of that reporting year, and there are plans to submit further sites in Reading in the future.

Core Output Indicator 4a. Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development.

Floor Space completed*	A1 (Retail)	A2 (Financial and professional services)	B1a (Office other than professional services)	D2 (Assembly and leisure)
Central Reading	856	68	1,047	0
Rest of Borough	876	521	583	2,120
Total	1,732	589	1,630	2,120

*Gross floorspace for all uses calculated here is external floorspace as there is currently no means to calculate Internal floorspace.

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RBLP Paragraph 2.1; 2.64

Relevant Policies: BSP E3 Diversity of Employment; S1 Major Retail and Leisure Development in Town Centres; S2 Retail Development outside Major Town Centres; S3 Leisure Development outside Major Town Centres; S4 Other Sports; RBLP EMP3 Acceptability of Employment Development; RET3A District and Major Local Shopping Areas; RET3B Other Local Shopping Centres; RET4 Improvements to Local Shopping Centres; LEI3 The Provision and Improvement of Leisure and Recreation Facilities; LEI6 New Leisure Facilities; and CEN10 Recreation, Entertainment and Leisure Facilities.

Policy Effectiveness: The core indicator data shows that a variety of different use class orders were developed both in Central Reading and the rest of the Borough. This demonstrates the effectiveness of several policies, including Diversity of

Employment, Development outside Major Town Centres, and Improvements to Local Shopping Centres.

Actions Required: Better monitoring to measure internal floorspace of new development.

Core Output Indicator 4b. Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres.

-							D2	
Central Reading	856	49%	68	12%	1,047	64%	0	0%
Caverhsam Centre	114	7%	271	46%	0	0%	380	18%
Tilehurst Centre	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Oxford Road West	0	0%	250	42%	0	0%	0	0%
Total for Town Centres	970	56%	589	100%	1,047	64%	380	18%

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.04; RBLP Paragraph 2.1; 2.64

Relevant Policies: BSP E3 Diversity of Employment; S1 Major Retail and Leisure development in Town Centres; S2 Retail Development outside Major Town Centres; S3 Leisure Development outside Major Town Centres; S4 Other Sports; RBLP EMP3 Acceptability of Employment Development; RET3A District and Major Local Shopping Areas; RET3B Other Local Shopping Centres; RET4 Improvements to Local Shopping Centres; LEI3 The Provision and Improvement of Leisure and Recreation Facilities; LEI6 New Leisure Facilities; and CEN10 Recreation, Entertainment and Leisure Facilities.

Policy Effectiveness: An average of 60% of retail, office, and leisure development occurred in town centres and this indicates that the current policies are proving effective in ensuring the bulk of development focuses on encouraging the vitality of the town centre, while also allowing development to improve local shopping centres.

Actions Required: The results of this indicator would suggest that current policy is achieving desired aims. This should be taken into consideration when preparing relevant documents for the Local Development Framework.

Core Output Indicator 4c. Amount of eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag Award standards

During the reporting year there were no open spaces within Reading Borough with Green Flag Award accreditation.

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.10; RBLP Paragraph 1.8 and 7.1

Relevant Policies: BSP S4 Other Sport, Recreation, Tourism and Leisure Uses; RBLP KEY 2A Conservation of the Environment and Natural Resources; LEI 1 Loss of Open Space; LEI 2 Major Areas of Open Space; LEI 3 The Provision and Improvement of Leisure and Recreation Facilities.

Commentary: In November 2005 Reading Borough Council commissioned an assessment to establish the existing and future needs of the community for open space in the Borough. The research found that the maintenance and management of open spaces is generally well regarded. It also found that the overwhelming majority of people of all ages use Reading's open space, and many stay several hours, especially in the summer. This suggests that public open space plays an important role in residents' recreation. While there are no sites managed to

Green Flag award standards in the 2005-06 reporting year, the level of patronage illustrated in the report would indicate that the existing open spaces are currently being well managed. A summary of the report is attached as Appendix E. Forbury Park and the Abbey Ruins have achieved Green Flag award status since the end of that reporting year, and there are plans to submit further sites in Reading in the future.

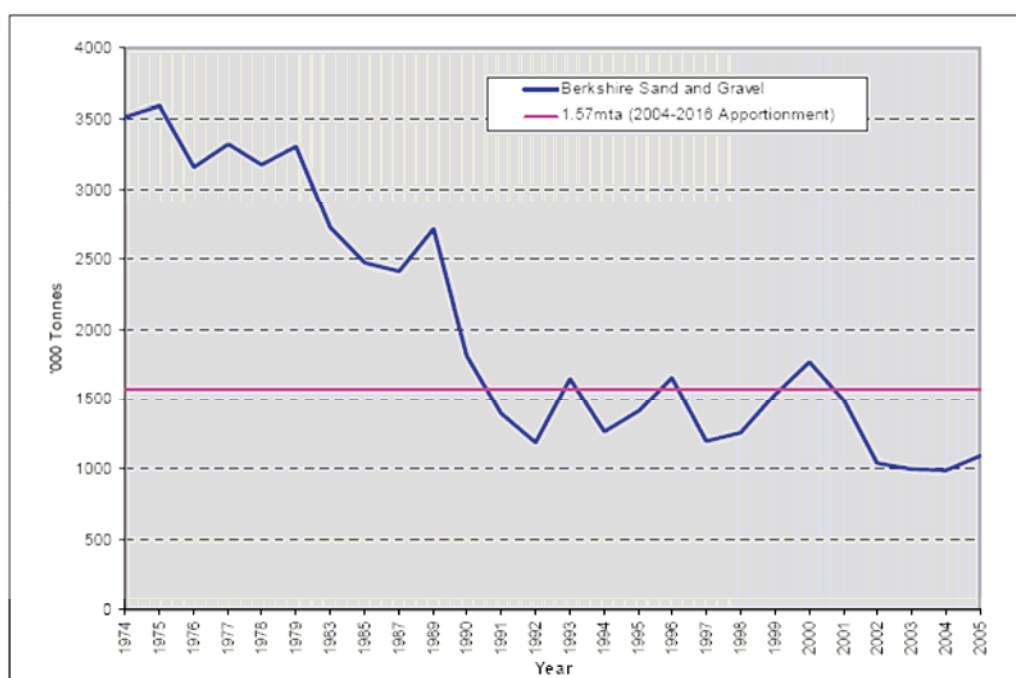
Policy Effectiveness: The core indicator does not accurately reflect the quality of open space management in Reading, additional research has shown that the policies for the management of open spaces are effective.

Actions Required: Further improvements in the management of open spaces in order to qualify for Green Flag Award Status.

SECTION C5. Minerals

Context: Minerals and Waste issues are covered in the Joint Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report prepared by the Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit. The six Berkshire Unitary Authorities are working together and are committed to producing a Joint Minerals and Waste Development Framework²². Details of how this work is progressing and an assessment of how effective Mineral and Waste policies have been in the area are contained within the Joint Minerals and Waste AMR which can be obtained from the Joint Minerals and Waste Development website.

Core Indicator 5a Production of primary land won aggregates.



Source: JSPU/SEERA Aggregates Monitoring

Core Indicator 5b Production of secondary/recycled aggregates.

No information currently exists to assist in the monitoring of this indicator.

²² www.berks-jspu.gov.uk

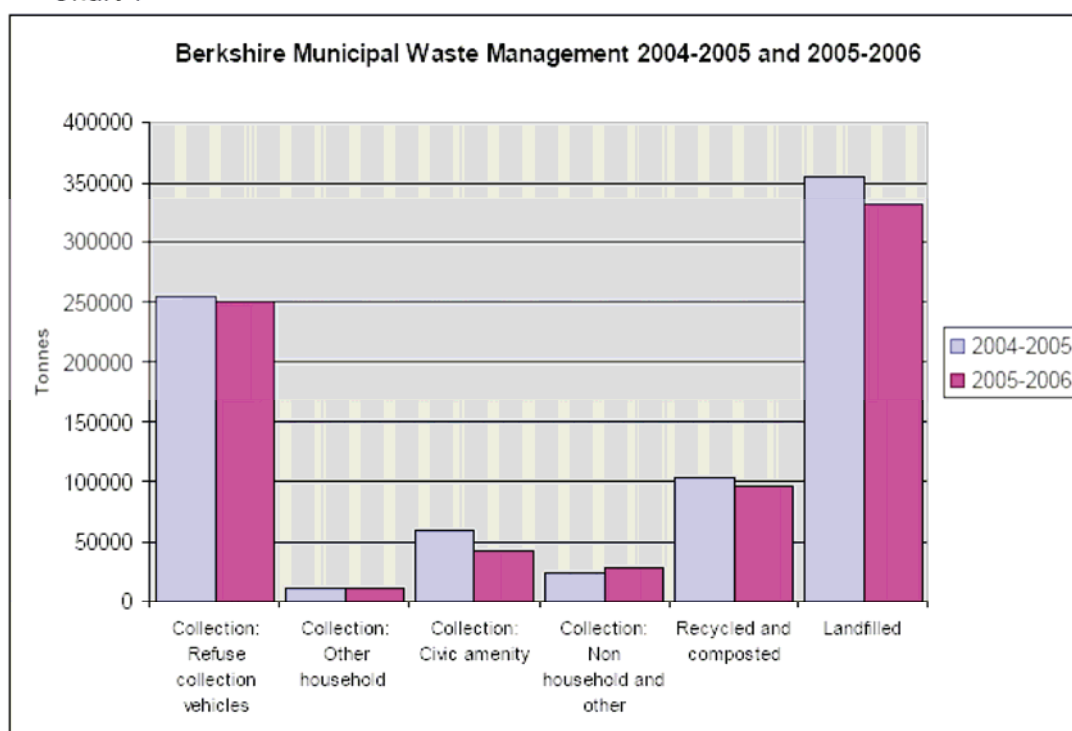
SECTION C6. Waste

Context: Minerals and Waste issues are covered in the Joint Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report prepared by the Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit. This report is submitted separately, however the core indicator information from this report has been included below. A significant issue facing the authority is the anticipated level of future waste arising. The six Berkshire Unitary Authorities are working together to tackle this issue and are committed to producing a Joint Minerals and Waste Development Framework²³. Details of how this work is progressing and an assessment of how effective Mineral and Waste policies have been in the area are contained within the Joint Minerals and Waste AMR.

Core Indicator 6a Capacity of new waste management facilities by type.

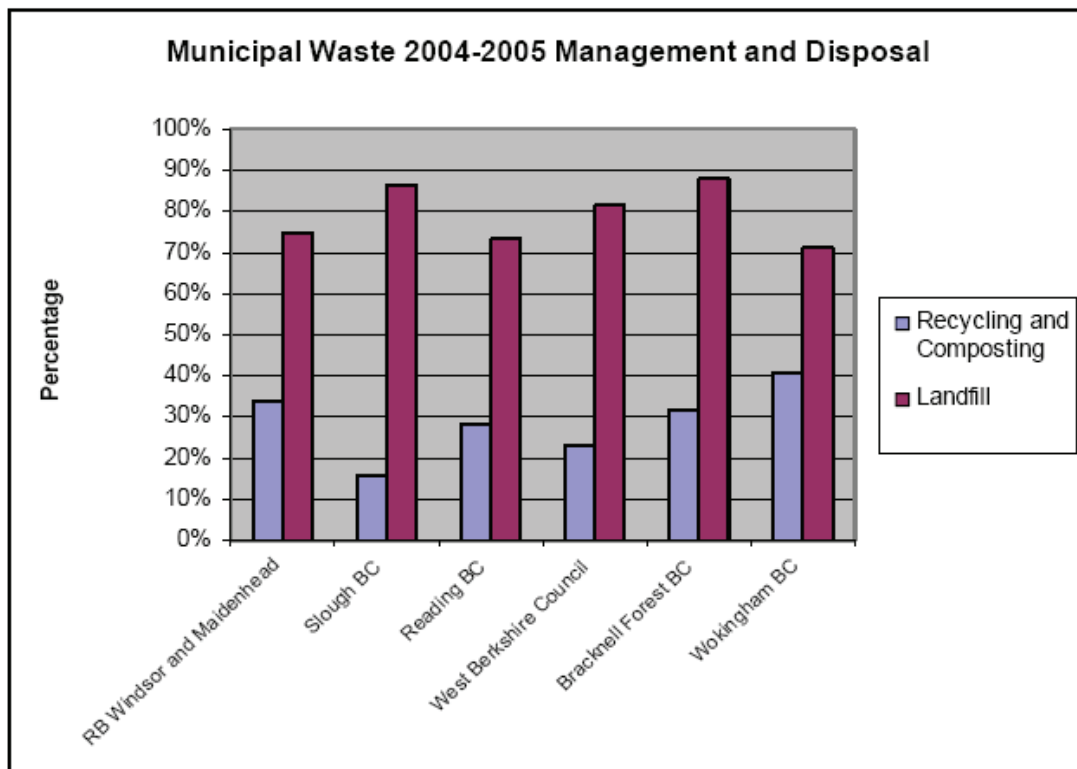
No new waste management capacity was granted in the 2005-06 monitoring period. Details of main waste management facilities within the Borough and their planning status are detailed below.

Core Indicator 6b Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type, and the percentage each management type represents of the waste managed.



Source: DEFRA (Using data provided by WCAs)

²³ www.berks-jspu.gov.uk



Source: DEFRA (Using data provided by WCAs)

SECTION C7. Flood Protection and Water Quality

Context: Reading has a number of waterways within the Borough boundary: the Rivers Thames and Kennet; the Kennet and Avon Canal (sharing much of its course with the River Kennet); and the Holy Brook. These areas are recreational corridors providing leisure facilities for the Borough, and surrounding development ensures a high level of accessibility to this good quality open space. Council policy does not allow development in the flood plain which would reduce the capacity of the flood plain to store floodwater, impede the flow of floodwater, or in anyway increase the risks to life and property arising from flooding.

Core Output Indicator 7. Number of planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality.

Decisions contrary to flood risk advice ²⁴	0
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Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.09; RBLP Paragraph 10.1; 11.37

Relevant Policies: BSP EN6 Prevention of Flooding; EN7 Development and water resources; RBLP WAT 7 Development in the floodplain; LEI2 Major Areas of Open Space; NE9 Environmental Implications; NE8 Environmental Pollution; NE10 Surface Water run-off and development.

Policy Effectiveness: As no planning applications have been granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on the grounds of flood defence or water quality it can be argued that the policies are proving effective.

Actions Required: Continued vigilance with current policy, and ensuring future policies maintain the waterways and floodplains as an assets for recreation while not compromising the quality of the waterway.

²⁴ www.environment-agency.gov.uk/

SECTION C8. Biodiversity

Context

Although Reading is largely urban in nature, the town contains a number of green areas. These areas are a valuable resource providing opportunities for enjoyment and education and giving the Borough its individual character, they also provide refuge for wildlife, and maintain biodiversity. The Borough does not contain any Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) however there are 43 sites listed in schedule 10.1 of the RBLP as Wildlife Heritage Sites, the full list is contained in Appendix F. The Council does not normally allow development which may destroy or adversely affect the whole or part of these sites or of any subsequently designated sites. The Council will bring forward other sites for wildlife heritage site designation as appropriate, and may alter existing sites in the light of updated information. Appendix G contains information on local contextual indicators of biodiversity. The Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TV ERC) has put in place the mechanisms to acquire data in the future through a County-wide habitat and landuse digital mapping project. It is envisaged that the mapping process will be repeated every five years. Baseline information for the following habitat types in Reading Borough is not currently available.

Core Indicator 8: Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including:

(i) Change in priority habitats and species (by type); and (i) Change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance.

Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance.

(i) (a) change in priority habitats;	Last year's area of priority habitat: Not recorded This year's area of priority habitat: 1,303.34 hectares Change: Not applicable Note: This is a baseline year for this dataset and as such no information on change has been obtained.
(i) (b) change in priority species (by type); and	Last year's number of priority species: 22 This year's number of priority species: 17 Change: Negative 5
(ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance.	There are no sites in Reading designated for their intrinsic environmental value, this situation has not changed since the previous year.

Relevant Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.27; RBLP Paragraph 10.1

Relevant Policies: BSP EN3 Biodiversity; RBLP NE1 Local Nature Reserves; NE2 Wildlife and Heritage Sites; NE3 Wildlife Links; NE4 Major Landscape Features; NE5 Trees, Hedges and Woodlands; NE6 Protecting Wildlife Habitats and Natural Features on or adjoining Development Sites; NE7 Creative Nature Conservation.

Commentary: It is essential that areas of valuable natural environment in Reading are protected from development. There has been some changes in the measures used to measure biodiversity, however these do not indicate that development has

occurred on sensitive land, or had any impact on these species, this is essentially a change to more accurately reflect the biodiversity of the Borough.

Policy Effectiveness: It is not possible to assess the impact of policies as this is essentially baseline information. Future AMRs will provide a more valuable tool for measuring biodiversity with these indicators.

Actions Required: Digital habitat and land use mapping, project managed by TVERC will continue and this will provide a more complete picture of biodiversity in the Borough. Continued updating of sites of environmental value by TVERC. Further development of local and contextual indicators to measure effectiveness of Policy NE2 Wildlife Heritage Sites.

Contextual Indicators

Priority Species

Common Name	Scientific name
<u>Bats</u>	
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>
Noctule bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
Daubenton's serotine	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>
Brown long eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>
<u>Other</u>	
Black Poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i>
Loddon lily	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>
Glow worm	<i>Lampyrus noctiluca</i>
Stag beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>
Water vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>

Priority Habitats in Reading

Habitat	Occurrence
Urban I: Man-made sites and structures	Railway lines/embankments Old brick walls made using soft bricks Pipes in waterway walls for Sand Martins Brick and stone structures in cemeteries Buildings of all types for nesting of bats and certain birds Contaminated and disturbed ground/rubble areas.
Urban II: Gardens, parks and similar sites	Larger/established private gardens and landscaped areas around buildings and highway. Amenity and recreation areas.
Semi-natural grassland (including water meadows)	Cemeteries/churchyards Golf courses Amenity and recreation areas Meadows/Water meadows Verges
Parkland and veteran trees	Parks such as Caversham Park, Prospect Park, Coley Park and Whiteknights Park
Ancient and/or species-rich headgerows	Isolated lengths of hedgerows exist in various localities, and typically border established areas of open space.
Broad-leaved woodland (including ancient semi-natural woodland)	Much of Reading's woodland is owned by the Council or by major institutions. The woodlands are variable, reflecting local geology/soil conditions and are typified by the West Reading and East Reading Wooded Ridgelines.
Standing open water and reedbeds	Caversham Park Village, Prospect Park, and Emmer Green. Some larger wildlife ponds in private ownership across the borough. Reedbeds at sites such as: - Coley Meadows Kings Meadow River Thames off Scours Lane
Rivers	Such as: - River Thames River Kennet and linked Kennet and Avon Canal Holy Brook Foudry Brook

Commentary: A baseline number of species has been derived from the national list of species with Species Action Plans. The TV ERC Recorder database was used to make a judgement as to whether the species is still extant in the Borough. Fifty-five species were recorded compared to ninety-nine countywide. More details of this reporting is contained in Appendix G. Data collected in future years will allow a calculation of change.

Policy Effectiveness: It is not possible to assess the impact of policies as this is baseline information.

Actions Required: Digital habitat and land use mapping project managed by TV ERC to continue. Continual update of sites of environmental value by TV ERC. Develop local and contextual indicators to measure effectiveness of Policy NE2 Wildlife Heritage Sites. Species indicator data is dependant on being received from Recorders and steps need to be taken to improve links with Recorders.

SECTION C9. Renewable Energy

Context

As part of a move toward a low carbon economy, the United Kingdom is aiming to have energy from renewable resources account for 10% of total energy by 2010. The current level is in the order of 3%. The renewable energy contribution is required to increase to 20% by 2020. Targets for the production of renewable energy have been agreed by all regions of England and Wales. As the South East Region has very little existing renewable energy generation, a more modest target of 5.5% of total generation capacity has been agreed for 2010 rising to 8.4% by 2016 and 16% by 2026. Further details of renewable energy production in the region can be found in Appendix H. Reading Borough Council's contribution to the Regional output amounts to generating 1,139kWe by 2010.

Core Output Indicator 9: Renewable energy capacity installed by type.

Type of Renewal Energy	Existing Installed Capacity in kWe
Biomass	0
Wind	0.4
Anaerobic Digestion	680
Solar Photo Voltaic	8
Hydro	0

Relevant Policies and Objectives: BSP Paragraph 3.09; RBLP Paragraph 1.8; 10.1

Relevant Policies: BSP EN8 Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation; RBLP KEY2A Conservation of the Environment and Natural Resources; NE8 Environmental Pollution; NE9 Environmental Implications.

Local Indicator: Percentage of 2010 renewable energy target achieved

Target in kWe	Current capacity
1,139	688.4 kWe (49%)

Commentary: This data does not accurately reflect the contribution to this total made by household-installed technologies such as wind turbines and solar panels. The difficulty in collecting this data stems from the fact that solar panels are permitted development, and from a commonly held but generally incorrect community perception that planning applications are not required for wind turbines.

Policy Effectiveness: There is limited information available on planned renewable energy infrastructure, so it is difficult to test whether policies will ensure the targets are met. However 49% of the 2010 target has already been achieved.

Actions Required: Improved monitoring of renewable energy capacity through planning applications and building control data. Improved monitoring of planned infrastructure.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

List of Saved Policies from the Reading Local Plan 1991-2006

This schedule lists all current 'saved' Local Plan policies

Introduction

KEY 1 Equality of Access to Development,
KEY 2A Conservation of the Environment and Natural Resources
KEY 2B Conservation of Built Environment.
KEY 3 The Role of Development in Improving the Town.
KEY 4 Areas of Development.

Employment

EMP 1 Proposals for Major Employment -generating development outside the Town Centre.
EMP2 Control of major Development Throughout the Borough.
EMP3 Acceptability of Employment Development.
EMP4 Maintaining a variety of uses.
EMP5 Bad Neighbour Activities.
EMP6 Units for Small Firms.
EMP7 Major Industrial Areas.
EMP8 Distribution and Storage Space in the Basingstoke Road Industrial Area.
EMP9 Implementation of Mixed-Use development.
EMP10 Lapsed Planning Consents.

Housing

HSG1. Housing Provision and Identified Sites
HSG2 Affordable Housing.
HSG3 Protecting the existing Housing Stock
HSG 4 Non-residential uses in Residential Areas.
HSG 5 Residential Design Standards.
HSG 6 Residential Conversions.
HSG 7 Residential Use of vacant Upper Floors.
HSG 8 House Extensions.
HSG 9 Location of Residential Development.
HSG 10 Housing provision for People with Disabilities.

Transport

- TRN1 A Balanced Transport Strategy.
- TRN2 Bus Priority and Interchange.
- TRN3 Park and Ride.
- TRN4 Cycle Routes.
- TRN5 Cycle Parking.
- TRN6 Pedestrians.
- TRN7 Rail Travel.
- TRN8 Major Highways Schemes and Associated Works.
- TRN9 Local Highway Improvements.
- TRN10 Provision of Public Car Parking.
- TRN11A Location of Development.
- TRN11B Development and Traffic.
- TRN12 Car Parking.
- TRN13 Off-street Parking.
- TRN14 Car Parking in District Centres.
- TRN15 Parking for people with disabilities.
- TRN16 On-Street Parking.
- TRN17 On-Street Parking for Residential Conversions.
- TRN18 Helicopter Landing Site.
- TRN19 Taxis.

Retailing

- RET1 Development Outside Existing Shopping Centre.
- RET2 Food Superstores and Retail Warehouse.
- RET3A District and Major Local Shopping Centres.
- RET3B Other Local Shopping Centres.
- RET4 Improvements to Local Shopping Centres.
- RET5 Retail and Catering Uses in Residential Areas.
- RET6 Wholesale Cash and Carry Warehouses.
- RET7 Petrol Filling Stations and Other Vehicle Related Uses.
- RET8 Vehicle Showrooms.

Conservation and Urban Design

- CUD1 Works affecting Listed Buildings.
- CUD2 Change of Use of Listed Buildings.
- CUD3 Maintenance of Listed Buildings.
- CUD4 Setting of Listed Buildings.
- CUD5 Historic Buildings.
- CUD6 Demolition of Unlisted Buildings in Conservation Areas.
- CUD7 New Development in Conservation Areas.
- CUD8 Existing and New Conservation Areas.
- CUD9 Other Measures to protect Buildings.
- CUD10 Historic Parks and Gardens.
- CUD11 Ancient Monuments and Other Important Archaeological Remains.
- CUD12 Development Impact on Archaeological Remains.
- CUD13 Preservation of Archaeological Sites.
- CUD14 Standards of Design in Development.
- CUD15 Advertisements.
- CUD16 Shopfronts.
- CUD17 Telecommunications.

Leisure

- LEI1 Loss of Open Space.
- LEI2 Major Areas of Open Space.
- LEI3 The Provision and Improvement of Leisure and Recreation Facilities.
- LEI4 Neighbourhood Recreation Areas.
- LEI5 Recreational Pathways.
- LEI6 New Leisure Facilities.
- LEI7 Protection of Existing Facilities.
- LEI8 Stadium.
- LEI9 Tourism.

Community Services

- COM1 Hospitals.
- COM2 Health Care Facilities.
- COM3 Alfred Sutton Schools Site.
- COM4 Surplus Educational Land and Property.
- COM5 The Dual Use of Schools and Other Community Buildings.
- COM6 Reading University.
- COM7 Community Meeting Places - Priority Areas.
- COM8 Day Care for Children.
- COM9 Community Facilities.

The Town Centre

- CEN1 The Town Centre Conservation Areas.
- CEN2 Housing in the Town Centre.
- CEN3 Primary Shopping Frontages.
- CEN4 Town Centre Shopping Area.
- CEN5 Small Retail Units.
- CEN6 Town Centre Car Parking for Class B1 And A2 Uses.
- CEN7 Town Centre Pedestrianisation and Traffic Management.
- CEN8 Public Open Space.
- CEN9 Children's Play Facilities.
- CEN10 Recreation, Entertainment and Leisure Facilities.
- CEN11 Town Centre Hotels and Visitor Accommodation.
- CEN12 Businesses Development in Residential in Residential Areas.
- CEN13 Major Development in Residential Areas.

Natural Environment

- NE1 Local Nature Reserves.
- NE2 Wildlife Heritage Sites.
- NE3 Wildlife Links.
- NE4 Major Landscape Features.
- NE5 Trees, Hedges and Woodlands.
- NE6. Protecting wildlife Habitats and Natural Features on or adjoining development sites.
- NE7 Creative Nature Conservation.
- NE8 Environmental Pollution.
- NE9 Environmental Implications.
- NE10 Surface Water run-off and Development.

Waterways

- WAT1 General Objectives for the Waterways.
- WAT2 Waterways Land Use Objectives.
- WAT3 Access to the Waterways.
- WAT4 Long Distance Waterways Routes.
- WAT5 Facilities for People with Disabilities.
- WAT6 Waterways Cycling Policy.
- WAT7 Development in the Flood Plain.
- WAT8 Water Based Leisure and Recreational Facilities.
- WAT9 Waterway's Design Objectives.
- WAT10 Waterways - Site Specific Proposals.

Appendix B

Employment Structure, Source: National Statistics.

Employee jobs (2004)

□ □

	Reading (employee jobs)	Reading (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Total employee jobs	99,200	-	-	-
Full-time	65,200	65.8	66.5	68.0
Part-time	34,000	34.2	33.5	32.0
employee jobs by industry				
Manufacturing	4,800	4.9	9.4	11.9
Construction	2,400	2.4	4.1	4.5
Services	90,900	91.7	84.8	82.1
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	25,900	26.2	26.3	24.7
Transport & communications	8,100	8.2	5.8	5.9
Finance, IT, other business activities	30,900	31.2	23.2	20.0
Public admin, education & health	21,300	21.5	24.5	26.4
Other services	4,700	4.7	5.0	5.1
Tourism-related [†]	6,800	6.9	8.3	8.2

Source: annual business inquiry employee analysis

- Data unavailable

[†] Tourism consists of industries that are also part of the services industry (see the definitions section)

Note a: % is a proportion of total employee jobs

Note b: Employee jobs excludes self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces

Earnings by workplace (2006)

□ □ □

	Reading (pounds)	South East (pounds)	Great Britain (pounds)
gross weekly pay			
Full Time Workers	516.4	470.1	448.6
Male Full Time Workers	583.1	520.0	489.4
Female Full Time Workers	444.6	396.3	387.1
hourly pay			
Full Time Workers	13.48	11.82	11.24
Male Full Time Workers	14.55	12.78	11.88
Female Full Time Workers	11.98	10.52	10.26

Source: annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis

Note a: Median earnings in pounds for employees working in the area.

Employment by occupation (Apr 2005-Mar 2006)

□ □ □

	Reading (numbers)	Reading (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2000 major group 1-3	35,900	46.3	46.1	41.9
1 Managers and senior officials	12,100	15.6	17.1	14.9
2 Professional occupations	13,300	17.2	14.0	12.7
3 Associate professional & technical	10,500	13.6	15.0	14.3
Soc 2000 major group 4-5	16,600	21.5	23.1	23.4
4 Administrative & secretarial	9,200	11.9	12.9	12.5
5 Skilled trades occupations	7,400	9.5	10.2	10.9
Soc 2000 major group 6-7	12,000	15.4	14.9	15.6
6 Personal service occupations	5,800	7.5	7.9	7.9
7 Sales and customer service occs	6,200	8.0	7.0	7.7
Soc 2000 major group 8-9	12,600	16.3	15.8	18.9
8 Process plant & machine operatives	3,800	4.8	5.4	7.5
9 Elementary occupations	8,900	11.5	10.4	11.4

Source: annual population survey

Note a: Numbers and % are for those of 16+

Note b: % is a proportion of all persons in employment

Qualifications (Jan 2005-Dec 2005)

□ □ □

	Reading (numbers)	Reading (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 and above	29,200	30.6	29.5	26.5
NVQ3 and above	47,300	49.6	48.5	44.4
NVQ2 and above	60,800	63.7	67.3	62.9
NVQ1 and above	72,500	75.9	82.3	77.2
Other Qualifications	12,500	13.1	7.4	8.4
No Qualifications	10,400	10.9	10.1	14.3

Source: annual population survey

Note a: For an explanation of the qualification levels see the definitions section.

Note b: Numbers and % are for those of working age

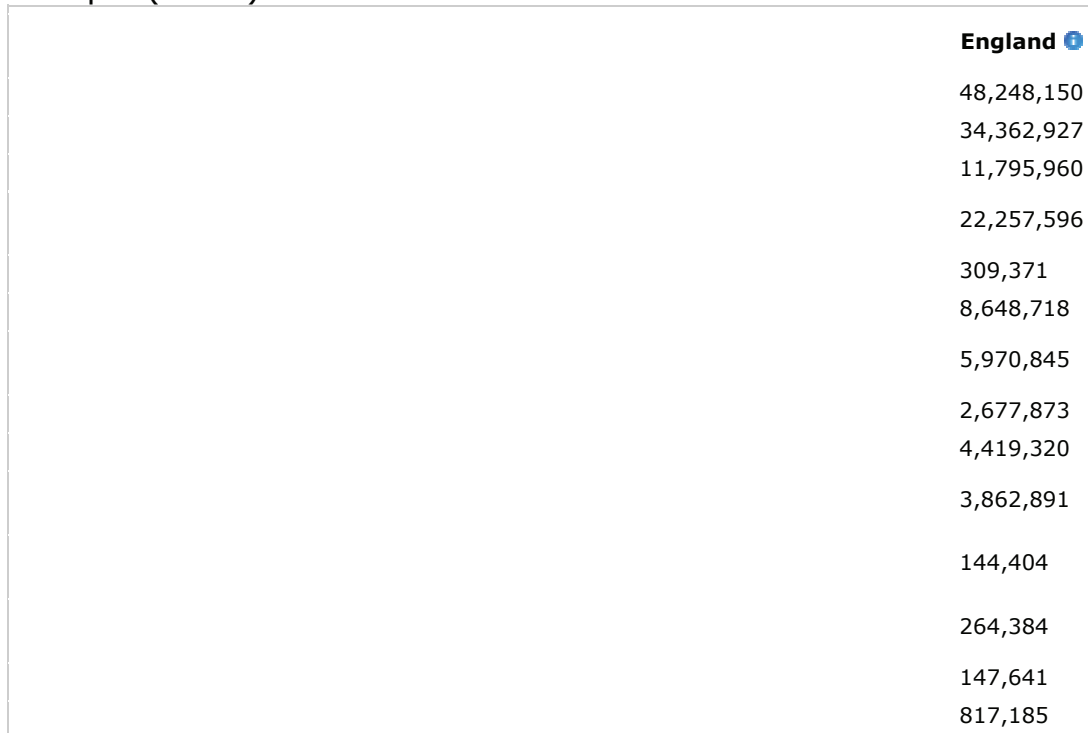
Note c: % is a proportion of total working age population

Housing Structure, Source: National Statistics.

Tenure - Households (UV63)

England ⓘ	
	20,451,427
	14,054,122
	5,969,670
	7,950,759
	133,693
	3,940,728
	2,702,482
	1,238,246
	2,037,470
	1,798,864
	53,618
	124,572
	60,416
	419,107

Tenure - People (UV43)



Tenure (KS18)



Accession results detailing journey time from the 2006 Approved Residential sites (origins) to the nearest NHS registered GPs (destinations).

A few points to explain the results:

1. The time taken to travel from each origin to its nearest destination has been calculated using walk and/or public transport services.
2. Walk speed is based on an average of 4.8 km/hour.
3. Public transport speed is based on timetable data with a waiting time added dependent on the frequency of the service. The calculation was undertaken using timetable data for the AM Peak period (7:00 to 9:00).
4. The 'TimeValue' column represents the total journey time for each trip based on the above criteria. The time is displayed in 'mm:ss' format. (In this instance all the application sites are within 30 minutes of a GP surgery).

Regards,

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READING OPEN SPACES STRATEGY: CONSULTATION REPORT SUMMARY

GreenSpace/Reading Borough Council

Methodology

In November 2005 Reading Borough Council commissioned a wide-ranging public engagement exercise and assessment be carried out by an independent consultant, GreenSpace, to establish the existing and future needs of the community for open space in Reading. GreenSpace made available on line and as hard copy its GreenSTAT questionnaire, which solicits information on public open space service delivery; collated and analysed the results; and reported these to the Council. A supplementary questionnaire, made available in the same way, sought more detailed park-specific information. Respondents could return as many individual park questionnaires as they chose. In order to discover the views of identified hard-to-reach groups, which often do not respond to surveys, a series of focus groups was organised by GreenSpace. The information collected in this way was reported together with the survey analysis. Details of the methodology are in the consultant's report (GreenSpace, 2006).

The survey covers all open spaces within Reading Borough: formal parks and gardens, open grassed general recreation areas, nature conservation areas, children's playgrounds, teenage play/meeting areas, sports facilities, fairgrounds, civic squares and market places, allotments, waterways, and rights of way. It also solicits information about open spaces outside the Borough boundary used by Borough residents.

Respondent profile

Although over 1,000 questionnaires were initiated, a total of 821 completed survey forms were submitted. These 821 completed questionnaires form the sample from which the conclusions are derived. The profile of respondents is as follows:

- 46% male; 54% female
- 95% white; 5% from non-white minority groups
- 12% aged 20-29; 19% aged 30-39; 25% aged 40-49, 16% aged 50-59; 28% aged 60 or over
- only 0.6% of respondents are under the age of 19
- 96% are users of the Council's parks and open spaces; 4% do not use any open spaces

- 63% of responses were submitted on line

Focus group sessions were held with elderly people, youth, black and other ethnic minorities, disabled people, and with the joint residents' associations.

Factors that may have influenced the responses (or the consultation process)

- Other Reading Borough Council consultations with open-space implications

Other consultation exercises relating to several parks were being conducted at the same time as the open spaces survey. The report concludes that this did not skew the results, which are typical of responses to open-space surveys.

- Time of year

It is usually better to conduct open-space consultation in the summer, when parks are more widely used and there is more public interest in them. The report concludes that the Council's marketing campaign was effective in ensuring that the views of those who do not use open spaces in winter were obtained.

- Non-representative nature of the sample

This method of consultation tends to attract responses from users rather than non-users of public open space. The report concludes that responses are skewed in this way, and that the results should be viewed as representing the views of parks users and not the whole population. The views of hard-to-reach groups were sought via focus group exercises.

Results of the service-wide questionnaire (GreenSTAT survey)

- What types of public open space are most frequently used by residents?

A high proportion of respondents reported visiting at least once a month, or more often,

- civic spaces (77%)
- green corridors (67%)
- small parks and recreation grounds, i.e., local parks (62%), and

➤ large parks (53%)

Open spaces reported as ‘never’ visited by many people all require reasons to visit that do not apply to everyone: allotments, sports fields, children’s play areas, and cemeteries.

The parks in Reading used most frequently on a regular basis are Prospect Park (25%), Thames towpath (23%), Forbury Gardens (19%), Palmer Park (12%), Clayfield Copse (10%), Kennet Canal side (8%), King’s Meadow (8%), and Christchurch Meadows (4%).

- How readily accessible are Reading’s parks and open spaces?

The point of departure for most visits to open space is home, i.e., 93% of respondents travel to a park or other open space from their dwelling; a small proportion (5%) travel directly from work. Not captured, but probably significant, are the visits made to open spaces by school children immediately after school closes.

Around 70% of the journeys are made on foot; 18% by car; 10% by bicycle; and 2% by bus. These ratios are consistent with other research into urban parks in the UK, which finds that, on average, 70% of parks users walk there. Where Reading is different is that only 40% of journeys take less than 5 minutes, whereas, in the larger UK towns this percentage is usually higher. The reason is that, in Reading, some people will travel by car to reach the open space they prefer or to reduce journey times to the park. Where the open space visited most often is the closest to home, 82% of users walk there; where an alternative further away is visited most frequently, only 51% of users walk.

Access to a car impacts on access to open space. The proportion of people reporting that they have little or no difficulty getting to open spaces rises from 61% of those with no car to 73% of car owners. This result should be interpreted with caution, because in an opinion survey at the end of the questionnaire, 93% of respondents agree that there is an open space within easy walking distance from home.

- Why do people visit open spaces?

What is most remarkable about why people go to parks is the consistency of responses across all ages: age does not appear to influence people’s motivation for visiting open spaces. Also noteworthy is the dominance of more passive recreational activities,

suggesting that people visit open spaces primarily in order to relax. The two most often selected activities across all age ranges were almost without exception getting some fresh air (62% of all respondents) and going for a walk (50%). The next most frequently cited reasons were to see birds and wildlife (39%) and/or trees and flowers (31%), enjoy the beauty of the surroundings (36%), and relax or think (34%). More active activities, like keeping fit (20%) or taking the children to play (18%), follow these other reasons.

- How long do visitors stay?

Most visits in winter, whether during the week or over the weekend, are under one hour. Around one tenth of respondents do not visit a park at all in winter. In the summer, there is a marked increase in the percentage of visits that last over an hour: 28% during the week, and 51% over the weekend. Almost a fifth of respondents spend more than two hours at a public open space at some stage over summer weekends. These data suggest that public open space plays an important role in residents' recreational activities.

- How satisfied are residents with the open space closest to home?

While 63% of people use the open space closest to where they live more frequently than any other, only 40% of respondents say they are satisfied with their nearest park. Of the 175 people (37% of the total sample) who prefer to use an alternative open space further away, 60% like another site more than their nearest one, 30% say that their nearest open space does not have the facilities they need, 19% find another open space more convenient, and 18% find the open space nearest to home 'boring'. Other reasons for preferring an alternative is that the local park is too small or too poorly maintained. Most of the 15 respondents who never use a park in Reading say it is because they do not feel safe using the parks to which they have access.

- How satisfied are residents with the open spaces that they visit most often?

Approval ratings of most frequently used open spaces are, not surprisingly, higher than those of the open space closest to home: 83% of respondents are satisfied with the open space they visit most often. The main reasons for travelling further to another recreational open space are quality, facilities and interest.

Size and variety matter. Comments show that things to see and do are important factors in choosing which open space to visit. In particular, a combination of natural spaces and recreational activities create favoured open spaces. This is consistent with research that shows that the existence of a proximate large park offering a variety of experiences is a key factor in encouraging local residents to take more exercise (Corti *et al*, 2005).

- What do residents value about open space, and what are their primary concerns?

In the opinion survey, the greatest value attached to open space is the improvement that greenery makes to the quality of the town as a whole: 98% say that trees and open spaces improve the appearance of the town, and 97% that open spaces can make Reading a nice place in which to live. In terms of the quality of Reading's open spaces, around 60% of people agreed in each case that the parks and open spaces are well-maintained, that the facilities available near to home are satisfactory, and that generally when they visit a park they feel safe. What people lack is information: only 31% of people say that it is easy to find out about public open spaces and the facilities they provide.

- What would residents like to see improved, especially in areas deficient in open space?

The greatest unanimity on the suggestions made on the survey form was in response to the proposition that the quality of Reading's streets should be improved with more trees, grass verges and flower beds (92%). There was also strong support for improving off-road footpaths and cycleways (85%) and public transport (78%) to open spaces. A significant proportion of people would like to see more pedestrianisation of streets and shopping areas (76%). There was support for negotiating public access to privately owned land where public open space is deficient (68%) but considerably less support for negotiating access to school playing fields (53%). More than one fifth of respondents disagree with the idea that traffic should be controlled so that children can play in the street.

Results of the individual open space questionnaires

There were 291 responses to this questionnaire; 80% of respondents use the park more than two or three times a year, and 5% (all female, half of retirement age) never visit.

- Of the 80% who visit more than two or three times a year, more than half (60%) visit at least weekly throughout the year and just under 40% use the park every day.

- Summertime use is both more frequent and for longer duration than winter visits.
- Over 90% of visits are made from home (rather than work or another place), and 71% of people get to the park on foot; 10% by bicycle; 16% by car; and 2% by bus. Around two thirds of journeys are less than half a mile. People who made the effort to comment on a particular park usually were concerned about a space closer to home.
- Visits alone (41%), as part of a group (29%) or equally divided between lone and group visits (30%) indicate that (i) people feel sufficiently safe to visit parks on their own and (ii) there is a healthy mix of different activities in Reading's parks. Of the people who report that they visit parks on their own, 57% are female (of which nearly half are of retirement age). That lone, elderly women are not discouraged from using Reading's public open space is a positive indicator of their perceived safety. When visits are made as part of a group, most companions are immediate family, suggesting that parks have an important role to play in family recreation.
- Consistent with the service-wide questionnaire, the primary reasons for visiting the park are to get some fresh air (56%), to go for a walk (46%), to enjoy the surroundings (36%), to see wildlife (33%), for peace and quiet (29%) and to relax or think (29%). The breakdown of reasons may in fact be too disaggregated: if walking the dog (21%), keeping fit (20%), improving health (18%), playing sport (12%) or riding a bicycle (12%) are included, the overwhelming importance of parks in providing opportunities for healthy living is evident. Taking children to the playground is a reason given by 19%.
- Satisfaction with the park used by respondents is rated as 65% satisfied with its design, 65% with the standard of horticulture and arboriculture, 60% with cleanliness, 92% with access, 38% with the range of facilities (but 53% with facilities for children), and 58% with the care and protection of wildlife. The overall level of satisfaction is 75%, which suggests that the whole is more than the sum of the parts. These satisfaction ratings suggest that there is room for improvement in every area of provision.

The satisfaction with access is not surprising, since all respondents in this case are park users, and no information is available on people who do not visit because of access difficulties.

Problems with cleanliness are litter, dog fouling, graffiti and slow repairs to furniture and structures.

Problems with horticulture are that it is basic and crudely carried out, with too uniform an approach which leads to dull and unimaginative planting schemes. Some respondents felt that their local park is neglected.

The most frequently requested additional facilities are toilets, catering, play equipment for all ages of child, seating and bins. Many of the comments specifically

discouraged other types of facilities, preferring 'natural' spaces and requesting that public open space does not become overly urbanised. The primary issue with facilities appears to be one of quality rather than quantity. Sports facilities were criticised for their uniformity (dominance of football), poor quality of changing rooms, and decline in provision for tennis, cricket, bowls and croquet.

There is evidence of misunderstanding of wildlife areas, and more information about what is being done should be made available.

- Responses to the question as to what residents would change were varied. Many relate to general improvements in maintenance, safety and facilities, and a large number took the opportunity to express their appreciation for the space, offer praise for its management and declare their opposition to any plans for development or change.
- Concerns were also expressed about the Council's role in protecting public open space. These concerns reflected a range of opinions: some question the intent of the Council and others its ability to safeguard open spaces.

Results from the focus groups sessions

The purpose of the focus group sessions was to discover the views of both vulnerable and hard-to-reach residents to ascertain whether there are specific issues that need to be addressed outside the general provision of open space and associated facilities. Interestingly, while each group has its own concerns, the views are generally consistent with the results of the surveys reported above.

Two focus group sessions were held with older residents, with broadly similar results.

- Facilities and features of greatest importance to pensioners include catering and toilets; floral displays; peace and quiet; 'natural' spaces; social interaction; safe places to exercise, and facilities for children and families. Open spaces that provide variety and interest are preferred, especially Prospect Park, Forbury Gardens and the riverside walks.
- The primary concerns include personal safety (both the sense of threat posed by groups of teenagers and a lack of lighting); difficulties of access (inadequate public transport to a range of open spaces, the absence of footpaths, and distances to walk between benches); and the decline in standards of horticulture and cleanliness. Older residents are particularly concerned that open spaces in the town be preserved.

- Asked what they would most like to change in Reading's public open space, respondents were in favour of increasing the range of facilities in existing open spaces, including more for children and young people; further pedestrianisation of streets to create more civic spaces; improved quality and appearance of the public realm; and improved public transport to open spaces. Dealing with the motorcycle problem in Reading's parks is a recurring issue with older users.

Several small focus group sessions were held with people with a range of disabilities.

- Many but not all are non-users of public open space because of their dependence on others to accompany them. Getting to and around open spaces is a real barrier to use.
- The fear of crime and a lack of confidence are major factors in discouraging use. Many of these people are intimidated by large open spaces, especially during quiet periods. Many find that irregular surfaces deter their use and enjoyment of the outdoors.
- Asked what they would like to change to encourage greater use, disabled people would benefit greatly from organised activities designed to provide greater confidence, physical support, information and protection. On-site park keepers, greater separation of cyclists and pedestrians, smoother and flatter footpaths, additional lighting, more benches, disabled toilets and better public transport would reduce barriers to use.

Only seven people, but from a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds, attended the black and minority ethnic group session. The primary issues were:

- Open spaces are valuable as places for families to visit, where children can play safely in the presence of the wider family. They are also seen as important as centres for the community. Participants particularly like open spaces that are busy and vibrant.
- The greatest concern is personal safety, especially racist abuse of children who go to the park unsupervised and fear of groups of youths who congregate in the parks at night. The other main problems are vandalism, litter and dog fouling.
- Asked what they would most like to change, the group cited the introduction of park keepers, effective action against racial abuse, better lighting, improved cleanliness, more facilities for older children and for families (like BBQ areas), more community-based activities, and more direct representation of the community in steering groups.

The focus group for young people was well attended, and the following issues emerged:

- For young people, open spaces provide a break from the grey monotony of the built environment, although they are generally significantly more important to boys (for exercise) than for girls.
- The main concerns for young people include personal safety, cleanliness, a lack of shelter, a lack of information, and rudeness on the part of parks staff and police. The perceived loss of facilities at Hills Meadow is a specific concern.
- Asked what they would change, young people are in favour of more shelters that offer better protection from the weather, less suspicion of them by adults, more sports facilities (like basketball and Astroturf pitches) and play areas for older children, more catering in parks, and clearer sight lines. They expressed a willingness to work with parks staff to create changes.

Although not originally planned, the consultants were invited to a meeting of the Reading Federation of Tenant and Resident Associations, and the meeting followed the format of the formal focus group sessions.

- Participants expressed the value they place on open space and on the cooperative relationship they have with the Parks Department in bringing about changes.
- There are two main concerns. The first is the slow response rates to reports of misuse and antisocial behaviour in parks. The second is that a high priority needs to be placed on the protection of public open space.
- In addition to enhanced protection of open space and better security, the main improvement to Reading's parks is felt to be a selective return of park keepers.

Conclusions

The use of public open space in Reading in part mirrors national experience. Nationally, 40% of interviewees visit their local park every day; the figure for Reading is also 40%. Elsewhere in the UK, about 70% of those interviewed walk to parks; in Reading the percentage is also 70%. However, in other UK towns, most people take less than 5 minutes to get to their local parks, while in Reading only 40% take less than 5 minutes: many users here chose to visit a more distant park rather than their nearest one.

In Reading the overwhelming majority of people of all ages go to enjoy the outdoors, and many stay several hours, especially in the summer, suggesting that public open space plays

an important role in residents' recreation. However, a significant proportion of users do not visit their nearest open space as their first choice, citing poor maintenance and a lack of facilities or features of interest as reasons for travelling further. Size and variety matter: things to see and do are important factors in choosing which open space to visit, especially when there is a combination of natural spaces and formal recreational facilities.

Overall satisfaction with one's nearest open space is 40%; the approval of the most frequently used park is 83%. The result is that a significant number of people travel, often by car, to recreational open space further away.

Satisfaction ratings on individual aspects of parks maintenance, like design, horticulture, cleanliness, or facilities, are invariably lower than the reported overall satisfaction, suggesting that people enjoy open space for what it is as much for what it offers.

The main issues are access (for some), quality of cleanliness (dog fouling, litter and graffiti) and maintenance, and inadequate facilities like toilets, catering, play equipment and furniture. Many of the comments specifically discouraged other types of facilities, preferring 'natural' spaces and requesting that public open space does not become overly urbanised. In particular, users of all ages and backgrounds wish to see public open spaces protected from development. Most park users claim to feel safe in the park in daylight hours, although there are concerns about anti-social behaviour.

Irrespective of whether or not people use parks, there is almost unanimity on the importance of open space generally and trees specifically to improving the appearance of the town and to making Reading a nicer place in which to live. Where open space is deficient, respondents believe that better street planting, and pedestrianisation of streets and other civic spaces, is the best way in which to redress the deficiency.

Meeting the specific needs of vulnerable groups would also generally result in direct benefits to all visitors, primarily because they involve improved security, improved access to and around open spaces, improved standards of maintenance, cleanliness and repair, and better and more diverse facilities. Any park that successfully meets the needs of its vulnerable social groups is likely also to achieve very high satisfaction across the broader majority visitor base.

Table 1: Summary of findings of the GreenSTAT survey, 2005/06 (%); N=821

Importance of provision		
Perceived importance of trees & open space to Reading's appearance	98	
of open space to quality of life in Reading	97	
of open space as a focal point for communities	81	
of open space in encouraging business location in a town	80	
of open space to personal health	64	
Perceived importance of off-road footpaths and cycle routes	91	
of off-road routes to encouraging more walking/cycling	83	
Use		
Frequency of visits	Weekly or more	Monthly or more
Civic spaces	42	77
Green corridors	36	67
Small parks/recreation grounds	28	62
Large parks	20	53
Semi-natural green spaces/woodlands	17	49
Allotments	14	22
Children's playgrounds	11	29
Outdoor sports facilities	10	19
Formal public gardens	6	29
Reasons for visiting open spaces (% of users)		
To get some fresh air	62	
To go for a walk	50	
To see birds and wildlife/trees and flowers	38/31	
To enjoy the surroundings/relax or think/peace and quiet	36/34/30	
Exercise/children's play	20/18	
Access and location		
Method of transport used to reach open space normally visited		
Walk	70	
Car	18	
Public transport	2	
Cycle	10	
Method of transport to reach open space normally visited when it is ...	closest to home	not closest
Walk	82	51
Car	10	32
Public transport	2	2
Cycle	6	15
Time taken to travel to the park normally visited		
< 5 mins	40	
6-10 mins	28	
10-20 mins	26	
> 20 mins	6	
Quality		
User perceptions of the open space	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Closest to home	40	26
Visited most frequently	83	4
Quality ratings of the most used open space	Good/very good	Poor/very poor
Design and appearance	65	14
Cleanliness and maintenance	60	13
Horticulture and arboriculture	65	12
Nature conservation	58	9
Visitor facilities	45	23
Children's facilities	53	13
Sports facilities	55	19
Suggestions for quality improvement where open space is limited		
Improve the appearance of the streets (grass, flowers, trees)	92	
Improve off-road routes and public transport	82	
Pedestrianise streets, shopping areas, community spaces	76	
Negotiate access to private land/school playing fields	68/53	
Safety		
Users 'generally' feel safe in parks and open spaces	60	
Users unsure about safety	35	
Information		
Ease of finding out about parks and their facilities	31	

**Wildlife Heritage Sites, source Schedule 10.1 of the Reading Borough
Local Plan**

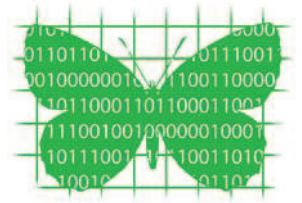
SCHEDULE 10.1

1,32,42 & C60	HOLYBROOK
1,33,42,75 & C60	RIVER KENNET
29	ST PATRICK'S HALL POND
40	COW LANE VERGES
40	LITTLE JOHN'S FARM
41	THE ROOKERY, PROSPECT PARK
42	RIVER KENNET/SOUTHCOTE LOCK
42,84	KENNET AND AVON CANAL
42	MEADOWS NORTH OF THE KENNET AND AVON CANAL
42	MEADOWS NORTH OF SOUTHCOTE LOCK
42	MEADOWS EAST OF BURGHFIELD ROAD
42	UNMANAGED FARM LAND, SOUTHCOTE
42	FOBNEY MEADOWS
42	HERON ISLAND, SOUTH OF HERON WAY
42	COLEY BRANCH LINE
43	THE COWSEY
45	LOUSEHILL COPSE NORTH
45	COMPARTS PLANTATION
45	LOUSEHILL COPSE SOUTH
45	BLUNDELL'S COPSE/THE MOOR
45	MCILROY PARK
45	ROUND COPSE
45	SCARP WOODLAND, NORCOT ROAD
45	MEADWAY FRINGE WOODLAND (2 SITES)
46	CLAYFIELD COPSE AND MILESTONE WOOD NORTH
49	BEECH WOOD/HIGHDOWN WOOD, OFF GROVE HILL
52	WHITLEY PARK FARM, WHITLEY PARK LANE
56	FURZEPLAT WOODLAND, HEMDEAN BOTTOM
56	HEMDEAN BOTTOM PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY
56	GRAVEL HILL HEDGES
61	ROTHERFIELD WAY
68	COPSE/MARSHLAND SQUARE
	WHITEKNIGHTS PARK (PART)

69	READING GOLF COURSE
70	THE WARREN WOODLANDS (6 SITES)
71	COLEY PARK, WENSLEY ROAD (PART)
73	COW LANE DEPOT
74	THAMES TOWPATH, OPPOSITE APPLETREE EYOT
75	ROSE KILN LANE MEADOWS
76	READING CEMETERY
77	DEVIL'S DIP, BATH ROAD
78	VICTORIA ROAD CEMETERY
79	KENNETMOUTH WEST
86	THE COAL (PART)

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Reading Borough Council

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

Biodiversity Core Output Indicators

General information

This is the second year of data collation and interpretation by TV ERC for the Annual Monitoring Reports for each local authority area in Berkshire. A summary of the information collated is provided in a generic spreadsheet and is designed to place, as far as possible, the local data in a national and regional context. This year a more detailed commentary is provided for each area (see below) and comprises a brief interpretation of the information and notes on data quality and sources.

New baseline information is provided for two of the core output indicators as they are either a new dataset (extent of BAP habitats) or are still being reviewed (BAP priority species). The information on area of designated sites remains the most reliable at this stage, but has changed very little since the last report.

8 (i). Change in area of UK BAP priority habitat

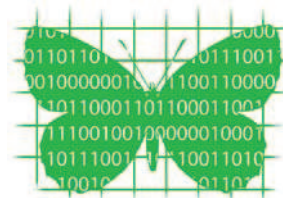
Commentary

The extent of BAP priority habitats in the Reading Borough Council area is given in Table 1. This is a baseline year for this dataset and as such no information on change is given in this report.

The work on the production of a digital habitat and land use map for Berkshire has enabled a more detailed assessment of this indicator and the production of baseline figures for each UA area. The map however is awaiting internal quality checking and as such these figures should be viewed as provisional at this stage. There will be some adjustment of these figures next year.

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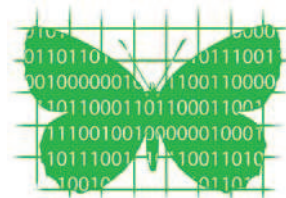
Table 1. Area of BAP priority habitat in the BBC area

UK BAP priority habitat type	Area (hectares)	% of total land area in West Berkshire	County context	Regional context	UK context
Eutrophic standing waters	12.97	0.3	No data avail.	No data avail.	1785km2
Fens	16.41	0.4	No data avail.	No data avail.	No data avail.
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	157.18	3.9	No data avail.	No data avail.	No data avail.
Wet woodland	5.98	0.1	No data avail.	No data avail.	50,000-70,000
Total area of BAP priority habitat	192.54	4.8	No data avail.	No data avail.	No data avail.
Non BAP priority habitat	1110.81	27.5			
Total area of WBC with some form of habitat and/or rural land use	1303.34	32.3			
Other (e.g. built-up and transport land uses)	2735.81	67.7			

NB. Figure for total land surface in RBC area taken as 4,040.0hectares

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Information sources

Detailed information on the mapping methodology applied and the sources of evidence for the presence of the BAP priority habitats have been produced by TV ERC but are not provided in this document. In general terms BAP priority habitats are mapped by interpretation of aerial photographs (API) and by consultation with existing habitat maps and survey information. BAP habitats are only mapped if the habitat and survey evidence is in place.

Quality of the information

The quality of the information used to determine each BAP priority habitat is given in Table 2 but Table 3 provides more details of the quality of this dataset and is given in the Appendix to this report.

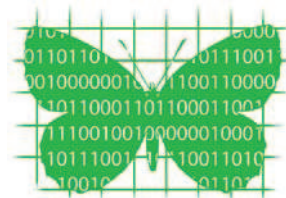
It is important to note that the accuracy of API varies between habitats, e.g. lowland mixed deciduous woodland and parkland can quite reliably be interpreted from aerial photos but fens or grasslands can be very difficult. In the latter case supporting information or evidence is vital in determining habitat type. Whilst TV ERC made every effort to collate existing information there may be other important data sources available that will improve the mapping process in the future. The quality of the mapping process will continue to improve over time as the map is used and fieldworkers feedback information through ground truthing. It is expected therefore that the determination quality for all habitat types should move towards the category "Definitely is" over time and this factor will need to be taken into account in subsequent years when analysing change.

Berkshire has never had a good field by field survey of land use and habitat so it is inevitable that BAP priority habitats will continue to be found. The mapping process has highlighted where these habitats may exist in the County and where future surveys may be targeted. The figures reported here for each habitat type are therefore likely to change in the future – for some the process has underestimated their extent, e.g. lowland meadows and for other overestimated, e.g. lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

TV ERC has introduced a rigorous quality checking procedure for the habitat map and as such given the present state of information on these habitats in the County the quality of the current habitat map is very high.

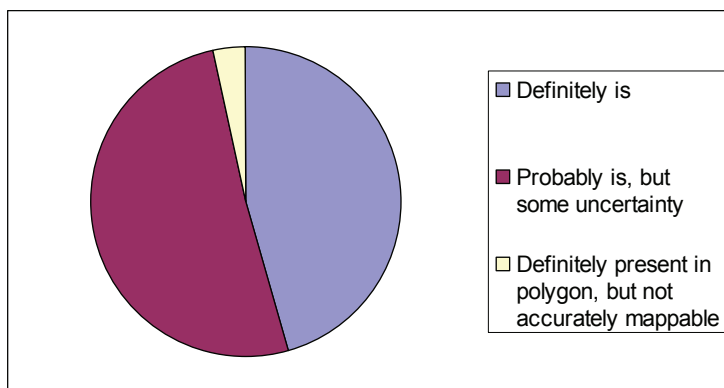
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Table 2. Summary of the overall quality of the BAP priority habitat dataset for the RBC area.



Determination quality category*	Percentage
Definitely is	45.6
Probably is, but some uncertainty	51.1
Definitely present in polygon, but not accurately mappable	3.3

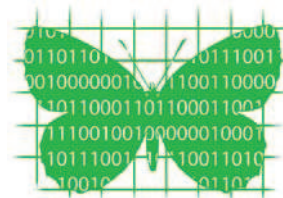
*Derived from the NBN SW Pilot mapping project 2001

Future data needs

Information on the changes in area of these habitats over time is fundamental to this indicator. A monitoring procedure and an approach to recording the reasons for change at Local Authority level are both required and as such resources and time will need to be committed to this work in the future.

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Monitoring the change in extent of BAP habitats will require up to date aerial photographic coverage of the County and a continued commitment by the Unitary Authorities in Berkshire to survey and monitor Wildlife Heritage Sites. The majority of BAP priority habitats are found in Wildlife Heritage Sites and the survey and resurvey programme undertaken by TV ERC will be an important element of this monitoring work. The AMR is required to report on changes on an annual basis, yet at the current rate of survey the full complement of WHS in the County are reviewed once every ten years. There are moves in both Oxon and Berks to develop methodologies and the co-operation to be able to accumulate information about change in habitats but these activities lack resources to produce an effective end product.

Information on the reasons for change in BAP priority habitat area is also important in the AMR process. Mechanisms should be put in place both within the local authorities and at TV ERC to record the impact of development and other activities on WHS and BAP priority habitats.

8 (i). Change in number of UK BAP priority species

Commentary

The change in number of BAP priority species is given in Table 4. below.

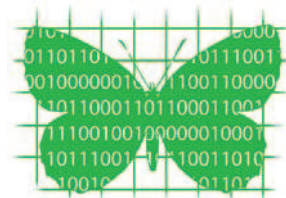
Table 4. Change in number of BAP priority species in the RBC area

	2004-05	2005-06
Numbers of BAP priority species	22	17

The details of these changes are given in Tables 5 and 6 below. Six species have been removed from the list this year and one added. This change is primarily due to a review of the species list in the light of new information from Recorders in the County and not because of other factors. All species removed from the list have not been recorded for many years and according to local Recorders are highly unlikely to be still resident in the County.

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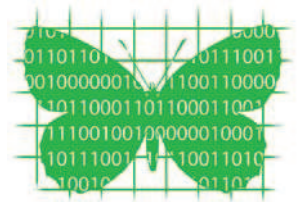
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Table 5. Number and type of BAP priority species in the RBC area

Plants		Change
Tower mustard	Arabis glabra	
Invertebrates		
Beetles		
Stag Beetle	Lucanus cervus	
Bumblebees		
Brown-banded carder bee	Bombus humilis	Added
Moths		
Heart moth	Dicycla oo	
Buttoned snout	Hypena rostralis	
Striped Lychnis	Shargacucullia lychnitis	
Birds		
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	
Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	
Common Scoter	Melanitta nigra	
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	
Mammals		
Water Vole	Arvicola terrestris	
Brown Hare	Lepus capensis	
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	
Total numbers of BAP priority species	17	

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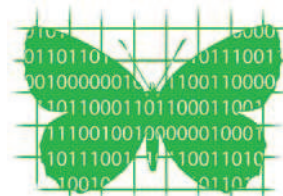
Table 6. Species removed from the list

Removed from list		
Beetles		
Scarlet malachite beetle	Malachius aeneus	
A ground beetle	Harpalus dimidiatus	
Flies		
A robber fly	Asilus crabroniformis	
Moths		
Olive crescent	Trisateles emortualis	
Brighton wainscot	Oria musculosa	
Four spotted	Tyta luctuosa	
Total nos. of BAP priority species removed from list	6	

Table 7 below provides general contextual information about the County and is given for comparative purposes.

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Table 7. County-wide list of species in each UA area.

English name	Scientific name	BFBC	Reading BC	Slough BC	WBC	RBWM	WDC
Ferns							
Pillwort	<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	X					X
Clubmoss							
Marsh Clubmoss	<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	X					
Fungi							
Drab tooth	<i>Bankera fuligineoalba</i>					X	
Royal bolete	<i>Boletus regius</i>					X	
Devil's bolete	<i>Boletus satanas</i>					X	
Oak Polypore	<i>Buglossoporus pulvinus</i>					X	
Bearded tooth	<i>Hericium erinaceum</i>					X	
Orange tooth	<i>Hydnellum aurantiacum</i>					X	
Blue tooth	<i>Hydnellum caeruleum</i>					X	
Mealy tooth	<i>Hydnellum ferrugineum</i>					X	
Devil's tooth	<i>Hydnellum peckii</i>					X	
Tooth fungus	<i>Hydnellum scrobiculatum</i>	X					
As opp.	<i>Hydnellum spongiosipes</i>					X	
Pink waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe calyptraeformis</i>					X	
Fused tooth	<i>Phellodon confluens</i>	X					
Grey tooth	<i>Phellodon melaleucus</i>	X					
Wooly tooth	<i>Phellodon tomentosus</i>					X	
Nail fungus	<i>Poronia punctata</i>				X		
Greenfoot tooth	<i>Sarcodon glaucopus</i>					X	
Scaly tooth	<i>Sarcodon imbricatus</i>					X	
Tooth fungus	<i>Sarcodon scabrosus</i>	X					
Plants							
Tower mustard	<i>Arabis glabra</i>		X				X
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>				X	X	
Red Hemp-nettle	<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>				X		X

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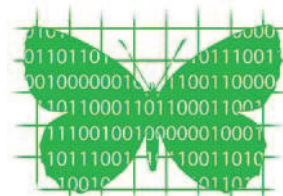
Table 7. continued

English name	Scientific name	BFBC	Reading BC	Slough BC	WBC	RBWM	WDC
Early Gentian	Gentianella anglica				X		
Juniper	Juniperus communis				X		X
Pennyroyal	Mentha pulegium					X	
Great water parsnip	Sium latifolium				X	X	X
Spreading hedge parsley	Torilis arvensis					X	
Invertebrates							
Beetles							
A click beetle	Ampedus rufipennis					X	
A weevil	Dryophthorus corticalis					X	
A click beetle	Elater ferrugineus					X	
A false click beetle	Eucnemis capucina					X	
Maple wood-boring beetle	Gastrallus immarginatus					X	
A chafer	Gnorimus variabilis					X	
A ground beetle	Harpalus dimidiatus				X		
A click beetle	Lacon querceus					X	
Violet click beetle	Limoniscus violaceus					X	
Stag Beetle	Lucanus cervus	X	X	X	X	X	X
A click beetle	Megapenthes lugens					X	
Bumblebees							
Brown-banded carder bee	Bombus humilis		X				
Flies							
Hornet robber	Asilus crabroniformis				X		X
Butterflies							
Marsh Fritillary	Eurodryas aurinia				X		
Adonis Blue	Lysandra bellargus				X		
Silver-studded Blue	Plebejus argus	X			X		
Moths							
Light crimson underwing	Catocala promissa					X	
Heart moth	Dicycla oo		X			X	
Buttoned snout	Hypena rostralis		X		X	X	
Orange underwing	Jodia croceago				X		
Drab Looper	Minoa murinata				X		
Common fan foot	Pechipogon strigilata						X
Argent and Sable	Rheumaptera hastata	X					
Chalk carpet	Scoperyx bipunctata cretata				X		

Table 7. continued

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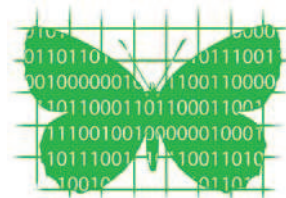


Sharing wildlife information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire							
English name	Scientific name	BFBC	Reading BC	Slough BC	WBC	RBWM	WDC
Striped Lychnis	Shargacucullia lychnitis		X		X	X	
Molluscs							
Freshwater pea mussel	Pisidium tenuilineatum				X		X
Desmoulin's whorl snail	Vertigo moulinsiana				X		X
Reptiles and Amphibians							
Great Crested Newt	Triturus cristatus	X		X	X	X	X
Birds							
Aquatic Warbler	Acrocephalus paludicola				X		
Marsh Warbler	Acrocephalus palustris				X		X
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bittern	Botaurus stellaris	X			X	X	X
Stone-curlew	Burhinus oediconemus				X		
Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	X			X	X	X
Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wryneck	Jynx torquilla	X			X		X
Woodlark	Lullula arborea	X			X	X	X
Common Scoter	Melanitta nigra	X	X		X	X	X
Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra	X		X	X	X	X
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	X	X		X	X	X
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix	X			X	X	X
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	X	X	X	X	X	X
Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	X			X	X	X
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mammals							
Water Vole	Arvicola terrestris	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brown Hare	Lepus capensis	X	X		X	X	X
Otter	Lutra lutra				X		X
Common Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius				X		X
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total numbers of BAP priority species	80	28	17	11	43	50	33
Percentage of total number of BAP priority species		35	21.25	13.75	53.75	62.5	41.25

Information sources

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The list of BAP priority species in the County is derived from the national “short list” of species which have Species Action Plans associated with them (source: UK BAP website). The list for each UA contains the species most likely to still be extant in the area.

The main source of these data has been the TV ERC Recorder database with a threshold date of 1990 taken to make a judgment, i.e. any records before this date were investigated and in most cases discounted. All species on the list were also cross referenced with the national database of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and recent local publications and atlases, e.g. the Berkshire Flora. Finally in most cases local Recorders were consulted for further verification. A list of publications and sources of information are provided below.

Recorder 2002 database for Berkshire held by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

BNCF (1999) A framework for biodiversity action in Berkshire. Annex 1 List of priority species found in Berkshire

NBN (National Biodiversity Network) - data sources listed and mapped on NBN Gateway

Crawley, M.J. (2005) The Flora of Berkshire. Brambleby Books

Harvey, M (1998) A review of BAP invertebrates in Berkshire. BBOWT report

Consultation with Recorders and Recording Groups in Berkshire

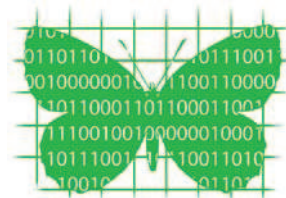
<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/species.aspx> National list of UK BAP priority species

Quality of the information

It should be recognised that the list of BAP priority species in the County is as much a reflection of the presence and/or the absence of species as the amount of effort applied by Recorders in surveying and observation. Lack of records for a species therefore does not always reflect an absence of that species in the County. The quality of information provided this year has improved with the continued review of the distribution of these species.

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Future data needs

TV ERC actively supports recording and recording groups in the County and is building a good overview of the distribution of these species in the County. Recording depends on the commitment and dedication of local naturalists and most of the records held by TV ERC come from this source. Gaps in the provision of information on these species can be identified and TV ERC can assist recorders in targeting field survey effort. This is an ongoing process and is essential for the future monitoring of this indicator.

8 (ii). Change in area of sites designated for their intrinsic environmental value – SSSIs, SACs, SPAs and Wildlife Heritage Sites (WHS).

Commentary

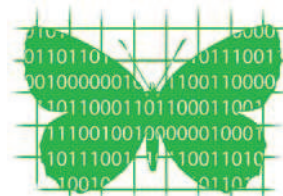
In this report change is described in terms of the numbers and areas in each designation in Table 8 and the broad reasons for change are summarised for WHS in Table 9 below.

There has been no change in the area of statutory sites, i.e. SSSIs, SPAs and cSACs since the last report, but some significant changes in the extent and numbers of the non statutory Wildlife Heritage Sites (WHS) in some areas of the County. Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) have remained stable in numbers with one site only in the County and as such are not reported on here.

The trends in change in extent of WHS in the Reading Borough area are difficult to assess, but a slight negative change in numbers and area is evident. With the ongoing review of WHS in the Reading area one site has been amalgamated with another WHS and boundaries of others have been rationalised. Rationalisation usually entails realignment to a definite boundary. Generally in Berkshire the lack of management and/or inappropriate management of WHS continues to be the biggest threat to these areas.

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Table 8. Numbers and areas of designated biodiversity sites in Berkshire

	No. of SSSIs/SACs/ SPAs/WHS	Approx. area of SSSIs/SACs/ SPAs/WHS in each UA (ha)	% of total land area covered by SSSIs/SACs/ SPAs/WHS in each UA	Details of change
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)				
Bracknell Forest BC	9	1,825.18	16.69	None - stable
Reading BC				
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	11	1,662.92	8.38	None - stable
Slough BC				
West Berkshire DC	51	1,348.86	1.92	None - stable
Wokingham DC	4	27.04	0.15	None - stable
County Total of SSSIs	75	4,863.99	3.85	
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)				
Bracknell Forest BC	1	331.186	3.03	None - stable
Reading BC				
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	2	1,336.45	6.74	None - stable
Slough BC				
West Berkshire DC	3	154.04	0.22	None - stable
Wokingham DC				
County Total of SACs	6	1,821.68	1.44	
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)				
Bracknell Forest BC	1	1,329.48	12.15	None - stable
Reading BC				
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	2	126.15	0.64	None - stable
Slough BC				
West Berkshire DC				
Wokingham DC				
County Total of SPAs	2	1,457.63	1.15	

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Sharing wildlife information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire

Table 8. continued

	No. of WHS	Approx. area of WHS in each UA (ha)	% of total land area covered by WHS in each UA	Details of change
Wildlife Heritage Sites				
Bracknell Forest BC	75 (79)	2302.61 (2,325.00)	21.05 (21.26)	Negative change in numbers and area. 4 sites deselected
Reading BC	29 (30)	300.37 (311.50)	7.43 (7.71)	Negative change in numbers and area. 1 site amalgamated with another WHS, boundaries rationalised.
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	104 (107)	1,439.98 (1,813.00)	7.25 (9.14)	Negative change in numbers and area of WHS. 3 sites deselected and review of boundaries due to overlap with SSSIs
Slough BC	11 (11)	74.00	2.27 (2.27)	No change - stable
West Berkshire DC	483 (492)	6,395.47 (6,471.00)	9.08 (9.19)	Negative change in numbers and area. 10 sites deselected and 1 new site added
Wokingham DC	124 (124)	1,339.56 (1,308.00)	7.48 (7.31)	Stable numbers but positive change in area - 2 sites deselected and 2 larger sites added
County Total of WHS	826 (843)	11,851.99 (12,302.50)	9.37 (9.7)	

	No. of SSSIs/SACs/ SPAs/WHS	Approx. area of SSSIs/SACs/ SPAs/WHS in each UA (ha)	% of total land area covered by SSSIs/SACs/ SPAs/WHS in each UA
Totals for all designated sites in Berkshire	909 (926)	19,995.29 (20,445.8)	15.8 (16.7)

NB Figures in brackets are the 2004-05 figures

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Sharing wildlife information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire

NB the above figures are based on the total land area of each UA as follows:

Unitary Authority	Land Area (hectares)
Bracknell Forest BC	10,938.0
Reading BC	4,040.0
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	19,843.0
Slough BC	3,253.5
West Berkshire DC	70,417.0
Wokingham DC	17,897.0
Total	126,389

Table 9. Summary of reasons for change in WBC area

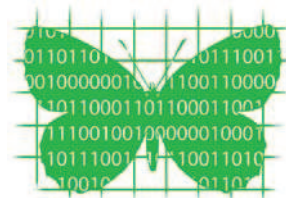
Change category	Percentage of sites in category
WHS deselected	
Change due to development	
Change due to inappropriate management	
Change as a result of technical GIS corrections	100
New WHS	

Information sources

All information on statutory sites has been acquired from English Nature. All WHS information is derived from TV ERC, which in Berkshire administers the WHS process on behalf of the Unitary Authorities. TV ERC are committed to survey approximately 10% of the total Berkshire sites each year. The information on change reported here relates to the findings from the surveys in the previous year (in this case 2004-05), and this is due to the timing of the Selection Panel meetings.

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Sharing wildlife information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire

WHS are being reviewed on a ten year rolling programme of resurvey by TV ERC on behalf of each Unitary Authority and this remains the primary means of assessing change on these sites. The status of a WHS can be changed as a result of being deselected from the list for each Unitary Authority, but new sites can be added as they are discovered and subsequently surveyed. Decisions regarding change are made by a WHS Selection Panel appointed by the Berkshire Nature Conservation Forum – a partnership of all local authorities and environmental organisations in the County.

Quality of the information

The continued review of WHS in Berkshire by TVERC through field survey and boundary review has enabled an ongoing improvement in quality of this dataset.

Future data needs

There is an ongoing requirement for up to date SSSI, SPA, cSAC and WHS data in the County. The continued support of the Unitary Authorities and English Nature to TV ERC is essential for this indicator to be applied to the AMR process in the future.

Adrian Hutchings
TV ERC Berkshire Manager

September 2006

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Sharing wildlife information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire

Appendices.

Table 3. Determination quality for each BAP priority habitat

UK BAP priority habitat type	Area (hectares)	Determination Quality (DQ) category	Area in each DQ category	% of each habitat area
Eutrophic standing waters	12.97	Definitely is	0.87	6.74
		Probably is, but some uncertainty	12.09	93.26
Fens	16.41	Definitely is	10.06	61.29
		Definitely present in polygon, but not accurately mappable	6.35	38.71
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	157.18	Definitely is	71.24	45.32
		Probably is, but some uncertainty	85.95	54.68
Wet woodland	5.98	Definitely is	5.71	95.52
		Probably is, but some uncertainty	0.27	4.48
Total area of BAP priority habitat	192.54			

Renewable Energy Data

Projected attainment of 2010 renewable electricity targets

TOTAL (all renewable energy)

Sub-region	Target, MW	By 2010?
Thames Valley & Surrey	140	50%

Postn	County	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Berkshire	25.2	94%
2	Oxfordshire	46.6	42%
3	Surrey	33.4	3%
4	Buckinghamshire	34.8	1%

Postn	Local Authority	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Slough UA	1.1	1837%
2	South Oxfordshire	11.8	128%
3	Wokingham UA	3.7	55%
4	Reading UA	1.4	49%
5	Oxfordshire CC	46.6	41.8%
6	Bracknell Forest UA	2.4	41.6%
7	Vale of White Horse	10.3	285%
8	Woking	1.5	34%
9	Surrey Heath	2.0	18%
10	Windsor and Maidenhead UA	4.0	0.5%
11	Spelthorne	1.3	3.8%
12	Surrey CC	33.4	3.4%
13	Aylesbury Vale	15.9	2.3%
14	Guildford	5.2	1.4%
15	Buckinghamshire CC	28.6	1.4%
16	Mole Valley	4.7	0.0%
17	Milton Keynes UA	6.2	1.1%
18	Oxford City	1.4	1.5%
19	Chiltern	3.7	0.3%
20	Cherwell	10.5	0.21%
21	West Oxfordshire	12.4	0.23%
22	West Berkshire UA	12.5	0.16%
23	Waverley	6.3	0.1%
24	Wycombe	6.2	0%
25	Tandridge	4.5	0%
26	Reigate and Banstead	2.8	0%
27	South Bucks	2.7	0%
28	Elmbridge	2.2	0%
29	Runnymede	1.7	0%
30	Epsom and Ewell	0.9	0%

Projected attainment of 2010 renewable electricity targets
BIOMASS

Sub-region	Target, MW	By 2010?
Thames Valley & Surrey	84.7	70%

Postn	County	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Berkshire	14.4	138%
2	Oxfordshire	29.7	132%
3	Buckinghamshire	21.4	0%
4	Surrey	19.1	0%

Postn	Local Authority	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Slough UA	0.4	5379%
2	South Oxfordshire	7.7	188%
3	Oxfordshire CC	29.7	132%
4	Bracknell Forest UA	1.3	40%
5	Surrey CC	19.1	0%
6	Buckinghamshire CC	17.9	0%
7	Aylesbury Vale	10.3	0%
8	West Oxfordshire	8.2	0%
9	West Berkshire UA	8.1	0%
10	Cherwell	6.7	0%
11	Vale of White Horse	6.6	0%
12	Waverley	3.9	0%
13	Wycombe	3.7	0%
14	Milton Keynes UA	3.5	0%
15	Guildford	3.1	0%
16	Mole Valley	3.0	0%
17	Tandridge	2.8	0%
18	Windsor and Maidenhead UA	2.3	0%
19	Chiltern	2.2	0%
20	Wokingham UA	2.0	0%
21	South Bucks	1.6	0%
22	Reigate and Banstead	1.5	0%
23	Elmbridge	1.1	0%
24	Surrey Heath	1.1	0%
25	Runnymede	0.9	0%
26	Woking	0.7	0%
27	Spelthorne	0.6	0%
28	Oxford City	0.5	0%
29	Reading UA	0.5	0%
30	Epsom and Ewell	0.4	0%

Projected attainment of 2010 renewable electricity targets
WIND

Sub-region	Target, MW	By 2010?
Thames Valley & Surrey	39.0	16%

Postn	County	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Oxfordshire	13.7	31%
2	Berkshire	6.7	27%
3	Buckinghamshire	9.9	0.2%
4	Surrey	8.8	0%

Postn	Local Authority	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Wokingham UA	0.9	191%
2	Vale of White Horse	3.1	139%
3	Oxfordshire CC	13.7	31%
4	Bracknell Forest UA	0.6	7%
5	South Oxfordshire	3.5	1%
6	Aylesbury Vale	4.8	0.3%
7	Buckinghamshire CC	8.2	0.22%
8	Reading UA	0.2	0.20%
9	Surrey CC	8.8	0%
10	West Oxfordshire	3.8	0%
11	West Berkshire UA	3.7	0%
12	Cherwell	3.1	0%
13	Waverley	1.8	0%
14	Wycombe	1.7	0%
15	Milton Keynes UA	3.5	0%
16	Guildford	1.4	0%
17	Mole Valley	1.4	0%
18	Tandridge	1.3	0%
19	Windsor and Maidenhead UA	1.0	0%
20	Chiltern	1.0	0%
21	South Bucks	0.7	0%
22	Reigate and Banstead	0.7	0%
23	Elmbridge	0.5	0%
24	Surrey Heath	0.5	0%
25	Runnymede	0.4	0%
26	Woking	0.3	0%
27	Spelthorne	0.3	0%
28	Oxford City	0.2	0%
29	Epsom and Ewell	0.2	0%
30	Slough UA	0.2	0%

Projected attainment of 2010 renewable electricity targets

BIOGAS & SEWAGE GAS

Sub-region	Target, MW	By 2010?
Thames Valley & Surrey	9.0	33%

Postn	County	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Berkshire	2.3	70%
2	Oxfordshire	1.7	39%
3	Buckinghamshire	2.0	17%
4	Surrey	3.0	12%

Postn	Local Authority	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Slough UA	0.3	200%
2	South Oxfordshire	0.4	186%
3	Reading UA	0.4	166%
4	Surrey Heath	0.2	157%
5	Aylesbury Vale	0.5	72%
6	Bracknell Forest UA	0.3	64%
7	Wokingham UA	0.4	58%
8	Oxfordshire CC	1.7	39%
9	Buckinghamshire CC	1.4	25%
10	Surrey CC	2.6	12%
11	Milton Keynes UA	0.6	0%
12	Wycombe	0.5	0%
13	West Berkshire UA	0.4	0%
14	Oxford City	0.4	0%
15	Windsor and Maidenhead UA	0.4	0%
16	Cherwell	0.4	0%
17	Guildford	0.4	0%
18	Reigate and Banstead	0.4	0%
19	Elmbridge	0.3	0%
20	Waverley	0.3	0%
21	Vale of White Horse	0.3	0%
22	West Oxfordshire	0.3	0%
23	Spelthorne	0.3	0%
24	Woking	0.3	0%
25	Chiltern	0.3	0%
26	Mole Valley	0.2	0%
27	Tandridge	0.2	0%
28	Runnymede	0.2	0%
29	Epsom and Ewell	0.2	0%
30	South Bucks	0.2	0%

Projected attainment of 2010 renewable electricity targets

SOLAR PV

Sub-region	Target, MW	By 2010?
Thames Valley & Surrey	6.8	14%

Postn	County	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Surrey	2.0	29%
2	Berkshire	1.5	3%
3	Oxfordshire	1.1	8%
4	Buckinghamshire	1.3	7%

Postn	Local Authority	Target, MW	By 2010?
1	Woking	0.2	262%
2	Bracknell Forest UA	0.2	107%
3	Surrey CC	2.3	29%
4	Guildford	0.3	25%
6	Spelthorne	0.2	24%
7	Milton Keynes UA	1.0	15%
8	Tandridge	0.2	11.7%
9	West Oxfordshire	0.2	13.5%
10	South Oxfordshire	0.3	10.2%
11	Cherwell	0.3	7.7%
12	Windsor and Maidenhead UA	0.3	7.3%
5	Oxfordshire CC	1.3	7.7%
13	Aylesbury Vale	0.3	6.0%
14	West Berkshire UA	0.3	7.2%
15	Chiltern	0.2	5.0%
16	Waverley	0.3	3.5%
17	Buckinghamshire CC	1.0	3.0%
18	Reading UA	0.3	2.6%
19	Vale of White Horse	1.3	0.0%
20	Oxford City	0.3	7.7%
21	Mole Valley	0.2	0.5%
22	Wycombe	5.2	0%
23	Wokingham UA	3.1	0%
24	South Bucks	2.2	0%
25	Slough UA	1.0	0%
26	Reigate and Banstead	0.2	0%
27	Elmbridge	0.2	0%
28	Surrey Heath	0.1	0%
29	Runnymede	0.1	0%
30	Epsom and Ewell	0.1	0%

Projected attainment of 2010 renewable electricity targets

HYDRO

Sub-region	Target, MW	By 2010?
Thames Valley & Surrey	0.5	51%

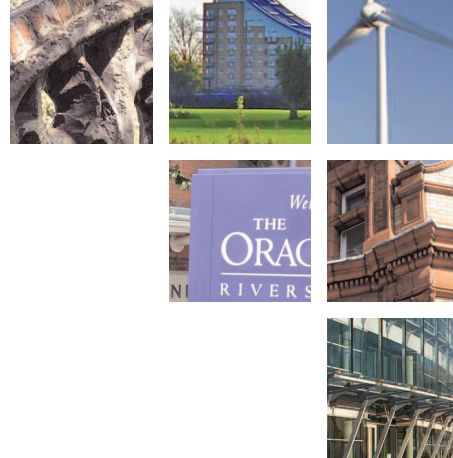
County	Target, MW	By 2010?
Berkshire	0.09	235%
Surrey	0.11	80%
Oxfordshire	0.18	14%
Buckinghamshire	0.13	0%

KEY
>100%
>33%
<33%
0%
100% TV Energy partner orgs
Includes non-TV Energy partner orgs

TOTAL				
TV Energy partners		Non-TVE		%
1	7%	0	0%	>100%
4	29%	0	0%	>33%
8	57%	10	63%	<33%
1	7%	6	38%	0%
14	100%	16	100%	

OVER 4 RE CATEGORIES				
TV Energy partners		Non-TVE		%
7	13%	2	3%	>100%
5	9%	0	0%	>33%
17	30%	8	13%	<33%
27	48%	54	84%	0%
56	100%	64	100%	

planning



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