



Oxfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy -
A long term vision for the county

Briefing paper 12: Spatial Oxfordshire

This paper is number 12 in a series of 12 briefing papers prepared to inform the development of the Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy by the Oxfordshire Partnership.

The briefing papers are designed for any individual or organisation interested in finding out more about Oxfordshire. Specifically they have been developed for representatives of organisations in the Oxfordshire Partnership who will be attending workshops and discussions on the Sustainable Community Strategy during 2007.

FINAL DRAFT version 7
13 August 2007

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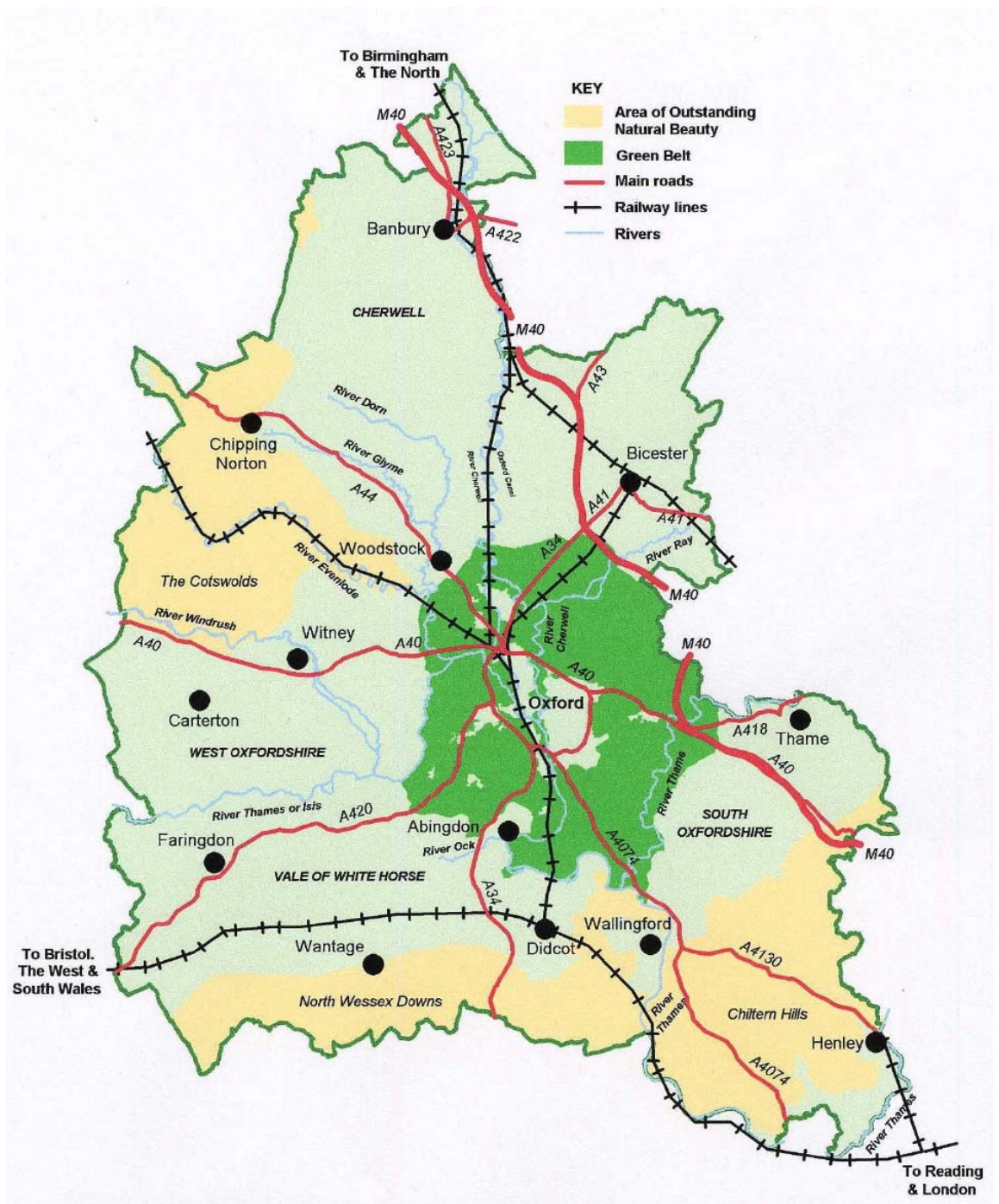
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Paper prepared by: Fiona Mullins, Oxfordshire County Council
Environment and Economy, Strategic Policy and Economic
Development

With the help of: Ian Walker, Chris Cousins (Oxfordshire County Council),
Local Strategic Partnership/Planners review group (see
Appendix D)

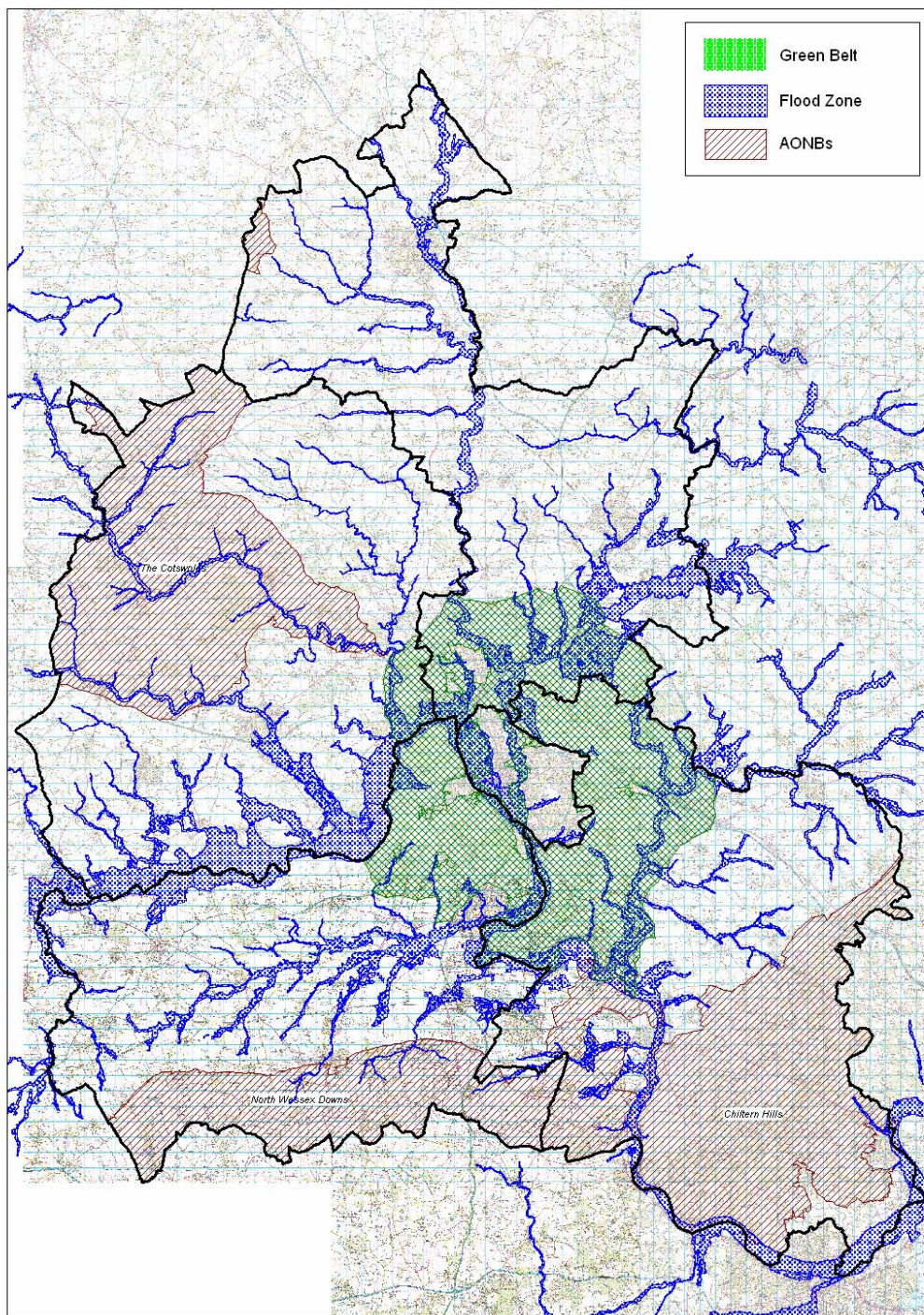
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Figure 3: Key features of Oxfordshire



Source: Oxfordshire Data Observatory

Figure 4. Floodplain, green belt and areas of outstanding natural beauty



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A3. Current and planned development

There is demand for more housing than is planned. Reflecting this demand, Oxfordshire districts are amongst the least affordable areas in the South East (with the exception of Cherwell district). The average property price in Oxfordshire continues to rise, and is currently £276,700.¹

Tables 1 and 2 show the predicted increase in population and households to 2016. Further details on population are available in Briefing paper 9: Population.

Table 1: Population growth 2001 to 2016

Districts	All Persons				
	2001	2006	2011	2016	% Change 2001-2016
Oxfordshire	607,277	620,406	643,881	654,829	7.8%
Cherwell	131,988	132,277	137,816	138,406	4.9%
Oxford City	135,509	141,265	147,574	149,158	10.1%
South Oxfordshire	128,307	127,757	130,330	134,080	4.5%
Vale of White Horse	115,772	118,447	123,028	127,142	9.8%
West Oxfordshire	95,701	100,660	105,134	106,044	10.8%

© GLA 2005 - Demographic Projections

Extract from 2001 to 2011 population and households forecasts prepared by GLA on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council

Table 2: Household growth 2001 to 2016

Districts	Households				
	2001	2006	2011	2016	% Change 2001-2016
Oxfordshire	241,499	252,411	269,087	279,744	15.8%
Cherwell	53,370	55,646	60,235	62,585	17.3%
Oxford City	51,621	54,302	58,219	59,389	15.0%
South Oxfordshire	52,148	53,333	55,857	58,909	13.0%
Vale of White Horse	45,824	47,826	50,652	53,447	16.6%
West Oxfordshire	38,536	41,304	44,124	45,414	17.8%

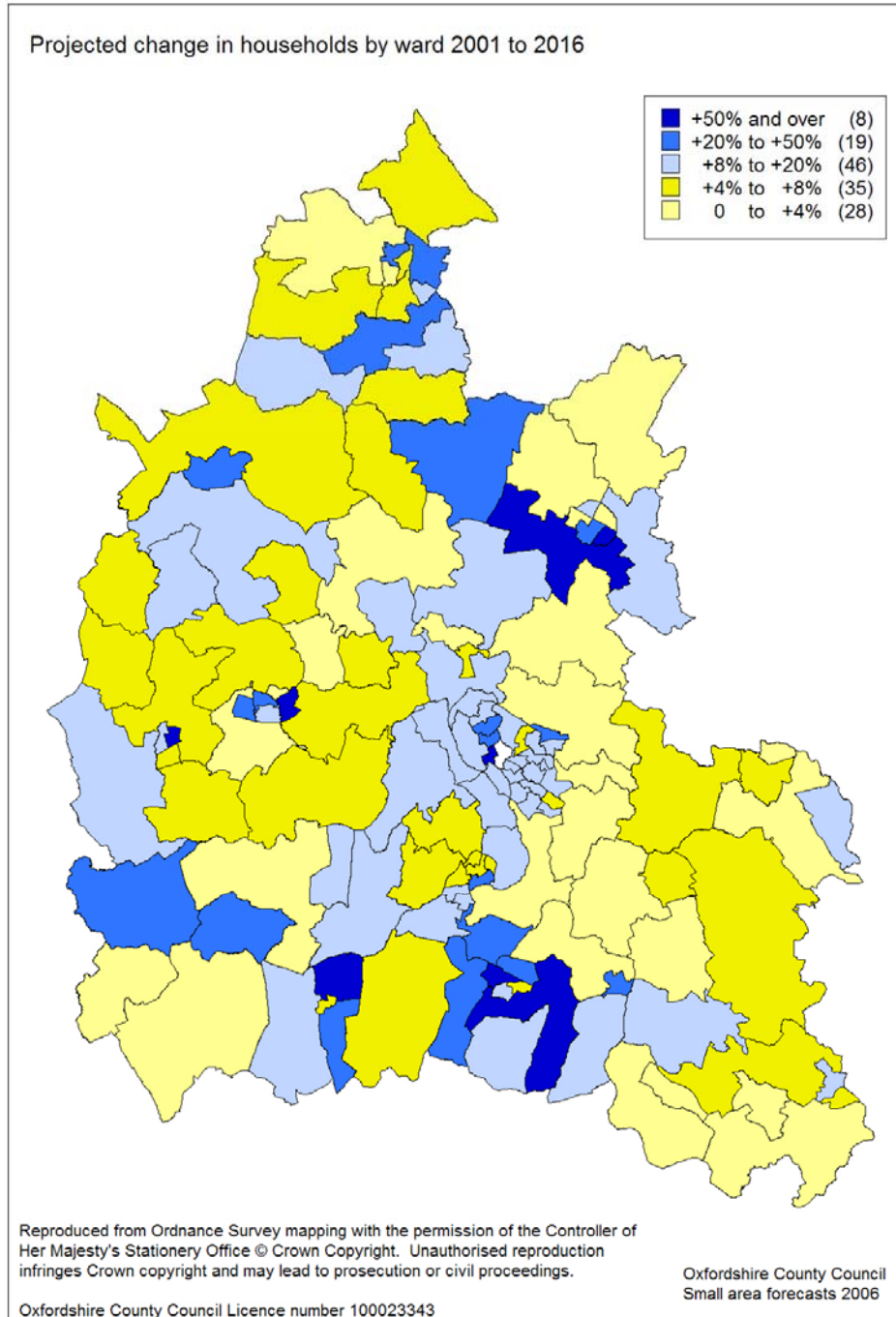
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Extract from 2001 to 2011 population and households forecasts prepared by GLA on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council

¹ Oxfordshire Quarterly Economic Update – March 2007 Oxfordshire Economic Observatory (<http://oeo.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/bp09.pdf>)

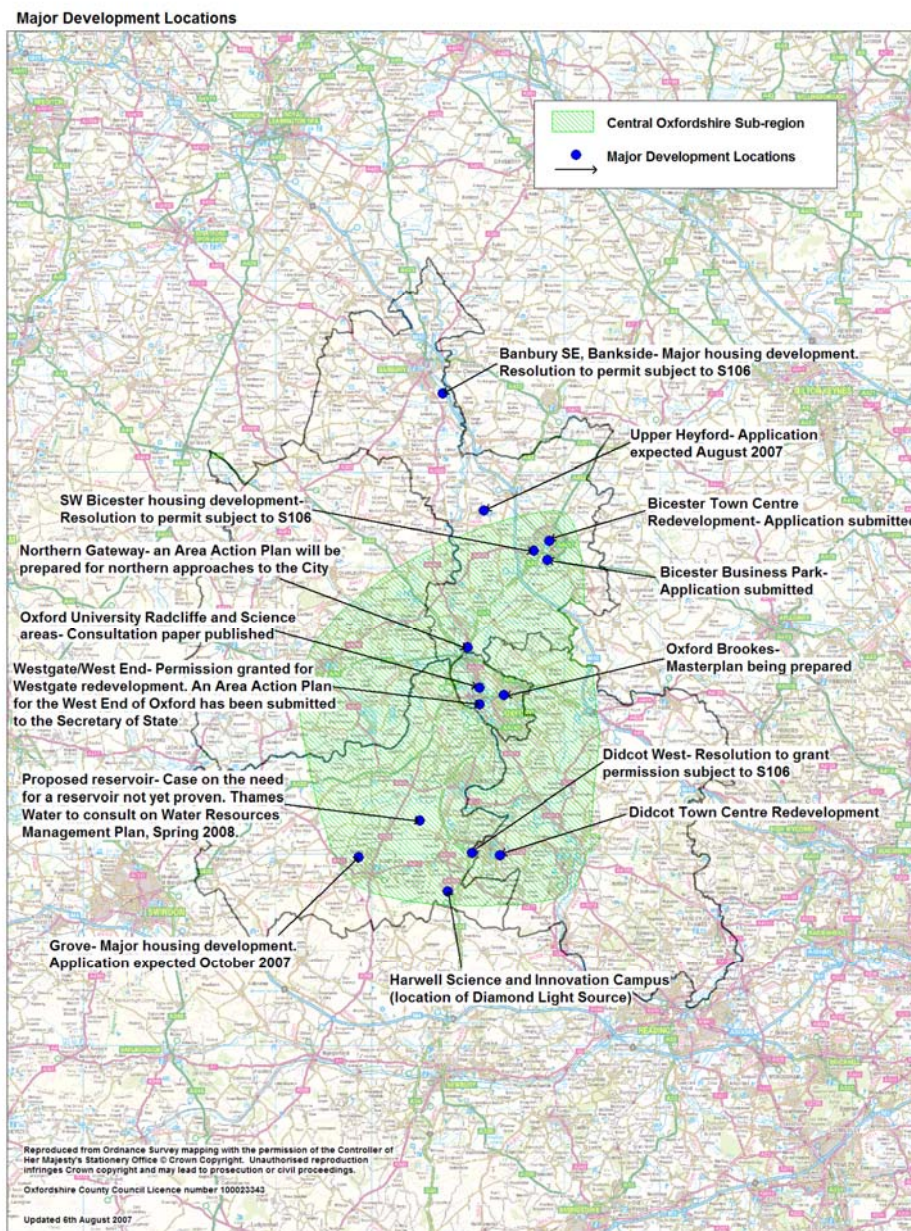
Figure 5 shows where the predicted increase in households is expected. The spatial distribution of growth reflects the spatial strategy outlined in Section 1.3.

Figure 5: Map of household projections



The draft South East Plan makes provision for 47,200 houses to be built in Oxfordshire between 2006 and 2026. This includes 1,700 houses per year in the central Oxfordshire sub-region (the shaded area in Figure 7) and 660 houses per year in the rest of the county. Figure 6 shows current and proposed developments and Figure 7 shows broad locations for expected future growth under the South East Plan which will be reflected in Local Development Frameworks.

Figure 6 Selected key development locations and proposals as at 2007

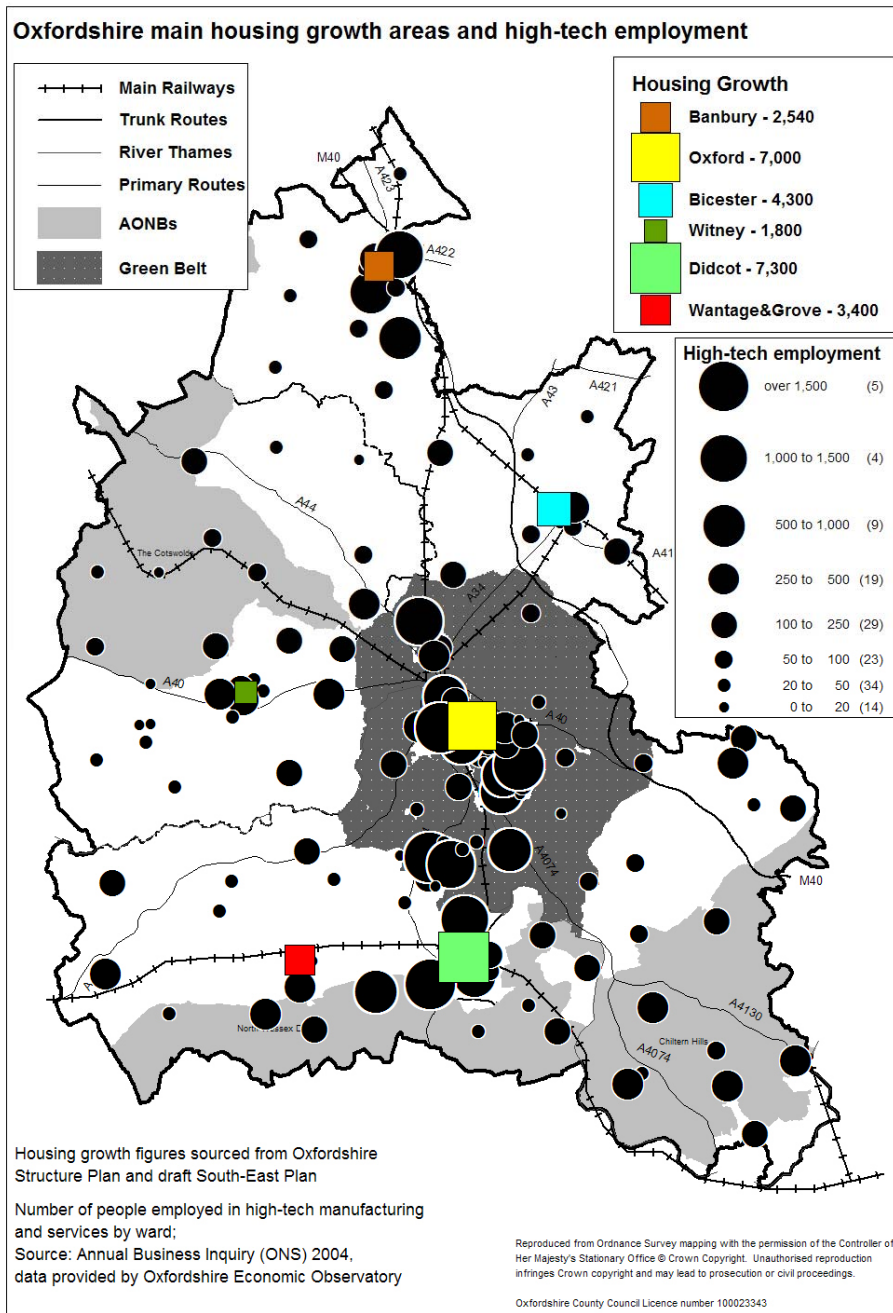


Note: Figure 6 above only captures a selection of key developments and proposals. For information on the full range of current and proposed developments refer to local authority websites:

- Oxford City Council: www.oxford.gov.uk
- South Oxfordshire District Council: www.southoxon.gov.uk
- Vale of White Horse District Council: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk
- West Oxfordshire District Council: www.westoxon.gov.uk
- Cherwell District Council: www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Figure 7 shows the main clusters of housing growth that is planned for urban areas between 2006 and 2026 in relation to areas of high tech employment.

Figure 7 Housing growth and High Tech Employment



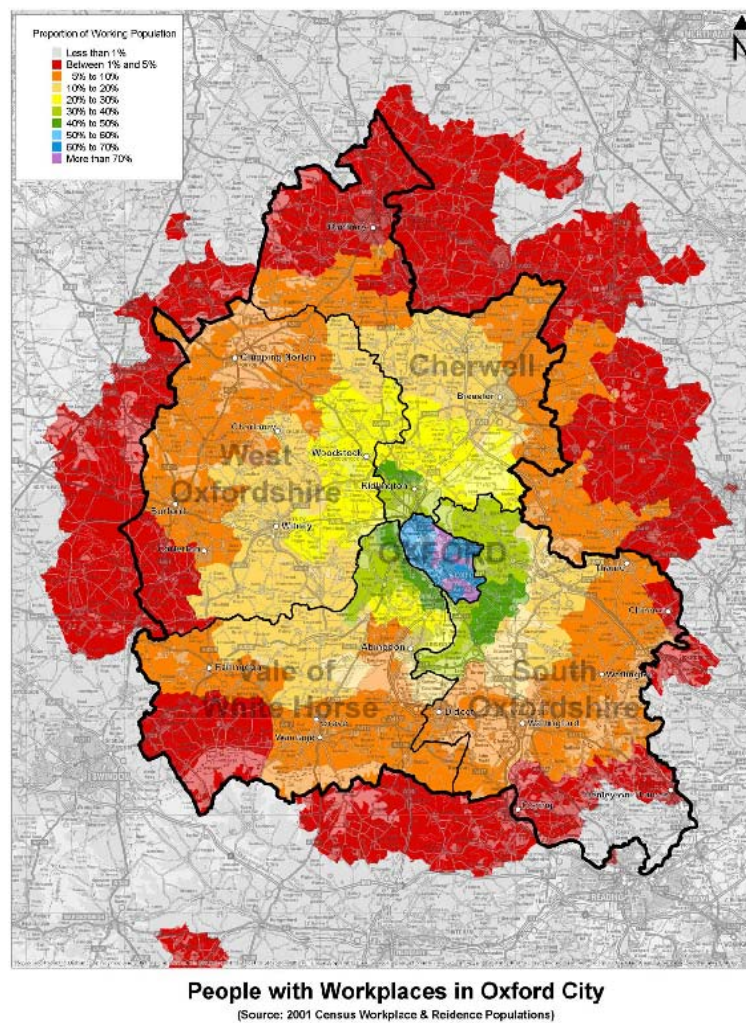
Source: Enterprising Oxford, Oxfordshire Economic Observatory and Oxfordshire Data Observatory.
 Note: Figures for Witney and Banbury only reflect planned growth to 2016 in the Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016. Other figures reflect planned growth to 2026 in the draft South East Plan. The housing numbers in Figure 7 do not include New Growth Points.

A4. Spatial inter-connectedness

There is a high degree of interdependence within Oxfordshire. Oxford acts as the hub for a number of activities (e.g. retail shopping), but the county has a “polycentric” pattern of development.

Travel to work distances tend to be short, and in a fairly tight pattern: there is some movement between the districts, but the most significant travel is into the City from surrounding areas. The Oxford Travel to Work Area (the labour market area within which most economically active people both live and work) covers the majority of the county (see Figure 8 below).

Figure 8. Oxford's Travel to Work Area

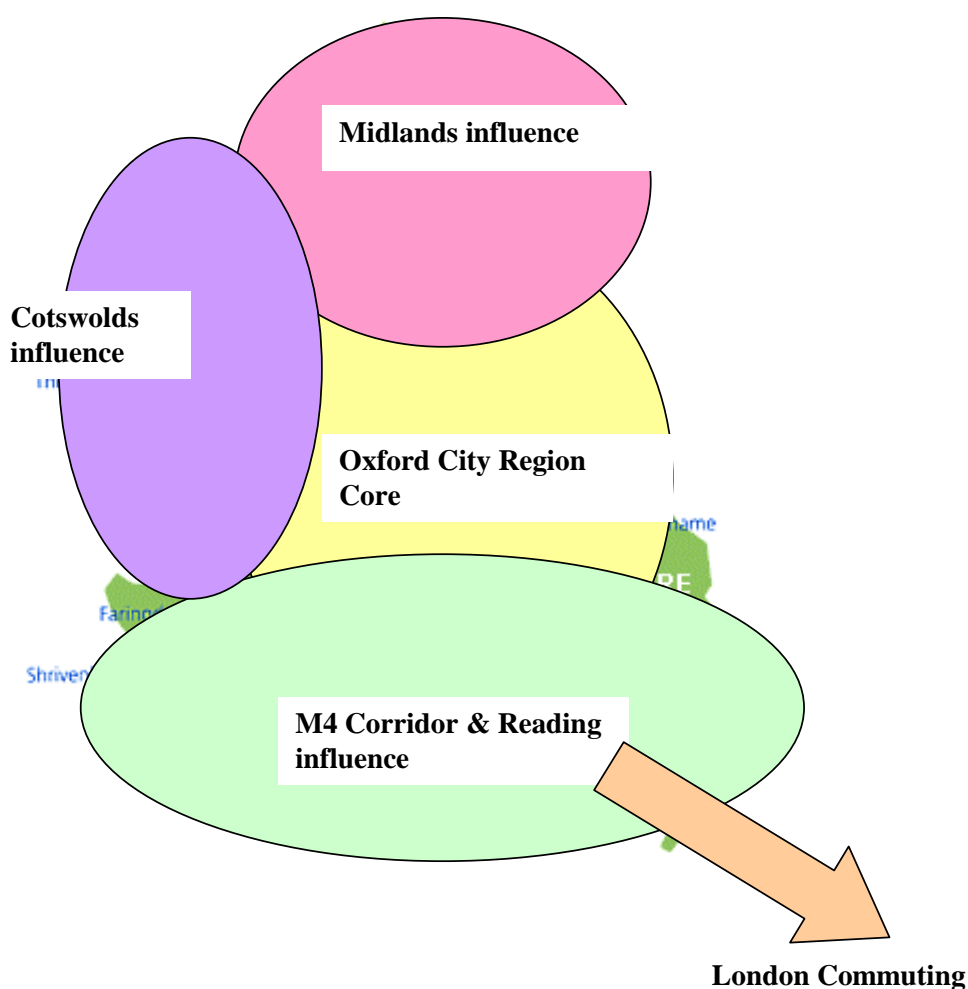


The proportion of all Oxfordshire workers living outside of the county has been increasing, from 11.7 per cent in 1991 to 15.9 per cent in 2001. The Swindon and

Reading travel to work areas affect the south west and south east of the county respectively. There is a more local travel to work area centred on Banbury in the north of the county.

Oxfordshire's housing market is relatively cohesive. The housing market is centred on Oxford and (to a lesser extent) Banbury. Around half of all households who move house in Oxfordshire stay within the same district. Of those moving out of their own district, many remain within the county. Much of this is movement from Oxford to other parts of the county, notably Cherwell. The housing market becomes less cohesive towards the county boundary, with Reading/M4 corridor and the growth areas of Milton Keynes and Northampton exerting influence, and the East Midlands' influence on the Banbury area (although Banbury's strongest connections are with the Oxfordshire housing market area). There is also a smaller movement of people from the Reading area into South Oxfordshire.

Figure 9: Oxfordshire housing market influences

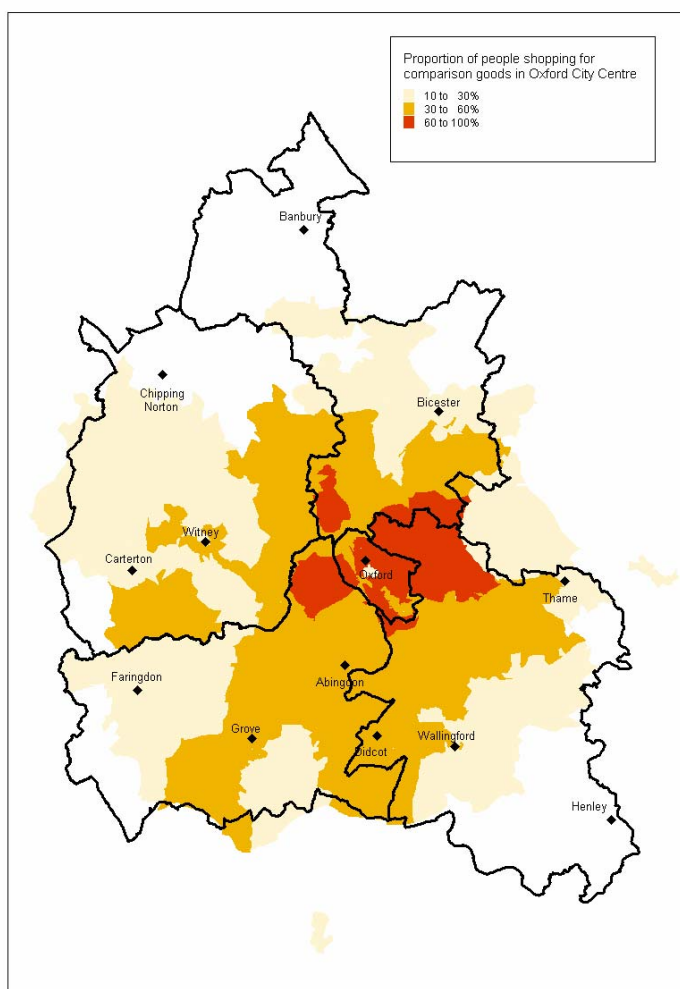


Source: Oxfordshire Housing Market Assessment: Final Report (Tribal, August 2007)

Oxfordshire's economic sub markets are along the A34 corridor and in Banbury. These employment sub-markets are reflected in the key housing and employment development locations in the county (see Figures 6 and 7). The growth of hi-tech companies and employment has a feature of the Oxfordshire economy. Clusters of high technology firms have emerged, particularly in Oxford and in the A34 corridor running south from Oxford to the county boundary, an area which includes centres such as Harwell (including UK AEA & Rutherford Appleton Laboratories), Milton Park and the business and science parks at Abingdon (see Figure 7 above).

Oxfordshire's retail catchment areas are relatively self-contained within the county. The following figures show that a high percentage of people who live close to Oxford shop there for 'comparison' goods such as clothes and shoes. Banbury also provides a retail centre for these goods for many of the people living locally.

Figure 11: Oxford's Retail Catchment



Source: The National Survey of Local Shopping Patterns (NSLSP copyright Richard Ellis 2004)

APPENDIX B: Spatial implications of the other theme papers

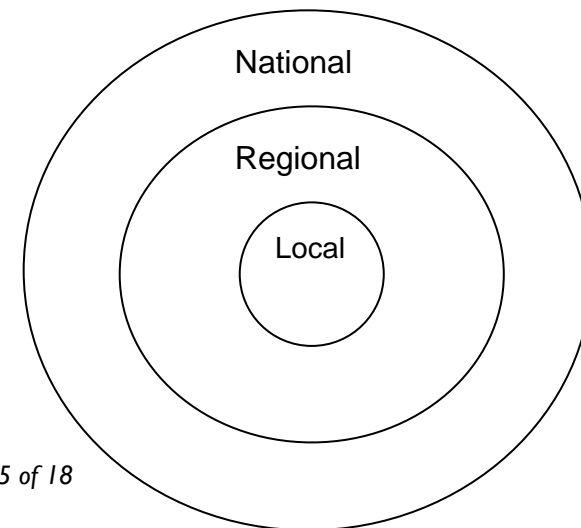
Theme	Content	Spatial implications
Community Life	Community cohesion and involvement, volunteering, community planning, service issues.	Community plans, place shaping
Community Safety	Crime, fear of crime; anti-social behaviour; road safety; alcohol and drugs, domestic abuse, environmental crime	Community design, place shaping, facilities and services
Economy	Income, employment, businesses, change in key industry sectors	Employment land sites Commuting Demand for housing
Children and Young People	Pupil achievement, destination of school leavers	Schools and community facilities
Adult learning and workforce skills	Adult skills, training	Tertiary institutions, and facilities for adults
Environment	Natural resources, countryside, waste, climate change	Natural environment, habitats, rural land-use, waste sites, impact of growth on rural landscape, built and historic environment and environmental quality.
Health, care and wellbeing	General health, hospital and A&E attendance, people providing care	Hospitals and access to facilities
Housing	Choice, affordability, development	Housing growth locations Commuting
Population and migration	Ageing population, long term and short term migration trends	Need for housing and other facilities, place shaping
Access to services and travel	Location of services, travel patterns and trends (work, shopping, school)	Location of services, implications for transport network
Recreation, leisure and culture	Participation in sport, leisure activities, internet	Recreational facilities, publicly accessible green spaces

APPENDIX C: Interrelationships between the main statutory plans

Statutory plan/policy	Level of government	Responsible body	Final/Draft	From general to detail
Planning Policy Statement	National	National government	Depends on issue	General
South East Plan, when adopted, including sub-regional strategy (central Oxfordshire and rest of county)	Regional	South East England Regional Authority (SEERA)	Draft	More detailed
Takes over from Structure Plan 2016 (county)	County	Oxfordshire County Council	Final	
Local Development Frameworks (these must engage with Sustainable Communities Strategy)	District County (for Minerals and Waste LDF)	District Councils Oxfordshire County Council (for Minerals and Waste LDF)	Emerging.	Most detailed
LDFs, when adopted, take over from Local Plans	District		Final	



These plans from different levels of government are nested, with the higher level and less detailed plans providing the policy framework within which the lower level more detailed plans must work.



CI Other plans with spatial implications

Sustainable Communities Strategies: county and district strategies.

Community plans. Plans can be accessed via www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/. (Analysis of completed community-led plans in Oxfordshire was carried out recently by the Countryside & Community Research Unit at Gloucestershire University).

Economic: The Regional Economic Strategy (SEEDA) www.seeda.co.uk/res/.
Oxfordshire Economic Development Strategy. www.oep.org.uk

Transport: Local Transport Plan www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/

Housing: South East Plan, Local Development Frameworks, Local Housing Strategies

Health: Primary Care Trust Strategy and Operational Plan

Social: Crime Reduction Strategies, Cultural Strategies

Rural Oxfordshire Rural Framework Strategy, England's Rural Development Programme and its Regional Chapters, Statutory Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Water - Environment Agency River Basin Management Plans and Catchment Area Management Plans, Thames Water: Water Resources Planning and Asset Management Plans.

Environment: Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and Habitat Action Plans (HAPs), Countryside Access Strategies, Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs), AONB management plans.

APPENDIX D – References and contacts

D1 Documents

South East Plan: South East England Regional Assembly www.southeast-ra.gov.uk

Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016 www.oxfordshire.gov.uk (Planning pages)

Local Development Frameworks and Local Plans (district websites):

- Oxford City Council: www.oxford.gov.uk
- South Oxfordshire District Council: www.southoxon.gov.uk
- Vale of White Horse District Council: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk
- West Oxfordshire District Council: www.westoxon.gov.uk
- Cherwell District Council: www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Statistical evidence for the county: Oxfordshire Data Observatory
www.oxfordshireobservatory.info

Area profiles: Oxfordshire Data Observatory www.oxfordshireobservatory.info for statistical profiles including country towns, market towns, parishes.

D2 Organisations

Review group for this paper:

Oxfordshire County Council	Ian Walker, Chris Cousins
Oxford City Council	Mark Jaggard, Sebastian Johnson
Cherwell District Council	Nigel Evans, Helen Couperthwaite, Stuart Hemming
West Oxfordshire District Council	Tina Rowley, Flynn Reid, Phillip Martin, Janice Bamsey
South Oxfordshire District Council	Gill Oliver, Helen Crofts, Emma Morris
Vale of White Horse District Council	Katie Barrett, Toby Warren, Lorna Edwards

Oxfordshire Data Observatory www.oxfordshireobservatory.info

APPENDIX E – list of briefing papers

	Theme	Broad content
	Oxfordshire Futures	Overview of economic, environmental and social trends and issues affecting the long term future of Oxfordshire
THEME PAPERS		
1	Community Life	Active communities, community-led planning, contribution of volunteers
2	Community Safety	Community safety, crime, fear of crime
3	Economy	Employment, income, businesses, change in key industry sectors
4	Children & Young People	Needs of children & young people
5	Learning and skills	Skills for the economy; skills for individuals
6	Environment	Climate change; resources (including waste, water, energy, air quality, countryside, land)
7	Health, care and wellbeing	Lifestyles, older people, long term conditions, vulnerable people
8	Housing	Affordability, housing for vulnerable groups, eco-homes
9	Population and migration	Ageing population, long term and short term migration trends
10	Access to services and travel	Road congestion, accessibility, safer roads, air quality, street environment
11	Recreation, leisure and culture	Participation in culture, sport, leisure activities, internet
12	Spatial Oxfordshire	South East plan, Local Development Frameworks, planning policy; rural, market towns, urban
SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS		
S1	Community-led plans and their potential contribution to strategic planning	by Gloucestershire University (May 2007) Analysis of the priorities from 30 community-led parish and market town plans completed in past 5 years in Oxfordshire
S2	Priorities from Oxford Area Action plans	by Oxford City Council (July 2007) Priorities from six Oxford City area action plans
S3	Oxfordshire Rural Framework (2007-2010)	by Oxfordshire Rural Forum (July 2007) Challenges and priorities for rural Oxfordshire