

Flooding



Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan

Environment:

Hardwicke is influenced by many water features - such as the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, Shorn and Dimore Brooks, Ponds, Water Culverts - and many homes have a stream, ditch or culvert running through or alongside their property.

Due to its flat and low-lying character a large area of land suffers from flood risk, from rainfall on the ground surface/ rising groundwater and overwhelming of the Dimore and Shorn Brooks.



- Additional flood water bypass tunnels have been built in recent years under Church Lane to alleviate this flood risk.
- The canal, streams, brooks, ditches form an important part of the openness of the adjoining land to the settlement of Hardwicke and is of specific importance to local residents

Policy direction:



- Locate any future major developments away from highest flood risk areas
- Ensure that any future planning permission for such developments contain conditions to prohibit the increase of [or even reduce] the flood risk elsewhere in the area.
- Ensure that any future planning permission for such developments identify bodies to be formally responsible and accountable for the finance and upkeep of any flood defence and land drainage systems being introduced as a result of the development being built.



Biodiversity

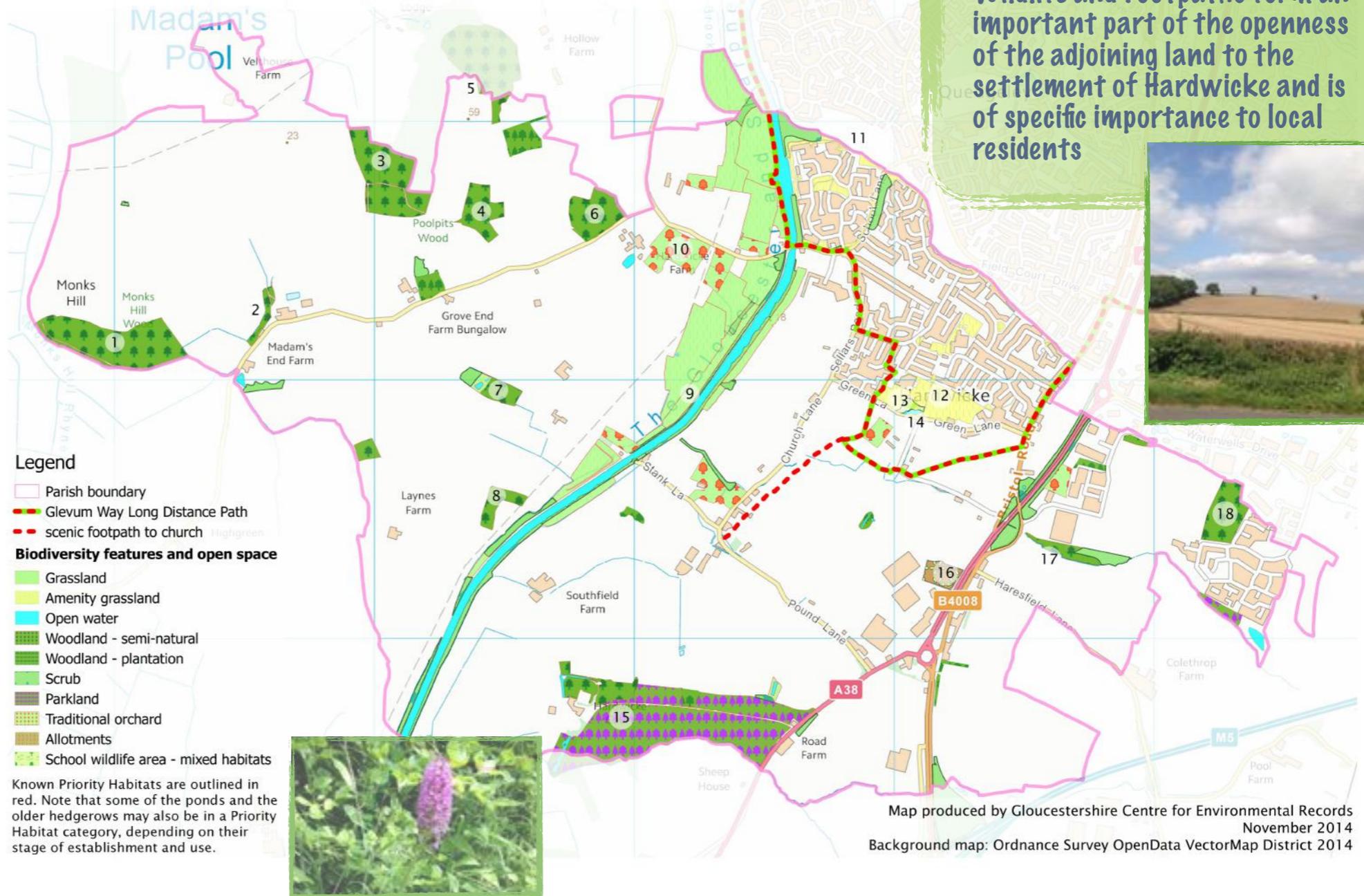


Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan

Hardwicke has a wonderful mix of important Biodiversity features and open space. The Community values these and therefore the NDP seeks to Protect and Enhance Biodiversity.



Biodiversity features and open space – important features Hardwicke parish, Gloucestershire



• Countryside & Rural views, Wildlife and Footpaths form an important part of the openness of the adjoining land to the settlement of Hardwicke and is of specific importance to local residents



Label	Name	Category
1	Monks Hill Wood	Deciduous woodland
2		Deciduous woodland
3	Poolpits Wood	Deciduous woodland
4	Ash Bed	Deciduous woodland
5	Hockley Wood	Deciduous woodland
6	Hardwicke Farm Covert	Deciduous woodland
7	Fisher's Wood	Deciduous woodland
8	Stockpits Wood	Deciduous woodland
9	Canal habitat corridor	Floodplain grassland
10		Traditional orchard
11	Dimore Brook corridor	Amenity grassland
12	Hardwicke Primary School playing field	Amenity grassland
13	Hardwicke Primary School wildlife area	Wildlife area
14	Hardwicke Village Pond	Pond
15	Hardwicke Court	Parkland
16	Four Mile Elm Allotments	Allotments
17	Shorn Brook corridor	Deciduous woodland
18	Hunt's Grove	Deciduous woodland

Policy direction:

- To identify, protect and maintain important hedgerows and ditches that are integral to the maintenance of Hardwicke as a rural Parish
- To identify and protect important open spaces and green spaces within the Parish.

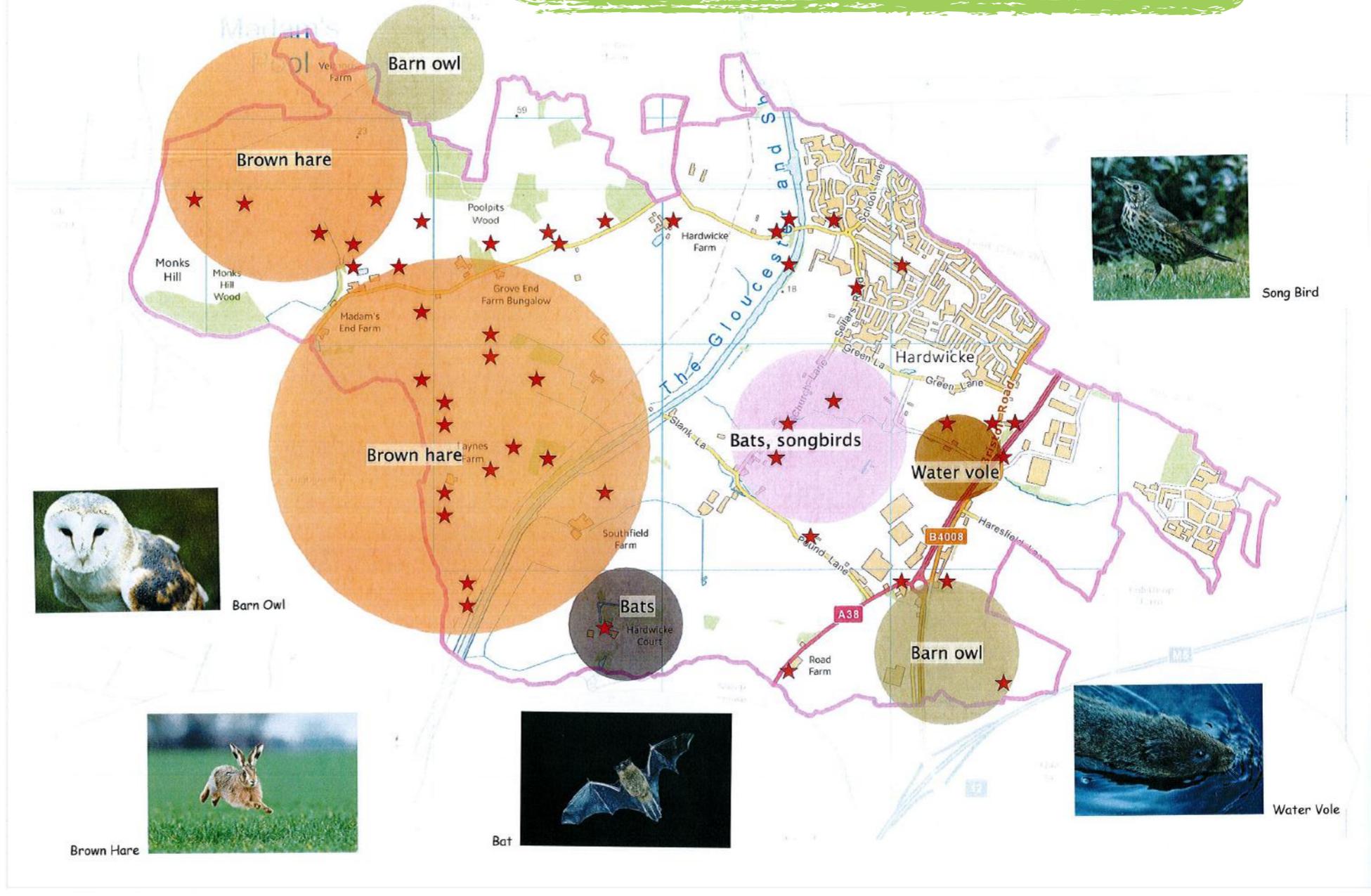
Biodiversity



Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan

Hardwicke has a wonderful mix of biodiversity in its Parish. The Green and Open spaces are very important to the community - they provide a scenic and beauty on the outlook of the Parish, as well as giving people enjoyment through leisure pursuits.

Rare or Protected species in our parish



Barn Owl



Song Bird



Brown Hare



Bat



Water Vole



Policy direction:

- To identify, protect and maintain our important open and green spaces and Priority Habitats

- Each star ★ represents one or more records of rare or protected species in our Parish

- Note that some stars are for locations which have many records rather than a single sighting

- Only the most obvious record hotspots are shown - this doesn't mean the species will always prefer those areas at all times of the year, though! There are many other rare and protected species in the Parish

Local Housing



Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan

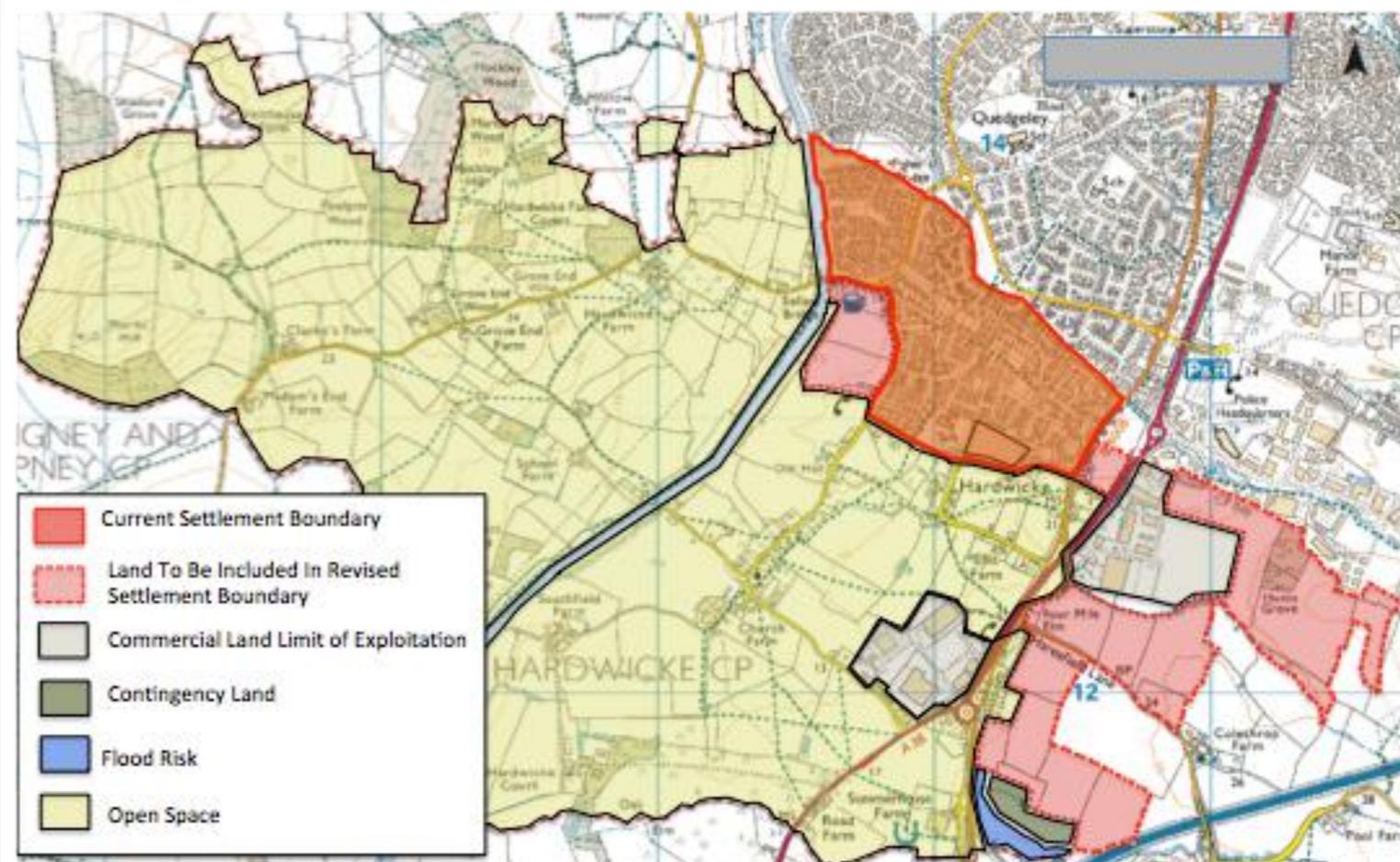
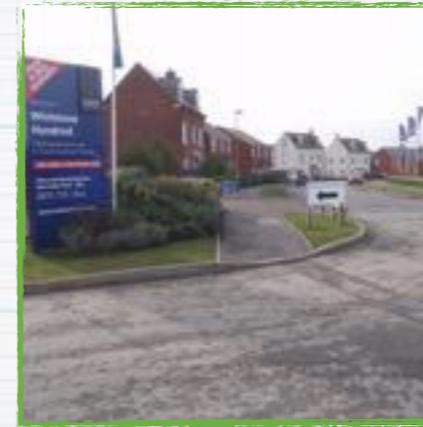
Justification & Evidence:

The recent housing survey indicated only 7 households had a need for assistance with affordable homes. No further housing needs were identified within Hardwicke Village. Should it be deemed necessary by the Stroud District Council (SDC) Local Plan to meet any growing needs for further housing, land currently 'unallocated' at Hunts Grove has been identified as being able to meet the affordable home requirements and future development.

- Housing Survey completed with 239 replies
- Contingency identified at Hunts Grove for any further SDC required development
- Continued minor permitted development i.e. extensions to existing homes
- Extended Settlement Boundary to include recent developments i.e. Sellars Bridge and Hunts Grove

Review of Office for National Statistics (ONS) for Hardwicke found that between 2001 and 2011 population census:

- Hardwicke's population increased by 6.38%
- The population aged 60 and over rose by 6.5%
- Household sizes in Hardwicke dropped from 2.43 to 2.35 people (3.3% reduction)
- Number of households with 2 or more cars increased by 115; a 6.9% increase



Local Housing



Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan

In the March 2014 general questionnaire you wanted:

- Any future development to meet the needs of the local Hardwicke community only
- Future development should cover full integration of housing types (market, affordable, social etc.)
- Any future housing should cater for 2/3 cars per household
- Building height should be limited to a maximum of 2 storeys
- Maximise Green energy features in building design and use within the property

Your Housing Survey results (February 2015) told us you wanted or identified a need for:

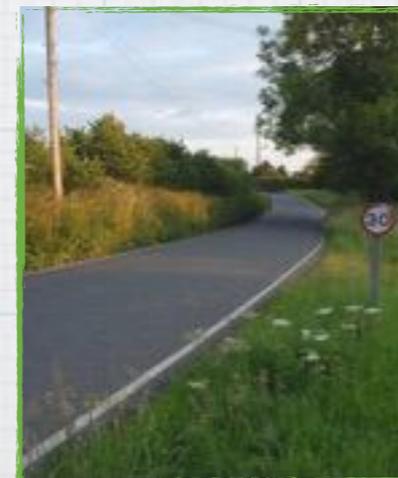


- No further major development after Hunts Grove
- The current housing needs of Hardwicke can be accommodated in currently planned developments
- 7 households indicated they would benefit from assistance through affordable housing
- 60 households indicated that they might move at some time in the future but required no financial assistance
- 20 of the 60 (33%) were of retirement age and/or wished to move to a smaller property or sheltered housing.

Policy direction:



- Reflect the SDC Local Plan requirements for Hardwicke to conserve & enhance its distinctiveness and rural character
- Ensure future housing is aligned to meeting future needs of the Hardwicke community
- Introduce policies to meet the increasing number of vehicles in households
- Promote environmentally friendly and sustainability in housing design and build
- Taylor infill development and extensions to meet the needs of Hardwicke
- Encourage future housing to include dwellings appropriate to an increasing elderly population
- Actively supporting and participating in the Hunts Grove development to meet our needs



Communication & Transport



Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan

Justification & Evidence:

The community of the Hardwicke Parish stated clearly in its response to the NDP consultation questionnaire that it was concerned about road safety in Hardwicke. 87% of respondents stated this, with Green Lane, Sellars Road, Church Lane, Pound Lane and Bristol Road all amongst the most common areas of concern. Speeding and parking being the main negative comments. Respondents were also concerned with the condition of roads, pavements and footpaths. It was noted that buses would be used more often if there was an increased frequency, different routes and cheaper fares.



Policy direction:

Issues

- Infrastructure - increased congestion on smaller rural roads
- Road Safety is an issue for many residents, in particular those that live on the three Lanes - Church, Pound and Green
- Public Transport Routes
- Parking near Hardwicke School has been raised many times as a problem area
- Parking in Green Lane
- Speeding in Bristol Road plus Green, Pound and Church Lanes
- Using Church & Pound Lane as a "Rat Run"
- Inconsiderate parking especially on pavements

Considerations

- Promote safe and respectful driving
- Promote sensible parking in areas, in particular roads near school
- Stick to speed limits
- Quiet Lane Status - Traffic calming required
- Need to distinguish between footpaths and non-footpaths
- Public transport services to be improved with links from Hardwicke Parish to Hunts Grove and Tuffley
- Promote benefits of commuting to work by bicycle
- Improved cycle routes

- Future developments to include a dedicated parking and drop-off zones around facilities attracting high levels of traffic
- Off-road parking provision to reflect increasing car numbers per household
- Options for parking management around Hardwicke School
- Introduction of traffic control/calming measures built into the design of future developments (current issues being addressed by Parish Council)
- Extension of public transport routes to include routes to Tuffley area and Hardwicke's Local Service Provider at Hunts Grove
- Enhancement of off-road cycling/pedestrian routes to enhance safety and improve non-motorised routes joining all parts of the Parish
- Promote development of cycle lanes for the benefits of the community
- Take into account the design of roads within any new developments and establishments i.e. school, shops, parking bays



Justification & Evidence:

Hardwicke Parish Council, through the HNDPG undertook to write to all local businesses in Hardwicke Parish to invite them to contribute to the NDP and give them the opportunity to identify any needs they had to support future business growth.

Policy direction:

- Businesses contacted in April 2014 through Parish questionnaire - no responses were received...
- Employers contacted again in December 2014 with a specifically designed survey
- Local businesses that responded employ 151 Full-time/163 Part-time, with 76 of these employees of living in Hardwicke
- Businesses attracted mainly by close proximity to A38/M5; availability of employment/industrial premises; with some businesses historically located in Hardwicke
- Transport congestion an issue for local employers now and in the future
- All of the businesses who responded saw an increase in their future workforce

- Current provision of employment land satisfies requirements
- To support growth and expansion of employment within the confines of existing commercial boundaries
- Positively encourage small businesses in the rural environment
- Promote and support the importance of agricultural employment to the local community

How could business be supported through the NDP?

- Free/better advertising, including signage to direct customers to businesses
- Community Events to promote engagement with local businesses
- Reduce traffic congestion, traffic calming and improve landscaping of business areas
- Preserve the integrity of the Hardwicke Parish, with no large scale developments
- Look on planning applications that promote growth and employment favourably

- Employment land available at Quedgeley West, Quadrant Distribution Centre and off Waterwells Drive
- Possible commercial opportunities at Old School site
- Businesses strongly agreed with:
 - Lower speed limits along with traffic calming measures
 - More frequent bus service
 - Increased availability of cycle paths
 - Improved quality of footpaths and pavements