

Oxspring Neighbourhood Development Plan 2014 - 2033

June 2019
Oxspring Parish Council



OXSPRING

Neighbourhood Plan

www.oxspringplan.org.uk



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1.0 Vision and Objectives



Wildflowers along the River Don

Vision

To maintain the character of a rural village whilst moving forwards with an infrastructure that will support 21st century living.

This Vision will enable us to keep a foothold in the past whilst moving the village forward.

Objectives

- 1. To strive for the wellbeing of all members of our community by:**
 - **Supporting the provision of fair and accessible housing for local needs and local people;**
 - **Supporting the provision of improved community leisure, sports and recreation facilities.**

- 2. To nurture the rural environment for future generations by:**
 - **Protecting and enhancing Oxspring's biodiversity assets and amenity areas, namely, the River Don, the Trans Pennine Trail, the green belt, green open spaces, open farm land, and**

community allotments;

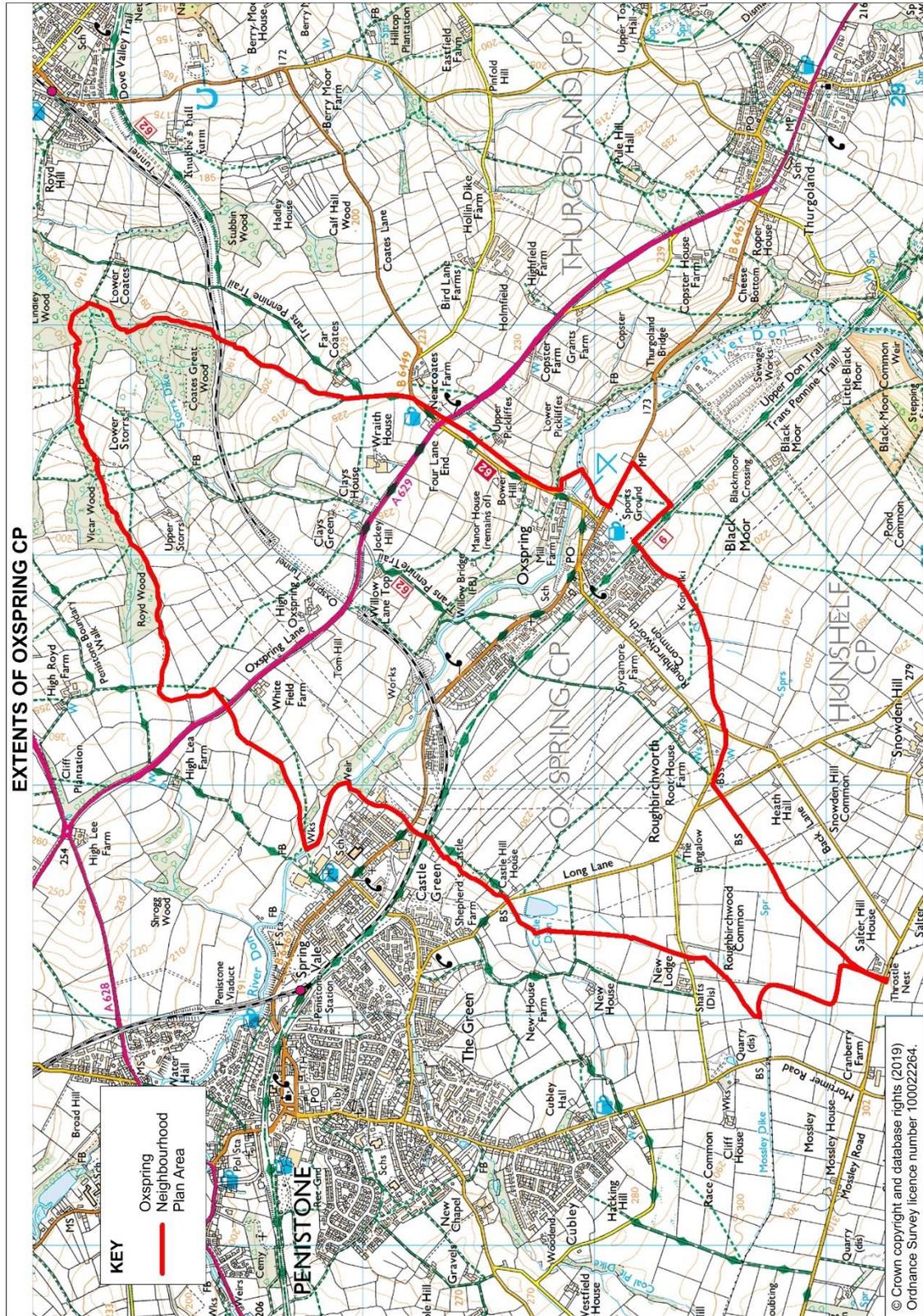
- **Improving accessibility and connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the riverside, local footpaths and bridle paths;**
- **Promoting sustainable development;**
- **Protecting and enhancing the Parish's built environment and rural heritage.**

3. To nurture local businesses by:

- **Diversifying and growing the rural economy;**
- **Supporting the provision of community sustainable green energy.**

2.0 Introduction and Background

Map 1 Oxspring Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area
Oxspring Parish Council (Licensee) License No. 100056849



- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 gives Parish Councils and other relevant bodies new powers to prepare statutory Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) to help guide development in their local areas. Through NDPs, local people now have the opportunity to shape new development as planning applications are developed in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan and the Oxspring NDP once made (i.e. adopted or formally approved) will be part of the statutory development plan for the area. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is a material consideration in any planning application determinations. The steps in preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan are set out in Figure 1 below.

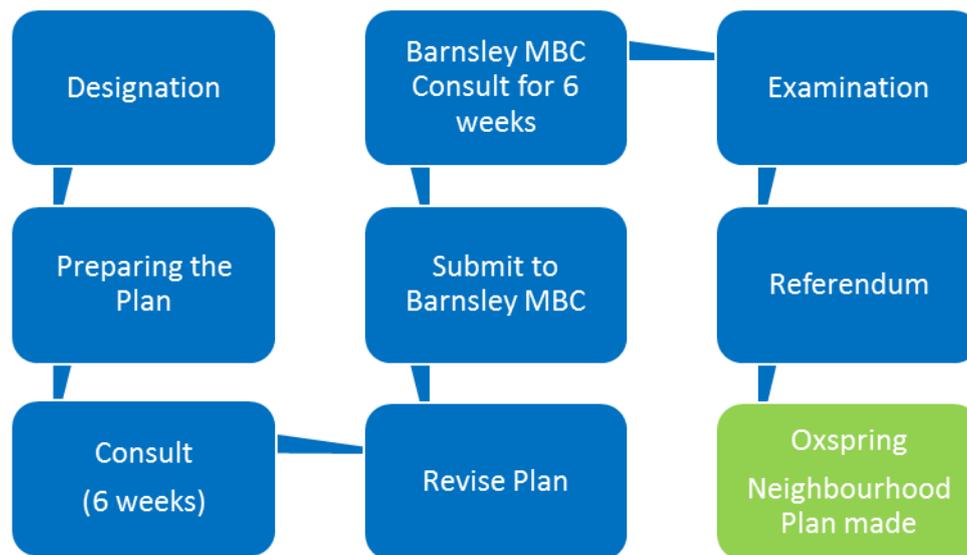


Figure 1 Neighbourhood Development Plan Process

- 2.2 Oxspring Parish Council decided to prepare a NDP for the Parish in Spring 2013. As part of the Oxspring playing fields falls within the boundary of Hunshelf Parish Council, their permission was sought, and received, to include that part of their parish in Oxspring's designated area for the purposes of the NDP. This neighbourhood area was approved by Barnsley MBC in November 2013.
- 2.3 The Parish Council established a Neighbourhood Plan working group from interested residents in summer 2013 and throughout the plan preparation process the group has worked hard on behalf of the Parish Council to engage with and involve local people. Further information about the different stages of the consultation process is provided in the Consultation Statement.
- 2.4 In December 2014 the Parish Council applied to Barnsley MBC to amend the designated neighbourhood area to accommodate a field which lies adjacent to the community's sports field. This was because the emerging NDP supported the development of ancillary sports facilities in this area. *It was also hoped to improve access to the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) from this site, thereby better connecting the primary school to the local sport /recreational facilities.* The amended designated neighbourhood area for the Oxspring NDP was approved on 20 May 2015. This is shown in Map 1.

- 2.5 In 2014 the Parish Council, through PAE (Planning Aid England), asked consultants URS for specialist advice in relation to housing needs and capacity. Two advice notes were produced during the months of July, August and September. A summary of Housing Needs & Capacity Assessment Advice Notes for Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan is published on the NDP website as a background paper. *The initial estimates from URS were published prior to Barnsley MBC reviewing (downwards) their housing need figures for the entire Borough, and, in their emerging Local Plan, removing development sites from the Borough's villages.*
- 2.6 The Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was published for 6 weeks formal consultation from 21st March to 2nd May 2016. All representations made during this period were considered very carefully and informed the Submission NDP. Further detail about this is provided in the Consultation Statement. Barnsley MBC published the NDP for a further 6 weeks from Friday 3rd August until Friday 14th September 2018. The NDP was subjected to an Examination in January 2019. The Examiner's Report was published on 7th February 2019 and recommended that, subject to various modifications, the NDP should proceed to a Referendum. If there is a yes vote at the Referendum, then the NDP will be "Made" (i.e. adopted or formally approved) by the Borough Council and used to determine planning applications alongside the Barnsley MBC Local Plan and other material considerations including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.7 In line with European legislation, there is a requirement for the NDP to be subjected to a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Process which will determine whether a full Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. This process is iterative and, therefore, may lead to amendments in the NDP as it is prepared, to help ensure that any adverse environmental effects resulting from policies and proposals in the NDP are minimised. The Screening Assessment was undertaken at an early stage on the emerging Draft NDP and reviewed after the Draft NDP was amended following the informal public consultation in December 2015. Consultation with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England showed that there was agreement with the Screening determination that a full SEA is not required. At the same time, the Draft NDP was assessed in order to determine whether it required a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. A HRA is required when it is deemed likely that there will be significant adverse effects on protected European Sites as a result of the implementation of a plan. Again, consultation with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England showed that there was agreement with the Screening opinion that no further work was required in order to comply with the Habitats Regulations.

Submission

- 2.8 The NDP was prepared slightly ahead of the emerging new Local Plan for Barnsley. The formal submission of the NDP to Barnsley MBC was delayed at the request of the Borough Council until the Examination in Public on the emerging new Local Plan was progressed. During the Examination the Inspector wrote to the Borough Council setting out the need for further work including in relation to housing and the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for housing¹. The additional work included consultations on further proposed housing sites,

¹ See letter from Inspector to Council 24 February 2017 <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/planning-and-buildings/local-planning-and-development/our-new-local-plan/local-plan-examination-2016-17/timeline-of-examination-events/>

including several in Oxspring. The new Barnsley Local Plan was adopted by Full Council on 3rd January 2019.

Review

- 2.9 The Parish Council are committed to review the Plan within three years.

3.0 Planning Policy Context



View across the village looking from fields above and beyond Millstones

- 3.1 The current planning context is enshrined in the Barnsley Local Plan, January 2019, adopted on 3rd January 2019 during the examination into the neighbourhood plan. This superseded saved Barnsley Unitary Development Plan 2000 policies and the Barnsley Core Strategy, 2011.
- 3.2 This Neighbourhood Plan was prepared in tandem with the then emerging Local Plan and has taken the associated evidence and policies into account. Technically this Plan was prepared mainly at a time when it had to have general conformity with the saved UDP and Core Strategy policies. The examination into the Plan also had to consider whether it was in general conformity with the Local Plan, January 2019, adopted at the time of the examination. It was concluded that on the basis of the policies proposed with some modifications this Plan is in general conformity with the adopted Local Plan, January 2019.
- 3.3 The NDP was examined having regard to the previous National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)² (which was later revised in July 2018). This set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and that the planning system has to perform an economic role, a social role and an environmental role.
- 3.4 Neighbourhood planning is addressed in paragraphs 183-185:
- 183. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need. Parishes and neighbourhood forums can use neighbourhood planning to:*
- *set planning policies through neighbourhood plans to determine decisions on planning applications; and*
 - *grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.*

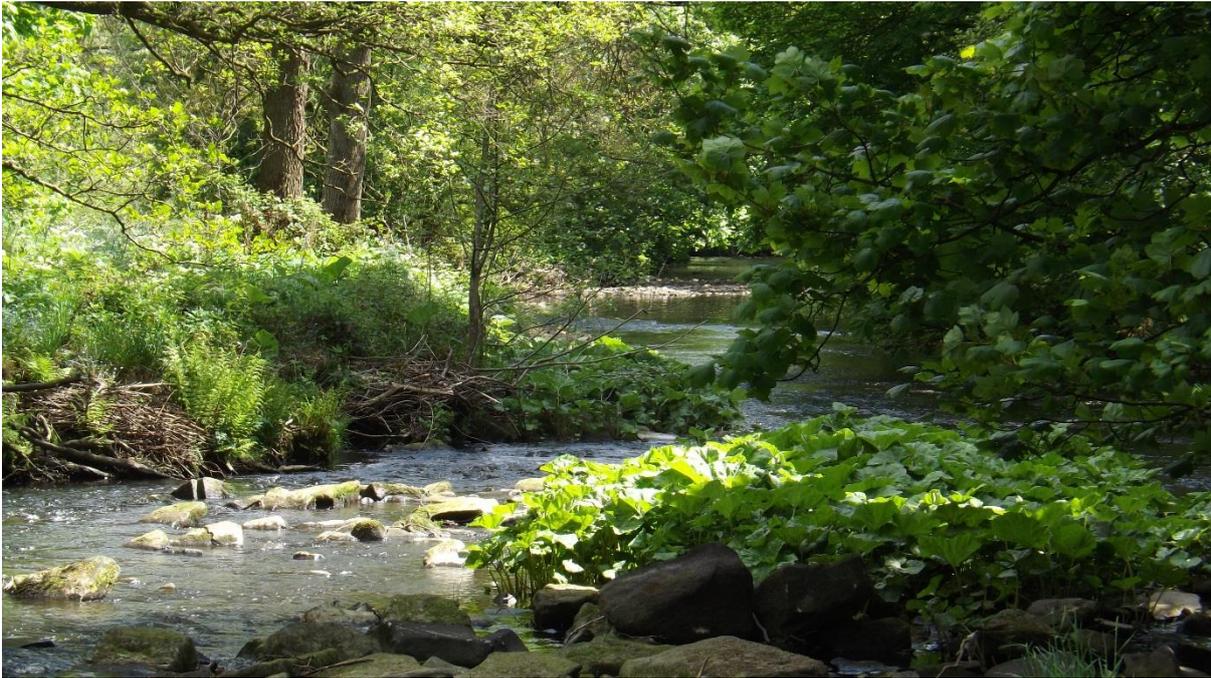
²

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20180608095821/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

184. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community. The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. To facilitate this, local planning authorities should set out clearly their strategic policies for the area and ensure that an up-to-date Local Plan is in place as quickly as possible. Neighbourhood Plans should reflect these policies and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood Plans and orders should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.

185. Outside these strategic elements, Neighbourhood Plans will be able to shape and direct sustainable development in their area. Once a Neighbourhood Plan has demonstrated its general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and is brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for that neighbourhood, where they are in conflict. Local planning authorities should avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a Neighbourhood Plan is in preparation.

4.0 A Portrait of Oxspring Parish



The River Don from Willow Bridge

- 4.1 Oxspring is a small village community nestling in the eastern foothills of the Pennines, about 1.5 miles east of Penistone and 7 miles south west of Barnsley. Sheffield, Wakefield, Leeds and Manchester are all within a 30 miles radius. The 2011 Census information (Neighbourhood Statistics³) indicates that the Parish had 497 households and a population of 1225 in 2011 and extends over 484 hectares.
- 4.2 The Parish includes the village of Oxspring along with the hamlets of Clays-Green, Roughbitchworth and Storrs. The main village settlement is largely linear in form and lies between Sheffield Road (B6462) and the route of the Trans Pennine Trail, with a small residential estate to the south of the Trans Pennine Trail around Tollbar Close. There is a small industrial estate close to the western boundary; Marrtree Business Park at Longley Ings.
- 4.3 The village has a limited range of public services, and facilities, including a primary school (Oxspring Primary School), St Aidan's Church which also serves as a village hall, two public houses and a post office / shop. The village has reasonable accessibility to public transport. There are direct, local bus services to Penistone, Barnsley and Sheffield running on an hourly or two hourly basis. The nearest railway station is two miles away at Penistone, with direct, hourly services to Huddersfield, Barnsley, Meadowhall and Sheffield.
- 4.4 To the north of the village, the River Don meanders through wooded areas, flowing north west to south east. The wider Parish has a rural character, with smaller fields, wooded areas and clustered farms to the north and larger, more open, arable fields and farm buildings to the south. There are numerous opportunities for walking and cycling and enjoying the

³ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

countryside on the doorstep, including a number of identified walks in the Parish promoted in a published booklet and on information boards.

- 4.5 This is a relatively affluent area. 41.1% of residents aged 16-74 years were in full time employment in Oxspring in 2011, compared to 36.9% in Barnsley and 38.6% in England. A higher proportion were self-employed with 12.7% of Oxspring residents in this category compared to only 7.7% in Barnsley and 9.8% in England. In terms of occupations, 14.6% of Oxspring residents of working age were managers, directors and senior officials compared to 9.0% in Barnsley and 10.9% in England and 20.1% were in professional occupations compared to 12.4% in Barnsley and 17.5% in England.
- 4.6 The 2011 Census indicated that Oxspring residents enjoy comparatively good health, with 55.2% of residents rating their health as very good compared to 41.6% in Barnsley Borough and 47.2% in England. Only 3.3% had bad health, compared to 6.6% in Barnsley and 4.2% in England.
- 4.7 In terms of housing, of the 497 households, the majority (200) had 3 bedrooms in 2011, 136 had 4 bedrooms and 110 had 2 bedrooms. Only 3 had a single bedroom and 47 had 5+ bedrooms. 174 properties were owned outright, 221 were owned with a mortgage or loan, 47 were social rented and 48 privately rented.
- 4.8 The NDP area includes a range of local businesses providing employment opportunities, including 17 farms, the Post Office, The Waggon and Horses and The Travellers public houses, Wintwire Ltd, DR Baling Ltd and 6 industrial units at Marrtree Business Park.
- 4.9 Built heritage assets include 2 listed buildings in the Parish (Oxspring Bridge and Willow Bridge, both Grade II) and natural heritage assets include a Local Wildlife Site at Royd, Vicar, Lindley and Coates Great Wood, numerous Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands, many of the woods adjacent to the River Don, and an Ancient Woodland at Spring Vale Wood.

5.0 Key Planning Issues



5.1 Housing

- 5.1.1 Oxspring is identified as a village in the Settlement Hierarchy specified in the Local Plan. Local Plan Policy LG2 Location of Growth directs development to Barnsley and principal towns. Villages are generally required to accept some modest development.
- 5.1.2 Oxspring is inset within the Green Belt and the Local Plan proposes a housing site allocation, Site HS89 land off Roughbirchworth Lane for 22 dwellings. Development is required to respect the trees, biodiversity and archaeological merits of the site.
- 5.1.3 In addition to this site, Policy H4 allows small sites, less than 0.4 hectares within the village and Policy H5 allows larger sites over 0.4 hectares provided they are within the village, located on previously developed land and close to services and public transport.
- 5.1.4 Policy H6 “Housing Mix and Efficient Use of Land” states that proposals will be expected to include a broad mix of house size, type and tenure to help create mixed and balanced communities.
- 5.1.5 Policies in the NDP should address the need for a greater number of smaller homes suitable for people wishing to downsize, the elderly and first time buyers as identified in the Summary of Housing Needs & Capacity Assessment Advice Notes for Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan (2014)⁴ and in response to changing trends nationally related to the ageing population.
- 5.1.6 The results of the questionnaire in early 2015 demonstrated overall support from local residents for emerging policies on accessible housing for local people (81.48% of paper copy respondents agreed with this policy and 76.19% of online respondents) and windfall housing sites (82.72% of paper copy respondents supported this and 90.48% of online respondents).

⁴ <http://www.oxspringplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Housing-Needs-Housing-Capacity-Summary-15-Oct-14.pdf>

5.2 Environment / Energy

- 5.2.1 Oxspring has a very attractive local environment with the benefit of many natural and built heritage assets. The NDP has a role in helping to protect the local environment in terms of its own intrinsic value, and for the benefit of existing and future residents and visitors.
- 5.2.2 Strategic policies in the Local Plan provide protection for natural and built heritage assets, but the NDP has a role in identifying assets of local value and providing locally distinct planning policies to protect them.
- 5.2.3 The results of the questionnaire in early 2015 demonstrated overall support from residents for emerging policies to protect and enhance the natural environment. 93.98% of paper copy responses and 90.48% of online survey responses agreed with emerging policy NRE/PE Protecting and Enhancing Natural Biodiversity Assets. In addition, 93.9% of paper copy responses and 95.00% of online responses agreed with the emerging policy NRE/RH Protecting the Rural Heritage.
- 5.2.4 The NPPF sets out in paras 76 to 78 how NDPs can protect identified local green spaces from development, where such green spaces meet certain criteria. The NDP identifies a number of local green spaces for protection, which are of significant local value.
- 5.2.5 There are opportunities for Oxspring NDP to support community led renewable energy schemes, as part of wider objectives to address climate change. The NDP has a role in supporting such schemes where appropriate, with a focus on the identified employment site as a possible “Green Energy Hub”.
- 5.2.6 The results of the 2015 questionnaire demonstrated overall support for developing community sustainable energy schemes with 81.93% of paper copy respondents agreeing with emerging policy NLB/CSE Developing Community Sustainable Energy and 80.00% of online responses agreeing with the policy.
- 5.2.7 The types of renewable energy schemes considered suitable in terms of landscape impact include solar energy schemes and water powered schemes using the River Don. Such schemes would be required to be supported by detailed feasibility studies and ecological, landscape and visual assessments.

5.3 Employment

- 5.3.1 Oxspring NDP area includes an allocated employment site in the Local Plan, Site ES19 Land North of Sheffield Road (3.3ha) is identified under Penistone but falls within the NDP boundary. The Local Plan sets out that *development will be expected to:*
- *retain the mature trees present on the site’s north-eastern boundary.*
 - *provide a buffer strip along the entire edge of the northeastern boundary to prevent the site from being developed right up to the woodland edge.*
 - *observe the statutory safety clearances in relation to the pylons which cross the site*
 - *respect the setting of the listed Kirkwood Farmhouse 100m to the West by the use of appropriate site layout, sympathetic design that reflects the setting, scaling, massing, details and materials.*

Archaeological remains may be present on this site therefore proposals must be accompanied

by an appropriate archaeological assessment (including a field evaluation if necessary) that must include the following:

- *Information identifying the likely location and extent of the remains, and the nature of the remains;*
- *An assessment of the significance of the remains; and*
- *Consideration of how the remains would be affected by the proposed development.*

5.3.2 Policy E5 Uses on employment land sets out that *On allocated Employment Sites, or land currently or last used for employment purposes, we will allow the following uses:*

1. *Research and development, and light industry*
2. *General industrial*
3. *Storage or distribution*

Ancillary uses will be allowed where appropriate in scale.

Proposals for other employment generating uses may be considered on their merits, particularly in terms of providing jobs, skills and their contribution to the borough's GVA.

5.3.3 The responses to the questionnaire in 2015 demonstrated support for emerging policy NLB/RE1 Developing a Sustainable Rural Economy which proposed a stronger emphasis on business, research type and professional uses for the site. 81.93% of paper copy responses and 70.00% of online responses supported the draft policy.

5.3.4 The NDP supports the employment use of the proposed site, but requires that development responds positively to the local landscape character by protecting areas of ecological value and ancient woodland (see Policy OEN1) and supporting the restoration of the drystone wall on the boundary (see Policy OEN4).

5.4 Sports and Leisure

5.4.1 Oxspring has an existing site with a football pitch and a poor quality basketball court at Sheffield Road Playing Field, on land to the south east of the village. However existing changing facilities are considered to be poor, and there is a need for the NDP to support possible future investment in the facilities.

5.4.2 The Barnsley MBC Playing Pitch Strategy 2016-2019, November 2016, Final Report identifies various issues for playing pitch provision and maintenance. It is the Parish Council's intention to carry out more feasibility work to provide changing rooms at Oxspring Recreation Ground.

5.4.3 The response to the 2015 questionnaire demonstrated general support for emerging policy CW/SRC11 Sport and Leisure Community infrastructure with 69.77% of paper responses supporting the policy and 80.95% of online responses agreeing. However, the draft policy included proposals for a new school on the same site, and this proposal has not been taken forward into the NDP, due to viability issues and lack of support from the Borough Council.

5.5 Movement

- 5.5.1 The route of the Trans Pennine Trail runs through the middle of Oxspring Parish, along a disused railway line to the south of much of the built up area. There are two main access points in the Parish; one has ramped access and the other is via very steep steps. Access is difficult, particularly for those with limited mobility, those with pushchairs and wheelchair users and cyclists.
- 5.5.2 A walking guide, “Walks in the Parish of Oxspring” published by Oxspring Heritage Group provides details of six recommended routes around the Parish. These are: Oxspring Village Walk, Back Lane and Berrywell, Storrs Lane and Blacker Green Lane, High Oxspring and Royd Wood, and Oxspring Boundary Walks Parts I and II. Back Lane and Willow Lane form part of an ancient Packhorse route.
- 5.5.3 The responses to the 2015 questionnaire showed support for proposals to create new links and connections to support opportunities for walking and cycling in the area. 86.75% of paper copy responses and 71.43% of online survey responses agreed with emerging policy NRE/LC Creating New Links and Connections. Further consideration has been given to the proposed riverside walk in the NDP, in the light of viability issues and further information relating to possible landowner support. The revised policy provides a greater focus for supporting accessibility improvements for the Trans Pennine Trail and other existing public rights of way (PROW).
- 5.5.4 The NDP includes policies supporting investment in ramped access where development sites adjoin publicly accessible walking and cycling routes.

6.0 Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies

- 6.0.1 This section sets out the planning policies of the Oxspring Neighbourhood Development Plan. These will be used to help determine planning applications in the Parish and so shape the future of the Parish as a place to live and work in, and to visit. The Policies have been prepared by the working group on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 6.0.2 NDPs are required to be in general conformity with national and local planning policies. The Policies have been prepared taking account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and adopted Local Plan policies.

6.1 Housing



New housing on Fields End

Objective 1. To strive for the wellbeing of all members of our community by:

- **Supporting the provision of fair and accessible housing for local needs and local people**

6.1.1 The Office for National Statistics reports that Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) which includes Oxspring and Green Moor experienced a growth of 13.3% in population over the period 2003 to 2014, whilst over the same period of time, Barnsley MBC's population increased by 8.0%. Barnsley Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Update 2014⁵ indicated that median house prices across the Barnsley area have increased by around 150% over the period 2000 to 2012. Further information provided by the Council advised that the average prices have increased in Oxspring Parish from £138,995 in 2000 to £179,500 in 2014, an increase of 29%. Prices peaked in 2007 at £214,500. There are variations in house prices and values across the local authority area, with relatively higher prices in areas including Penistone East wards. This increase is particularly great for groups of people under 24 years and between the ages of 45 and 85 years and over. There will be a considerable 'demographic shift' with both the number and proportion of older people increasing; overall across Barnsley the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 64% (or by 26,800) by 2037; and the number of residents aged 85 and over is expected to increase by 157.1% (or by 7,700 by 2037. There is a need to consider how best Oxspring can improve its housing provision to meet the needs of all residents, including those with lower incomes and with special needs be they elderly, disabled or the infirm.

6.1.2 Barnsley MBC's Local Plan sets out the level of housing growth for the Borough. The Parish of Oxspring is identified in the Borough's Local Plan as a village, inset within the Green Belt. It is considered to be an unsustainable location for large housing developments because it

⁵

https://www2.barnsley.gov.uk/media/3553720/barnsley_shma_2014_update_final_report.pdf

lacks services and facilities, and has limited transport accessibility. Policy LG2 Location of Growth sets out that "*Priority will be given to development in the following locations:*

1. Urban Barnsley

2. Principal Towns of Cudworth, Wombwell, Hoyland, Goldthorpe (which includes Thurnsoce and Bolton on Dearne), Penistone and Royston

3. Villages.

Urban Barnsley will be expected to accommodate significantly more growth than any individual Principal Town, and the Principal Towns will be expected to accommodate significantly more growth than the villages, to accord with their place in the settlement hierarchy.

- 6.1.3 Oxspring is inset within the Green Belt and the Local Plan proposes a housing site allocation, Site HS89 land off Roughbirchworth Lane for 22 dwellings. Development is required to respect the trees, biodiversity and archaeological merits of the site.
- 6.1.4 In addition to this site, Local Plan Policy H4 allows small sites, less than 0.4 hectares within the village and Policy H5 allows larger sites over 0.4 hectares provided they are within the village, located on previously developed land and close to services and public transport.
- 6.1.5 The long term viability of the Parish is compromised by the lack of affordable housing as many local people on lower incomes, including young people, find it difficult to afford housing within their own community where there are existing informal support networks linked to family and friends. Affordable housing levels are set out in the Local Plan which identifies the need to provide 30% of affordable homes in developments of 15 or more dwellings (Local Plan Policy H7).
- 6.1.6 The Housing Needs Advice paper produced by URS⁶ and commissioned on behalf of the Parish Council for the Oxspring NDP highlights that local housing provision has to be 'fair and proportionate' to the local community's needs. The findings set out in the document demonstrate that in the interest of providing suitable housing for local people, retaining young people, families and older people wanting to downsize and thus having a sustainable and balanced population, a small amount of housing growth is critical. When considered alongside the fairly low level of housing that would be acceptable in planning policy terms in the Parish of Oxspring, it is clear that future housing growth should cater for the needs of the local population first and foremost. The following policy requires the application of a local connection as a priority in the allocation of affordable housing in the Plan area.

Policy OH1 Meeting Local Housing Needs

Affordable housing⁷ will be provided in schemes of 15 units or more in accordance with Local Plan Policy H7 Affordable Housing and must be fully integrated with market housing. Affordable housing will be allocated in the first

⁶ <http://www.oxspringplan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Housing-Needs-Housing-Capacity-Summary-15-Oct-14.pdf>

⁷ Affordable housing is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework to mean a specific category of housing. See Appendix 2 for a full definition from the NPPF.

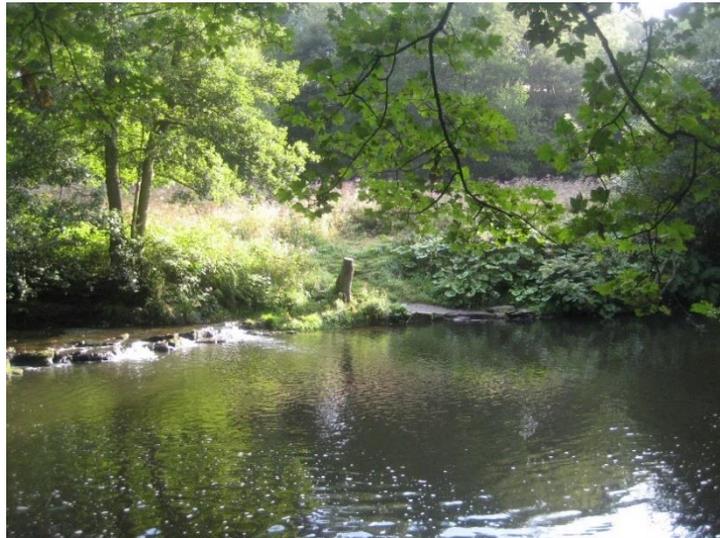
instance to those with a local connection and affordable housing for rent will be let in accordance with Barnsley Council's Lettings Policy for Local Connections⁸.

(It should be noted that the reference to 'local connection' in the Council's Lettings Policy for Local Connections is a borough wide 'local connection'. Where there is evidence of the opportunity to develop a local lettings policy, this would be site specific and developed in consultation with Berneslai Homes, Housing and Energy and BMBC Councillors.)

- 6.1.7 Local Plan Policy GB2 Replacement, extension and alteration of existing buildings in the Green Belt allows the conversion of buildings to dwellings in certain circumstances and sets out parameters for alterations and extensions.

⁸ See Barnsley Council (Berneslai Homes) Lettings Policy - 'Local Connection' (7a(ii) page 12 see Appendix II <http://www.berneslaihomes.co.uk/media/Publication/Policies%20and%20Strategies/Lettings%20Policy%202014.pdf>

6.2 Protecting the Local Environment and Promoting Sustainable Energy



The River Don at Bower Dell

Objective 2. To nurture the rural environment for future generations by:

- Protecting and enhancing Oxspring's biodiversity assets and amenity areas, namely, the River Don, the Trans Pennine Trail, the green belt, green open spaces, open farm land, and community allotments;
- Improving accessibility and connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the riverside, local footpaths and bridle paths;
- Promoting sustainable development;
- Protecting and enhancing the Parish's built environment and rural heritage.

Local Biodiversity

6.2.1 The NDP aims to improve and protect the unique qualities of the Parish, including local habitats and natural areas, as well as man-made buildings and structures which together shape the rural character of the Parish. The policies in this section aim to protect these local natural environments for future generations of Oxspring people.

6.2.2 The NDP also sets out to take positive action on climate change and policies will aim to encourage in particular, community led initiatives to:

- Reduce energy use
- Secure more renewable and low carbon energy
- Secure and protect land for local food production and local food sourcing
- Increase sustainable transport use and local transport solutions
- Increase green infrastructure to manage local flood risk

6.2.3 Much of the land beyond the residential areas in the Parish is farmland and green belt. There are several areas of green spaces within the village which are highly valued by

residents for their aesthetic qualities, recreational value and their contribution to biodiversity. Opportunities exist to protect and enhance Oxspring's environmentally important green spaces in different ways. The overall aim will be for Oxspring to stay an attractive, environmentally friendly and sustainable place to live and work.

- 6.2.4 The following sites of biodiversity/geodiversity interest in Oxspring are identified on the Local Plan Proposals Map: Local Wildlife Site at Royd, Vicar, Lindley and Coates Great Wood Ancient Woodland Spring Vale Wood.

Green Infrastructure

- 6.2.5 Multi-functional green infrastructure is important to underpin the overall sustainability of a development by performing a range of functions including flood risk management, the provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and supporting biodiversity. An example of a green infrastructure provision is sustainable drainage systems. These can deliver benefits for people and for wildlife and make a valuable contribution to the local green infrastructure network. Actions such as re-naturalising watercourses can also bring multifunctional benefits, including benefiting flood attenuation. Woodland planting can also help mitigate flooding. Research indicates that green roofs/living roofs can reduce run-off and thereby the risk of surface water flooding; reducing the requirement for heating and air-conditioning; and providing habitat for wildlife. Proposals may present opportunities to incorporate features such as roosting opportunities for bats, the installation of bird nest boxes or the use of native species in the landscape planting.

Important Green Infrastructure in Oxspring

- **River Don.** A section of the River Don flows through Oxspring. On either side of the river banks, for the most part, there are trees and vegetation. The section of the River Don from Scout Dyke to the Little Don is classified as an active shingle river and is a nationally recognised priority habitat due to this and because of the priority species it supports. As the river leaves the NDP boundary to the east it is accessible from Bower Dell. For much of its length through the village the river flows through privately owned land and is not fully accessible to the public. Local Plan Policy G11 Green Infrastructure seeks to maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multifunctional Green Infrastructure assets and the Don corridor is identified as a particular asset.
- **Trans Pennine Trial (T1 and T2 on Map 2 below).** A section of the TPT passes through Oxspring. On either side of the TPT, for the most part, there are trees and vegetation. There are two main access points within the NDP boundary and one, at the eastern end, just outside the boundary (T1 and T2). The access point via The Willows, which is at the centre of the NDP boundary area, though towards the western end of the village, has level access and is therefore fully accessible to cyclists, wheelchair users etc. The access point via Roughbirchworth Lane, which is behind the school and more towards the eastern end of the village, is accessed via steep steps and is not, therefore, accessible to all potential users of the TPT. The TPT is currently not well connected to the more recent housing developments, nor to other key community facilities such as the sports field, the Waggon and Horses public house or the riverside.
- **Castle Dam.** On the Western side of Long Lane is a small privately owned reservoir used for licensed fishing. This area, though more remote from the centre of the village, is popular with local walkers and bird watchers as well as those with fishing licences.

- **Undeveloped Green Spaces.** Apart from the farmland, which is beyond the immediate areas of most of the residential housing sites, there are a number of pieces of land within the central part of the NDP boundary area, close to the centre of the village, which are undeveloped green spaces. These undeveloped pockets of land add to the aesthetic quality of the village, provide valuable wildlife habitats, in varying degrees, and are highly valued as green spaces by the community. A number of these green spaces are designated Green Belt and as such are unlikely to be developed for housing, apart from in exceptional circumstances.
- **Dry Stone Walls.** There are a number of dry stone walls throughout the NDP boundary area. Some are in a poor state of repair, especially those marking the northern boundary of Sheffield Road. Dry stone walls provide an important habitat for many species of wildlife, particularly small mammals and invertebrates and are part of the Yorkshire landscape. When they are well maintained dry stone walls are effective and attractive boundary markers. The walls in Oxspring are mostly in private ownership and are not, therefore, maintained by the Parish Council.
- **Trees and Woodland.** There are several woods within the area of the NDP boundary and countless trees growing in gardens and on the boundaries of many places such as the school, the village green, the TPT etc.
- **Grass Verges and Planters.** There are grass verges at various points on Sheffield Road and Roughbitchworth Lane which form a barrier between the road and the pavement. These tend to be mostly turfed and are maintained by mowing or strimming by the Council. There is a wider verge at the junction of Sheffield Road and Roughbitchworth Lane which has a cultivated bed of tulips in the spring and roses in the summer. This is maintained by village volunteers known as the "Titivators". There are also grass verges along the more rural roads within the NDP boundary area, such as along Long Lane, and these are less actively maintained and provide more diverse wildlife habitats. These verges also often contain drainage ditches which are vital in helping to prevent flooding. All the grass verges are valuable aesthetically, in varying degrees as wildlife habitats and as soakaways for rain water. Several planters located throughout the village are maintained by local residents.

6.2.6 Barnsley Local Plan Policy D1 Design sets out design principles, Policy HE1 protects the historic environment and green infrastructure is protected in GI1. Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity requires development to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough and Policy LC1 protects the Landscape Character.

Policy OEN1 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Biodiversity Assets and Green Infrastructure

Proposals which enhance the rural character of Oxspring will be supported. For developments of two houses or more, proposals will be encouraged wherever possible to incorporate the following wildlife enhancements into landscaping schemes:

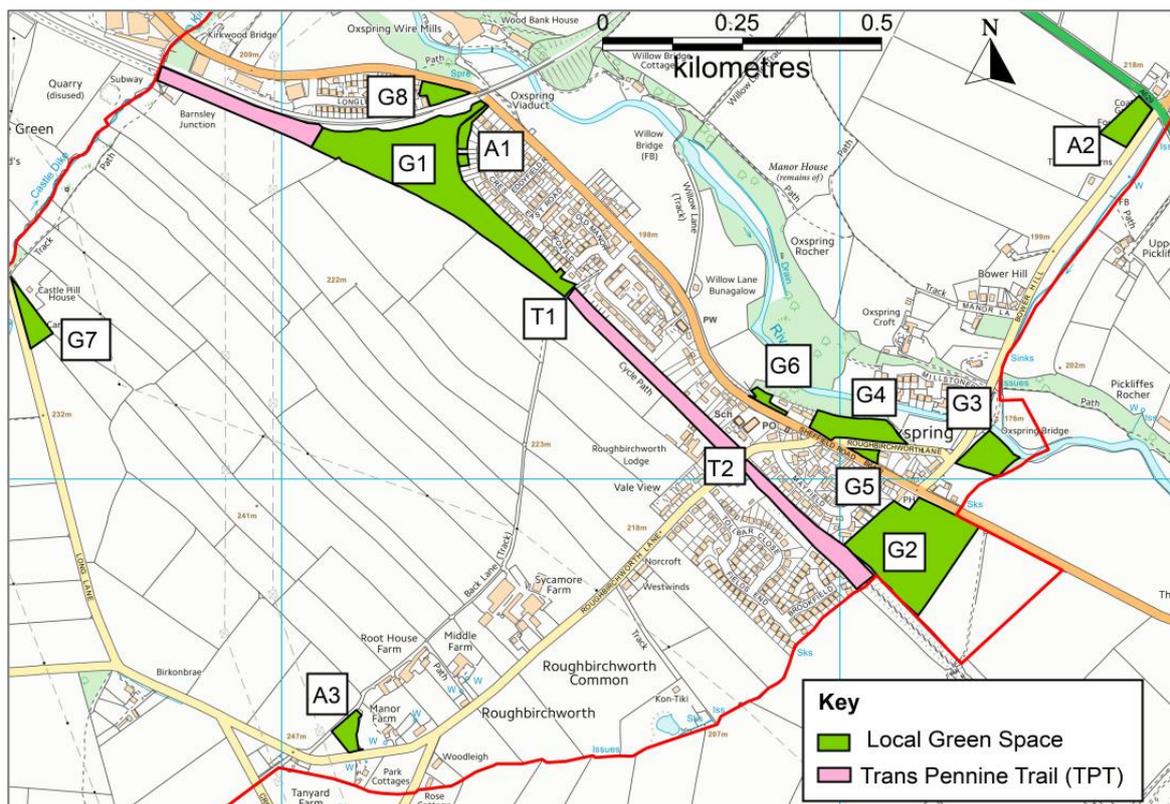
- **Provision of wild flower meadows and verges and nature reserve areas to encourage biodiversity**
- **Creating wider field margins to create wildlife havens on farmland**
- **Establishing new and maintaining existing wildlife corridors.**

Under Barnsley's strategic planning policies, existing green infrastructure is protected and enhanced and the creation of new green infrastructure is encouraged in new development proposals. Such green infrastructure could include for instance protection and creation of woodland and wildlife corridors, sustainable drainage, re-naturalisation of water courses, use of green roofs, incorporation of bat and bird boxes and other environmental assets in the area to preserve and expand the existing ecosystem network.

Local Green Spaces

6.2.7 There are a number of local green and open spaces which are highly valued by local residents for their aesthetic qualities and their contribution to biodiversity. These are shown on Map 2 and described in more detail below:

Map 2 Local Green Spaces and Trans Pennine Trail
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- **A1, 2 and 3 - Allotments.** Oxspring has three allotment areas at Clays Green, Roughbircworth Lane/Long Lane and West Crescent. There are waiting lists for all the allotment sites in the village. (There are currently 11 people on the waiting lists).
- **G1 - Ant Hills.** This is an area of land close to the railway viaduct south of Sheffield Road which is owned by the Parish Council. It is bounded by the railway line, the TPT and the

gardens and allotments of West Crescent. It has been landscaped as an off road mountain bike or BMX track and children's play area. It is rarely used as such and is now mostly overgrown with trees, shrubs and other vegetation. Access to this site is poor and there is no signage to indicate its use or existence. However, the site offers significant opportunities for enhancement for wildlife and recreational users.

- **G2 - Sports Field and Pinfold.** At the eastern most point of the NDP boundary on the south side of Sheffield Road is a large field currently used as a sports field. The sports field is bounded on its south side by the TPT, to the east by farmland, to the west by the gardens of houses in Mayfield and Mayfield Court and to the north by the car park of the Waggon and Horses public house, trees which surround the Pinfold and the sports field car park. The Pinfold is a historic site now containing sculptures of sheep and benches. There are no direct links or access to the TPT, or to the larger housing developments south of the sports field, from the field.
- **G3 - Bower Dell.** At the eastern most point of the NDP boundary, north of Sheffield Road, is a grassed area adjacent to the river known as Bower Dell, which is bounded by trees and shrubs and newly sown with wild flower seeds. This site is used as a picnic area but is poorly connected to other amenities and public areas within the village. It also provides the only public access to the riverside.
- **G4 - Village Green.** Oxspring has a village green on which there is a children's playground, which has a grassed surface and is bounded on two sides by trees and shrubs, and adjacent to the playground is a grassed picnic area with trees.
- **G5 - The Rookery.** The Parish Council owns a small triangular area of land between the lower section of Roughbirchworth Lane and Sheffield Road. This small woodland has several mature trees on it and some mixed shrubs and vegetation.
- **G6 - Gordon's Garden.** A memorial garden, opposite the school on Sheffield Road, is owned by the Parish Council for the use of the community. It is a grassed area newly planted with trees and wild flowers/spring bulbs. Access to this site is limited and could be improved to encourage greater use.
- **G7 – Castle Dam Car Parking Area.** An area of land owned by Oxspring Parish Council on the eastern side of Long Lane, opposite Castle Dam reservoir, currently used mostly as an informal car parking area for fishermen, walkers, bird watchers etc. but with further potential for wildlife etc.
- **G8 – Longley Ings Field.** A turfed and fenced field owned by BMBC at the end of the Longley Ings development, used as a recreational area by residents of Longley Ings etc.

These areas are shown on larger scale Maps 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Map 3 Area A2

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Map 4 Area A3

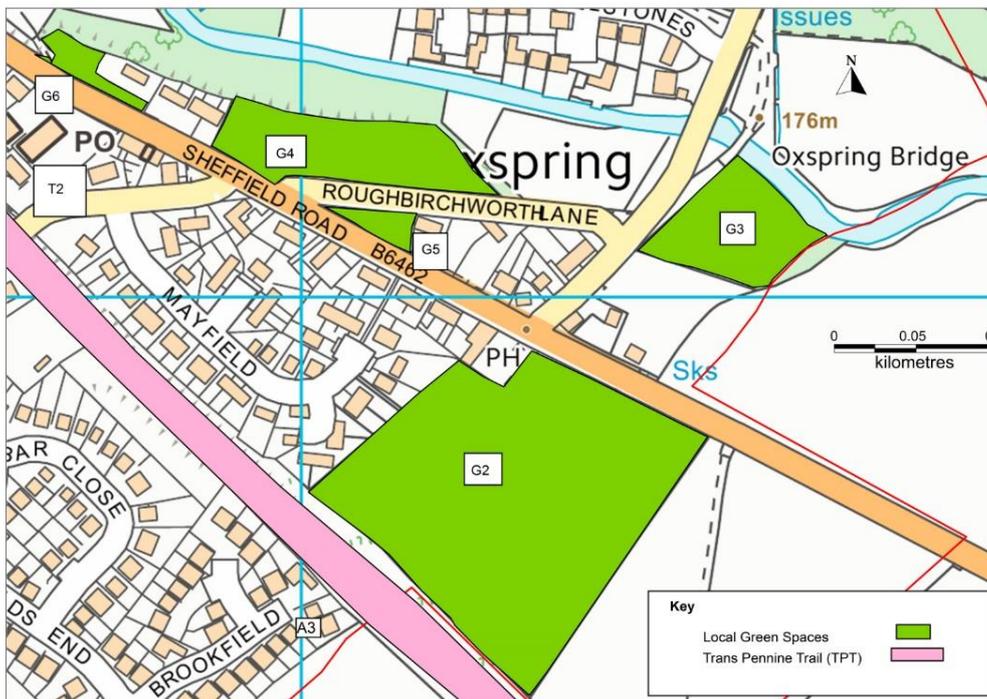
Oxspring Parish Council (Licensee) License No. 100056849



Map 5 Areas A1, G1, G8
Oxsping Parish Council (Licensee) License No. 100056849



Map 6 Areas G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, T2
Oxsping Parish Council (Licensee) License No. 100056849





6.2.8 The following green spaces in Oxspring are shown on the Local Plan Proposals Map:

- The Anthills, Sheffield Road,
- Castle Green Common, Long Lane,
- Oxspring Primary School, Sheffield Road,
- The Rookery, Sheffield Road,
- Bower Dell, Bower Hill,
- Oxspring Recreation Ground,
- Roughbirchworth Allotments.

6.2.9 The NPPF sets out in paragraphs 76 – 78, that subject to certain criteria, local communities can identify and protect local green spaces.

Para 76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

Para 77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Para 78. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

6.2.10 Table 1 below sets out how the proposed protected local green spaces (**G1 – G8 and A1 – A3 on Map 2 above**) in Oxspring meet the criteria in the NPPF. All distances are measured in miles and are taken from the Post Office on Sheffield Road. New development could impact adversely on the openness of these sites through the introduction of built form of a scale or height or mass which intrudes upon the green space character of the area and leads to a loss of the sense of openness. The spaces should also be protected from development which impacts adversely on the very attributes for which the local green spaces have been designated. These attributes are described in Table 1 Column 3 Demonstrably Special to Local Community.

Table 1 Local Green Spaces

Open Space	Close Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special to Local Community	Local in Character / Not an Extensive Tract of Land
A1 - West Crescent Allotments	0.5 mile from PO. On western side of village between residential areas of West Crescent and Longley Ings.	Very well used by residents. There is a waiting list for vacant allotments.	0.3 ha
A2 - Clays Green Allotments	0.6 mile from PO. On north eastern edge of village just beyond residential areas on Bower Hill.	Very well used by residents. There is a waiting list for vacant allotments.	0.4 ha
A3 - Roughbirchworth Lane / Long Lane Allotments	0.6 mile from PO. On south western edge of village just beyond residential areas on Roughbirchworth Lane.	Very well used by residents. There is a waiting list for vacant allotments.	0.4 ha
G1 – Anthills	0.5 mile from PO. On western side of village between residential areas of West Crescent and Longley Ings.	Originally a BMX park but now a good natural habitat site. The Parish Council have plans to make improvements to the site to encourage more wildlife and	1.7 ha

Open Space	Close Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special to Local Community	Local in Character / Not an Extensive Tract of Land
		improve recreational facilities.	
G2 – Playing Fields and Pinfold	0.2 mile from PO. On eastern edge of village adjacent to Waggon & Horses pub.	Very well used by the community. The only sports and recreation facility in village. Used by football clubs etc and dog walkers. Pinfold is of historic value.	2.7 ha
G3 – Bower Dell	0.2 mile from PO. On eastern side of village adjacent to River Don and Grade II listed Oxspring Bridge.	Well used by community as picnic site and only access to river. Quiet peaceful area.	0.5 ha
G4 – Village Green and Playground	0.1 mile from PO. Sited on Sheffield Road and the junction with Roughbirchworth Lane.	Very well used by community and neighbouring communities. Only recreation area for young children. One of only two car parks in village.	0.5 ha
G5 – Rookery	0.1 mile from PO. Sited on Sheffield Road and the junction with Roughbirchworth Lane.	Small wood of mature trees intersected by a footpath linking Roughbirchworth Lane and Sheffield Road. Maintained as a natural habitat site.	0.05 ha
G6 – Gordon’s Garden	Directly opposite PO. Sited on Sheffield Road in heart of village.	A memorial garden to a local resident on land gifted by his widow, where they had previously had a garage business. A peaceful & commemorative place.	0.06 ha
G7 – Castle Dam Car Parking Area	1.0 mile from PO. On western edge of parish boundary on Long Lane.	An area of land owned by Oxspring Parish Council on the eastern side of Long Lane, opposite Castle Dam reservoir, used as an informal car parking area for fishermen, walkers, bird watchers etc. with further potential for wildlife etc.	0.30 ha
G8 - Longley Ings	0.5 mile from PO. On	A turfed and fenced field	0.15 ha

Open Space	Close Proximity to Community	Demonstrably Special to Local Community	Local in Character / Not an Extensive Tract of Land
Field	western side of village at end of residential development Longley Ings.	owned by BMBC, very well used as a recreational area by residents of Longley Ings and other residents.	

Policy OEN2 Protecting Local Green Spaces

The following areas are protected as Local Green Space:

- **A1 West Crescent Allotments**
- **A2 Clays Green Allotments**
- **A3 Roughbirchworth Lane/Long Lane Allotments**
- **G1 – Anthills**
- **G2 – Playing Fields and Pinfold**
- **G3 – Bower Dell**
- **G4 – Village Green and Playground**
- **G5 – Rookery**
- **G6 – Gordon’s Garden**
- **G7 – Castle Dam Car Parking Area**
- **G8 – Longley Ings Field.**

These areas are as identified on Maps 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

New development which impacts adversely on the openness of these sites or adversely affects the attributes for which they were designated will not be acceptable other than in very special circumstances.

Planning for Climate Change

- 6.2.11 The NPPF makes clear that planning has a key role in addressing climate change by helping to ensure that new development is sited and designed as sustainably as possible. Some of the key climate change challenges relevant to our Parish and to the NDP will be to take full account of flood risk, and secure a transition to a low carbon future.
- 6.2.12 Planning for increased climate change resilience will reduce future costs both for local businesses and for local households.
- 6.2.13 The Local Plan contains policies CC1 Climate Change and CC2 Sustainable Design and Construction which aim to combat climate change by influencing the design of developments.

Policy OEN3 Planning for Climate Change

Development proposals will be considered in relation to the need to respond and adapt to the effects of climate change, particularly through the location of new development, design and construction techniques, renewable technologies, landscape and historic environment management, biodiversity, flood risk management and the use of green infrastructure.

Proposals for development which includes additional space to support homeworking will be encouraged.

New developments will be considered in relation to the need to take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy consumption.

Where possible development shall contribute to new or improvement to existing green infrastructure.

Protecting Landscape Character



View of Viaduct, Sheffield Road opposite Eddyfield

- 6.2.14 Natural England has produced profiles for England's 159 National Character Areas (NCAs). These are areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment. Oxspring lies within NCA 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe. The most striking aspect of the landscape is the mingling of predominantly 'gritstone' industrial towns and villages with the strong valley forms and pastoral agriculture of the Pennine foothills. The gritstone industrial buildings and settlements bring a sense of visual unity to the landscape.

6.2.15 The Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment 2002⁹ identifies that Oxspring lies within the landscape character area B1: Upland Don River Valley.

Key Characteristics are:

- *Faster flowing upper reaches of the River Don extending into the open moorland.*
- *Meandering river set within a valley that is of varying width and depth, and which provides enclosure.*
- *Deciduous woodland belts located on the steeper valley sides and alongside the course of the river.*
- *Largely undeveloped character with pasture occurring on the valley sides and floor up to the water's edge.*
- *A dismantled railway line defines the edge of the valley to the South.*
- *Weirs, sluices and mills are indications of the former wool weaving industry.*
- *Stone bridges and stone walls are attractive man-made elements.*
- *Transport corridors (road and rail) are features of the valley in the lower reaches.*

6.2.16 *This area is an upland river valley where the river runs fast and as a result has been exploited in the past for its power. Fulling mills were established anywhere there was a stream of sufficient power to drive the water wheel and, because they were already mechanised, often became the nuclei of later woollen factories. Mill races, sluices, weirs and old fulling mills are all features of this part of the Don Valley today. A dismantled railway follows the valley along its length and provides a visual clue to the importance of the valley as a transport corridor. The presence of disused mines and shafts on the valley sides are also clues to historic land use activity.*

6.2.17 *The settlement pattern is typically scattered farmsteads on the valley sides, and villages with connections to mills on the river, and the woollen industry. The farmsteads and villages are built of local stone. The objective should be to conserve the intimate, rural charm of this upland river valley and to protect the floodplain from built development. Villages and agricultural settlements should remain compact, to maintain the rural character of the upland landscape. The harmonious interplay of river, woodland and landform character, should be retained, and urbanisation of this intact, rural landscape should be minimised.*

6.2.18 *The topography of the valley evokes a strong sense of enclosure, particularly where valley side woodlands have survived. These deciduous woodlands, and unimproved riverside meadows, are particularly important habitats for wildlife. This is a rural upland landscape where pastures, bounded by stone walls, reach down to the waterside. Generally, the fields are smaller where they abut the water, increasing in size as they ascend the valley sides. Scattered stone farmsteads are familiar features of the valley sides.*

⁹ https://www2.barnsley.gov.uk/media/Development%20-%20Planning%20and%20Transportation/Planning%20Policy/LDF/preferred/underpinning_documents/Landscape%20Character%20Assessment.pdf

6.2.19 *Minor roads follow the valley side, usually running parallel to the river, and linking the settlements including Oxspring. There are several crossing points of the river at these settlements, and distinctive stone bridges mark these. Stone, as a building material unifies built character in the landscape, with buildings and walls constructed out of the same local stone.*

Built Heritage Assets

6.2.20 *Oxspring's unique natural assets have shaped the evolving built pattern of this settlement for many centuries. The Parish's woodlands and waterways are the background to: ancient Iron Age depressed earthworks; medieval fields, farmsteads and causeways; manors and lodges recorded in the Domesday Book; weirs and stone bridges from the industrial revolution; and Victorian viaducts and railway tracks. More recent expansion of the parish during the inter-wars period of the 20th century includes whitewashed town homes which reinforce the predominantly linear pattern of Oxspring. Moreover, the Parish's unique position at the foothills of the Peak District National Park offers, at the highest point of 1000 feet above sea level at Throstle Nest, the most splendid views across natural and manmade landscapes.*

Policy OEN4 Landscape and Building Design Guidelines for New Development

New development will be required to demonstrate consideration of the following landscape design guidelines:

- 1. The retention of features such as stone walls, bridges, trees and natural landform of demonstrable interest will be encouraged, and where possible repaired and maintained.**
- 2. New buildings should maintain a visual and physical connection with their rural context through use of traditional local materials, and designs which respond positively to the local context and immediate setting.**
- 3. Where proposals for new buildings are located on valley sides, valley-side planting of native species to enhance wooded character of the valley and soften the urban edge will be encouraged. The use of local stone should be used for boundary features.**
- 4. Proposals should be designed and located in order not to be unduly intrusive in the landscape and reduce its natural character. Colours and materials should be chosen carefully to integrate the development into the landscape. Muted colours, particularly on roofs, will be important in successfully integrating new development.**
- 5. Views to existing landmark buildings such as Oxspring Viaduct, the Waggon and Horses and Travellers Inn public houses are protected, and buildings should be sited and designed to enhance these views and not be unduly intrusive.**
- 6. The scale of built development will be crucial to its successful integration. Low rise, two storey properties are likely to be most successfully accommodated into this rural landscape. Exceptions to this may be appropriate where it is demonstrated that a third storey is required to accommodate technologies to maximise energy and resource efficiency.**

6.3 Employment and Renewable Energy



DR Baling

Objective 3. To nurture local businesses by:

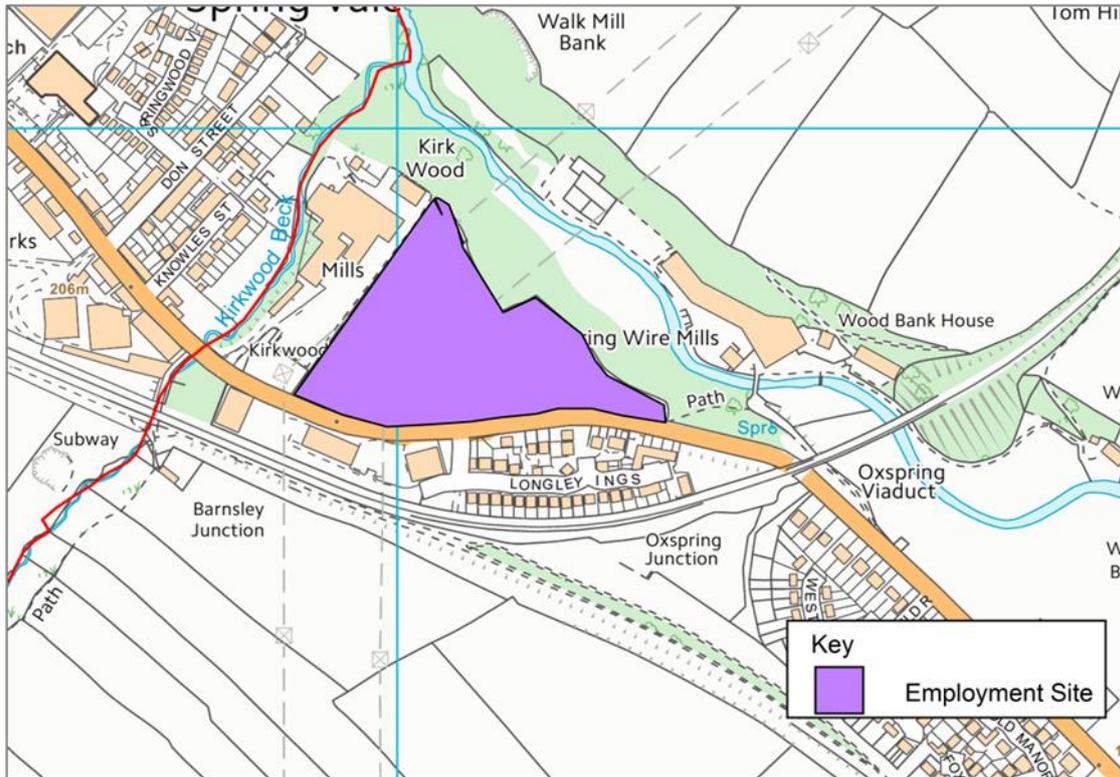
- Diversifying and growing the rural economy;
- Supporting the provision of community sustainable green energy.

Local Employment Site

- 6.3.1 The NPPF and Barnsley's local planning policy framework support economic growth. Residents and local businesses in the Parish of Oxspring, in public consultations, have also identified the need to protect and retain shops and services, and the need to diversify and grow the economy whilst retaining the special character and qualities that define this rural area.
- 6.3.2 The NDP will seek to strengthen the local economy by promoting the improvement and protection of local services, supporting the provision of business space (including home working), and diversification of the rural economy including the delivery of locally generated green energy for local businesses and residents. Without these, Oxspring could become a less sustainable community with fewer opportunities for employment.
- 6.3.3 The Local Plan proposes an allocated employment Site ES19 Land North of Sheffield Road. The site is identified under Penistone but falls within the NDP boundary of Oxspring. The emerging policy sets out that development will be expected to retain the mature trees present on the site's north-eastern boundary, provide a buffer strip along the entire edge of the North-Eastern boundary to prevent the site from being developed right up to the woodland edge, take account of pylons, protect archaeology and protect the setting of listed Kirkwood farmhouse. Policy E3 - Uses on employment land, sets out that *on allocated Employment Sites, or land currently or last used for employment purposes, the following uses will be allowed: 1. Research and development, and light industry 2. General industrial 3.*

Storage or distribution. Ancillary uses will be allowed where appropriate in scale. Proposals for other employment generating uses may be considered on their merits, particularly in terms of providing jobs, skills and their contribution to the borough's GVA.

Map 8 Employment Site
Oxspring Parish Council (Licensee) License No. 100056849



- 6.3.4 Proposals for sustainable energy schemes and low carbon technologies on this site will be encouraged as part of the development of a sustainable community energy hub for Oxspring.

Tourism and the Visitor Economy

- 6.3.5 Oxspring is ideally suited for visitors. With the provision of improved facilities, more visitors will be able to enjoy the picturesque scenery and good walking in the area. The village is positioned on the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) and is easily accessible by foot, cycle and horse users from other areas.
- 6.3.6 The results of the 2015 questionnaire survey showed a high level of support for proposals for small scale tourism and visitor facilities such as a café and catering facilities, provided that traffic is managed effectively. Local residents and businesses support the opportunity to grow the local economy in a way which adds value, and improves the needs of rural settlements such as Oxspring. Additional local employment will help provide a viable and sustainable economy including jobs for younger residents and reduce the need to travel.
- 6.3.7 The Local Plan supports a viable rural economy in policies E5 “Promoting Tourism and encouraging Cultural Provision” and E6 “Rural Economy.”

Policy OEMP1 Supporting a Sustainable Rural Visitor Economy

Proposals which support a viable rural economy are encouraged subject to compliance with Local Plan Policy E6 Rural Economy. Schemes will be encouraged which provide cafe and catering facilities, and short stay or overnight accommodation, through sensitive conversion of existing buildings. Adequate provision of visitor parking and suitable traffic management measures must be provided.

Proposals will be encouraged which provide local community events which could bring visitors to the area, such as themed festivals, specialist markets and sporting activities.

6.4 Sports and Leisure



Football fields, looking towards Wagon and Horses Pub

Objective 1. To strive for the wellbeing of all members of our community by:

- **Supporting the provision of improved community leisure, sports and recreation facilities.**

6.4.1 The Parish of Oxspring boasts open playing fields which are used by a number of junior football clubs and off-road running events attracting large numbers of participants to the village.

6.4.2 However, residents have long been concerned about the level and quality of provision available for formal and informal sport activities. In 2009 a charitable trust was set up to support the development of Oxspring Parish Sport and Community Centre. Planning Permission was granted in October 2008 and renewed in 2011; unfortunately, at that stage funding from Sport England and the Football Foundation was not secured.

6.4.3 More recently (in March 2014), the household questionnaire survey results supported the view that the village lacks sport facilities and recreational opportunities for young people between the ages of 11 to 17 years. The primary school has no changing or sporting facilities on its site and occasionally uses the village playing field without toilet or changing facilities.

6.4.4 Also, the football club with 5 separate junior teams of different age ranges uses a dilapidated shed across the busy Sheffield Road for changing and without a required better level of on-site, safe facilities, they are unable to develop or enter higher leagues or offer ladies, girls and more young people the opportunity to play football. Moreover, the fields have no access to the TPT and the large housing development on Roughbitchworth Lane. As a result, much of the leisure and recreational activities enjoyed by younger people takes place elsewhere away from the Parish. The Local Plan states in paragraph 25.9 *“Buildings and space for community use are important if we are to create sustainable communities*

where people want to live.” The opportunity to take part in community life can help to engender community pride and spirit. Therefore community facilities will be protected where possible.” The policies Policy 11 Infrastructure and Planning Obligations and Policy 12 Educational and Community Facilities seek to promote community infrastructure.

- 6.4.5 The Sheffield Road Playing Field is located within the Green Belt but the NPPF in para 89 sets out that certain new buildings are not considered inappropriate, and these include *“provision for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation ... as long as it preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it”*. Barnsley Core Strategy, September 2011 protects green infrastructure in Policy CSP 33 - Green Infrastructure, and aims to protect and improve green space in Policy CSP 35 - Green Space. The new Local Plan Publication Draft 2016 aims to protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure assets in Policy GI1 and sets out in Policy GS1 - Green Space that the Borough Council will work with partners to improve existing green space to meet the standards in our Green Space Strategy.

Policy OS1 Sport and Leisure Community Infrastructure

Proposals for the development of viable and self-supporting good quality community, sport and leisure facilities available to all will be encouraged on Sheffield Road Playing Field (Site G2 on Map 2 above) subject to compliance with Plan policy OEN2 Protecting Local Green Spaces. This shall include proposals for new club facilities/sports pavilion including changing rooms and other facilities for wider community use.

Schemes will be required to preserve the openness of the Green Belt and not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. Where new club facilities / sports pavilion buildings are proposed, they will be required to be sited adjacent to the existing built up area when possible.

6.5 Movement



The Old Oxspring Road Bridge

Objective 2. To nurture the rural environment for future generations by:

- **Improving accessibility and connections to the Trans Pennine Trail, the riverside, local footpaths and bridle paths.**

- 6.5.1 The Trans Pennine Trail (TPT)¹⁰ is a national coast to coast route for recreation and transport – for walkers, cyclists and (in parts) horse riders. The route links the North and Irish seas, passing through the Pennines, alongside rivers and canals and through some of the most historic towns and cities in the North of England. The Trail from coast-to-coast between Southport and Hornsea is 215 miles (346Km) long.
- 6.5.2 A section of the Trans Pennine Trail runs through the heart of Oxspring Parish, South of the main built up area of the village, along a disused rail line. The route offers significant opportunities for local residents and visitors to enjoy the wider countryside in a traffic free environment, and is suitable for walkers, horse riders and cyclists.
- 6.5.3 However there is a need for improved access onto the TPT from points within the village. Map 2 above identifies two access points in the village; T1 is more accessible but T2 comprises very steep steps which are not wheelchair, pushchair or cycle friendly.
- 6.5.4 The Local Plan Policy T3 New Development and Sustainable Travel is aimed at promoting sustainable travel and Policy GS2 “Green Ways and Public Rights of Way” is concerned to encourage links to routes like the TPT.
- 6.5.5 The Council’s decision to adopt CIL will be taken having regard to the result of a national level review and following the preparation of adopted Supplementary Planning Documents detailing various requirements to support plan implementation. In the interim, developer contributions will continue to be sought in accordance with Local Plan Policy I1.

¹⁰ <http://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/>

- 6.5.6 Following the public consultation on the Draft Plan, the Environment Agency provided further comments in relation to the NDP's proposals to support improved access to the river bank of the River Don through the creation of a riverside walk. The Environment Agency advised that this proposal is welcomed. The River Don is recognised as an important biodiversity asset that should be both protected and enhanced. The section of the river that flows through Oxspring has trees and vegetation on either side of the river banks and the tree-line should be maintained. The Environment Agency advised that an 8m undisturbed buffer is maintained on either side of the River Don and also suggested that the Parish Council should consider preparing a Management Plan for Nature Conservation.

Policy OM1 Improving Accessibility to the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) and Other Routes

Proposals which provide safe, level, ramped access onto the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) will be supported. In particular, proposals for access improvements will be encouraged at the Roughbirchworth Lane access point (T2 on Map 2 above) and if possible, from the sports field.

Proposals for improved pedestrian access down to and along the river to the north east of the employment site allocated in the Local Plan on land to the north of Sheffield Road and to the north of G4 will be encouraged. Any new or improved access routes should provide an 8 metre undisturbed buffer on either side of the River Don to protect trees and vegetation on the river banks.

Appendices

Appendix I

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL LETTINGS POLICY 2014

Effective from 1st April 2014

7a(ii) Local Connection A person has a local connection in the following circumstances.

- They have lived for 2 out of the last 5 years in Barnsley or have lived in Barnsley for 6 months out of the last 12 months.
- They are currently employed in the Barnsley Council area.
- They have close family who have lived in Barnsley for 2 out of the last 5 years or have lived in Barnsley for 6 months out of the last 12 months. Close family includes parents, grandparents, sons and daughters and siblings
- Members of the Armed Forces and former service personnel, where the application is made within five years of discharge from HM Forces.
- Bereaved spouses and civil partners of members of the Armed Forces leaving Services Family Accommodation following the death of their spouse or civil partner
- Serving or former members of the Reserve Forces who need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability which is wholly or partly attributable to their military service.
- They have other special circumstances that connect them to Barnsley
- They have been deemed to have a local connection under current homelessness law.

If a person has a local connection they are assessed as if they lived within the borough and as such can be awarded priority in bands 1 to 4. However, if a person has no local connection with the borough they will be assessed into one of two priority categories:

- Re-housing need. – They will be added to band 4
- No Re-housing need – They will be added to Band 5 A person with no local connection cannot appear in bands 1 to 3

Appendix II

NPPF - National Planning Policy Framework Definition of Affordable Housing (March 2012)

Affordable housing: Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable). Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as “low cost market” housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.

Glossary

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
Ancient or veteran tree		A tree which, because of its age, size and condition, is of exceptional biodiversity, cultural or heritage value. All ancient trees are veteran trees. Not all veteran trees are old enough to be ancient, but are old relative to other trees of the same species. Very few trees of any species reach the ancient life-stage.
Ancient woodland		An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).
Biodiversity		The variety of plant and animal life found in an ecosystem and the variation in their genetic makeup. Biodiversity is a measure of the health of an ecosystem, with healthy ecosystems having greater variety and variation in plant and animal life than unhealthy ones.
Biodiversity Action Plan	BAP	A plan which sets out proposals to protect and improve the places where trees, plants, animals and insects live.
Brownfield land		See previously developed land.
Community facilities		Facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
Community Infrastructure Levy	CIL	Was introduced in the Planning Bill in 2007 and empowers local authorities to make charges on new developments to help finance the infrastructure needed to support growth.
Consultation		A process by which people and organisations are asked their views about planning decisions, including the Local Plan. The terms involvement and participation are also used and mean the same thing.
Deliverability		The likelihood of a proposal (for example, a housing site) happening. The things that affect deliverability are the cost of developing a site, how desirable the area in which the site is, and the availability of funding.
Density		Density is the number of houses in a given area. In the Local Plan it is used mainly in relation to

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
		housing.
Designated heritage asset		A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.
Designations		Policies and proposals which are shown on the policies map. This can, for example, include sites specifically proposed for development such as housing. It can also include sites where new development is limited, for example, areas which are Green Belt.
Development Plan Document	DPD	A document that will form part of our Statutory Development Plan which is used to make decisions on proposals for development. In Barnsley, DPDs are the equivalent of the old Development Plan Document Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Most DPDs include policies and proposals which apply to specific areas or sites, these are shown on the Policies Map. Once adopted the Local Plan, together with the Joint Waste Plan, will be the statutory development plan for Barnsley.
Employment allocations		Sites specifically set aside for employment development. Employment in this context mainly refers to industry, storage and distribution, but can include other uses.
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA	By law, some planning applications for larger development need to be accompanied by a detailed document which looks at the effects the proposal will have on wildlife, water quality, air quality and living conditions.
Farm diversification		This is where a farm is used for other things as well as agriculture. Bed-and-breakfast accommodation is an example of this.
Footprint		The amount of land a development takes up. The footprint of a building is the amount of land it takes up.
Green Belt		A policy or land use designation used to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
		adjacent to urban areas.
Green Infrastructure	GI	Strategic infrastructure made up of a network of connected, multi-functional green spaces throughout the borough.
Green space		'Green' open areas. They include village greens, local open spaces, country parks, formal gardens, cemeteries, allotments, woodlands, wildlife areas, recreation grounds, sports pitches and parks.
Infill development		Development that goes in the gaps between existing buildings. It is usually small in scale. An infill housing development will usually include one to 10 houses.
Local housing need		The number of homes identified as being needed through the application of the standard method set out in national planning guidance, or a justified alternative approach.
Local Plan		A document which will be used to make decisions on proposals for development over the next 19 years or so.
Low carbon energy		Low carbon energy is associated with a lower carbon output than traditional fossil fuels. Examples include district heating or combined heat and power (using the heat generated from other processes) and air or ground source heat pumps
Major development		For housing, development where 10 or more homes will be provided, or the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more. For non-residential development it means additional floorspace of 1,000m ² or more, or a site of 1 hectare or more, or as otherwise provided in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.
National Planning Policy Framework	NPPF	A document produced by Central Government which sets out national planning policy.
National Planning Practice Guidance	NPPG	A web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place.
National trails		Long distance routes for walking, cycling and horse riding.
Neighbourhood Development Plan (or Neighbourhood Plan)	NDP	A plan prepared by a parish council or neighbourhood forum for a designated neighbourhood area. In law this is

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
		described as a neighbourhood development plan in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
Open space		All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.
Planning obligation		A legal agreement between us and a developer which is needed before a development can go ahead. It will usually deal with things that need to happen away from the development site, including improvements to roads and open spaces.
Planning Policy Statements/ Planning Policy Guidance	PPS PPG	National statements of planning policy prepared by the government and which councils are expected to take into account when preparing LDFs. Planning Policy Guidance notes are being replaced by Planning Policy Statements.
Policies Map		A plan which shows policies and proposals for specific sites and locations. These are shown on an Ordnance Survey map.
Previously Developed Land		Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or was last occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill, where provision for restoration has been made through development management procedures; land in built-up areas such as residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape.
Regeneration		Doing things that will make an area a better place to live and work in.
Renewable Energy		Is a natural source of energy that is not depleted when used, including wind, water and solar. Renewable energy production includes the use of wind

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
		turbines, solar panels (on houses/ Renewable Energy other buildings or in commercial energy 'farms') and hydro-electric installations to harness the energy from running water.
River corridor		A river and its immediate surroundings. A river corridor tends to be smaller in width than a river valley which can be several miles wide.
Rural exception sites		Small sites used for affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing. Rural exception sites seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. A proportion of market homes may be allowed on the site at the local planning authority's discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of affordable units without grant funding.
Safeguarded land		This is land which is allocated in case it is needed for development in the long term. It is not available for development in the short term and the need to develop safeguarded land will be considered when the Local Plan is reviewed.
Sequential approach		Considering options for sites for development in a particular order. For example, in terms of new shops, we would first look for sites within a shopping centre and then for sites on the edge of the shopping centre before looking at sites outside the centre. The same approach is applied to finding land for housing.
Setting of a heritage asset		The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
Settlement hierarchy		A way in which towns, villages and hamlets are categorised depending on their size and role. It can help make decisions about new development.
Site of Special Scientific	SSSI	Sites designated by Natural England under

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
Interest		the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Statutory		Something that is directly needed by law, usually by a government act or regulation.
Stepping stones		Pockets of habitat that, while not necessarily connected, facilitate the movement of species across otherwise inhospitable landscapes.
Supplementary Planning Document	SPD	A document which helps explain how policies and proposals in DPDs will be applied. An example of this would be a document that sets out detailed requirements or guidance about building design.
Topography		The form and structure of the surface of the land including the man made and natural physical surface features of an area such as lakes, mountains, hills, and valleys.
Trans Pennine Trail	TPT	A national coast to coast route for recreation and transport – for walkers, cyclists and (in parts) horse riders. It links Hornsea on the east Yorkshire coast to Southport on the north west coast.
Transport assessment		A comprehensive and systematic process that sets out transport issues relating to a proposed development. It identifies measures required to improve accessibility and safety for all modes of travel, particularly for alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport, and measures that will be needed deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the development.
Transport statement		A simplified version of a transport assessment where it is agreed the transport issues arising from development proposals are limited and a full transport assessment is not required.
Travel plan		A long-term management strategy for an organisation or site that seeks to deliver sustainable transport objectives and is regularly reviewed.
Viability		The property of being viable, the ability to succeed or to be achievable in a practical and useful way.
Wildlife corridor		Areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations.

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
Windfall sites		Sites not specifically identified in the development plan.



Neighbourhood Plan

www.oxspringplan.org.uk