

Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework



Site Allocations

Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

April 2008

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Appendix A: Identification of other Relevant Plans, Policies, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

Appendix B: Baseline Data

SEA Directive requirements and Where they are met:

SEA Directive Requirement	Where it is Met
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Section 6 and Appendix A
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Section 7 and Appendix B
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Section 7 and Appendix B
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Appendix B and Section 8
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Appendix A and Section 9
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Initial SA Report and Full SA Report
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Initial SA Report and Full SA Report
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Initial SA Report and Full SA Report
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Full SA Report
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Initial SA Report and Full SA Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process forms an integral part of producing the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). Details of the SA process are outlined at Section 4 in this Scoping Report. This SA Scoping Report sets out a series of questions for stakeholders in the Site Allocations production process. The purpose of the questions is to establish whether the right information is being focussed on and to ascertain whether there are any further issues, which need to be addressed in the full SA Report.

1.2 A summary of the questions asked throughout the report is set out below. Please refer to Section 12.5 for details of how to comment.

Q.1 Do you consider there to be any other relevant plans, policies, programmes or objectives that may affect or influence the Site Allocations Development Plan Document other than those identified in Appendix A of this report?

Q.2 Are you aware of any relevant baseline data, which is not set out in Appendix B of this report?

Q.3 Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the data set out in Appendix B of this report?

Q.4 Are you aware of any other sustainability issues, for which evidence can be provided, that should be considered in the SA Report?

Q.5 Do you consider that the SA objectives are suitable, or do you consider that any should be added or removed?

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced the requirement for local authorities to produce Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). These are a series of documents that set out the planning policy for an area. The Site Allocations DPD, is an element of the LDF, and it will contain policies that specifically apply to a given area or site. It will identify specific housing and employment sites to meet the requirements of the Regional Spatial Strategy up until 2026 and will allocate land for particular uses or environmental protection. The Site Allocations DPD will be in conformity with the Core Strategy DPD, the strategic overarching policy for the future development of the District.

3. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA) PROCESS

3.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required under Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; it forms an integral part of the process of producing the Local Development Documents (LDDs) that make up the LDF. The SA Process for DPDs, including the Site Allocations DPD, helps Local Planning Authorities to assess the degree to which the plans and proposals contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. This understanding assists in the preparation of planning policy. It is intended that the SA process will be carried out internally as an integral part of the plan preparation process.

3.2 The key areas of emphasis for SA include:

- Collecting and presenting baseline information to establish an accurate picture of the economic, social and environmental trends within the District.
- Predicting the significant adverse effects of the proposals and addressing them during the preparation process.
- Identifying reasonable options and their effects.
- Mitigating any negative effects that may arise.
- Involving the public and authorities with social, environmental and economic responsibilities in the assessment process.
- Monitoring the actual effects of the proposals during their implementation.

3.3 Guidance on SA is contained within the following documents:

- Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (ODPM November 2005).
- SEA Directive 42/2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (ODPM).
- ODPM Interim Advice Note on Frequently Asked Questions (April 2005).
- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).

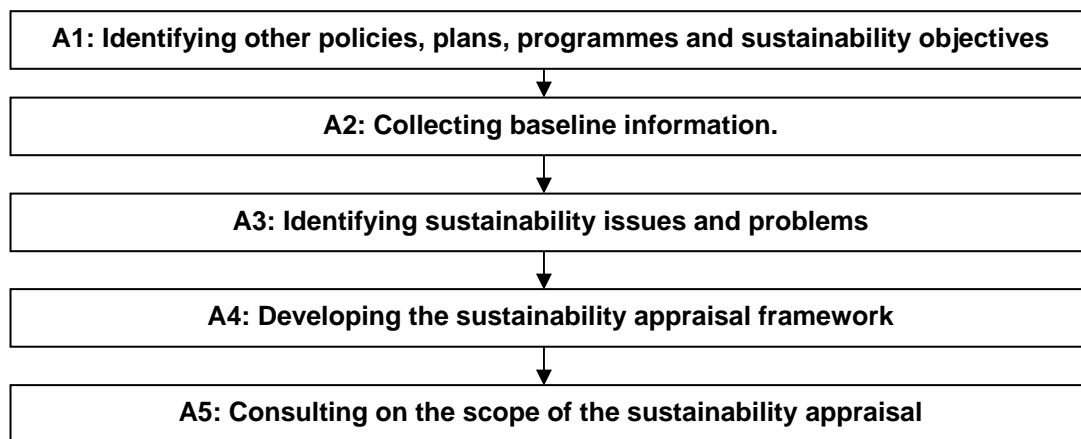
4. PURPOSE OF THE SA SCOPING REPORT

4.1 The Scoping Report forms the first stage (Stage A) in the SA process for assessing the sustainability implications of the Site Allocations DPD. Stage A of the process is

undertaken during the pre-production stage of the Site Allocations DPD. The purpose of this report is as follows:

- To scope other policies, plans, programmes and objectives to provide information on the relationship between the Site Allocations DPD and other plans and programmes and the environmental protection objectives as established at intentional and national level, which are relevant to the Site Allocations DPD.
- To collect relevant baseline information to identify the sustainability issues and problems within the District and cross boundary issues. Any issues identified need, where possible, to be linked to evidence by reference to the baseline information and the identification of historical or likely future trends.
- To develop the SA framework (objectives, targets and indicators) for assessing the sustainability of the Site Allocations DPD. This provides a way of checking whether the sites allocated are the best possible ones in terms of their sustainability and can be seen as a methodological yardstick against which the social, economic and environmental effects of a plan can be tested.
- To consult the statutory environmental consultation bodies (The Environment Agency; and Natural England (which incorporates The Countryside Agency, English Nature), and English Heritage) on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA report. This is necessary to meet the requirements of the SEA directive, and it means that gaps or inaccuracies in the data can be addressed early in the process.

The areas that this Scoping Report covers are summarised below in the key stage diagram:



(Adapted from ODPM guidance 2005)

5. SEA DIRECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The SEA Directive requires that the Scoping Report should provide information on the following:

- The relationship of the Site Allocations DPD to other relevant plans and programmes.
- Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme and the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected.
- Any existing environmental problems, which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.
- The authorities which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which will be included in the environmental report.

5.2 As part of the evidence base for the LDF, the District has undertaken a level one Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) in order to identify and map areas at risk from flooding. The SFRA looks at flooding from all sources. The SFRA report is available on the District Council's website. In order to further understand the implications of the District's watercourses on land use planning, a level two SFRA and a Water Cycle Study will be undertaken. These reports will also be available on the District Council's web-site later this year. Under Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, LPAs are required to undertake an Appropriate Assessment where the LDF is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. A Screening Report produced alongside the Core Strategy Preferred Options has demonstrated that there are no such sites within the District and the proposed scale of development is unlikely to have any significant impact on sites within neighboring authorities.

6. A1: IDENTIFYING RELEVANT PLANS, POLICES, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

6.1 The SEA Directive requires local authorities to review other plans, policies and programmes in order to establish the environmental protection objectives at international and national level, which are relevant to the Site Allocations DPD. The SA process should also set out how these objectives have been taken into account during the preparation of the document.

6.2 Information on these relationships will help to address constraints and identify potential synergies with other policies from international down to the local level and to ensure that the SA process is not undertaken in isolation.

6.3 The table below sets out a summary list of plans, policies and programmes that have been reviewed as part of the SA scoping process. A detailed analysis of their objectives and how these might be incorporated into the SA Framework is included at Appendix A of this Scoping Report.

NAME OF PLAN, POLICY, PROGRAMME OR OBJECTIVE
INTERNATIONAL
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development
Rio Declaration on Environment & Development
Aarhus Convention
Kyoto Protocol
The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (updated 2005)
European Habitats Directive (1992)
European Birds Directive (1979)
European Air Quality Directive (2000)
European Water Framework Directive (2000)
European Sixth Environmental Action Plan (2001 – 2010)
European Landscape Convention
NATIONAL
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2002)
UK Waste Strategy (DEFRA, 2000)
Waste Strategy for England 2007 (DEFRA)
The Eddington Transport Study (2006)
Barker Review of Land Use Planning (DCLG, 2006)
Strong and Prosperous Communities – the Local Government White Paper (October 2006)
UK Strategy for Sustainable Development (2005)
Urban White Paper 2000
Rural White Paper 2000
Sustainable Communities Plan (2003)
Transport 10 Year Plan (2000)
UK Climate Change Programme (1994)
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change (November 2006)
Energy White Paper
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000
Diversity and Equality in Planning 2005

NAME OF PLAN, POLICY, PROGRAMME OR OBJECTIVE
Untapped Potential – Identifying and Delivering residential Development on Previously Developed Land (CPRE, 2007)
Waterways for Tomorrow (DEFRA, 2000)
Planning a Future for the Inland Waterways (IWAAC, 2001)
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)
Heritage Protection White Paper (DCMS, March 2007)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
Code for Sustainable Homes – A step change in sustainable home building practice (DCLG, 2006)
Planning for a Sustainable Future: The Planning White Paper (DCLG, 2007)
PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)
PPS: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS1 (DCLG 2007)
PPG 2 – Green Belts (1995)
PPS 3 – Housing (2006)
PPG 4 – Industrial, Commercial Development & Small Firms (1992)
Draft PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development
PPS 6 – Planning for Town Centres (2005)
PPS 7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
PPG 8 – Telecommunications (1991)
PPS 9 – Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)
PPS 10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
PPS 11 – Regional Spatial Strategies (2004)
PPS 12 – Local Development Frameworks (2004)
Draft Replacement PPS12: Streamlining Local Development Frameworks: Consultation (2007)
PPG 13 – Transport (2001)
PPG 14 – Development on unstable land (1990)
PPG 15 – Planning and the historic environment (1994)
PPG 16 – Archaeology and Planning (1990)
PPG 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation (2002)
PPG 19 – Outdoor Advertisement Control
PPS 22 – Renewable Energy (2004)
PPS 23 – Planning & Pollution Control (2004)
PPG 24 – Planning & Noise (2001)
PPS 25 - Development & Flood Risk (2006)
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (DCLG, 2006)
Physical Activity and the Environment National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (January 2008)
Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society (DCLG, 2008)
REGIONAL
Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2008)
West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2004 – 2021)
West Midlands Housing Strategy 2006 – 2021
West Midlands Regional Transport Strategy 2004 – 2021
Black Country Sub-Regional Study RSS1
West Midlands RSS Revision Phase Two – Submission Document(2007)
West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy (December 2007)
West Midlands Regional Innovation Strategy
West Midlands Cultural Strategy 2001 – 2006
West Midlands Visitor Economy Strategy
West Midlands Energy Strategy
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework
West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy
West Midlands Regional Water Resources Strategy

NAME OF PLAN, POLICY, PROGRAMME OR OBJECTIVE
Severn Trent Water Resources Plan 2005 - 2010
Choosing Health: Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy (WMRA, 2007)
Fluvial Severn Flood Risk Management Strategy (2006)
South Housing Market Area: Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2007)
South Housing Market Area: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2007)
COUNTY
Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (2006)
Partnership Towards Excellence: A Community Strategy for Worcestershire
Partnership Towards Excellence – The Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire SECOND EDITION 2008 – 2013 (Draft 2007)
Worcestershire County Structure Plan (1996 – 2011)
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2 (2006 – 2011)
Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan
Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy
Worcestershire County Council Tourism Strategy
A Cultural Strategy for Worcestershire
Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997
Worcestershire Countryside Access & Recreation Strategy. (2003 – 2013)
Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy
Planning for Water in Worcestershire – Draft Technical Research Paper (2008)
DISTRICT
Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)
Wyre Forest Adopted Local Plan (2004)
Wyre Forest Housing Strategy (2004)
Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy (2002)
Wyre Forest Design Supplementary Planning Guidance. (2004)
Wyre Forest Community Safety Strategy
Wyre Forest Air Quality Strategy (2005)
Wyre Forest Housing Needs Survey (2003)
Wyre Forest Housing Stock Condition Survey (2007)
Wyre Forest Sustainability Strategy (2004-2007)
Wyre Forest Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2001)
PARISH
Upper Arley Parish Plan (2004)
Rock Parish Plan (2005)
Chaddesley Corbett Parish Plan (2006)

Q.1 Do you consider there to be any other relevant plans, policies, programmes or objectives that may affect or influence the Site Allocations Development Plan Document other than those identified in Appendix A of this report?

7. A2: BASELINE DATA COLLECTION

7.1 The collection of relevant baseline information provides a basis for identifying sustainability problems and for predicting and monitoring the effects of the Site Allocations DPD. Data collection should focus on the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the District.

7.2 The SEA Directive requires the identification of:

‘Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme and the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected.’ (Annex 1 (b)(c))

“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.” (Annex 1 (d))

7.3 The table below shows those areas covered by the baseline data collection. These areas were deemed to be the most relevant to the Site Allocations Development Plan Document. A detailed record of baseline data collection is set out at Appendix B to this Scoping Report.

Summary of Baseline Areas Covered
DATA, THEMES AND AREAS
COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE
Crime; IMD 2007 Drug and Alcohol Misuse; Alcohol Restriction Zones; Road Accident Data
A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW
Green Belt Designation; Number of Applications within the Green Belt; Landscape; Landscape Character Assessment; Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Special Wildlife Sites; Nature Reserves; Habitat and Species; Habitat Types; Protected Species; The Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark; Equestrian Developments; Tree Preservation; Water Resources; Water Consumption; Water Pollution; Flooding; Flood Defences; Waste Produced and Recycled over Time; Household Waste Bring Sites; Recycling; The Historic Environment ; Conservation Areas; Listed Buildings; Locally Listed Buildings; Archaeology: Brownfield Land Availability; Housing Development on Greenfield/Brownfield Sites; Average Density of New Development; Air Quality Management Areas; Noise Pollution; Light Pollution; CO ₂ Emissions and Renewable Energy; Emissions/Energy Use; Climate Change
ECONOMIC SUCCESS THAT IS SHARED BY ALL
Unemployment; Estimated Average Earnings per Household; Benefits - Percentage of People Claiming JSA; Skills Shortages within Wyre Forest; Business Survival Rates – Wyre Forest; Local Pattern of Industrial and Office Costs; Employment By Industrial Sector 2001; Employee Jobs; Employment Land Availability; Employment Areas in Wyre Forest District; Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas; Major Stores within the Wyre Forest; Local Centres; Retail Yields; Retail Rents; New Housing Sites Within 60 Minutes Public Transport Access to Retail Facilities; Kidderminster Travel to Work Area; People Working from Home; Car Ownership; Public Transport within the Wyre Forest - Rail; Buses; Road Links; Car-Parking
IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
Health Status; Major Cause of Death; Life Expectancy at Birth; Ward Health Profiles (IMD); Weight; Well-Being and Access to Facilities (IMD); Adult and Community Learning Facilities; Community Facilities; Rural Facilities; Houses within a 10 Minute walk of a Local Shop; Open Space Provision; Leisure Facilities; Museums and Cultural Learning Opportunities; Housing Provision; Pensionable Households; Average House Prices; Average Rent Levels; Affordable Housing; Empty Houses within the District; Barriers to Housing and Services; Housing Stock Condition Survey; Fuel Poverty; Barn Conversions; Housing Development within 30 Minutes

Summary of Baseline Areas Covered
DATA, THEMES AND AREAS
Public Transport Travel Time from Services; Caravan Sites; Chalets; Gypsy Site Provision within the District;
MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Schools; Travel to School; Qualifications – GCSE; Qualifications – Higher Level; Further Education; Children’s Facilities;
STRONGER COMMUNITIES
Population Density, Population Age, Structure and Change; Population and Households; Ethnic Minorities, Religion

Q.2 Are you aware of any relevant baseline data, which is not set out in Appendix B of this report?

Q.3 Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the data set out in Appendix B of this report?

8. A3: IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

8.1 The identification of sustainability issues is an opportunity to define key issues for the Site Allocations and to develop sustainable objectives and options. The collation of baseline data at Appendix B has identified a number of sustainability issues and trends that are current within the Wyre Forest District. These are set out below. The table shows that there are a number of issues, which the production of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document could help to address.

IDENTIFIED SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE	SUMMARY AND SCORE
Marked variation in the provision of community facilities between the District's urban wards.	WFDC Adopted Local Plan 2004 and WCCACL Mapping Project 2003, indicate that there is a marked variation in the provision of community facilities for wards across the District.
A decline in rural services, particularly to the West of the District.	WFDC Adopted Local Plan 2004 and the Retail Update 2005 indicate that the decline in rural services to the West of the District has been exacerbated by pressure for residential conversions.
Importance of safeguarding the District's Local Centres in order to serve their resident populations.	The Wyre Forest District Retail Update 2005 demonstrates that a reasonable spread of local centres and that they serve their resident populations by providing a range of services.
Poor access to play facilities in some urban and rural wards.	Data from the PPG17 Audit shows that the quantity of facilities for children and young people are below the recommended standard in Kidderminster and the rural areas.

IDENTIFIED SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE	SUMMARY AND SCORE
Lack of affordable housing choice across the District.	The Land Registry Residential property Price Report (2003), demonstrates that average house prices and rental across the District are high relative to local incomes. Historically affordable housing developments have been difficult to achieve within the District.
Variation in levels of health between the District's Wards	The 2001 Census shows that the number of people with a limiting long-term illness ranges from 12.6% in Aggborough and Spennells ward to 22.9% in Wolverley ward. 2004 IMD Health rankings range from 27,136 in Bewdley to 3,818 in Oldington and Foley Park. Greenhill, which includes the town centre, and Broadwaters have poor scores. Scores are generally highest in rural areas.
Need to control the further development of caravan sites in the District and restrict occupancy of existing caravans.	The District has 211 caravans that are licensed for use 12 months of the year and in excess of 2750 which are licensed for use for between 6 and 11 months of the year.
Need to control the further development of existing chalets within the District and their replacement with permanent dwellings.	The District has approximately 380 'chalets' or 'shacks' constructed pre 1947 legislation. These are clustered in locations which are unsustainable and would not be considered suitable for residential development today.
Need to reduce noise pollution complaints in the District	Noise complaints increased by 17.3% from 392 to 460 in the 12 months to 31/3/2006 (WFDC Database).
The need to improve the condition of SSSI Habitats, particularly marsh land and heathland areas.	English Nature surveys reveal that the majority of SSSIs within the District fall within the unfavourable/recovering category (36%).
The need to conserve and enhance the rich variety of habitat types within the District.	The Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (1999) identified a wide variety of Habitats, including traditional orchards, wet woodland, canals and lowland heathland.
The need to protect the variety of protected species from adverse development.	The Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (1999) identifies a wide variety of protected species, including European Otters, Adders and the Hornet Robberfly.
Significant residential and urban areas at risk from flooding.	The Environment Agency's designated flood zones show that parts of all three of the main urban areas are affected by fluvial flooding from the main rivers. The other types of flooding that affect the District are surface water run-off, ground water and foul water.
Declining air quality within the urban areas of the District.	WFDC has declared two Air Quality Management Areas within the District: Welch Gate, Bewdley and the Horsefair, Kidderminster. The Wyre Forest Air Quality Strategy also identifies borderline air quality areas in Stourport and Kidderminster Town Centres.
To safeguard and enhance the distinctive historic environment of the District.	The District has 16 designated Conservation Areas in both urban and rural areas.
The need to conserve the District's natural landscape from inappropriate development.	There has been an increase in horsiculture planning application approvals since 2000.
Need to conserve water resources and use them in a more sustainable way.	Much of the District's water comes from groundwater abstraction and there is no scope for any further abstraction.
Need to reduce the total volume of waste produced and increase recycling.	The volume of waste increased substantially between 1999 and 2003. In 2003, 14,000 tonnes of waste were produced, of this, 3110.12 tonnes were recycled.

IDENTIFIED SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE	SUMMARY AND SCORE
Need to focus new development on brownfield sites to preserve Greenfield land and reduce the need to travel.	At April 2006, 90% of houses under construction, with planning permission or with an allocation in the Local Plan were on brownfield sites.
Need to develop at densities greater than 30 dph in order to reduce the need to travel and preserve Greenfield land.	During 2005/06 75% of dwellings were built at densities greater than 30 dph. Densities are higher in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn than in Bewdley and the rural areas.
Need to reduce CO ₂ emissions within the District.	The Wyre Forest District emitted 670,000 tonnes of CO ₂ in 2003. The joint largest sources were transport and industrial consumption, each emitting 241,000 tonnes (Defra).
Need to adapt to the present and future changes in climate that the District is experiencing.	The climate of the UK is expected to become warmer, with a 40% reduction in summer soil moisture expected by 2080. Heavier winter rainfall is also predicted to become more frequent. (www.ukcip.org.uk)
Need to increase the generation and use of renewable energy in the District.	Currently there is very little renewable energy in the District; as a result the District is heavily reliant upon fossil fuels for its energy requirements (DTI).
Potential impact of the Wyre Forest Schools Review on access to educational facilities and impact on travel patterns/increased journey times.	Following a WCC review of the educational needs in Wyre Forest, 45 schools closed at the end of the academic year 2006/7 and 30 new schools opened in September 2007.
Rapidly increasing growth in rail usage at both the District's rail interchanges.	WCC's LTP2 includes usage figures for the District's stations, which show substantial increases in growth at Kidderminster (61%). This can be attributed to improved services and the increased frequency of off-peak services.
Importance of safeguarding and enhancing the bus priority route network and the need to enhance public transport infrastructure.	WCC statistics demonstrate that there have been significant reductions bus passengers over the past 5 years. There is continued downgrading of bus services across the District in both urban and rural areas.
Need to provide safe cycle route networks to increase cycling levels within the District.	2001 Census statistics demonstrate that only 2.19% of the District's working population cycles to work. WCC Cycle Counter Data implies that there has been a steady increase in cycling where new routes have been introduced.
Need to retain and enhance short stay parking facilities within the town centres.	District Council Car Park data shows that Kidderminster and Stourport are particularly well-served by public car-parks, which are well used.
Noticeably higher unemployment forming a corridor between Kidderminster and Stourport.	Generally low levels of unemployment, 1-2% in the majority of wards. Higher in urban areas with high concentrations in Oldington and Foley Park and Broadwaters wards where unemployment is above 6% (Worcestershire County Economic Survey, 2006).

Q.4 Are you aware of any other sustainability issues, for which evidence can be provided, that should be considered in the SA Report?

9. A4: DEVELOPING THE SA FRAMEWORK

9.1 The SA Framework will be the primary means of assessing the Site Allocations Policies and Objectives in terms of their sustainability. An SA Framework consists of sustainability objectives which are separate from the Site Allocations objectives, though they may in some cases overlap.

9.2 ODPM set out in 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks' (November 2005) the following advice on developing a SA Framework:

- SA Objectives can be derived from sustainability objectives identified in other plans and programmes or from a review of baseline information and sustainability issues.
- SA Objectives may be expressed in the form of targets.
- SA Objectives need to address the full scope of sustainability issues.
- SA Objectives may overlap with the Site Allocations objectives.

9.3 The West Midlands Regional Sustainable Development Framework (WMRSDF) (2008) sets out 33 Objectives for Sustainable Development in the Region. These reflect key regional priorities around society, the environment, resources and the economy. The WMRSDF recommends that the objectives are incorporated into the appraisal of LDDs. These objectives have therefore influenced the development of the SA Objectives for appraising the Site Allocations DPD.

9.4 Worcestershire County Council (WCC) is co-ordinating a joint Worcestershire SEA/SA Framework for the County. This involves a single appraisal framework covering all of Worcestershire, which ensures a consistency of approach in appraisal and in data collection. This includes agreement to a suite of generic SA Objectives that reflect the WMRSDF, Community Strategy and sustainability issues that can be supplemented with a set of decision making criteria to reflect the detail and scope of each DPD/SPD being prepared, and an agreed method for prioritising SA Objectives.

9.5 The SA Objectives developed by WCC are to be used to form the basis of the Joint SA Framework, supplemented with decision making questions and prioritised according to the DPD/SPD under preparation. The Objectives are set out in the table below along with the decision making criteria that would relate to the Site Allocations DPD. The draft indicators set out below will be revised as a result of this consultation. The SA framework,

incorporating any revisions, will be consulted on again in the Initial SA report, alongside the Issues and Options Paper.

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
Improved Health and Well-being		
1. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health.	1. Will it improve access to health care facilities across the District?	IMD health profiles.
	2. Will it help to improve quality of life for local residents?	Life expectancy.
2. To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, cultural services and local services and facilities.	1. Will proposals enhance the provision of local services and facilities?	Map of households within 800m of key facilities, i.e. schools, post offices, GP, local shop.
	2. Will it contribute to rural service provision across the District?	% of villages with key facilities, i.e. schools, post offices, GP, Pub, village hall.
	3. Will it enhance accessibility to services by public transport?	Amount of new/existing residential development within 30 minutes travel time of a GP and/or hospital.
	4. Will it enhance accessibility to the District's countryside by sustainable modes of transport?	Bus routes, cycle ways and footpaths leading to the District's countryside.
3. To provide decent, affordable housing for all, of the right quality and type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.	1. Will it provide opportunities to increase affordable housing levels within urban and rural areas of the District?	Number of affordable completions. % of housing completions which are affordable.
	2. Will it provide affordable access to a range of housing tenures and sizes?	% of housing completions by size. % of housing completions by tenure.
	3. Does it seek to provide high quality, well-designed residential environments?	Number of residential applications refused as a result of poor quality design.
	4. Does it provide opportunities for the construction of sustainable homes?	% of housing completion reaching each CSH level.
4. To enhance the quality of life for all residents within the District.	1. Does it seek to enhance the prospects and quality of life of disadvantaged communities?	Life expectancy.
	2. Does it provide fair access to all members of the community, regardless of social class?	Households within a 10 minute walk of key local facilities.
	3. Does it promote opportunities for easy access to the District's greenspace?	Hectares of greenspace per head of population.
Communities that are Safe and Feel Safe		
5., To encourage pride and social responsibility in the local community and reduce crime.	1. Does it offer the opportunity to enhance civic pride?	
	2. Do proposals offer the opportunity for community involvement?	Number of consultation responses received on planning applications.
	3. Does it promote the principles of 'Secured By Design'?	Number of new developments incorporating 'Secured by Design' principles.
A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow		
6. To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycling and composting, recovery, disposal.	1. Are opportunities to increase recycling incorporated into proposals?	New developments incorporating recycling facilities.
	2. Will it reduce household waste?	Volume of household waste collected.
7. Reduce contributions to climate change and	1. Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?	

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
promote energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable and low-carbon sources.	2. Will it use sustainable construction methods?	% of new developments using sustainable construction methods.
	3. Will it encourage opportunities for the production of renewable energy?	Number of new developments incorporating on-site renewable energy generation.
	4. Will it promote greater energy efficiency?	Average energy rating of new housing.
8. To reduce the need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel modes.	1. Will it reduce the need to travel?	% of development within existing urban areas and settlement boundaries.
	2. Will it provide opportunities to increase sustainable modes of travel?	Number of bus/train services serving the District. Length of cycle ways and footpaths through the District.
	3. Does it focus development in existing centres, and make use of existing infrastructure to reduce the need to travel?	% of development within existing urban areas and settlement boundaries.
9. Protect the use of water, soil and air, whilst maintaining or improving their quality.	1. Will it provide opportunities to reduce the District's Air Quality Monitoring Areas and other areas of concern?	Number of AQMAs and areas of air quality concern within the District.
	2. Will it improve air quality across the District?	Number of AQMAs and areas of air quality concern within the District.
	3. Will it provide opportunities to improve water quality?	Water pollution levels (rivers and brooks)
	4. Will it encourage measures to improve water efficiency in new development, refurbishment and redevelopment?	% of new developments incorporating rain-water harvesting/water efficiency measures. Water usage in new developments (water meter readings).
10. Ensure development does not occur in high-risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risks or contribute to surface water flooding in all other areas.	1. Does it protect the floodplain from development?	% new developments located in the floodplain (Environment Agency Flood Zones 2 and 3)
	2. Does it take account of all types of flooding?	Non-fluvial flooding incidents.
	3. Does it reduce the risk of flooding in existing developed areas?	
	4. Does it promote Sustainable Drainage Systems?	% of new developments incorporating SUDS.
11. Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	1. Will it achieve high quality sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm which is sensitive to the locality?	Number of applications refused as a result of poor quality/out of character design.
	2. Will it enhance the District's Conservation Areas?	Number of applications refused in conservation areas.
	3. Does this preserve and enhance the historic character of the landscape and townscape?	Number of planning permissions granted in conservation areas. Number of Listed Building consents granted.
12. To conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.	1. Will it help to safeguard the District's biodiversity and geodiversity?	Number of applications refused/amended/conditioned because of their potential impact on biodiversity/geodiversity.
	2. Will it provide opportunities to enhance local biodiversity/ geodiversity	Condition of SSSIs, SWSs and RIGS.

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
	in both urban and rural areas?	
	3. Will it protect sites designated for nature conservation?	Number of sites designated for nature conservation lost.
	4. Will it help to achieve targets set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan?	Achievement of BAP targets.
13. Conserve and enhance the historic and built environment through considerate siting and design and through respecting architectural, cultural and archaeological heritage.	1) Will it preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains, historic parks and gardens and their settings, and other features and areas of historic and cultural value?	Number of demolition consents (Listed Buildings) Number of demolition consents (Conservation Areas)
	2. Will it help to safeguard the District's Listed, Locally Listed and other historic Buildings?	Number of buildings on the national and local BARs.
	3. Does it improve the design quality of the built environment and offer opportunities for sustainable construction?	Number of applications refused as a result of poor quality design. % of dwellings built to Eco-homes 'very good' standard or equivalent CSH level. % of commercial properties built to BREEAM very good standards.
	4) Will it improve and broaden access to, and understanding of, local heritage, historic sites, areas and buildings?	Number of designated sites with public access.
	5) Will it help to realise the physical, social, economic and environmental value of the historic environment in the regeneration of the District?	Number of historic buildings converted. Number of derelict historic buildings brought back into use.
14. Ensure efficient use of land through the safeguarding of mineral reserves, the best and most versatile agricultural land, and Greenfield land; and maximise the use of previously developed land.	1. Will it safeguard the District's mineral resources?	
	2. Will it help to protect the District's agricultural land from adverse developments?	Number of hectares of best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.
	3. Will it preserve the openness of the greenbelt?	Number/area of new developments in the greenbelt.
	4. Will it protect and enhance the District's open spaces of recreational and amenity value?	Number of hectares of open space of recreational /amenity value in the District. Number of hectares of open space of recreational /amenity space lost to development.
15. To promote the regeneration of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.	1. Does it focus development in the town centres of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn?	% of new development located in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.
	2. Does it encourage the re-use of existing buildings and Brownfield sites in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn?	% of new development located on brown-field land in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.
16. Mitigate against the unavoidable negative impacts of climate change.	1. Does it promote development that is adaptable to and suitable for predicted changes in climate?	Number of applications refused as a result of Environment Agency comments.
	2. Does it promote land uses that are suitable for the predicted changes in the District's climate?	Number of applications refused as a result of Environment Agency comments.
17. Reduce noise and light pollution	1. Does it mitigate against noise pollution?	Number of noise pollution complaints.

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
	2. Does it mitigate against light pollution?	Light pollution maps
Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People		
18. To raise the skills level and qualifications of the workforce.	1. Will it provide opportunities to further develop adult and community learning facilities within the District?	% of school leavers with 5 A*-C GCSEs. % of the District's population with a FE/HE qualification.
19. To consult communities in accordance with the SCI, providing opportunities to participate, in and contribute to the decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life.	1. Do proposals incorporate consultation with the local communities?	Number of consultations carried out in accordance with the SCI.
	2. Are proposals transparent and open to the public?	Number of consultation responses received.
	3. Will it offer people the chance to directly affect decisions in their locality?	Number of consultation responses received.
	4. Does it promote community engagement?	% of residents consulted submitting responses.
Economic Success that is Shared by All		
20. Create and maintain a diverse, knowledge-driven economy, ensuring all have the benefits, urban and rural.	1. Will it help enhance the District's economy?	Number of VAT registered businesses within the area.
	2. Will it contribute towards rural regeneration?	Number of VAT registered businesses in rural areas.
	3. Will it provide opportunities for businesses to develop and enhance their competitiveness?	Survival rates for VAT registered businesses in the area.
	4. Will it support sustainable tourism?	
	5. Will it support the shopping hierarchy?	% of new retail development located in town centres.
21. Promote and support the development of new technologies, of high value and low impact, especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives.	1. Does it encourage innovative and environmentally friendly technologies?	Number of VAT registered businesses in this sector.

Q.5 Do you consider that the SA objectives, decision-making criteria and indicators are suitable, or do you consider that any should be added or removed?

9.6 These objectives will form the basis of the SA Framework for assessing the sustainability of the objectives set out in the Site Allocations DPD.

10. EMERGING SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD OBJECTIVES

10.1 The Site Allocations DPD will allocate sites for particular types of development.

- 10.2 The Site Allocations DPD will contain policies that specifically apply to a given area or site. It will identify the housing and employment sites to meet the requirements set out in the RSS up until 2026 and will provide a land use framework for regeneration initiatives. Specifically, the Site Allocations DPD will allocate and designate land for particular uses.
- 10.3 The Site Allocations DPD must be in conformity with the Core Strategy DPD. The Preferred Options for the Core Strategy DPD are currently being developed. The draft objectives for the Core Strategy as set out in the Revised Issues and Options Paper are:
1. To provide a range of high-quality, housing options for residents of all ages to achieve sustainable communities.
 2. To diversify and grow the District's economy, emphasising the development of the service sector, high tech industry and sustainable tourism.
 3. Continue to develop Kidderminster as the strategic centre for the District and to enhance the unique roles of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley as market towns.
 4. Support the viability of the District's villages and rural areas and assist in opportunities for diversification.
 5. Safeguard and enhance the District's unique landscape character, Green Belt and historic environment.
 6. Safeguard natural resources, minimise waste and increase recycling, especially the recycling of land and buildings.
 7. Protect and enhance the District's rich and varied biodiversity, geodiversity and water resources, including within the three town centres.
 8. Ensure the District is equipped to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change by ensuring that future developments are low or zero-carbon and that they do not increase flood risk to new and existing property.
 9. Improve the District's air quality, particularly in the town centre areas of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley.
 10. Support the development of an accessible, integrated, sustainable transport network to provide an attractive alternative to the car for all residents and visitors.
 11. Help foster community pride and healthy lifestyles in the District through supporting and involving its many local communities in both the urban and rural areas.

12. Maximise community cohesion and safety and ensure new developments positively contribute towards crime reduction, improved healthcare and education across the District for the benefit of all residents.

10.4 The key objectives for the Site Allocations DPD are currently being finalised by officers. However, the DPD will need to:

- Allocate sites for the provision of 3,400 dwellings across the District, in accordance with policies set out in the RSS and Core Strategy.
- Allocate sufficient land for 33ha of employment land development across the District in accordance with policies set out in the RSS and the Core Strategy.
- Consider the outcome of the SFRA, in the allocation of sites for development.
- Prioritise the re-use of brownfield sites over the release of greenfield sites.
- Protect the landscape and townscape character of the District by protecting vulnerable areas from further inappropriate development.

10.5 The options for site allocations within the Wyre Forest District are currently being developed. These options are to be presented in an Issues and Options Report, which will be published by the District Council and made available for Consultation during Autumn 2008.

10.6 The options for the Site Allocations DPD will be appraised against the SA Framework using the appraisal matrix as set out in section 11 of this Scoping Report.

11. TESTING THE COMPATABILITY OF THE SA OBJECTIVES

11.1 The Matrix set out below shows a preliminary outline of how the SA Objectives might be used to test the sustainability of the Site Allocations DPD objectives. This will be used as a basis for a comprehensive assessment matrix in the full SA Report.

SA OBJECTIVE	SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD OBJECTIVE					
	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6
1. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health.						
2. To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, cultural services and local services and facilities.						

3. To provide decent, affordable housing for all, of the right quality and type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.						
4. To enhance the quality of life for all residents within the District.						
5. To encourage pride and social responsibility in the local community and reduce crime.						
6. To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycling and composting, recovery, disposal..						
7. Reduce contributions to climate change and promote energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable and low-carbon sources.						
8. To reduce the need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel modes.						
9. Protect the use of water, soil and air, whilst maintaining or improving their quality.						
10. Ensure development does not occur in high-risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risks or contribute to surface water flooding in all other areas.						
11. Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.						
12. To conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.						
13. Conserve and enhance the historic and built environment through considerate siting and design and through respecting architectural, cultural and archaeological heritage.						
14. Ensure efficient use of land through the safeguarding of mineral reserves, the best and most versatile agricultural land, and Greenfield land; and maximise the use of previously developed land.						
15. To promote the regeneration of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.						
16. Mitigate against the unavoidable negative impacts of climate change.						

17. Reduce noise and light pollution						
18. To raise the skills level and qualifications of the workforce.						
19. To consult communities in accordance with the SCI, providing opportunities to participate, in and contribute to the decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life.						
20. Create and maintain a diverse, knowledge-driven economy, ensuring all have the benefits, urban and rural.						
21. Promote and support the development of new technologies, of high value and low impact, especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives.						

Key:

- ++ Significant contribution to the achievement of sustainability objectives likely.
- + Contribution to achievement of sustainability objectives likely.
- XX Significant conflict to achievement of sustainability objectives likely.
- X Conflict to achievement of sustainability objectives likely.
- 0 Neutral effect likely.
- +? Unpredictable effect but likely to be positive.
- X? Unpredictable effect but likely to be negative.

12. A5: CONSULTATION ON THE SA SCOPING REPORT

12.1 The Government has specified that consultation should be based on a preliminary Scoping Report that summarises Stage A of the SA and the emerging outcomes. Consultation must include the four SEA Consultation bodies required by the SEA Directive:

- Natural England (incorporating English Nature, The Countryside Agency and The Rural Development Service)
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Worcestershire County Council
- Government Office for the West Midlands
- West Midlands Regional Assembly
- Worcestershire Primary Care Trust
- Wyre Forest Matters Local Strategic Partnership

- 12.2 The Regulations also specify that the consultation bodies are to be given a period of five weeks to respond from the date when they receive the SA Scoping Report.
- 12.3 The District Council's Adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) states that SA will be undertaken throughout the stages identified for the preparation of the Site Allocations DPD. This will include the preparation of a Scoping Report, SA during the preparation of the Site Allocations DPD and the production of a SA Report to inform the Preferred Options on the Site Allocations DPD at the public participation stage to enable community consultation.
- 12.4 In order to fulfil these requirements, the District Council has also written to the following consultees, which it considers are likely to have an interest in the SA Scoping Report, to notify them that the Report can be viewed and downloaded from the District Council's website at www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk.
- Bromsgrove District Council
 - Wychavon District Council
 - Malvern Hills District Council
 - South Staffordshire District Council
 - Bridgnorth District Council
 - South Shropshire District Council
 - Staffordshire County Council
 - Shropshire County Council
 - Dudley MBC
 - Highways Agency
 - National Playing Fields Association
 - The Home Builders Federation
 - Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)
 - Sport England
 - Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
 - Wyre Forest Community Housing
 - Advantage West Midlands
 - British Waterways

- 12.5 Consultation responses should be based on the questions 1-5, set out in this scoping paper and should be received by the District Council by 5pm on Friday 6th June 2008. Responses can be submitted by e-mail, fax or in writing. Please forward your comments to the following:

Forward Planning Section
Planning, Health and Environment Division
Duke House
Clensmore Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 2JX
Fax: 01562 732556
E-mail: forward.planning@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

If you have any queries relating to this report, please contact the Forward Planning section on 01562 732928.

13. NEXT STEPS

- 13.1 SA is a continuous process that takes place in stages throughout the development of a DPD. The process assists in refining the DPD objectives and developing options which meet these, and then ensuring that the preferred option is the most sustainable.
- 13.2 There are a number of distinct stages in the SA process. These are outlined below together with a methodology for completing each stage.

Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Their Effects

- 13.3 Firstly, the Site Allocations DPD objectives will be tested against the SA objectives to ensure that they are in accordance with sustainability principles. This will assist in refining the Site Allocations options and developing new ones. Where conflict occurs, a decision will be reached on the District's priorities.
- 13.4 The Site Allocations options will be developed; these will set out to improve the situation that would exist if no plan was in place. The options generated will be sufficiently different

to highlight a range of sustainability implications. As each option is refined, a commentary will be prepared on the key sustainability issues and how these options could be improved. The SA Report will map the development of options and how any adverse effects will be mitigated.

- 13.5 The SA process involves predicting the social, economic and environmental effects that the Site Allocations DPD will have. These predictions will be based on the possible change that will occur in the baseline as a result of implementing the Site Allocations DPD. These changes should be compared to the 'no plan' and 'business as usual' scenarios. These predictions will be broad expressions assessing whether the situation will get worse, stay the same or improve as a result of the implementation of the Site Allocations DPD.
- 13.6 An analysis of the importance of the effects will be made. Judgements on the significance of the effects will be based on the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, this should also consider the impact of any secondary or tertiary effects. As the Site Allocations DPD is refined, the key sustainability issues and the reasons for rejecting options will be documented, this will form part of the SA Report.
- 13.7 The SA will include measures to prevent, reduce or offset any negative impacts that the Site Allocations DPD might have. Mitigating measures might include making changes to the Site Allocations; refining policies; technical measures to be applied during the implementation period; proposals in EIAs accompanying planning applications; and proposals for changing other plans and programmes.
- 13.8 The final part of stage B involves monitoring the effects of the Site Allocations DPD. At this stage, decisions will be made on what to monitor and how it should be done. Monitoring will enable problems to be identified during the implementation stage, and future predictions to be made more accurately. It will also provide a baseline for future Local Development Documents.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 13.9 The SA Report is the output of the SA process and it will publish information on the effects of the Site Allocations DPD for public consultation. The SA Report will clearly point out where the requirements as set out in Government guidance have been met

Stage D: Consulting on the Preferred Option of the Site Allocations DPD and the SA Report

- 13.10 The SA Report will be issued for public consultation along with the Site Allocations DPD at the pre-submission stage, in accordance with the District's SCI. The Site Allocations DPD at this stage puts forward the preferred option, and the SA Report should demonstrate the sustainability reasons for choosing the preferred option.
- 13.11 The Site Allocations DPD, once completed will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination along with the SA Report. The Inspector will, at the Examination, test the soundness of the Site Allocations DPD using the SA Report to form part of the evidence base. SA information will be made available for any changes in the Site Allocations DPD that would have significant sustainability effects which are made as a result of the consultation process following its submission for examination.
- 13.12 After the Examination, the Inspector will issue a binding report setting out any changes that must be made before the Site Allocations is adopted. The SA Report will be amended to take account of these changes. An Adoption Statement will be prepared setting out how the findings of the SA process have been incorporated into the Site Allocations DPD. The Adoption Statement will provide information on how monitoring will be carried out during the implementation of the Site Allocations DPD. The Site Allocations DPD, Adoption Statement and SA Report will be published on the Council's website, and made available to the Public and Statutory Bodies in Accordance with Regulation 36 of the Local Development Regulations.

Stage E: Monitoring the Significant Effects of Implementing the DPD

- 13.13 Monitoring proposals will have been considered at Stage C of the process, and reviewed as a result of consultation responses. Monitoring will highlight the significant effects of the Site Allocations DPD, and will provide a source of future baseline information. The Site Allocations DPD will be monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report process.

Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework



Site Allocations

Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

APPENDIX A – RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

April 2008

Forward Planning Section
Planning, Health & Environment Division
Wyre Forest District Council
Duke House
Clensmore Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 2JX

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

INTERNATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the pillars of sustainable development – economic, social development and environmental protection at local, national, regional and global levels. ▪ Responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to our children. ▪ Increase access to basic requirements - clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity. ▪ Assist access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, and ensure capacity building. 	Pillars of sustainable development are interwoven into the SA Process.
Rio Declaration on Environment & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it. ▪ Decrease the disparities in standards of living. ▪ Reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies. ▪ Facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. 	Undertake public consultation on the SA and Site Allocations DPD development to facilitate awareness and participation.
Aarhus Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sets out the obligation to safeguard the Environment for future generations. ▪ Links accountability and environmental protection. ▪ Imposes obligations re: access to information and public participation. 	Reflected in the SEA Directive the requirements of which need to be incorporated into the SA Report
Kyoto Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Established to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. ▪ UK committed itself to a 12.5% reduction in its green house gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydroflourocarbons, perflourocarbons and sulphur hexaflouride). It has also set out domestic target of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2010. 	Include SA Objective on reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the District.
The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (updated 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to combat climate change, ensure sustainable transport, address threats to public health and manage natural resources more responsibly and stop biodiversity decline, combat poverty and social exclusion and meet the challenge of an ageing population. 	Include SA objectives that work towards sustainable development and combating climate change.
European Habitats Directive (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status. 	Include SA Objective on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity within the District.
European Birds Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintenance of the favourable conservation status of wild bird species. 	Include SA Objective on

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

INTERNATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
(1979)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species. ▪ Establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds. 	maintaining and enhancing biodiversity within the District.
European Air Quality Directive (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants. Including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone. ▪ Pollutants governed by already existing ambient air quality objectives and benzene, carbon monoxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury. ▪ Establishes a community wide procedure for exchange of information and data on ambient air quality in the EC. 	Include SA Objective on promoting opportunities for sustainable travel to reduce transport emissions.
European Water Framework Directive (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. ▪ Four distinct elements; characterisation and assessment of impacts on river basin districts, environmental monitoring, the setting of environmental objectives and design and implementation of the programme of measures needed to achieve them. 	Include SA Objective on preservation and enhancement of the District's water resources.
European Sixth Environmental Action Plan (2001 – 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High level of protection for the environment and human health, for general improvement in the environment and quality of life. ▪ Identifies areas at risk of flooding and possible future flooding problems. 	Include SA Objective on seeking opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding within the District.
European Landscape Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The aim of the Convention is to achieve a greater unity between members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, it is concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment; Noting that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation; Aware that the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity; Acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas; Noting that developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional 	Include an SA objective on protecting and enhancing the landscape of the District.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

INTERNATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
	<p>planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes; Wishing to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes;</p> <p>Believing that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone;</p>	

NATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity by embedding it into all types of public policy. ▪ Sets out different actions to be taken in different areas, including urban areas, agriculture, water and woodland. 	Include SA objectives on preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the region.
UK Waste Strategy (DEFRA, 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tackling Waste is essential to securing sustainable development. ▪ Sets targets to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, landfill tax escalator will help to achieve this. ▪ Key target: - recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010. 	Include SA objectives on reducing consumption and increasing recycling.
Waste Strategy for England 2007 (DEFRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotes a move towards 'One Planet Living'. Reducing waste is an important contributor to this goal. ▪ Need to break the link between economic growth and waste growth, and use fewer natural resources. Most products should be re-used or their materials recycled. Energy should be recovered from other wastes where possible. For a small amount of residual material, landfill will be necessary. ▪ VISION: Despite major progress since 2000, England's performance on waste still lags behind many European countries. All parts of society will have to share responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producers will have to make products using more recycled materials and less newly extracted raw materials. They will have to design products that are less wasteful and take responsibility for the environmental impact of their products throughout their life. 	Include an SA objective on reducing waste, increasing recycling and promoting the waste hierarchy.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

NATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retailers will have to reduce packaging, source and market products that are less wasteful, and help their consumers to be less wasteful. • Consumers – both business and individual households – will have the opportunity to reduce their own waste, purchase products and services that generate less waste and reduce environmental impacts, and separate their waste for recycling. • Local authorities will have to commission or provide convenient recycling services for their residents and commercial customers and advice and information on how to reduce waste. They will also have to work with their communities to plan and invest in new collection and reprocessing facilities. • The waste management industry will have to invest in facilities to recycle and recover waste, and provide convenient waste services to their customers to recycle and recover their waste. <p>The Government's key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use; • meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020; • increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste; • secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste; and • get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies. 	
The Eddington Transport Study (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sets out the importance of a good transport system to maintaining a strong economy, and the importance of reducing congestion in urban areas. ▪ Transport contributes around a quarter of emissions and is the fastest growing source. There is a need to reduce the emissions from the transport sector in order to tackle global warming. 	Include SA objectives on reducing the need to travel, and encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport as alternatives to the private car.
Barker Review of Land Use Planning (DCLG, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase flexibility and responsiveness of the planning system through the quicker delivery of development plan documents and a more positive attitude to development. ▪ Improve the efficiency of the planning process, including major reform of the planning process for major infrastructure projects, and the streamlining of policies and processes including national planning 	Develop SA objective on the efficient use of land, prioritising the use of PDL and protecting urban green space.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

NATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
	<p>guidance policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote more efficient use of land through fiscal incentives to encourage business property to be kept in use and to develop vacant Brownfield sites, and a review of greenbelt policies to ensure that they are still appropriate. 	
Strong and Prosperous Communities – the Local Government White Paper (October 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall vision of revitalised local authorities working with their partners to reshape public services around the citizens and communities that use them. ▪ Requires the preparation of Local Area Agreements. Simplify procedures to enable the co-ordination of consultation on Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and Local Development Frameworks. 	The Site Allocations DPD should take account of the land use elements of the Community Strategy. Engage the LSP in a visioning exercise.
UK Strategy for Sustainable Development (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living within environmental limits. ▪ Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. ▪ Achieving a sustainable economy. ▪ Promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. ▪ Highlights four priority areas for action: Sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy, protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment and creating sustainable communities and a fairer world. ▪ For each of these areas, the Strategy identifies indicators through which to review progress. ▪ Includes 20 UK Framework Indicators intended to cover key impacts and outcomes that reflect the priority areas across the UK. 	Pillars of sustainable development are interwoven into the SA Process.
Urban White Paper (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People shaping the future of their community ▪ People living in attractive well-kept towns and cities which use space and buildings well. ▪ Good design and planning which makes it practical to live in a more environmentally sustainable way with less noise, pollution and traffic congestion. ▪ Towns and cities able to create and share prosperity investing to help all their citizens reach their full potential. ▪ Good quality services – health, education, housing, transport, finance, shopping, leisure and protection from crime that meets the needs of people and businesses wherever they are. 	Develop SA Objective on encouraging urban regeneration
Rural White Paper (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support vital village services ▪ Modernise rural services 	Develop SA Objective on promoting rural regeneration

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide affordable homes ▪ Deliver local transport solutions ▪ Rejuvenate market towns and a thriving local economy ▪ Set a new direction for framing. ▪ Preserve what makes rural England special ▪ Ensure everyone can enjoy an accessible countryside ▪ Give local power to country towns and villages ▪ Establishes a rural proofing mechanism to ensure that all major policies are assessed for their rural impact. 	through improving housing choice and localised services in appropriate areas.
Sustainable Communities Plan (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in urban and rural areas: - addressing the housing shortage through accelerating the provision of housing, affordable housing and tackling homelessness. ▪ Addressing low demand and abandonment ▪ Decent homes ▪ Liveability – improving local environments ▪ Protecting the countryside. 	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities to improve housing choice and provide affordable housing opportunities.
Transport 10 Year Plan (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ten-year strategy for investment in the future to create prosperity and a better environment. Approach based on integrated transport, public & private partnership and new projects to deliver a broad package of improvement by 2010. ▪ 50% increase in rail use ▪ 80% increase in rail freight ▪ Traffic congestion reduced below current levels particularly in large urban areas ▪ 10% increase in bus passenger journeys ▪ Safer cycling and walking routes, more 20mph areas and Home Zones for safer roads. 	Develop SA Objective to improve transport choice for local residents and to reduce the dependency on the private car as a mode of transport.
UK Climate Change Programme (1994)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve business use of energy, stimulate investment and cut costs. ▪ Energy labels, standards, integrated pollution prevention and control, stimulate new more efficient sources of power generation, ▪ Cut emissions from the transport sector, promote better energy efficiency in the domestic sector, improve energy efficiency requirements of the building regulations, ▪ Protecting and enhancing forests, ▪ New targets for improving energy management of public buildings, energy efficiency targets for local 	Develop SA Objective on protecting and enhancing forests and woodlands in the District.

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	authorities, schools and hospitals, developing green travel plans.	
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change (November 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Planning System's chief role will be encouraging buildings and infrastructure to take account of climate change, particularly by limiting development in floodplains. ▪ The Planning System will be a key tool for encouraging both private and public investment in locations that are less vulnerable to climate risks today and in the future. 	Develop SA Objective to take account of the effects of climate change and the location of new development in the District.
Energy White Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cut the UK's Carbon Dioxide emissions by some 60% by 2050 with real progress by 2020. ▪ To maintain the reliability of energy supplies. ▪ To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and improve productivity. ▪ To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. ▪ Envisages an energy system by 2020 that will be much more diverse, using a much greater mix of energy, especially electricity sources and technologies, therefore affecting the means of supply and the control and management of demand. 	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities for renewable energy facilities in appropriate circumstances and to improve the energy efficiency of new buildings.
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extends the public's ability to enjoy the Countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers. ▪ Creates a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land. ▪ Modernise the Rights of Way system ▪ Give greater protection to SSSIs. ▪ Provide better management arrangements for AONBs ▪ Strengthen Wildlife Enforcement Legislation. 	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities to access and enjoy the District's countryside in a sustainable manner.
Diversity and Equality in Planning 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early and effective engagement between LPAs and the communities they serve. ▪ Planning staff should understand the mix of people within their area and how it might be changing. Effective data analysis combined with local knowledge can help identify planning needs and monitor progress over time. 	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities to engage with local communities and address diverse local needs.
Untapped Potential – Identifying and Delivering Residential Development on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing on PDL can stimulate the renaissance of cities, towns and villages and increase population levels close to services and facilities, thus reducing travel demand and contributing to improved urban vitality. 	Ensure that SA objectives are developed to promote residential development on small sites.

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Previously Developed Land (CPRE, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PPS3 reinforces the Government's commitment to creating mixed and sustainable communities, and nationally there is a target to develop at least 60% of housing on PDL. ▪ The report has five key findings: ▪ Capacity assessments are underestimating actual PDL potential. ▪ The contribution of small sites is underestimated. ▪ Strong density policy helps increase development on PDL. ▪ Rigorous monitoring is key to accurate assessment of supply. ▪ Proactive development of PDL stimulates sustainable urban renaissance. 	
Waterways for Tomorrow (DEFRA, 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This report follows up 'A new Deal for Transport: Better for everyone' by setting out proposals for the future of our inland waterways – the canals and navigable rivers of England and Wales. ▪ The aims for the inland waterways are: to see an improving quality of infrastructure; a better experience for users through more co-operation between navigation authorities; and increased opportunities for all through sustainable development. ▪ The report also encourages the use of waterways for recreation, education, regeneration, and both passenger and freight transport. 	Ensure that the District's inland waterways are protected and enhanced.
Planning a Future for the Inland Waterways (IWAAC, 2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The report acknowledges that the inland waterways of England and Wales are a national asset. The Government wishes to improve the contribution that they make to quality of life in both rural and urban areas. This contribution spans a wide range of policy objectives and they are set out below. ▪ REGENERATION: Act as a Catalyst for economic and social regeneration; Increase development value and the opportunity for investment; Focus and link regeneration opportunities; Generate long-term economic activity and opportunities for investment; Promote inclusion and quality of life. ▪ SPORT AND RECREATION: Provide an important sport and recreation resource; Contribute to the health and well-being of society; Form corridors linking urban areas to the countryside; Promote accessibility to all members of society; Add value as a national fishery. ▪ TOURISM: Act as a tourism asset in their own right; provide a link between existing/new attractions; Support the holiday industry through water-based activities; Provide world-renowned destinations; Enhance the environment and attract increased visitor activity. ▪ HERITAGE, CULTURE AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Form a unique heritage, cultural, educational, landscape and environmental asset; Host a wide array of important historic buildings and structures; Contribute to the diversity of the natural environment by sustaining habitats and hosting rare species; Contribute to open space provision; provide a resource for water supply and land 	Develop an SA objective to protect the District's inland waterways.

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	<p>drainage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TRANSPORT: Contribute to integrated transport objectives; Provide transport routes on a local and national scale; Act as a waterborne transport corridor for people and freight; Form important cycling, walking and public access corridors. 	
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The report aims to: ▪ Ensure that the full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource is realised; ▪ Ensure that the historic environment is accessible to everybody and is seen as something with which the whole of society can identify and engage; ▪ Ensure that the historic environment is protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations; ▪ Ensure that the historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skilfully harnessed. 	Develop an SA objective to protect the historic environment.
Heritage Protection White Paper (DCMS, March 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The White paper sets out changes the changes that are proposed to the heritage system. The most relevant to this scoping exercise is the strengthening of protection for vulnerable sites. Under this section, the main changes include: ▪ World Heritage Site protection will be strengthened by the introduction of greater notification of major developments and strengthened protection against minor works. ▪ Protection will be strengthened for archaeological sites on cultivated land. The Class 1 consent system will be reformed to prevent work on sites where a management strategy had not been agreed. ▪ Designation will now include complex sites of early human activity that do not have structures. ▪ Subject to consultation; locally designated buildings could be protected from demolition and greater controls restored over Conservation Areas. 	Develop an SA objective that protects all aspects of the historic environment.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Act makes provision for the listing of buildings and the designation of Conservation Areas. It seeks to preserve buildings of special architectural or historic interest and areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which should be preserved. 	Develop an SA objective which protects the historic environment.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Act consolidates and amends the law relating to ancient monuments and makes provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest. 	Include an SA objective which protects archaeological remains within the District.
Code for Sustainable Homes –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Code has been developed to drive the construction of sustainable homes. ▪ It introduces minimum standards for energy and water efficiency and includes new areas of 	The SA process will ensure that sustainability is the central

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A step change in sustainable home building practice (DCLG, 2006)	<p>sustainability design such as lifetime homes and the inclusion of composting facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A star system indicates the overall sustainability performance of a home. ▪ The Code promotes reduced greenhouse gas emissions, better adaptation to climate change and a reduced impact on the environment overall. 	<p>consideration in the allocation of sites for development.</p> <p>Develop SA objectives to promote the development of sustainable homes.</p>
Planning for A Sustainable Future: The Planning White Paper (DCLG, 2007)	<p>The White Paper sets out our detailed proposals for reform in response to the recommendations made by Kate Barker and by Rod Eddington in respect of planning. Five core principles underpin the proposals: planning must be responsive, particularly to longer term challenges such as increasing globalisation and climate change, and properly integrate our economic, social and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; the planning system should be streamlined, efficient and predictable; there must be full and fair opportunities for public consultation and community engagement; the planning system should be transparent and accountable; and planning should be undertaken at the right level of government – national, regional and local.</p>	<p>The SA framework will test DPD objectives against economic, social and environmental criteria.</p> <p>Ensure the SA Framework includes an objective on public participation.</p>
PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributing to sustainable economic development. Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities. ▪ Ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design and efficient use of resources. ▪ Community involvement to present a shared vision and strategy of how the area should develop to achieve more sustainable patterns of development. ▪ High quality inclusive design in the layout of new developments and individual buildings in terms of function and impact. ▪ Consider people’s diverse needs and aim to break down unnecessary barriers and exclusions to benefit the whole community. ▪ Policies should take account of environmental issues such as: ▪ Mitigation of effects and adaptation to climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of renewable energy, air quality and pollution, land contamination, protection of groundwater from contamination and noise and light pollution. ▪ Protection of the wider countryside and impact of development on landscape quality, conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats. The promotion of biodiversity. ▪ Need to improve built and natural environment in and around urban areas and rural settlements including the provision of good quality open space, conservation of soil quality, preservation and enhancement of built and archaeological heritage. 	<p>The SA process will ensure that sustainability is the central consideration in the allocation of sites for development.</p>

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PPS: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS1 (DCLG 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sets out the role of planning in addressing climate change. ▪ Planning Authorities should provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable and low carbon energy generation. ▪ When allocating land for development, sustainability criteria set out within the document should be considered. . 	Develop SA objectives on both mitigating, and adapting to climate change and ensure principles set out under 'Selecting land for Development' are represented within the SA Framework.
PPG 2 – Green Belts 1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open, stopping towns merging into one another and to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns, and to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling or derelict and other urban land. ▪ Assumption against development that may be considered inappropriate in the Green Belt resulting in; the loss of open space, disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original dwelling and new uses associated with development conflicting with openness and the loss of visual amenity. ▪ When considering Green Belt boundaries and/or reviewing them Authorities must consider carefully whether the land should be better reserved for future development and thus ease the pressure on other land that should have the long-term protection of the Green Belt. ▪ Safeguarded land should be located where future development would be an efficient use of land, well integrated with existing development, and well related to public transport and other existing and planned infrastructure, so promoting sustainable development. 	Develop SA Objective to safeguard the greenbelt and open countryside.
PPS 3 – Housing (DCLG, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure wide choice of housing types available (both affordable and market). ▪ Deliver better balance between demand and supply and improve affordability. ▪ Create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities in all areas. ▪ Developments should be attractive, safe and designed and built to a high quality. They should be located in areas with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure. ▪ Housing land assessments and housing market assessments to be carried out by LPAs to inform LDFs and RSS. ▪ High quality housing that is designed and built to a high standard. ▪ A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice. 	Develop SA Objectives to provide a wider choice of housing through improving affordability to create inclusive and mixed communities in all areas of the District.
PPG 4 – Industrial, Commercial Development & Small Firms (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage continued economic development in a way, which is compatible with government environmental objectives. <p>New developments can be encouraged in locations:</p>	Develop SA Objective to encourage new business developments, but also ensure that they are in suitable,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Which minimise the length and number of trips, especially by motor vehicles. ▪ That can be served by more energy efficient modes of transport. ▪ That won't add unacceptably to congestion. ▪ Where development that requires access mainly to local roads is located away from trunk roads, to avoid unnecessary congestion on roads designed for longer distance movement. <p>In rural areas, applications for development necessary to sustain the rural economy should be weighed with the need to protect the countryside.</p>	sustainable locations and have minimal impact on the environment.
Draft PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purpose – to put into place a national planning policy framework for economic development at regional, sub-regional and local levels for both urban and rural areas. ▪ Policy outcomes for economic development are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise the productivity of the UK economy ▪ Maximise job opportunities for all ▪ Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions ▪ Deliver sustainable development, the key principles of which, including responding to climate change, are set out in PPS1 and its accompanying Annex on Climate Change ▪ Build prosperous communities by improving the economic performance of cities, sub-regions and local areas, promoting regeneration and tackling deprivation. 	Develop SA objective to encourage new business developments and ensure that new business development is sustainable and takes full account of the impacts of climate change.
PPS 6 – Planning for Town Centres (2005)	<p>Key objective for town centres is to promote viability and vitality by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning for the growth and development of existing centres ▪ Promoting and enhancing existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all. ▪ Enhancing consumer choice by making provision for a wide range of shopping, leisure and local services, which allow genuine choice to meet the needs of the entire community, and particularly socially excluded groups. ▪ Improving accessibility, ensuring that existing or new development is, or will be, accessible and well served by a choice means of transport. ▪ Promote social inclusion, ensuring that communities have access to a range of main town centre uses, and that deficiencies in provision in poor areas with poor access to facilities are remedied. ▪ Encourage investment to regenerate deprived areas, creating additional employment opportunities and 	<p>Develop SA objective to improve accessibility and transport choice to District and Local Centres.</p> <p>Develop SA objective to maintain and improve the attractiveness of the District's town centres.</p>

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	<p>an improved physical environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To deliver more sustainable patterns of development, ensuring that locations are fully exploited through high-density, mixed-use development and promoting sustainable transport choices, including reducing the need to travel and providing alternatives to car use ▪ Ensure that town centres provide an attractive, accessible and safe environment for businesses, shoppers and residents 	
PPS 7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of the circumstances, needs and priorities of the rural communities and businesses in their area and of the interdependence between urban and rural areas. • Planning authorities should focus most new development in or near to local service centres where employment, housing and services can be provided close together. • Policies for allowing some limited development in or next to rural settlements not designated as local service centres in order to maintain the vitality of these communities. • Should support a wide range of economic activity in rural areas. • Plan for accessible new services and facilities. Support mixed and multi-purpose uses that maintain community vitality. • Positive approach to planning proposals designed to improve the viability, accessibility or community value of existing services and facilities. • It is essential that LPA's plan to meet housing requirements in rural areas based on an up to date assessment of local need. • Ensure that the quality and character of the wider countryside is protected and where possible enhanced. • Support development that delivers diverse and sustainable farming enterprises and countryside based enterprises which contribute to rural economies and promote recreation in and the enjoyment of the countryside, • Conserve specified features and sites of landscape, wildlife and historic or architectural value in accordance with statutory designations. • Re-use of appropriately located and suitable constructed existing buildings in the countryside where this would meet sustainable development objectives. • Presence of best and most versatile agricultural land should be taken into account alongside other sustainability considerations when determining planning applications. • Supportive approach to farm diversification should not result in excessive expansion and encroachment 	<p>Develop SA Objective to promote rural vitality within the District's rural areas.</p>

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	<p>of building and development into the countryside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies for supporting equine enterprises that maintain environmental quality and countryside character. • LPAs should have regard to the Regional Forestry Framework and forest areas of regional or sub-regional significance when preparing LDDs and deciding planning applications. • LDDs should support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit rural businesses, communities and visitors, which utilise and enrich but do not harm the character of the countryside. 	
PPG 8 – Telecommunications 1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. ▪ Protect public health. ▪ Protect the countryside and urban areas – especially national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, SSSI's, Green Belts, and areas and buildings of architectural or historic importance. ▪ Authorities should seek not to prevent competition between operators and should not question the need for the proposed development. ▪ The sharing of masts and sites is strongly encouraged where that represents the optimum environmental solution in a particular case. ▪ Encourage roll out to rural areas whilst managing potentially undesirable impacts upon the environment. 	
PPS 9 – Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policies should seek to maintain, or enhance, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests ▪ Policies on the form and location of development should take a strategic approach to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geology, and recognise the contributions that individual sites and areas make to conserving these resources in the wider environment ▪ Development policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development. ▪ Policies should aim to maintain, enhance, or add to, biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including incorporating features into development 	Include sustainability objective to maintain/enhance biodiversity and geological conservation within the District.
PPS 10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. ▪ Step change in the way waste is handled and significant new investment in waste management facilities. Providing sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities of the right type, in the 	Include SA Objective to plan for sustainable waste management.

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	<p>right place and at the right time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waste management should be considered alongside other spatial planning concerns, such as transport, housing, economic growth, natural resources and regeneration. ▪ Good design and layout in new development can help to secure opportunities for sustainable waste management, including for kerbside collection and community recycling as well as for larger waste facilities. ▪ The Waste Hierarchy: Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting, Energy Recovery, Disposal. 	
PPS 11 – Regional Spatial Strategies (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site Allocations DPD needs to be in general conformity with the RSS. ▪ RSS provides a broad development strategy for the West Midlands Region up until 2021. For example, it identifies scale and distribution of provision for new housing, priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals extraction and waste treatment and disposal. 	Ensure that the RSS informs the policies and option analysis within the SA.
PPS 12 – Local Development Frameworks (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LPAs should take account of the principles and characteristics of other relevant strategies and programmes when preparing the Site Allocations DPD. ▪ LDF should be a key component in the delivery of the community strategy setting out its spatial aspects where appropriate and providing long-term spatial vision. ▪ Good design including consideration of access issues are crucial to the deliver of sustainable development. 	The Community Strategy is incorporated within the SA Scoping process.
Draft Replacement PPS12: Streamlining Local Development Frameworks: Consultation (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Planning White Paper made a number of proposals to streamline LDF production. This document has been seeks consultation responses to these changes. It sets out the proposals and asks a series of questions about them. ▪ The main areas of change concern improved consultation arrangements, revisions to the process of plan making, and in the way Supplementary Planning Documents are produced. Changes to the PPS include emphasising the key role the Core Strategy plays; the need for making progress with LDFs; increasing the flexibility local authorities have in producing documents so as to concentrate on the essentials, and repackaging the tests of soundness. 	Ensure that the Site Allocations DPD is prepared in accordance with emerging guidance.
PPG 13 – Transport (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote development within urban areas at locations highly accessible by means other than the private car. ▪ Locate major generators of travel demand in existing centres, which are highly accessible by means 	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities for sustainable modes of transport including

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	<p>other than the private car.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening existing local centres, which offer a range of everyday community, shopping and employment opportunities, and aim to protect and enhance their viability and vitality. ▪ Maintain and improve choice for people to walk, cycle or catch public transport rather than drive between homes and facilities which they tend to visit regularly. ▪ Limit parking provision for developments and other on or off street parking provision to discourage reliance on the car for work and other journeys where there are effective alternatives. 	walking, cycling and public transport.
PPG 14 – Development on unstable land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development proposals should ensure that land use is appropriate in the light of any known landslide risk. ▪ Encourage full and effective use of land in an environmentally friendly manner. ▪ Given proper safeguards, land which had been damaged by mining or other industrial activities or which is naturally unstable can often be put to appropriate uses. <p>The principal aims of considering land instability are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To minimise the risks and effects of land instability on property, infrastructure and the public. ▪ To help ensure that various types of development should not be placed in unstable locations without appropriate precautions. ▪ To bring unstable land, where possible, back into productive use. ▪ Any necessary protection or remedial works will not lead to significant adverse environmental effects at the site or elsewhere. ▪ Built development may not be appropriate unless adequate and environmentally acceptable slope stabilisation measures are included. ▪ Ensure that new development is suitable for the ground conditions at its location and will not be threatened by subsidence in the near future. 	Develop SA Objective to take account of the effects of climate change and the location of new development in the District
PPG 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sets out clear policies for the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment. ▪ The historic environment should not be sacrificed in favour of short-term interests but also recognise that it cannot be preserved entirely unchanged. ▪ Economic prosperity can secure the continued vitality of historic areas and buildings if realistic and imaginative approach to their alteration and change of use. ▪ Conservation plays a key part in economic prosperity by offering attractive conditions that encourage inward investment. 	Develop SA objective to give protection to and enhancement of the various elements of the historic environment but also to allow for appropriate change.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need positive management of development in conservation areas to ensure vitality and prosperity. ▪ Design in historic area needs careful consideration in terms of scale, height, mass, alignment and materials but not necessarily copies of old style buildings. ▪ Need to integrate old buildings into the townscape. 	
PPG 16 – Archaeology and Planning (1990)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and their settings. ▪ Archaeological remains identified and scheduled, as being of national importance should be earmarked for preservation in Local Plans. 	Ensure sites of archaeological importance are preserved within the District.
PPG 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To maintain an adequate supply of open space and sports and recreational facilities. ▪ High quality/value open spaces should be recognised and protected through appropriate policies. ▪ Local authorities should; avoid any erosion of recreational function and maintain or enhance the character of open space. ▪ Encourage better accessibility of open spaces and recreational facilities. Local planning authorities should ensure that new facilities are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport as alternatives to the use of the car. ▪ Open space has multiple functions: defining and separating urban areas, support regeneration, improve quality of life, promote health and well being, provide havens and habitats for flora and fauna, act as a community resource and as a visual amenity. 	Develop SA Objective to preserve and enhance open space and recreational facilities within the District.
PPG 19 – Outdoor Advertisement Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To help everyone involved in the display of adverts to contribute positively to the appearance of an attractive and cared-for environment. 	The majority of adverts benefit from deemed consent. Planning control is primarily concerned with illuminated signs in conservation areas and free-standing signs.
PPS 22 – Renewable Energy (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should contain policies designed to promote and encourage rather than restrict the development of renewable energy resources. ▪ LPA's should recognise the full range of renewable energy sources, their differing characteristics, locational requirements and potential for exploiting them subject to appropriate environmental safeguards. 	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities for renewable energy facilities within the District in appropriate circumstances.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small-scale projects can provide a limited but valuable contribution to overall outputs of renewable energy and to meeting energy needs both locally and nationally. ▪ LPA's and LSPs should foster community involvement in renewable energy projects and seek to promote knowledge of and greater acceptance by the public of prospective renewable energy projects that are appropriately located. 	
PPS 23 – Planning & Pollution Control (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aim to keep apart housing and other developments sensitive to pollution from polluting or potentially polluting uses, where such uses cannot reasonably coexist. ▪ Policies for development on and remediation of existing contaminated and derelict land. ▪ Control and minimise pollution ▪ In terms of contaminated land, identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment ▪ The principles of sustainable development and the precautionary principal should be taken into account 	Develop SA Objective that reduce the effects of pollution and reduce the amount of contaminated land.
PPG 24 – Planning & Noise 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noise-sensitive developments should be located away from existing sources of significant noise. ▪ Policies to avoid potentially noisy developments in areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise nuisance and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason. ▪ The character of the noise (and frequency) should be taken into account, as well as its level. ▪ Consideration should be given to whether proposals for new noise sensitive development would be incompatible with existing facilities. ▪ Planning authorities should consider both the likely level of noise exposure at the time of the application and any increase that may reasonably be expected in the foreseeable future. ▪ Measures to control the source of, or limit exposure to, noise include; engineering, layout and restricting operation times/activities permitted on a site. 	Consider quality of life issues when planning for new development in the District.
PPS25 - Development & Flood Risk (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. 	Develop SA objective to reduce and manage the risk of flooding in the District.
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (DCLG, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The document states that the planning system has a vital role to play in terms of facilitating the development and improvement of tourism in appropriate locations. ▪ The document pints out that the planning system, by taking a pro-active role in facilitating and promoting the implementation of good quality development, is crucial to ensuring that the tourism industry can develop and thrive. At the same time, the planning system aims to ensure that these 	Ensure that the SA takes into account the role of the planning system in developing opportunities for sustainable tourism.

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	<p>benefits are achieved in the most sustainable manner possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The document emphasises that the planning process provides the opportunity to help to make new development more sustainable, both through the preparation of development plans and when decisions are taken on specific schemes. The outcomes should be developments which: provide well-designed, safe and accessible development, and create new opportunities that will improve the well being of individuals and the regeneration of communities; result in the more efficient use of land and bring forward sufficient land to meet a wide range of expected needs; provide a supportive framework for economic growth and successful business; create vibrant, vital and viable town centres; reduce the need to travel; and protect and enhance the natural and built environment and safeguard natural resources. 	
Physical Activity and the Environment National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (January 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The guide presents the recommendations on 'Promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity'. ▪ The guidance presents the first national, evidence-based recommendations on how to improve the physical environment to encourage physical activity. It demonstrates the importance of such improvements and the need to evaluate how they impact on the public's health. ▪ 1) Involve communities and experts in developing strategies, policies and plans to ensure the potential for physical activity is maximised and ensure that local facilities and services are easily accessible on foot and bicycle, and that children can participate in physically active play. ▪ 2) Ensure pedestrians and cyclists are given the highest level of priority when designing new developments ▪ 3) Plan and provide a comprehensive network of pedestrian and cycle routes which offer everyone convenient, safe and attractive access to workplaces, homes, schools and other facilities. ▪ 4) Ensure public open spaces can be reached on foot or by bicycle and by public transport. ▪ 5) Ensure different parts of campus sites are linked by pedestrian and cycle routes and ensure that new workplaces are linked to pedestrian and cycle routes. 	Ensure the SA contains an objective to increase walking and cycling and reduce the need to travel by the private car.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ageing society poses one of our greatest housing challenges. By 2026 older people will account for almost half (48 per cent) of the increase in the total number of households, resulting in 2.4 million more older households than there are today. ▪ Today, most of our homes and communities are not designed to meet people's changing needs as they grow older. Older people's housing options are too often limited to care homes or sheltered housing. Put simply, we need more and better homes for older people now. 	Ensure the SA includes an objective on provision of homes to meet the needs of all people.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vision: We want to prepare our communities for the multiple changes that we will face; to ‘future proof’ our society so that it does not alienate or exclude; and to allow everybody, regardless of age, to participate and enjoy their home and their environment for as long as possible. ▪ It is not just lifetime homes that are needed, but lifetime neighbourhoods, where older people are not left out or forgotten because they cannot access buildings or public spaces. ▪ We will ensure therefore that all public housing will be built to Lifetime Homes Standards by 2011. Our aspiration is that all new housing will be built to these standards by 2013. ▪ It is not just lifetime homes that are needed, but lifetime neighbourhoods, where older people are not left out or forgotten because they cannot access buildings or public spaces. 	
REGIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Regional Sustainable Development Framework – Refreshed Version (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aims to help people develop review and implement strategies, policies and plans in the West Midlands region. Tool to help this happen, by setting out a common set of objectives based around four themes, designed to help the Region move towards a more sustainable future. ▪ Sustainable Consumption and Production: includes objectives to use more recycled materials in construction, promote high standards of resource efficient construction, reduce dependence on the private car, minimise waste, encourage local sourcing of food, goods and materials, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and encourage social and environmental responsibility amongst businesses and individuals. ▪ Climate Change and Energy: includes objectives to reduce energy consumption, increase the supply of renewable and low-carbon energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and implement a managed response to the effects of climate change. ▪ Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement: includes objectives to protect and restore environmental assets, maintain and recreate bio-diversity, minimise all forms of pollution, promote local distinctiveness and sense of place, encourage local stewardship of local environments, and promote environmental justice. ▪ Sustainable Communities: includes objectives to promote community engagement, ensure access to 	Ensure that the RSDF Objectives are reflected within the SA objectives.

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	jobs and services, tackle poverty, reduce health inequalities, provide affordable housing for all, reduce crime, and promote lifelong learning.	
West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2004 – 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 76% of new housing on brownfield land creating balanced communities through providing a range of different housing with different tenures and within rural areas targeting new housing to meet local needs and to support local services. ▪ Improvements to quality of environment and access to high quality public services and transport. Creating a high quality built environment, landscapes and enhancing urban greenspace and public spaces, the historic environment, restoring degraded land, increasing forestry and woodland and areas for increasing biodiversity. ▪ A positive approach towards renewable energy and energy conservation. Regional targets for waste reduction and recycling. ▪ Reducing the need to travel and to make the best use of infrastructure while targeting investment at areas in a joined up way across the different types of transport. Need to change people's attitude to travel, promote public transport and strategic park and ride. ▪ Increase range and quality of business opportunities available. ▪ Create balanced communities and provide the commercial, retail, transport and leisure facilities to serve a wider area, thereby minimising the need to travel further afield. ▪ Kidderminster to provide the main focus in the District for large scale retail, leisure, business and commercial development and other major community facilities like health, education and public administration. 	<p>The Site Allocations DPD will need to be in general conformity with the RSS.</p> <p>Develop SA Objectives to reflect the RSS policies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Creating more housing choice and balanced communities. . - Providing high quality public services and transport. - Enhancing urban greenspace and public spaces. - Increasing forestry, woodland and biodiversity.
West Midlands Housing Strategy 2006 – 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create mixed, balanced and inclusive communities ▪ Assist in the delivery of urban and rural renaissance as per RSS ▪ Influence future development of new housing provision to facilitate and enhance economic development ▪ Address variety of different housing needs ▪ See that Decent Homes standards are met ▪ Achieve social and other affordable housing ▪ Achieve sustainable access to minimise environmental resource consumption and traffic and improve the quality of the environment 	Develop SA Objective to ensure the District Council is able to meet the District's housing requirements.
West Midlands Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve accessibility and performance of the transport system while not perpetuating post trends in car traffic and trip length growth. 	Include SA Objective to reduce the need to travel and to promote

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Transport Strategy 2004 – 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LPA's, developers and other agencies should work together to reduce the need to travel, especially by car and reduce the length of journeys. ▪ Provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling. ▪ Development plans should require all planning applications involving significant travel demand to include transport assessments and provide proposals for travel plans. ▪ An integrated hierarchy of public transport services should be developed with priority given to the improvement of services and interchanges within urban areas and the development of links with catchment areas. In rural areas priority should be given to the development of community and public transport services, particularly those providing links from rural hinterlands to key local service centres. ▪ Local Authorities, other agencies and key representatives should work together to develop a network of Strategic Park & Ride sites to reduce congestion in major centres. ▪ Local authorities should manage their car parking to reduce congestion and encourage more sustainable forms of travel. 	sustainable modes of transport.
Black Country Sub-Regional Study RSS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reverse the trend of people leaving the Black Country. ▪ Raise income levels by ensuring better skills and types of jobs ▪ Attract and retain people with higher level skills. ▪ Protect and enhance the environment and create a safe, attractive and healthy place to live and work. <p>Suggests three potential directions for change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on growth being directed at the Black Country's most important centres – Wolverhampton, Walsall, West Bromwich and Brierley Hill. - Emphasis on growth along corridors – canals and public transport routes – focussed around more sustainable travel opportunities. - Emphasis on planned dispersal – maintains the broad pattern of mixed land uses that exists at present. 	Take account of the findings of the Black Country Study, particularly urban regeneration, rural renaissance and sustainable travel opportunities.
West Midlands RSS Revision Phase Two – Spatial Options Consultation (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'The overall vision for the West Midlands is one of an economically successful, outward looking and adaptable Region, which is rich in culture and environment, where all people, working together, are able to meet their aspirations and needs without prejudicing the quality of life of future generations'. ▪ This phase of the RSS considers housing, employment, transport and waste. ▪ The WMRSS Revision seeks to retain a strong emphasis on urban renaissance and the concentration of new housing development within the major urban Areas (MUAs) close to where demand arises. 	Take account of the policies set out within the emerging RSS Phase Two Revision, particularly the figures that relate to the District.

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	<p>Excessive development on greenfield sites outside these areas could fundamentally undermine the process of urban renaissance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The policies in the prosperity for All section contribute to the sustainable communities growth agenda through the maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth as a key element of the overall strategy for sustainable development by helping to support improvements in both the environment and quality of life for everyone who lives in the region. ▪ The underlying philosophy of the Quality of the Environment chapter is that while in some cases the environment may act as a constraint on certain types of development, overall, it should be regarded as a major asset to the Region, supporting wider economic and social aspirations and acting as a key component in regeneration. ▪ The Transport and Accessibility section aims to reduce the need to travel by private car through the delivery of a range of measures including; improving walking and cycling provision; promoting travel awareness initiatives; significantly improving public transport; improving park and ride facilities and introducing appropriate demand management measures. 	Support the objectives of the RSS.
West Midlands Economic Strategy December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ VISION <i>'To be a global centre where people and businesses choose to connect.'</i> ▪ The vision will be achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ becoming a more prosperous region, but recognising that economic growth must support overall improvements in the quality of life and wellbeing of all the region's residents; ▪ becoming a more cosmopolitan and inclusive region, making full use of the skills and talents of our people and ensuring equality of opportunity, across the region, in relation to the wealth and prosperity generated through continued economic growth; ▪ becoming a more sustainable region, correctly valuing our natural, historic and cultural assets, seeking to minimise our use of the planet's resources and preparing for a low-carbon future. 	Promote opportunities for economic growth and diversification, whilst ensuring that the environment is protected.
West Midlands Regional Innovation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve living standards by promoting innovation and strengthening the economic base of the region. ▪ Promotion of collaborative innovation activity – research development, design, market research and training. 	Promote opportunities for innovative business development within the District to help diversify the economy.
West Midlands Cultural Strategy 2001 – 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aims towards benefits to the community including a better environment, which is healthier and more attractive with more local people, involved in its conservation and regeneration. ▪ No one should be excluded from cultural involvement, access for all is a key priority; it is also essential 	Include Quality of life and community cohesion as a SA Objective.

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	<p>for continuing viability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People of all ages and backgrounds must be made aware of the opportunities available. To achieve real social inclusion a more direct targeting of resources is needed, as is working closely with education and community services. ▪ Local authorities have key roles in ensuring that the needs and aspirations of local people are fully reflected in their plans for cultural development. Sustainability will also require increased investment and strong partnerships at both the local and regional levels. 	
West Midlands Visitor Economy Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to create successful sustainable destinations ▪ Need to focus on key destinations and gateways ▪ Encourages the development of , and investment in, the destinations of the future ▪ Developing sustainable tourism and transport initiatives ▪ Focus public and private sector investment on the sustainable (re)development of key visitor destinations ▪ Focus on 'sense of place', 'liveability' and authentic local products ▪ Link destinations using information, signage and integrated public transport ▪ Develop sustainable projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To meet market needs - To fit with established themes - With professional business planning - Through partnership working 	Develop SA Objective to promote the use of public transport in linking destinations.
West Midlands Energy Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sets out how the region can contribute towards the development of renewable energy and greater take up of energy efficiency. ▪ 2020 vision: Delivered the West Midlands commitment to the climate change challenge. ▪ Ensured a sustainable, secure and affordable supply of energy for everyone. ▪ Strengthened the Region's economic capability ▪ Overall aims of strategy: To improve energy efficiency, to increase the use of renewable energy, to ensure that business benefits from commercial opportunities to produce energy efficient products/initiatives. ▪ To provide focussed and practical delivery. 	Include SA Objective to incorporate opportunities for renewable energy generation within the District's new developments.
West Midlands Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The vision is to create a viable and inclusive woodland and forestry sector that maximises sustainable development through the delivery of economic, environmental and cultural and social benefits to the 	Develop SA Objective to promote woodland and forestry as a key

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Forestry Framework	<p>people of the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aim to increase significantly woodland cover, linked to the Regional Spatial Strategy and local plans. ▪ To promote the role of woodland and forestry in the effective delivery of public benefits. ▪ Support the development of wood energy through the evolving renewable energy resource, through improved awareness and support. ▪ Increase the diversity, quality and accessibility of woodland recreation, for long-term public access. ▪ Social Inclusion. Enhancing opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy trees and woodlands. ▪ Protecting and enhancing the biodiversity and ecological value of our woodlands. ▪ Improve the contribution that trees and woodlands provide for our natural, built and historic environment. ▪ For regeneration; embedding woodlands and forestry as a key component of new and revitalised green space and development sites in and around our towns and cities. 	<p>component of green space and development sites within the District.</p>
West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain and improve the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems ▪ Develop an area based approach to restoring wildlife ▪ Monitor the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems ▪ Reconnect and integrate action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity ▪ Cope with the impact of climate change 	<p>Develop SA objective to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the District.</p>
West Midlands Regional Water Resources Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future developments in the West Midlands should recognise the limited availability of water as an influence their location and timing, and should incorporate water efficiency measures and sustainable drainage systems at the feasibility or planning stage ▪ Water abstraction cut backs are necessary in some area to improve the environment ▪ A twin track approach to meeting future demands should be followed, combining further water resource developments and improvements with sensible management of our demands through efficient use ▪ Over the next 25years, household metering will become more widespread, providing a greater incentive for sustainable use of water in the home, with appropriate tariffs to protect vulnerable households ▪ Industry should strive to use water efficiently and realise the economic and environmental benefits ▪ Farmers should strive to use water efficiently and consider opportunities to work with others to develop new sources of water and consider the development of winter storage to ensure reliable supplies ▪ Climate change studies suggest summers could become drier and winters wetter. Water resource options that are flexible to the possible impacts of climate change are preferred 	<p>Develop SA objective to ensure the efficient use of water resources and to promote the use of sustainable drainage systems.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mineral and aggregate companies should take steps to minimise the impact of their extraction operations on the local water environment. 	
Severn Trent Water Resources Plan 2005-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demand for water is projected to stay essentially flat, and is therefore not a driver. ▪ Abstraction reductions may be required to achieve environmental objectives such as reducing nitrate levels. ▪ Over the 25 year planning period, there is a potential need for significant new strategic water resource developments to counter the impacts of climate change. ▪ There are many assumptions and uncertainties in the calculations of available water supply and demand. 	Ensure that the Site Allocations DPD takes full account of water availability when allocating sites for development.
Choosing Health: Draft Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy (WMRA, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vision: "To maintain, enhance, improve and protect the health and well-being of people in the Region and to reduce health inequalities by 2020 within environmental limits, so as not to compromise healthy life for future generations" ▪ Key aims include reducing health inequalities; eliminating child poverty; ensuring health issues are promoted in other strategies; partnership working; and promoting health and well-being and sustainable development as an integrated agenda. ▪ Planning can assist in delivering the vision by; creating sustainable communities; identifying sites for health and education facilities; and maximising investment through planning agreements. 	<p>Include an SA objective on improved health and well-being.</p> <p>Ensure the Site Allocations DPD safeguards existing health and education facilities and identifies appropriate locations for new provision where necessary.</p>
Fluvial Severn Flood Risk Management Strategy (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50yr framework for management of flood risk and a 5yr plan for capital investment in flood defence management. ▪ Identify and assess potential solutions: economically, technically and environmentally. ▪ Identify preferred flood risk management options and any environmental enhancements. ▪ In locations where there are no significant populations at flood risk, and where it would be economically viable, the preferred environmental option would be to manage retreat to allow reclamation of the floodplain. ▪ A long term vision for development can deliver reduced flood risk. 	Include SA Objective to identify flood risk management options and any environmental enhancements.
South Housing Market Area: South Housing Market Assessment (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SHMA update at March 2007 shows a higher surplus of open market housing for sale in Wyre Forest and also a surplus in private rented accommodation. (Private rented sector used by those unable to access other tenures). Main change - no. of social re-lets falling greatly from 501 to 391. This means there is a shortfall of 107 a year. Add in those households which can not buy at 50% LQ price gives a total shortfall of 303 affordable housing units p.a. This is nearly 5 times the projected level of new 	Include an indicator on affordable housing.

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	affordable supply. Only Stratford and Warwick Districts have a greater shortfall. NB 2007/08 saw 84 affordable units completed with over 100 predicted for 2008/09.	
South Housing Market Area: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Both the Local Authority residential sites are full. 30 additional pitches required for Gypsies on existing public and private sites. It may be possible for more private sites to be set up to cater for some of this need. Need to consider suitability and sustainability of sites in Stourport area. 	Include an indicator on housing for all members of the community.

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Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “A County with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment.” <p>Identifies 36 outcomes under 6 thematic blocks as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Communities that are safe and feel safe. B. A better environment for today and tomorrow C. Economic success that is shared by all. D. Improving health and well being E. Meeting the needs of children and young people F. Stronger communities <p>Includes an outcome under A as follows:</p> <p>A5: To improve the quality of life of people living in Broadwaters and Horsefair.</p>	Ensure that the LAA Objectives are reflected within the SA Framework.
Partnership Towards Excellence: A Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communities that are healthy and support vulnerable people ▪ A safer place to live, work, learn, travel and do business. 	Ensure that the Community Strategy Objectives are reflected

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Strategy for Worcestershire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People able to acquire the skills, knowledge and self-esteem they need to allow them to be active citizens and achieve personal fulfilment. ▪ Worcestershire as a prosperous County which continues to build on strengths and by diversifying and modernising to meet the needs of a changing economy. ▪ Worcestershire's environment and everything it contains to be protected, conserved and enhanced to ensure that we keep the best of our inheritance for future generations. ▪ Worcestershire to be vibrant and celebrate diversity, to include everyone and give them equal access to public services and opportunities to take part in community life and have a strong sense of citizenship. 	within the SA Framework.
Partnership Towards Excellence – The Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire SECOND EDITION 2008 – 2013 (Draft 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Sustainable Community Strategy addresses six themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Communities that are safe and feel safe</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better environment for today and tomorrow • Economic success that is shared by all • Improving health and well being • Meeting the needs of children and young people ▪ Stronger communities - covering a range of issues including housing, culture and volunteering. ▪ The thirty priorities to be tackled are set out under the six themes. ▪ Vision – “A County with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment” 	Ensure that the vision and key priorities are reflected in the SA and the Site Allocations DPD.
Worcestershire County Structure Plan (1996 – 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long term planning document covering the period 1996-2011. ▪ Encourage and promote land use activities that will lead to an improvement in the quality of air, water and land. ▪ Seek a reduction in the consumption of energy and finite resources through the more efficient use of resources, recycling, the use of renewable sources and the reduction in the amount of waste produced. ▪ Protect from damaging development and land use activity, and enhance, biodiversity and diverse and important environmental. Landscape townscape and historic features and characteristics. ▪ Ensure the integration of development within the landscape in order to protect and enhance essential landscape characteristics and features. ▪ Protect and expand amenity areas and open spaces, and access to them, in both town and country. ▪ Meet the housing requirements of the population of the new County through the provision of an adequate range of housing including general market, affordable and social housing in a way which protects the environment and makes the most effective use of the existing settlement pattern. 	Ensure that the Structure Plan policies are incorporated into the SA Framework.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work towards a better balance between housing, employment, social and community facilities within settlements ▪ Encourage development that will help retain and enhance the identity, character and vitality of settlements. ▪ Promote energy efficient construction, design and development patterns. ▪ Seek the location of development in areas which will minimise the need to travel and reduce the distances required to be travelled (energy efficient locations) ▪ Guide new development to locations that can be served by a choice of transport modes for both the movements of people and freight. ▪ Support and facilitate the development of alternative modes of travel to the car. ▪ Facilitate the strengthening and diversification of the economic base of the Region and of Worcestershire by the provision of a mixed portfolio of development locations and sites and by the enhancement and management of an attractive County environment. ▪ Encourage urban and rural regeneration ▪ Support the enhancement, development and integration of, and access to, a range of recreation facilities both within and around settlements. ▪ Seek to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by introducing crime prevention as a material consideration into the land-use and development planning process. ▪ Prudent use of natural resources in order to minimise their use and to conserve them for future generations. ▪ There is a primary need to reduce energy use wherever possible at all stages of the development process. ▪ The loss of or detrimental impact to the County's environmental assets or landscape character should be avoided. ▪ Encourage development on previously developed land ▪ Deliver sustainable patterns of development, which allow accessibility to jobs, education, health, shopping, leisure and other local services. ▪ A key element of sustainability is to ensure that town centres within the County are not undermined by development proposals elsewhere. ▪ Skylines and hill features and prominent views of such features contribute to local landscape character and as such should be protected from development. ▪ The principle of sustainable development must be applied to agricultural land, and this will require the protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land for future generations, whilst recognising the 	

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	<p>environmental, economic and social needs of rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development will be expected to incorporate measures to prevent the pollution of watercourses and aquifers. ▪ Support for proposals that incorporate renewable energy/energy efficiency measures. 	
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2 (2006 – 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sets out Transport Strategy for Worcestershire for 2006 – 11. Identifies an area strategy for Wyre Forest which includes the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WF.1 To identify and implement an appropriate traffic management scheme to reduce traffic emissions on the A451 at Horsefair and to enable the Air Quality Management Area designation to be removed. - WF.2 To undertake a transportation study for the Wyre Forest area, which will result in the identification of the preferred transport strategy to support the economic regeneration of the SREC. This will form the basis for a future major scheme funding bid for implementation of the strategy within the LTP3 period. ▪ To work with rail industry partners and the SVR to undertake improvements at Kidderminster Railway Station, that will improve accessibility within and to the Station, improve the connectivity between the station and the town centre and improve bus/rail interchange. ▪ To implement a package of measures within Bewdley town centre to improve air quality and the town centre environment. ▪ To work with Stourport Forward partners to identify and implement a package of transportation measures to reduce congestion and improve the environment within Stourport Town Centre. ▪ To support the work of WFBQP by helping the development of a fully integrated, affordable public and community transport network for Wyre Forest, providing the opportunity for seamless multi-modal journeys. ▪ To work with the Highways Agency to develop the future strategy for the management of the A449 and A456 Trunk Road routes. ▪ To undertake a review of all aspects of school transport provision, including school travel plans, as part of the Wyre Forest Schools Review and in particular to identify opportunities for better integration of school bus services. 	The Transport Strategy for Wyre Forest will be reflected in the Site Allocations DPD, which should support the implementation of this strategy.
Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Takes objectives/targets of UK BAP and translates them into a Worcestershire context ▪ Contains Habitat Action Plans for 19 key wildlife habitats and Species Action Plans for 20 key species ▪ Habitat Action Plans aim to preserve habitats and their associated species by protecting existing sites, restoring degraded sites and where appropriate creating new sites. ▪ Species Action Plans aim to protect viable populations through protecting and enhancing them 	Develop SA objective to safeguard and enhance biodiversity and promote creation of appropriate new habitats

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Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5-year strategy aimed at developing and implementing a countywide vision for the Supporting People Programme. A number of key priorities include; making neighbourhoods safer, addressing homelessness, tackling substance misuse and supporting those who are vulnerable through age, disability or life experience to become independent. Particular emphasis is placed on the supported-housing market. ▪ Making our neighbourhoods safer through addressing crime, community safety and anti-social behaviour. ▪ Committed to services that deliver the highest standards of equality and diversity including; promoting equal opportunities and social cohesion and responding to the needs of each eligible group and working to engage all eligible sections of the community. ▪ Promote the integration of health/social care support services to maintain the health and well –being of vulnerable people. 	Include SA Objective to reduce crime and promote community cohesion.
Worcestershire County Council Tourism Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help provide a high quality experience for all visitors, and to bring economic, social and environmental benefit through a growing and sustainable visitor economy ▪ Take opportunities to link with regional and county initiatives on the economy, transport, environment, leisure and cultural development where they impact on tourism and tourism can make a contribution ▪ Encourage walking, cycling, the development of 'quiet lanes', public transport interchange points and coach parties and other transport initiatives that strengthen appeal to visitors 	Include sustainability objectives to promote tourism for all visitors in a sustainable fashion
A Cultural Strategy for Worcestershire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The integration of culture into environmental initiatives helps to bring people and the planning process closer together. Programs that make use of creativity in addressing environmental issues can promote even greater empathy and awareness across a Worcestershire community, which already values its built heritage and natural environment very highly. The benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better understanding of the needs of environmental issues (through a crosscutting and integrated approach) • managing tourism and balancing the needs of local people with promoting sustainable growth (through awareness and a wider educational context) • direct and real improvements to natural assets • strengthening support for community-based projects • getting residents actively involved in environmental improvements 	Include SA Objective to improve community cohesion.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

COUNTY		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies preferred areas for the working of sand and gravel in the County and sets out detailed policies. ▪ Proposals in the Green Belt must contribute to Green Belt purposes by maintaining openness and visual amenity and must be environmentally and ecologically acceptable. ▪ All proposals must be accompanied by detailed proposals for the reclamation of the site to an agreed after use. 	Note the principles set out in the Minerals Local Plan and ensure the openness of the green belt is maintained.
Worcestershire Countryside Access & Recreation Strategy. (2003 – 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides the Strategic Management Framework for issues relating to countryside access and recreation within Worcestershire. ▪ Vision: “To develop a countryside recreation culture in Worcestershire in which residents and visitors alike benefit from the opportunity to access a range of high quality countryside recreation opportunities. This will be planned and implemented having respect for the wishes of both landowners and the local community and ensuring the utmost protection of environmental interests. ▪ Ensuring opportunity is available to all sections of the community to enjoy the countryside. ▪ Securing and promoting opportunities for countryside access. ▪ Encouraging and enabling local communities to become involved in and take action to share and increase the local benefits of countryside recreation opportunities. ▪ Manage and promote responsible land use activities so as to reduce the potential for conflict between all types of land users, communities and rural enterprises. ▪ Making use of recreational opportunities whilst protecting and enhancing the environmental qualities of the countryside. ▪ Provide a range of facilities of high standard to ensure that the differing demands and aspirations of users are catered for, to help people enjoy and appreciate their recreational experiences. ▪ Contributing to and promoting the associated health and well being qualities associated with countryside recreation activities. ▪ Raise awareness of the opportunities and benefits of countryside recreation to the diversification of the rural economy, in particular in its support for local tourism. ▪ Encourage and promote the use of a greater variety of transport modes to access the countryside and in particular alternatives to the car. 	Include SA Objective to promote recreational opportunities whilst protecting and enhancing the environmental qualities of the countryside.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

COUNTY		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise awareness of the issue of Climate Change & its impact on the County. ▪ Reduce Climate Change causing gas emissions across the County by a minimum of 10% from 2005 levels by 2011 and 20% by 2020 ▪ Adapt to and plan for the inevitable impacts of Climate Change on the County by focusing on a number of key sectors including; Commercial, Voluntary & Public Service, Industry, New Developments, Public Transport and Waste. 	Include SA Objective on promoting opportunities for sustainable travel to reduce transport emissions.
Planning for Water in Worcestershire – Draft Technical Research Paper (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The purpose of this Technical Research Paper is to provide a consistent, strategic approach to the management of water by, identifying the key issues and implications surrounding the management of water in the County so that water related issues can be properly and strategically planned for at an early stage in the plan making process. ▪ The document identifies a number of water related challenges and issues which need to be addressed within the planning system within Worcestershire. These are: adapting to the challenges of climate change (drought and flooding); Preventing and managing surface ground and fluvial flooding; Ensuring sufficient water supply; Ensuring sufficient sewerage capacity (infrastructure); Biodiversity enhancement and the role of green infrastructure (wetlands, woodlands etc) in flood management and water cycle; Improving water efficiency in developments; Improving water quality. 	Ensure that the SA reflects the key water related challenges and that these are addressed within the DPD where relevant.
Planning for Renewable Energy in Worcestershire – Draft Technical Research Paper (March 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies that there is potential to generate a greater level of renewable energy within Worcestershire than is presently achieved; ▪ Rivers, streams and watercourses within the County could be exploited to provide hydro-electric power; ▪ Large areas of the county have average wind speeds sufficient for the generation of energy from wind turbines, with the greatest potential in Wychavon and Bromsgrove districts; ▪ Biomass energy has significant potential in Worcestershire, with substantial existing woodland and high potential yields for energy crops; ▪ Solar irradiation (the amount of sunlight falling on the ground) across the County as a whole is relatively high, and could deliver both electricity and hot water through the increased use of solar panels; ▪ Worcestershire falls within an area that is capable of utilising the heat of the ground, air and water to contribute towards heating energy needs. ▪ The paper seeks to collate existing baseline information to allow an informed view to be taken on the need and support for an expansion in renewable energy capacity. 	Incorporate an indicator relating to the generation of renewable energy within the District.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
<p>Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the following vision for the District: <i>Wyre Forest is a vibrant District where all our communities enjoy a high quality of life, and people value themselves and one another. Residents of all ages receive efficient services and play an active part in the success and well being of the District. Our unique and beautiful rural landscape is preserved; our three uniquely identifiable riverside towns and the outlying villages thrive, socially and economically. Wyre Forest District is a safe, prosperous and healthy place to live, work and play.</i> ▪ The Sustainable Community Strategy is presented in inter-related block, each with its own priorities, these are set out below: ▪ Communities that are Safe and feel Safe: Improve the quality of life for people who live in Wyre Forest by reducing crime and deliberate fires; reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime; reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs; and build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour. ▪ A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow: To have cleaner, greener, safer public spaces; To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change; To reduce waste and increase re-use and recycling; To protect and improve Wyre Forests natural environment/biodiversity. ▪ Economic Success that is Shared by All: To develop a vibrant and sustainable economy, by attracting and retaining high growth and niche businesses to Wyre Forest District; To develop the economic infrastructure; To improve the skills based of the population; To ensure access to economic benefits. ▪ Improved Health and Wellbeing: To increase the life expectancy of adults and to reduce the incidence of coronary heart disease and cancer; To improve the quality of life of older people, especially those with a limiting long-term illness; To reduce health inequalities; Improved life choices for people with mental health problems. ▪ Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People: Support children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles; Improve the emotional well-being of children and young people; Prevent bullying, and support children who have been affected by it; Protect children and young people who are at risk of harm or neglect; Ensure that children and young people are respected and valued in their communities; Actively involve children, young people and their families in decisions that affect their lives; Support the implementation of Extended Services in Wyre Forest District; Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people, from those who find learning challenging to the most gifted and able; To enrich the experiences and development of children and young people through activity and positive contribution; Ensure that children, young people and their families have things to do and enjoy in their communities; Increase the participation of young people aged 16 and over in education, employment and training; Ensure that all children and young people and their families live in satisfactory accommodation. 	<p>Imperative that the central themes of the Community Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stronger Communities: Improve access to learning, participation and cultural opportunities; Increase participation in cultural, leisure and recreational activities; Improve access to services, including advice, support and facilities; Increase the availability of decent, appropriate and affordable housing; Improve housing conditions; Access to housing and preventing homelessness; To reduce the impact of traffic congestion upon Wyre Forest; Improve passenger transport leading to improved accessibility and an increase in passenger numbers; Increase the use of sustainable travel methods; Ensure the value of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and volunteers is recognised across the District; Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public delivery; Improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods (Oldington and Foley Park ward) and ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improving their delivery; To reduce income deprivation including child and pensioner poverty. 	
Wyre Forest Adopted Local Plan (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall vision: “to establish a framework for achieving a sustainable balance between development necessary to meet the needs of the District and the conservation of the diverse character of the area’s built and natural environments. In striving to achieve this balance, the Plan will help to ensure a better quality of life for residents, visitors and future generations.” ▪ Principle aims of the Development Strategy: accommodate the development needs of the District as set out in the Worcestershire County Structure Plan 1996 – 2011, in a sustainable manner by concentrating housing and employment development in the main towns of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn. ▪ Place an emphasis on urban regeneration and recycling of land and buildings particularly for mixed-use development in or adjacent to the main town centres. ▪ Concentrate retail, commercial, leisure and office uses in Kidderminster Town Centre and to a lesser extent Stourport-on-Severn town centre. ▪ Enable the diversification of the rural economy whilst generally limiting rural housing provision to local needs. ▪ Conserve and enhance the District’s environmental assets including the countryside, natural and built heritage. ▪ Locate development so as to reduce the need to travel, provide a choice of travel modes, and support the provision of alternative modes to the private car. ▪ Maintain the existing adopted Green Belt boundaries unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise. 	The SA Framework should reflect the aims of the development strategy.
Wyre Forest Housing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4 key priorities 	Develop a SA objective to try and

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
(2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ meeting affordable housing needs ▪ tackling homelessness and providing housing options ▪ maintaining independence of older and vulnerable people through housing and support ▪ improving conditions within private sector housing 	meet the housing needs of the district's population.
Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aims to promote cycling as a sustainable form of transport and to provide a comprehensive framework of measures by which this can be achieved. ▪ Identifies a network of prioritised cycle route proposals for the District, which reflects WCC's LTP2 Strategy. ▪ Outlines the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To create safe cycle routes for local people to utilise. ▪ To ensure that cyclists' needs are catered for in new developments within the District. ▪ To improve the provision of facilities for cyclists at transport interchanges and to promote links between cycling and public transport. ▪ To support the creation of safer routes to schools in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council. ▪ To implement the Sustrans Route 45 Network within the District in partnership with Sustrans and Worcestershire County Council. ▪ To increase cycle parking provision within the town centres of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley. ▪ To promote cycle routes for leisure and sustainable tourism purposes within the District. ▪ To promote the environmental and health benefits of cycling as a form of transport through partnership working. ▪ To provide quality and usable cycle infrastructure through regular consultation with local cyclists. ▪ To work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council, the Highways Agency, Wyre Forest Cycle Forum and local residents to meet or exceed government targets of trebling cycling by 2010 compared with 2000. 	Develop a SA Objective to promote opportunities to increase cycling levels within the District.
Wyre Forest Design Supplementary Planning Guidance. (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone deserves access to places, which are safe, welcoming, attractive and healthy. ▪ Good design adds value to development schemes in terms of environmental performance, community and social well being and commercial viability ▪ New development should remove real and perceived barriers to access and use ▪ Every opportunity should be taken to improve the environmental performance of development, at scheme and detailed level 	Develop SA objective to ensure good, sustainable design in any (re)development.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainability relates to design, construction and operating costs of new development ▪ Development which scores 'Good' (or better) on the BREEAM rating system is encouraged ▪ Larger scale developments may need to demonstrate a commitment to sustainable design ▪ New buildings need to adapt to future change. Buildings that can be modified without major structural alteration will suit changing circumstances and the energy and upheaval of demolition can be avoided ▪ Design new development to contribute to vitality by mixing uses and increasing densities and the intensity of uses within buildings ▪ Design for walking and forms of movement other than the car – which should not dominate ▪ Residential development should support more sustainable lifestyles 	
Wyre Forest Community Safety Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To reduce crime by 18% in the District by 2007/08 ▪ To reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. ▪ To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs. ▪ To increase voluntary and community engagement especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion. 	Develop SA Objective to contribute to the reduction of crime levels within the District.
Wyre Forest Air Quality Strategy (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maps out the actions required to improve air quality and set out objectives and actions within strategic business and public sectors to implement and investigate further improvements to air quality within the District, Includes the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that planning applications are assessed for the effects of air pollution on future occupiers of that development and the effects of the development on air quality. - Implement procedures to liaise with neighbouring local authorities where developments within the District could adversely effect air quality within their area. - Require air quality monitoring and modelling from developers for proposed development where appropriate. - Apply LTP initiatives: S106 Obligations will be sought for contributions towards improved bus services and priority measures, inclusion of cycle facilities in proposals, S106 Obligations sought for developers to enhance pedestrian access to development, all major new developments that would create specific transport related problems must be accompanied by travel plans, promote use of public transport, Bus Quality Partnerships and other forms of sustainable transport, work together with WCC to co-ordinate a sustainable transport policy across the District, implement policies to reduce traffic demand on roads in the District, - Provide energy efficiency and green energy initiatives to residents and businesses within the District. 	Develop SA Objective to reduce the adverse effects on air quality within the District.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Wyre Forest Housing Needs Survey (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To reanalyse the change in the housing market locally in order to reassess income thresholds for access to market housing. ▪ To reanalyse housing survey database. ▪ To reanalyse population forecasts. ▪ To provide an affordable need forecast to 2006. ▪ To inform the Housing Strategy and support Local Plan policies for affordable housing. 	Develop SA objective to ensure that there is an adequate range of affordable and social housing to meet the District's needs
Wyre Forest Housing Stock Condition Survey (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The most recent housing stock condition survey was conducted in early 2007. 1,139 homes private rented and owner occupied homes were survey and information was collected on the following: General characteristics of the dwelling; condition of the internal and external fabric; provision of amenities; compliance with the fitness standard; compliance with housing health and safety; age and type of elements; energy efficiency measures; compliance with the Decent Homes Standard and socio-economic information about the household (where occupied). ▪ The report estimates that 9,770 homes within the District fail to meet the decent homes standard. 	Develop an SA objective regarding the provision of decent, affordable housing.
Wyre Forest Sustainability Strategy 2004 - 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies three priority areas that need addressing in order to mover towards sustainable development in Wyre Forest. These are: ▪ Improve the provision of and promotion of sustainable transport. ▪ Protect and enhance our natural and built environment. ▪ Promote effective and minimal use of natural resources. 	Ensure that the objectives of the strategy are reflected in the SA objectives.
Wyre Forest Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The principle aims of the strategy are: ▪ To comply with statute law on contaminated land. ▪ To remove any threat to human health. ▪ To remove any threat to controlled waters. ▪ To remove any threat to flora and fauna. ▪ To aid effective re-development of land within the Wyre Forest District. ▪ To protect historic sites and the historic environment. ▪ The Strategy sets out the Council's priorities for dealing with contaminated land. These are: ▪ To protect human health. ▪ To protect controlled waters. ▪ To protect designated ecosystems. 	Ensure that any contaminated land identified is recorded in the SA baseline.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To prevent damage to property. ▪ To prevent any further contamination of land. ▪ To encourage voluntary remediation of land. ▪ To ensure compliance with Statute Law. ▪ To aid effective re-development of land within the Wyre Forest District. ▪ To ensure that procedures are in place for the provision of information to the Council's customers i.e. the public, developers, land owners etc. ▪ To enable the Council to address liability issues associated with Council owned land. ▪ To encourage the remediation/redevelopment of brown field sites within the District. ▪ To have a comprehensive Strategy in place before the inspection of the District takes place. ▪ To focus its strategy on areas of the District where statutorily contaminated land is more likely to exist and on industries specific to the region. 	

PARISH		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Upper Arley Parish Plan (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes the following policy statements set out by the Parish Council: ▪ Protection of woodland areas within the Parish ▪ Seek to ensure that there is adequate and suitable housing in the Parish. ▪ Support existing and the provision of new, educational opportunities for all age groups in the Parish. ▪ Aims to achieve transport solutions that best serve the Parish. ▪ Assist in the provision of high quality and suitable amenities for residents and visitors. ▪ Support proposals for provision of further sports and leisure opportunities in the Parish. 	Include SA Objectives that relate to the provision of affordable housing in the rural areas and improved local services and amenities.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

PARISH		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	Objectives	SA Implications
Rock Parish Plan (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support provision of a full facility Sports hall, ▪ Consider how to proceed with some form of affordable housing scheme for the Parish ▪ Ensure that long term public transport needs are met. ▪ Investigate and improve the traffic situation at the Lea Memorial School. 	Include SA Objectives that relate to the provision of affordable housing in the rural areas and improved local services and amenities.
Chaddesley Corbett Parish Plan (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sets out a vision of what is important to residents of the Parish and will influence the policies, decisions and actions of other bodies. ▪ A Parish where there is a diversity of housing, respecting the historical heritage of the area and complimenting the rural environment. New housing should be limited unless there are exceptional circumstances. ▪ A Parish with clean, well-maintained and safe roads, adequate parking and rural public transport. ▪ A Parish where ancient woodland is valued, managed and protected. ▪ A Parish where footpaths and bridleways are well maintained, well respected and used. ▪ Welcomes visitors and provides appropriate facilities for a rural Parish. ▪ Takes pride in its appearance and provides support for projects and ideas which aim to make the Parish a pleasure to look at and live in. 	Include SA Objectives that relate to the provision of affordable housing in the rural areas and improved local services and amenities.

Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework



Site Allocations

Development Plan Document

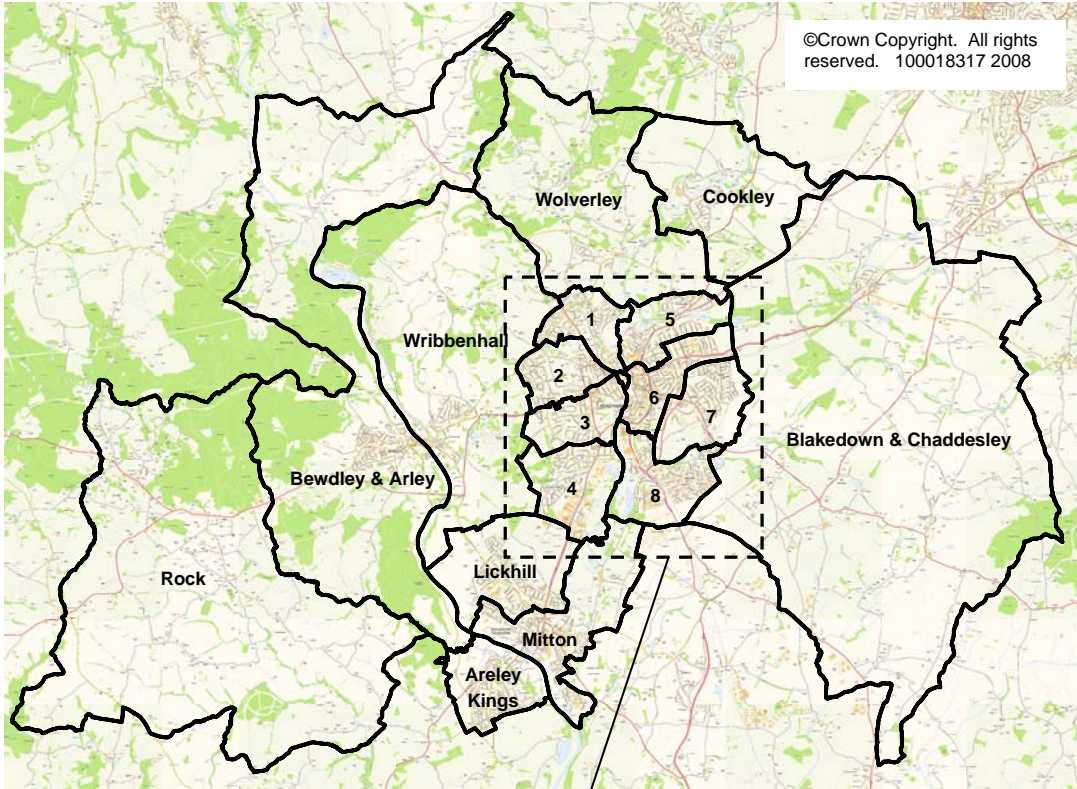
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

APPENDIX B – BASELINE DATA

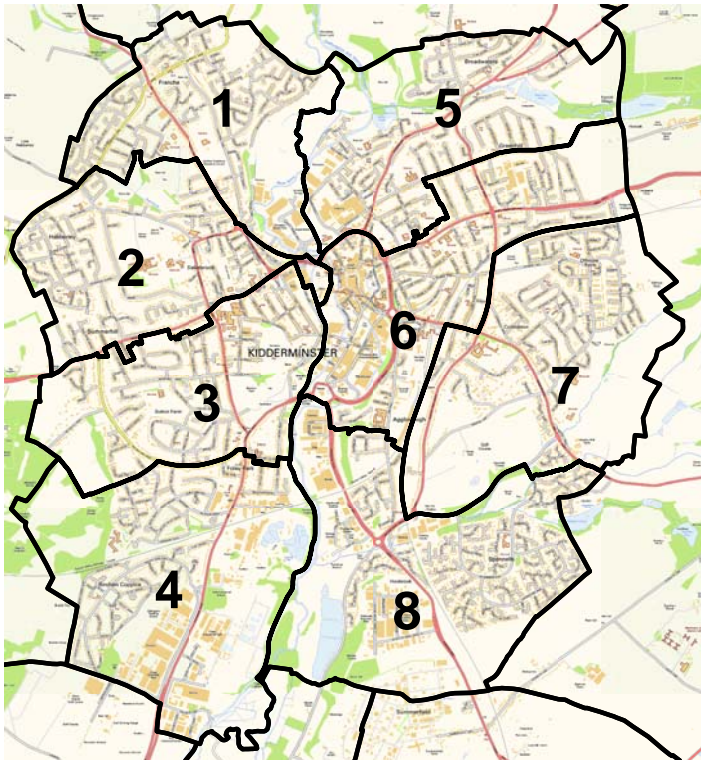
April 2008

Forward Planning Section
Planning, Health & Environment Division
Wyre Forest District Council
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DY10 2JX

WARDS IN WYRE FOREST DISTRICT



Key



- 1. Franche
- 2. Habberley & Blakebrook
- 3. Sutton Park
- 4. Oldington & Foley Park
- 5. Broadwaters
- 6. Greenhill
- 7. Offmore & Comberton
- 8. Aggborough & Spennells

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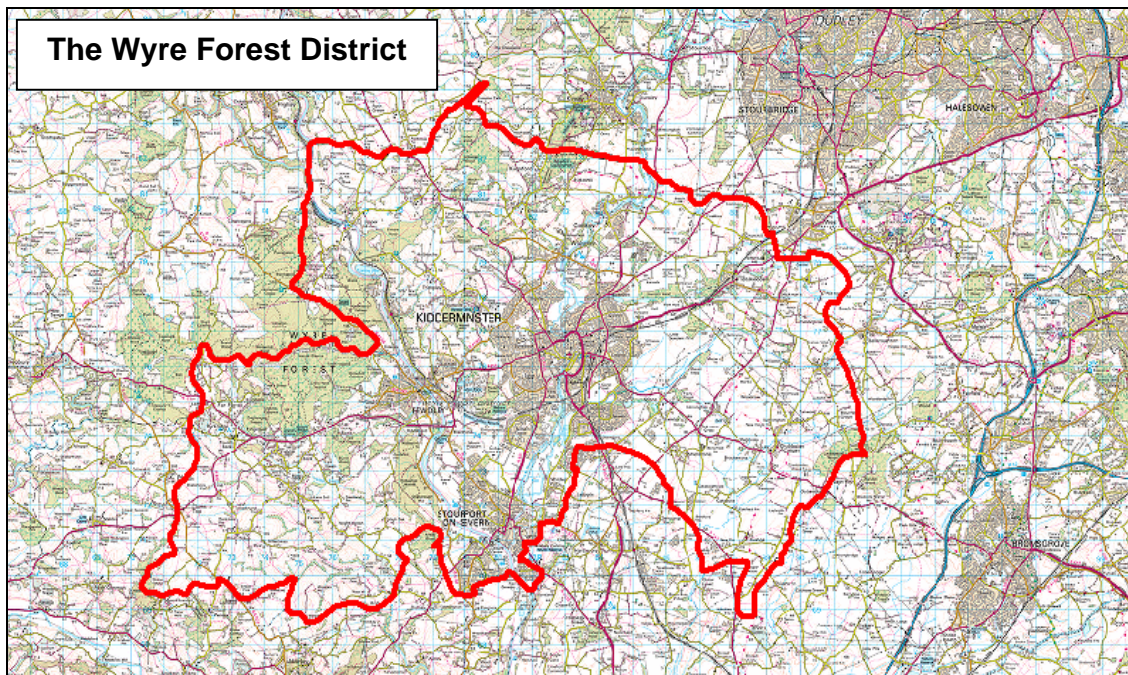
Introduction

This document sets out the baseline data that has been collected to inform the production of the Site Allocations. This section will set out what baseline data has been collected and why, how the data was collected, and its limitations.

A wide range of data has been collected and presented in six over-arching themes, which reflect those of the District's Adopted Community Strategy. The data has been drawn from the Council's own monitoring and mapping systems; on-line statistical databases including www.statistics.gov.uk and www.nomisweb.co.uk, and existing adopted Council documents.

The data collected presents an overview of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the District. Those key statistics which relate directly to the Sustainability Appraisal objectives have been compared to older data in order identify existing trends. However, there has been some difficulty in obtaining older data that is directly comparable to the most up-to-date data available.

Introduction to Wyre Forest



Wyre Forest District is situated in North West Worcestershire and covers approximately 75 sq. miles. The District takes its name from 'The Forest of Wyre', which was once a medieval hunting ground and is one of the largest Ancient woodlands in England and Wales, and now a popular tourist attraction. The District is made up of the three towns of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn, of which Kidderminster is the largest. These are surrounded by a number of outlying rural villages and hamlets.

The District contains a range of shopping, educational, cultural, health and leisure facilities, and tourist attractions. The District has an industrial heritage, with a strong

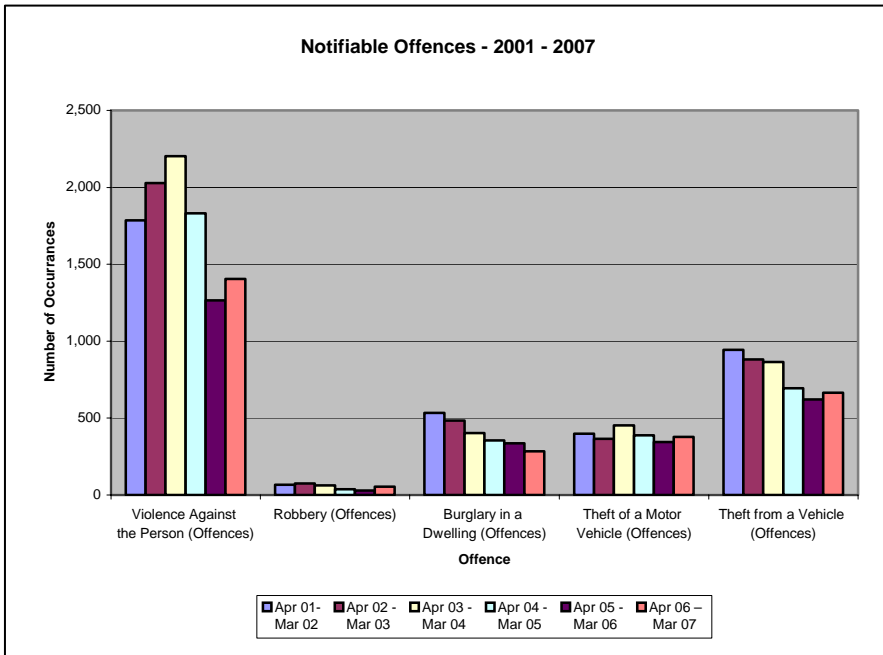
tradition of carpet manufacturing, an activity which still maintains a strong presence in the District. Kidderminster is the largest of the three towns and is recognised as one of 25 Strategic Centres within the Regional Spatial Strategy; it is also recognised as a regeneration area. The smaller Georgian riverside towns of Stourport and Bewdley are both popular day visitor destinations.

The District's rural areas suffer from poor access to services and facilities. Housing affordability is a key issue across the District but is more pronounced in Bewdley and the rural West.

The District is perceived to be relatively prosperous; however, it is home to the most deprived ward in Worcestershire and has other pockets of deprivation. The figures set out within this document further illustrate this.

**COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND
FEEL SAFE**

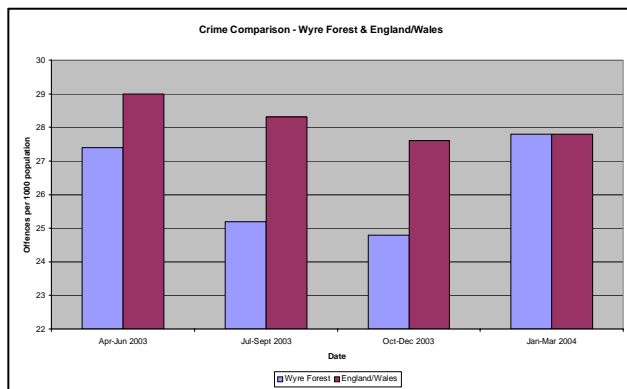
Crime



The graph to the left and the table below illustrate the number of notifiable offences recorded by the Police in Wyre Forest between Apr 2001 and March 2007. There has been an overall decrease in all types of notifiable offences during this period.

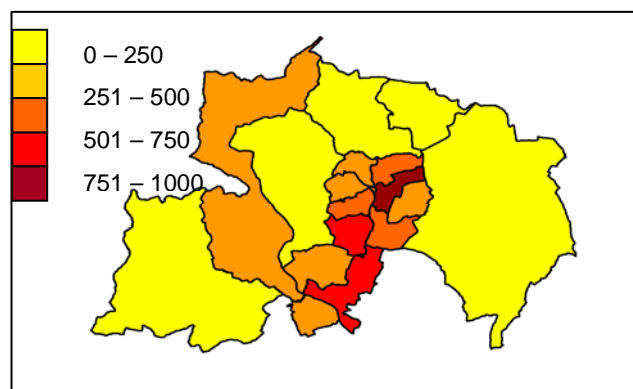
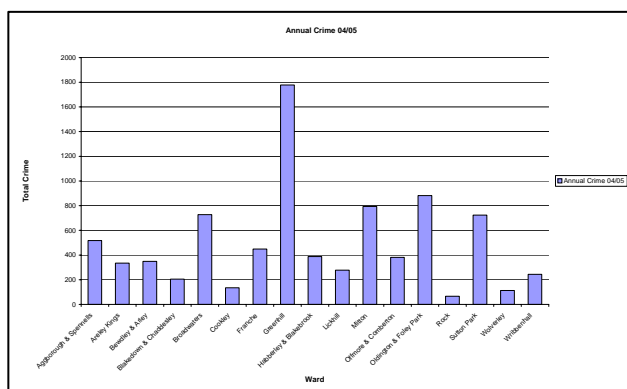
(Source: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

	Apr 01 - Mar 02	Apr 02 - Mar 03	Apr 03 - Mar 04	Apr 04 - Mar 05	Apr 05 - Mar 06	Apr 06 - Mar 07
Violence Against the Person (Offences)	1,785	2,028	2,202	1,830	1,266	1,405
Robbery (Offences)	66	75	62	38	30	53
Burglary in a Dwelling (Offences)	534	485	403	356	336	285
Theft of a Motor Vehicle (Offences)	399	365	454	389	346	378
Theft from a Vehicle (Offences)	944	882	864	694	622	666



The graph to the left shows that levels of crime in Wyre Forest are, generally, lower than figures nationally, however the graph below suggests that numbers overall are tending towards meeting the national figure.

(Source: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

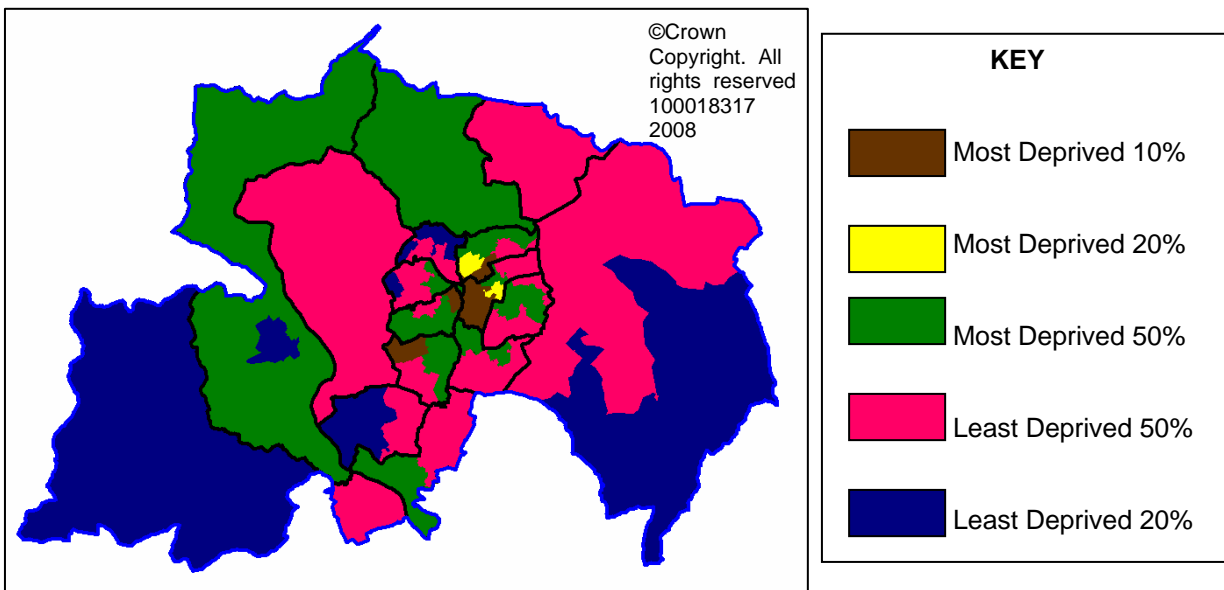


Within the district crime is highest in the Greenhill ward, which includes Kidderminster Town Centre, with 1778 crimes being reported between 2004/05. The lowest numbers of crimes were reported in Rock. The graph and the map above show how crime levels in each ward compare. The graph indicates the number of crimes committed within the different areas of the Wyre Forest in 2004/2005. As you might expect higher levels of crime are concentrated around Kidderminster town centre and the centres of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley. Levels are significantly lower in the rural areas of the district.

Analysis of different crime types shows that in the areas of highest crime, between April 2005 and January 2006, the most common offence was anti-social behaviour, closely followed by criminal damage and assault. Drug-related crime is the lowest of all the crime types in Wyre Forest. However, Wyre Forest still has the highest number of drug offences in Worcestershire (Source: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>).

Indices of Deprivation 2007

The crime domain of the 2007 IMD measures the rate of recorded crime for four major crime types, representing the risk of personal and material victimisation at a small area level. The four crime types covered are burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence. The map below shows that a small number of SOAs within the District are within the 10% most deprived nationally, these SOAs cover Kidderminster town centre, Broadwaters and the Riffle Range. The rural areas have lower levels of crime.



Drug and Alcohol Misuse in Wyre Forest

The following information was obtained through The Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Strategy.

Results for 2002 – 2003

Drugs

- Wyre Forest had the second highest number of drug offences (413) in Worcestershire. Possession of cannabis accounted for the majority of these.
- There were 439 drug-related crimes in the District during this time period. Kidderminster town centre and the Horsefair were the priority areas for these crimes which were mainly shop lifting and assault.
- Most individuals committing drug related crime and offences were male and aged between 20 and 30.
- Around two in every five residents said that drug use or drug dealing were problems in their local area.

Alcohol

- Wyre Forest had the third highest number of alcohol related offences (1627) in Worcestershire for 2002 – 2003
- Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn town centres and the Horsefair were identified as alcohol related hotspots
- Males in the 18 – 24 category were responsible for the majority of alcohol related crime during this period.

Alcohol Restriction Zones

There are two main areas in the District where Alcohol Restriction Zones are in force. The first was designated in Bewdley in 2003 and the second in Stourport-on-Severn in 2006. These zones were created so that people consuming alcohol in these areas could now be asked to dispose of their drinks, with refusal being an arrestable offence. In the case of persistent offenders, written warnings could be issued.

The following maps indicate the extent of the zones within the two towns.

Road Accident Data

Road accident casualty rate: all people killed or seriously injured (per 1,000 population)					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Wyre Forest DC	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4
Worcestershire CC	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
West Midlands	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
ENGLAND	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6

The table to the left shows that the road accident casualty rate within Wyre Forest, where people are killed or seriously injured, is less than the County, Region and National rates.

Source: www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk – Road accident data set

Road accident casualty rate: children killed or seriously injured (per 1,000 population)					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Wyre Forest DC	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Worcestershire CC	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
West Midlands	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
ENGLAND	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3

This table shows a steady improvement, over the period 2000 to 2004, in the road accident casualty figure for children killed or seriously injured within the Wyre Forest District.

Source: www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk – Road accident data set

Recorded Road Accident Data for Wyre Forest District

	Jan - Dec 2000	Jan - Dec 2001	Jan- Dec 2002	Jan -Dec 2003
All Casualties (Persons)	71	50	49	64
All Car Occupants Killed or Seriously Injured (Persons)	36	22	20	22
All those using Two Wheeled Motor Vehicles Killed or Seriously Injured (Persons)	20	10	13	20
All Pedal Cyclists Killed or Seriously Injured (Persons)	3	4	0	0
All Pedestrians Killed or Seriously Injured (Persons)	9	12	13	17
All Child Casualties (Persons)	8	6	5	4
All Child Pedestrian Casualties (Persons)	6	3	5	3
All Elderly Casualties (Persons)	0	4	0	6
All Elderly Pedestrian Casualties (Persons)	0	0	0	5

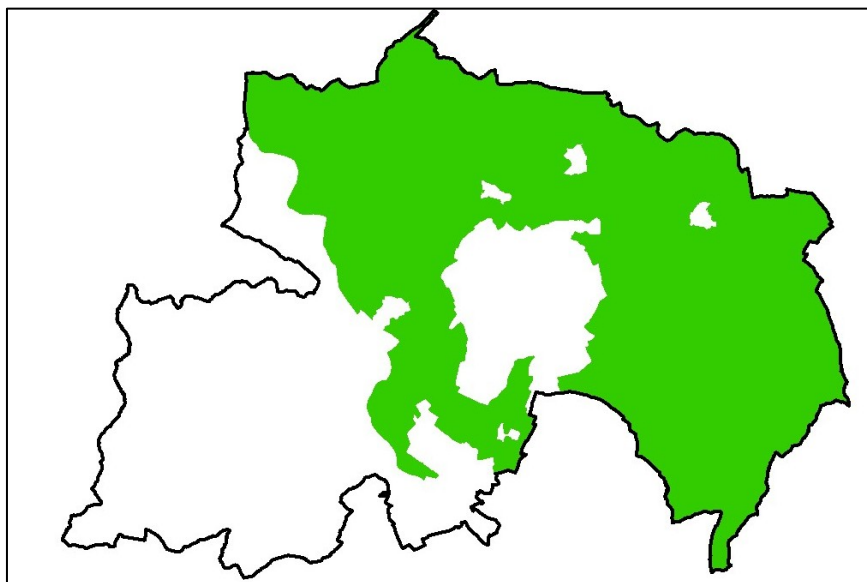
Source: www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk - Road accident data set.

**A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR
TODAY AND TOMORROW**

Green Belt Designation

The map below indicates the areas in the District designated as part of the West Midlands Green Belt. The purposes of Green Belts are set out in Government guidance PPG2. They are:

- To check unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- To prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another;
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.



Source: Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan, 2004

Number of Applications within the Green Belt

57% of the Wyre Forest District is covered by the West Midlands Green Belt, 40% is identified as an Area of Great Landscape Value and 45% is designated as Landscape Protection Area. All land outside of the urban areas is protected by one of these designations. The natural environment is seen as one of the District's main assets.

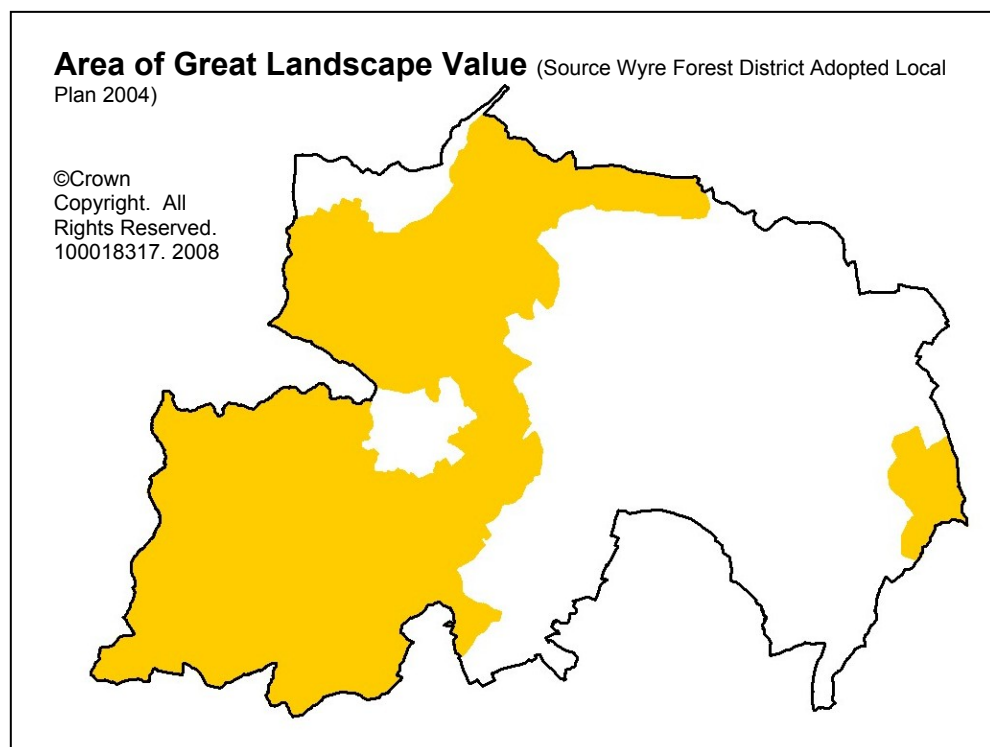
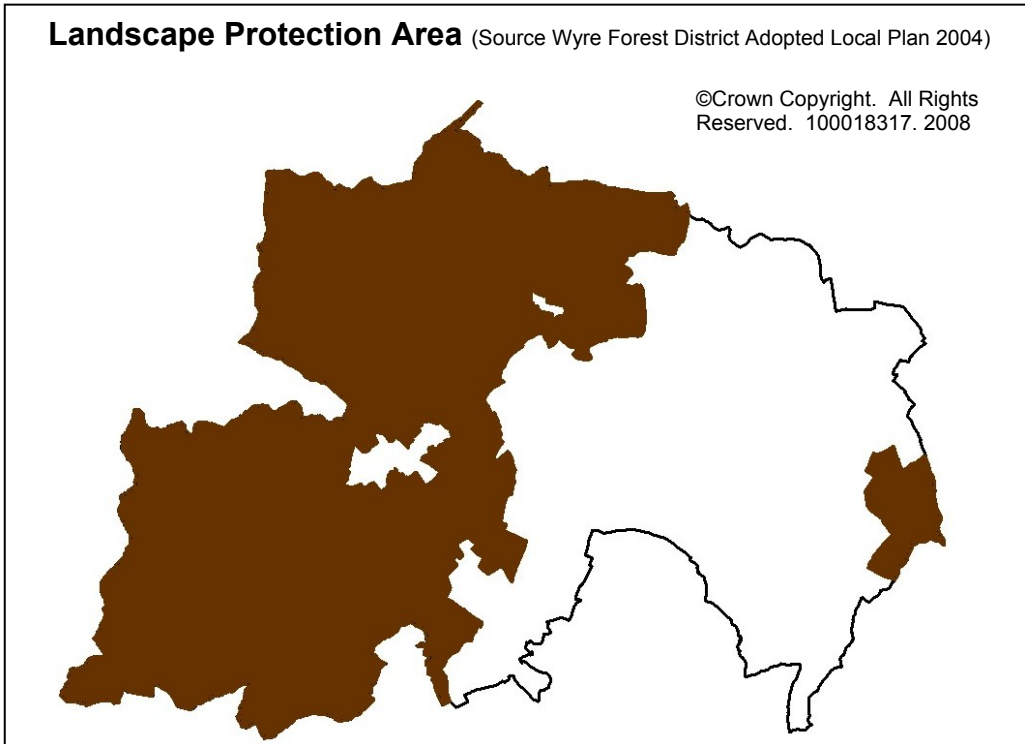
Applications Approved Within the Green Belt		
Date	Site	Detail
Major		
2006/07	Rowberry's Nurseries, Lower Chaddesley Corbett	Restaurant
2006/07	Land at Little Hobro, Wolverley	Change of use from agriculture to keeping of horses plus two stables and hay storage.
2006/07	Heathfield School, Wolverley	Single storey extension to provide storage area on Sports Hall.
2006/07	Shatterford Lakes, Bridgnorth Road, Shatterford	Proposed redevelopment of existing building, alteration of existing storage building for temporary use as shop & siting of temporary caravan during construction works.
2006/07	Land off Bewdley Bypass	Proposed agricultural unit for livestock & implement storage.
2006/07	Land at Cursley Lane, Mustow Green	Change of use to the keeping of horses and the erection of two stables with hay store.

2006/07	Broome House Rest Home Broome	Change of use & internal alterations to change from Residential Home to 12 sheltered apartments for the over 60's with care facility provided by the nursing home to remain in the Coach House, car parking arrangements.
2007/08	Former depot, Butts Lane, Stone	Conversion to 22 live/work units, 9 affordable dwellings, business support facility and community meeting room.
2007/08	Site adjacent to Rowberry's Nurseries, Chaddesley Corbett	Outline application for the erection of a new primary school, together with caretaker's accommodation, car parking, creation of new access off A448, landscaping and associated highway and infrastructure works, including works for the creation of shared cycle/footway.
2007/08	Live & Let Live Public House Wolverley Village	Demolition of existing Live & Let Live Public House and erection of 10 no two bedroom apartments with associated garaging and parking.
2007/08	The Tythe House Broome	Proposed Manege and use of land for the keeping of horses.
2007/08	Stourport Sports Club Kingsway Stourport on Severn	Erection of enclosure to cover two netball courts
Agricultural Determinations		
2006/07	Dunclent Farm Stone	Erection of a grain silo
2006/07	Sion House Hill Pool, Kidderminster	Extension to existing barn for storage of hay and equipment
2007/08	Land off Hoarstone Lane Trimpley	Erection of agricultural storage building
2007/08	Weatheroak Farm Chaddesley Corbett	Erection of hay barn
Telecommunications		
2006/07	Birmingham Road Blakedown	Installation of 4 No. pole mounted dish antenna at top of existing mast

A number of smaller schemes within the Green Belt have been approved; these are largely extensions to existing buildings or conversions. In 2006/07 Green Belt policy was cited 391 times to determine applications received, during 2007/08 the same policies were used 506 times.

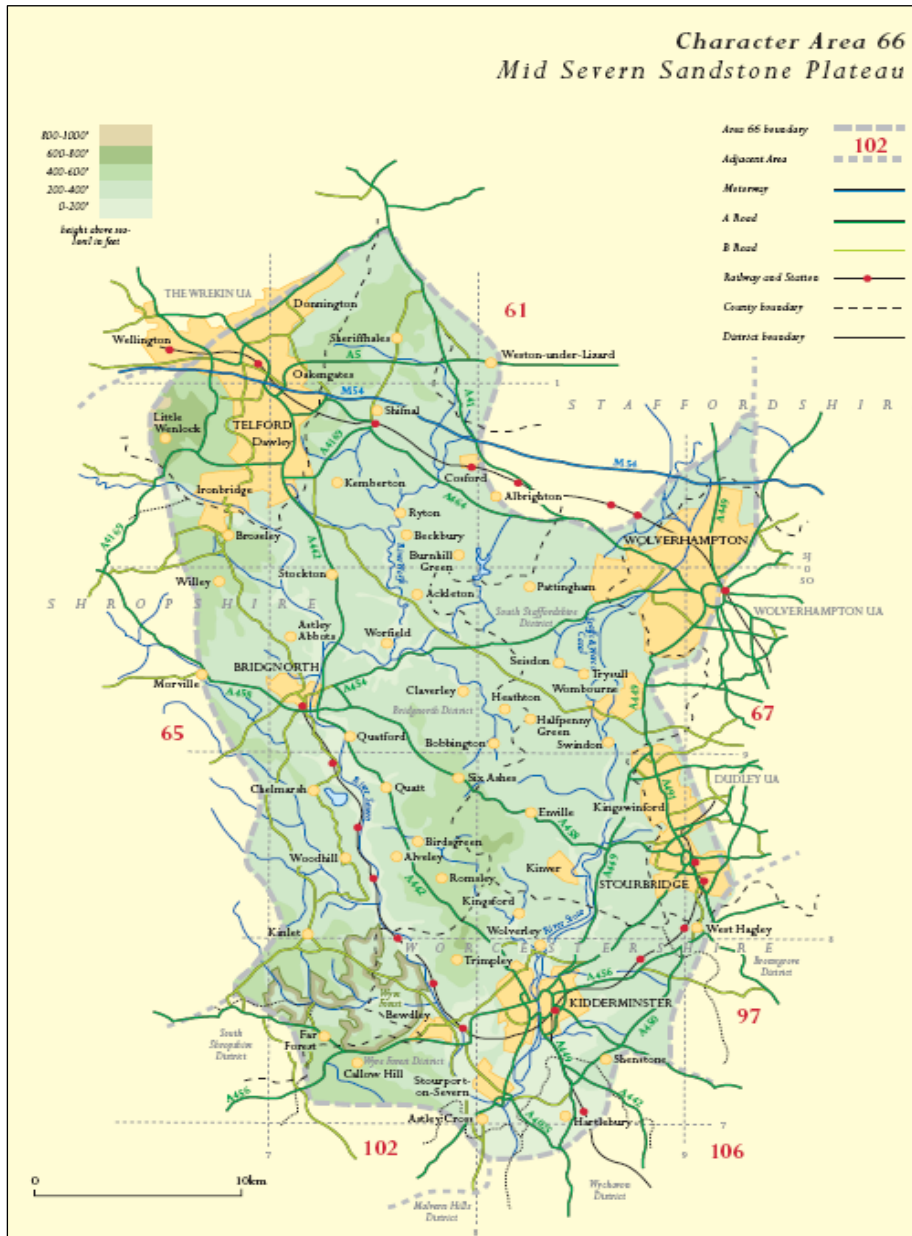
Landscape

The landscape of the Wyre Forest is generally of high quality, and it represents a major asset of the District, which is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. It provides an attractive environment for the local business community and is particularly important for the local tourist industry. The designations shown in the maps below originate from the first local definition of areas of high quality landscape which was undertaken in 1957. The areas have expanded since; with much of the Western side of the District now covered by one or both of the designations.



Landscape Character Assessment

The Wyre Forest District is encompassed within the Mid-Severn Sandstone Plateau character area. The District is in the South of the character area. Here, the valley sides are steep and heavily wooded. Kidderminster occupies a substantial area around the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Stour. Industrial development on the floodplain and post-war residential development has spread onto higher ground. The fragmented and older coalfield pattern around the Forest of Wyre had now been absorbed into the wider landscape. Here the extensive and mixed woodlands on the wide, shallow bowl around Dowles Brook dominate the landscape. The area is drained by the valleys of the Severn and the Stour which meet in Stourport. Former terraces of these rivers, consisting of sand and gravel, overlie bedrock along the valleys.



Key Characteristics of the Mid-Severn Sandstone Plateau:

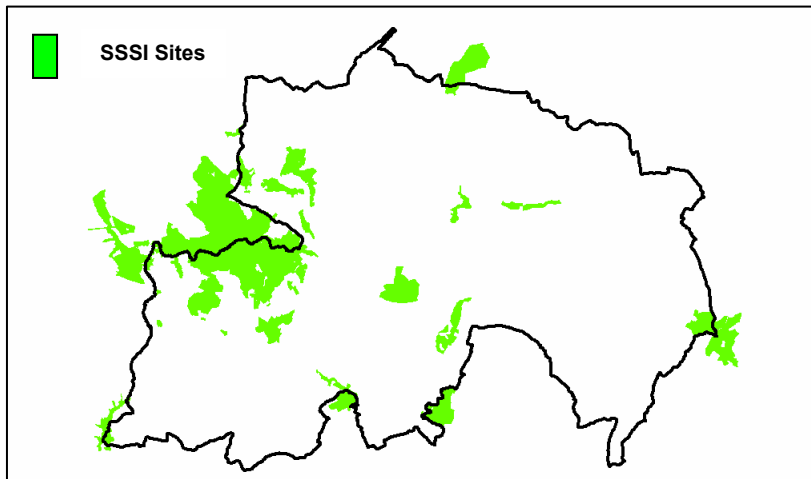
- Rolling landform with open arable, cultivation dominating an often weak hedgerow pattern.
- Prominent urban fringe.
- Contrasting areas of smaller fields, and mixed field pattern with more distinctive hedgerows in West.
- Parklands and estate conifer and deciduous woodland.
- Patches of heath land.
- Extensive mixed woodland together with scattered mining and forest edge housing forming distinctive Wyre Forest landscape.
- Stour and Severn valleys with frequent villages and historic bridging towns.
- Narrow, steep-sided wooded dingles found throughout the area.

- Steep, wooded gorges of the Severn Valley.
- Coalfield remnant landscape along the Severn Valley.
- The Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal – an important man-made feature.
- New Town landscape of Telford

(The Countryside Agency, 1999)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

The district contains a rich variety of nature conservation interests. A number of areas of national importance are found within the district with 6% of the land area designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). A variety of habitats are found including broadleaved mixed woodland, neutral grassland, acid grassland and heathland. The largest such designation is that of the Wyre Forest itself.



English Nature conducts a rolling programme of site condition surveys for all the SSSIs over a six-year period. The results for those sites within Wyre Forest District are shown in the table below.

Source Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004

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Name of site and characteristics.	Size in hectares	Condition(from English Nature surveys)
Areley Wood – ancient semi-natural woodland with substantial parts under coppice management.	16.95	Favourable
Bliss Gate Pastures – Semi-natural grassland sward traditionally managed by light grazing.	1.23	Favourable
Browns Close Meadow – Semi-natural grassland sward maintained by hay cutting and light grazing.	0.78	Unfavourable -declining
Buckridge Meadow – Semi-natural grassland sward maintained by hay cutting and light grazing.	2.67	Favourable
Bumberidge Meadow - Semi-natural grassland sward maintained by hay cutting and light grazing.	2.59	Favourable
Devil's Spittleful – one of the largest remnants of lowland heathland in Worcestershire lying on extensive deposits of Bunter sandstone. (Extensive restorative works have taken place at this site; however, it will take years for the habitat to return to favourable condition).	22.15	Unfavourable – no change
	77.13	Unfavourable but recovering
Dumbleton Dingle – ancient broadleaved woodland occupying a steep sided tributary valley.	1.49	Favourable
Eymore railway Cutting – only available exposure of fossiliferous Eymore Farm marine band.	0.22	Unfavourable , no change
Feckenham Forest – largest remnants of the Royal Hunting Forest of Feckenham.	57.84	Unfavourable - recovering
	2.01	Unfavourable - declining
Hartlebury Common	0.77	Unfavourable - declining
Hurcott and Podmore Pools – an important wetland complex, containing largest area of wet valley alder carr in the County.	14.89	Unfavourable - no change
	6.76	Favourable
Hurcott Pasture – particular character and diversity of the semi natural grassland sward maintained by grazing.	4.69	Unfavourable but recovering
Kinver Edge – lies on a ridge of soft red permian sandstone crowned by an iron age hill fort.	9.65	Unfavourable but recovering
Puxton Marshes – large area of unimproved marshy grassland with associated damp woodland and open water. One of the largest areas of marshland remaining in the County.	7.66	Favourable
	5.27	Part destroyed where flood alleviation works have taken place.
Ranters Bank pastures - Semi-natural grassland sward traditionally managed by light grazing.	2.18	Unfavourable but recovering
River Stour Floodplain – provides morphological and sedimentary	17.64	Favourable

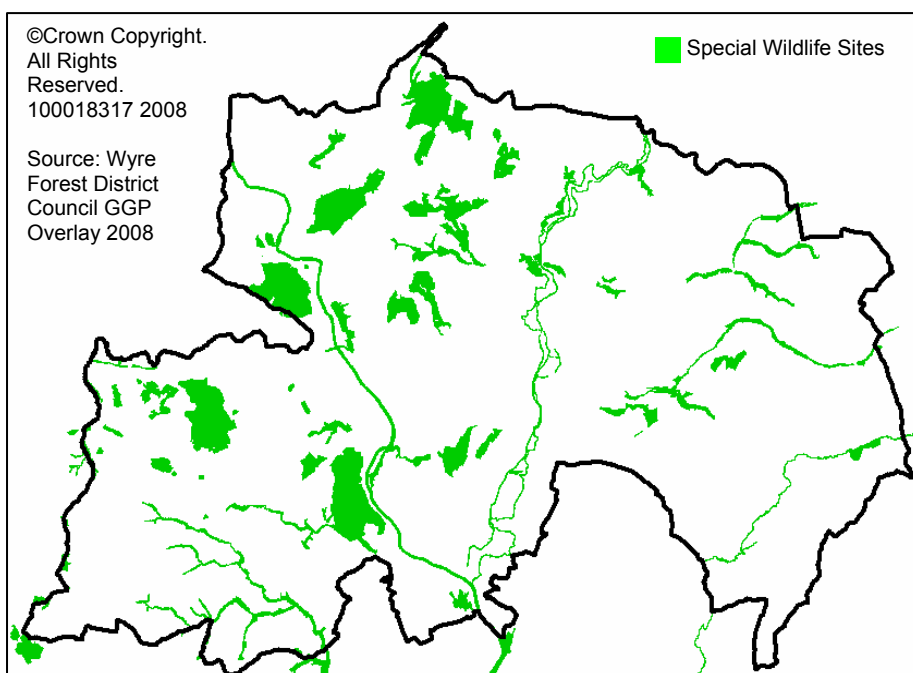
Name of site and characteristics.	Size in hectares	Condition(from English Nature surveys)
evidence relating to the development of the river during late Devensian.		
Showground Meadow Callow Hill – one of the most representative examples of this transitional grassland type in Worcestershire.	0.83	Favourable
Stourvale marsh – lies in River Stour flood plain, soils remain wet for most of the year due to impeded drainage.	9.28	Unfavourable – declining
Wilden Marsh – richest and most diverse wetland habitat in Worcestershire.	40.51	Unfavourable - declining
Wyre Forest – one of the largest ancient woodlands in England. High value for biodiversity within the Midlands Plateau natural area.	277.74 268.38 196.14 105.21	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering Unfavourable – no change Unfavourable – declining

Source: WFDC AMR 2007.

The size of the SSSIs shown above relates to those sites, which fall within the boundaries of the District. The table shows that those SSSIs, which fall into wetlands are in the least favourable condition and in some cases are declining. Evidence from English Nature’s most recent condition survey reflects the sensitivity of these sites, which are particularly vulnerable to drainage, water abstraction and inappropriate water levels. In comparison, the District’s grassland sites and meadows remain in favourable condition due to traditional management practices.

Special Wildlife Sites

The map to the right indicates the location of Special Wildlife sites throughout the District as at March 2008. SWS’s are non-statutory areas that have, in the past, been identified by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. SWS’s are considered to be, at least, of county importance; although some may be of national importance.



The District has a large number of SWSs, which are particularly concentrated to the West of the River Severn and to the North of

Kidderminster. Further details of each site are set out in the table below. The location of the sites shows a strong correlation with the designated Landscape Protection Area. In contrast there are relatively few sites to the east of Kidderminster, which is washed over by Green Belt.

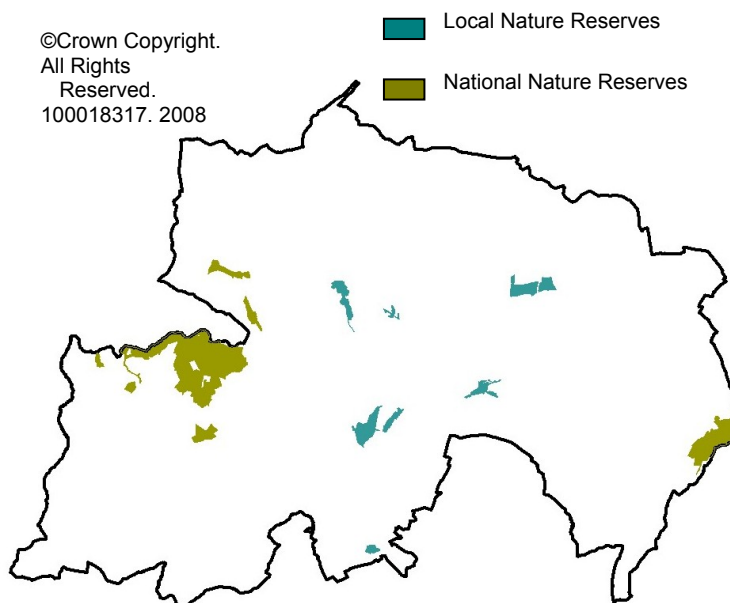
Site Name	Special Wildlife Habitat	Parish	Date of Listing
Blackstone Rock and Mucky Marsh Meadow	Grassland; Broadleaved woodland; open water; swamp; marsh	Bewdley	09/11/07
Snuffmill Dingle & Park	ASNW - broadleaved woodland	Bewdley	17/01/08
Hawthorn Bush Meadows	Grassland	Bewdley	09/04/03

Burlish Camp	Heathland; Grassland; Woodland	Bewdley, Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn	26/11/07
Wyre Forest	Woodland, wet woodland, grassland	Bewdley, Rock (Part outside District)	05/11/07
Broome Tower Mustard Verge	Species	Broome	31/08/01
Mearse Farm Heath	Heathland; grassland; woodland	Chaddesley Corbett	28/11/07
Hadley, Elmley & hockley Brooks	Open water - flowing	Chaddesley Corbett (Part outside District)	28/09/90
Churchill & Blakedown Valleys	Open water - flowing; Open water - standing; woodland; grassland	Churchill and Blakedown (Part outside District)	28/09/90
Haberley Valley	Grassland; heathland; broadleaved woodland	Kidderminster	20/08/07
Wilden Meadows	Marsh/mire, swamp	Kidderminster	04/01/08
Easthams Coppice	Broadleaved woodland; grassland	Kidderminster	24/04/07
Hurcott & Podmore Pools (Pastures)	Grassland; Broadleaved/wet woodland	Kidderminster	14/12/07
Vicarage Farm Heath	Heathland; grassland; woodland	Kidderminster	21/11/07
North Wood	ASNW - broadleaved woodland	Kidderminster	19/12/07
Wassell Wood	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Kidderminster Foreign	26/03/08
Parkatt Wood and Honeybottom	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Kidderminster Foreign, Wolverley and Cookley	26/03/08
Puxton Marsh	Marsh, swamp, wet woodland, wet grassland, unimproved acid grassland	Kidderminster, Wolverley and Cookley	08/10/07
Dumbleton Dingle	Woodland	Rock (Part outside District)	03/01/07
Horsehill Wood	ASNW - broadleaved woodland	Ribbesford	18/12/07
Ribbesford Wood	ASNW & AWS - broadleaved woodland	Ribbesford	17/12/07
River Severn	Open water - flowing		28/09/90
Culvert Meadows	Grassland	Rock	03/02/05
Gorst Hill Meadow	Grassland	Rock	20/12/07
Tynning Wood	ASNW - Broadleaved woodland	Rock	08/01/08
Bliss Gate Meadow	Grassland/Marsh	Rock	06/02/06
Quarry Bank Wood	Woodland	Rock	13/12/04
Willow Bank Pasture	Grassland and Scrub	Rock	24/01/05
Tanners Brook Meadow	Grassland	Rock	24/09/07
Woodward Coppice and Meadow	ASNW - broadleaved woodland; ASW - deciduous and coniferous	Rock	29/02/08
Buckeridge Meadows	Broadleaved woodland; grassland	Rock	30/08/07
Lem Brook and Meadows	Woodland, grassland	Rock	03/01/08
Wyre Forest (Tanner's Brook Section)	Woodland	Rock (Part outside District)	27/02/07
Dick Brook	Open water - flowing	Rock (Part outside District)	28/09/90
Knighton Disused Railway (Wyre Forest section)	Broadleaved woodland; grassland	Rock Bewdley	07/01/08
Stanklyn Lane Tower Mustard Verge	Species	Stone	11/05/01
Hoo & Barnett Brook	Open water - flowing, grassland, woodland, marshland	Stone, Chaddesley Corbett (Part outside District)	28/09/90
Captain's and Stanklyn Pools and Spennels Valley	Wet woodland; swamp; fen; marsh	Stone, Kidderminster	18/12/07
Redstone Local Nature Reserve (The Bogs)	Marsh, swamp, wet woodland, broadleaved woodland, wet grassland	Stourport-on-Severn	28/09/07
Nash Elm Wood	ASNW - broadleaved woodland	Upper Arley	03/01/08
Hawkbatch Valleys	Woodland, wet woodlad, grassland	Upper Arley	20/11/07
Eyemore Wood	ASNW - broadleaved woodland; ASW - deciduous and coniferous	Upper Arley, Kidderminster	10/01/08
Arley Birch and Coldridge Wood	Ancient semi-natural woodland and plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Upper Arley, Wolverley and Cookley	26/03/08
Kingsford Heath	Heathland, grassland, broadleaved woodland	Wolverley and Cookley	22/11/07
Wolverley Marsh	Marsh/mire, swamp	Wolverley and Cookley	10/12/07
Wolverley Court Lock Carr	Wet woodland, broadleaved woodland, marsh, swamp	Wolverley and Cookley	29/11/07
Caunsall Marsh	Marsh/ditches; wet woodland; grassland	Wolverley and Cookley	06/12/07
The Island Pool	Open water; swamp/marsh; wet woodland; broadleaved woodland	Wolverley and Cookley	04/12/07
Gloucester Coppice	Grassland; Broadleaved woodland	Wolverley and Cookley	26/09/07
Cornhill Coppice	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Wolverley and Cookley	27/03/08
Honeytop Farm Pastures	Grassland	Wolverley and Cookley	03/10/02
River Stour	Open water- flowing	Wolverley and Cookley, Kidderminster, Stourport	28/09/90
Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	Open water - standing	Wolverley and Cookley, Kidderminster, Stourport	28/09/90

Nature Reserves

There are a number of national and local nature reserves in the district. These reserves make a valuable contribution both to biodiversity and to the leisure facilities within the District. National Nature Reserves can be found at Chaddesley Woods (part of the Royal Forest of Feckenham) and the Wyre Forest itself. These areas are also SSSIs. There are also eight local nature reserves managed by the District Council. Kingsford Country Park (located to the North of the District) is maintained by the County Council as an LNR.

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The condition of the District Council's Local Nature Reserves has been assessed using the English Nature criteria and the results are shown in the following table.

Local Nature Reserve	Size (Ha)	Habitat	Condition
Blake Marsh	4.33	Wet woodland / marsh	Unfavourable but recovering
Burlish Top	38.90	Heathland	Unfavourable but recovering
Habberley Valley	24.83	Ancient Woodland	Favourable
		Acid grassland	Unfavourable – declining
		Heathland	Unfavourable but recovering
Half Crown Wood	5.0	Mixed woodland	Unfavourable but recovering
		Meadow	Unfavourable-declining
Hurcott Pool	41.0	Wet & mixed woodland	Unfavourable-declining
Redstone Marsh	7.07	Marsh, wet grassland	Unfavourable but recovering
		Dry broadleaved woodland	Unfavourable-declining
Spennells Valley	15.77	Wet woodland / marsh	Unfavourable-recovering
		Dry acid woodland	Unfavourable-declining
		Mixed woodland	Favourable
Vicarage Farm Heath	11.4	Heathland	Unfavourable but recovering

Source: Wyre Forest District Council AMR (2007)

The table above shows that the majority of LNRs within the District are in a favourable or recovering state. However, some areas are declining.

Habitat and Species

The Wyre Forest and its outliers are recognised by English Nature as a potential Prime Biodiversity Area, a mechanism for promoting nature conservation activity in areas with a particularly high concentration of biological interest. The key species and habitats identified for action in the Biodiversity Action Plan for Worcestershire (1999) are identified in the following tables: (please note that an updated Biodiversity Action Plan is currently being produced).

Habitat Types within the District

There are various types of habitats throughout the Wyre Forest District; the table below indicates the different types found and examples of where they can be located. It demonstrates the rich variety of habitats that are present within the District.

Source: Biodiversity Action Plan for Worcestershire (1999)

Habitat	Location (Examples, not exhaustive)
Arable Lands	Field margins, hedge banks, natural corners
Traditional Orchards	The plum and Cherry orchards
Ancient/Species-rich hedgerows	Occurring throughout the District
Scrub	The scrub/heath mosaic of Hartlebury common and Burlish Top
Woodland	Wyre Forest and Chaddesley Wood
Lowland Pastures and veteran trees	Wyre Forest; and veteran willow pollards of Wilden March & Meadows, & Puxton Marshes
Wet Woodland	The alder & crack willow woodlands along the River Stour & its tributaries; and the largest single alder woodland in the county at Hurcott Wood
Reedbeds	Hurcott Pool, Puxton Marsh
Fen and Marsh	The county's largest and most important marshes, at Wilden Marsh
Lowland wet grassland	Wilden & Puxton Marshes in the Stour Valley
Lowland dry-acidic grassland	Devils Spittleful/Rifle Range and Habberley Valley
Lowland Heathland	Heath/woodland at Hartlebury Common
Canals	Staffordshire & Worcestershire
Open Water	Stanklyn Pool & Trimpley Reservoir
Rivers & Streams	River Severn, which has upland and lowland characteristics; Dowles Brook and the Hurcott-Podmore-Blakedown stream complex
Important roadside verges	Including roadside verge nature reserves
Urban & Semi-urban areas	Parks, derelict land, allotments, playing fields, churchyards & domestic gardens

Protected Species

International and national law relevant to the protection of species in the District includes the following:

- European Council Habitats Directive 92/43
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
- Protection of Badgers Act (1992)

These statutes provide comprehensive protection to a variety of flora and fauna. Some species are given total protection, whilst others are protected from activities such as killing or sale. Many of the species referred to are commonly encountered during the development process and include (although not exclusively) the following:

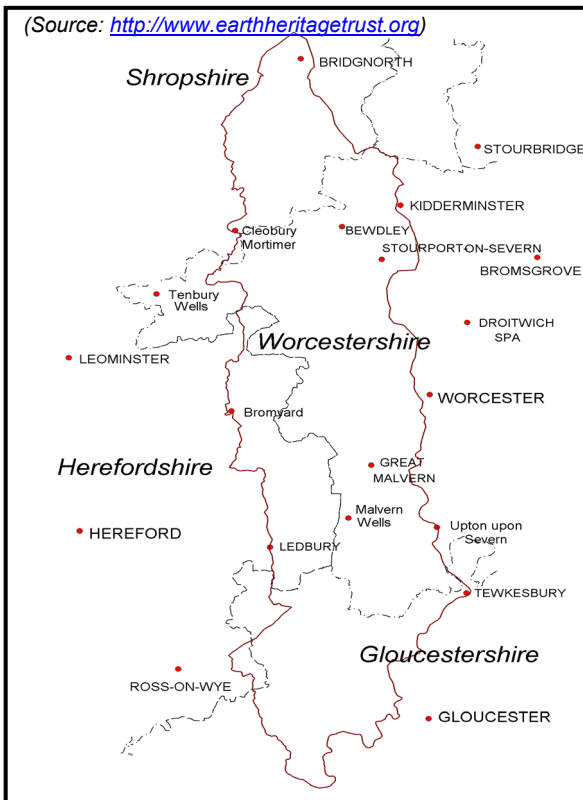
- Species protected under the European Habitats Directive:
 - All species of bats
 - Dormice
 - Great Crested Newts
 - Otter
- Species protected under British law:
 - Badgers
 - Birds, including owls and swift
 - Water Vole

The table below demonstrates the wide variety of protected species within the District.

Species Type	Location (Not Comprehensive)
European Otter	Along the River Severn
Bats	Including those in rural buildings
Water Vole	The River Stour and its tributaries
Nightingale	Burlish Top
Twaite & Allis Shad	River Severn
Adder	Wyre Forest, Habberley Valley & Kingsford Country Park
Slow Worm	On allotments & at Puxton Marsh and Habberley Valley
Great Crested Newt	In ponds
White – Clawed Crayfish	Wyre Forest streams and Blakedown Brook
High Brown Fritillary	Possibly lost from the Wyre Forest during the 1990's
Pearl-Bordered and Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary Butterflies	
Club-tailed Dragonfly	River Severn, particularly above Bewdley
Hornet Robberfly	Hurcott pastures, being the only siting in the County
Black Poplar	Along the Severn and Stour Valleys
Woodlark	Kidderminster

Source: Biodiversity Action Plan for Worcestershire (1999)

The Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark

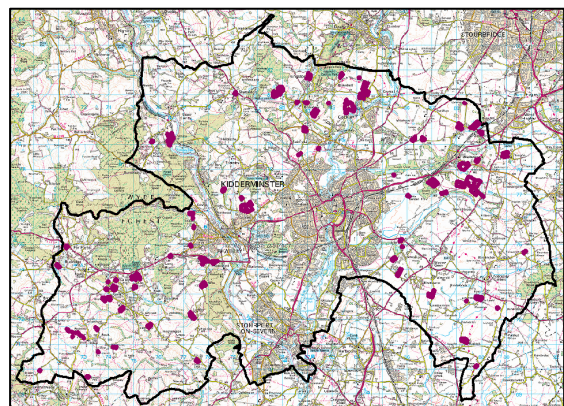
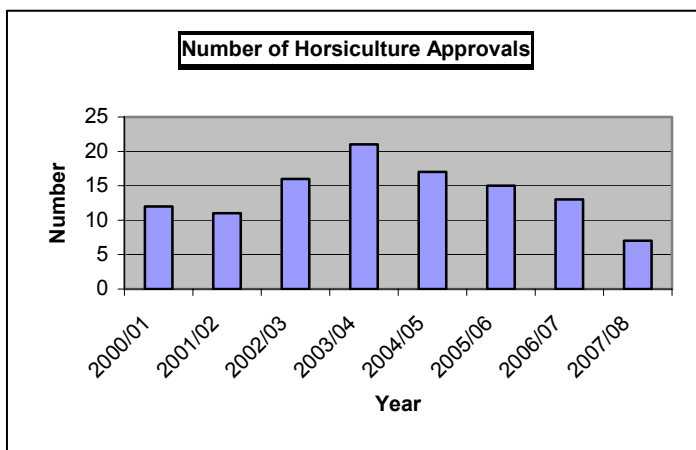


The Geopark (an area with geological heritage of international significance) was designated in 2004. This was the 17th European geopark to be established. The map shows that much of the Wyre Forest District lies within the park. Major objectives include conserving and enhancing geodiversity, encouraging geotourism and promoting education and research. There is an established geotourism programme based on geology and landscape trails, visitor centres and regular events. There is a rich legacy of mining activity associated with the area's carboniferous rocks.

(Source: <http://www.earthheritagetrust.org>)

Equestrian Developments

The graph below shows by year the number of equestrian related planning applications, which were approved in the District between April 2000 and March 2008. The map below shows the location of the developments. The graph shows that the number of approvals peaked in 2003/2004 and has shown a steady decline since. (Source: Wyre Forest District Council April 2008)



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Tree Preservation

The trees and hedges of the Wyre Forest district are important to the character of the area and form part of the attractive natural environment in which we live and work. To date (March 2008) the Council has 291 preservation orders placed on individual and areas or groups of trees. In addition all trees within Conservation Areas, with a diameter of more than 75 mm (at 1.5m above the ground), are also protected through the prior notification requirement.



Source: Wyre Forest District Council Tree Preservation Database

Water Resources

The main water resource is the River Severn, which flows through the towns of Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn. It is a major water resource river, which supports abstractions for public water supply and to a lesser extent for industry and agriculture. There is an abstraction licence for public water at Trimpley. The Severn is also valued for its navigational and recreational uses.

The River Stour also runs through the District and is a main tributary to the River Severn. The River Stour runs parallel with the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal through Kidderminster to meet the River Severn at Stourport-on-Severn.

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal also runs through the district from Cookley, through the centre of Kidderminster and ends in the historic Stourport basins areas.

Stourport Canal Basins

A project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, is currently underway to regenerate the Canal Basins in Stourport-on-Severn. The main aims of the project are:

- to enhance the overall quality of the built and natural environments and the quality of life of its residents and visitors;
- to promote better design innovation, creativity and excellence;

- and to ensure meaningful participation for local communities, artists and other design and planning professionals in regeneration processes and opportunities.

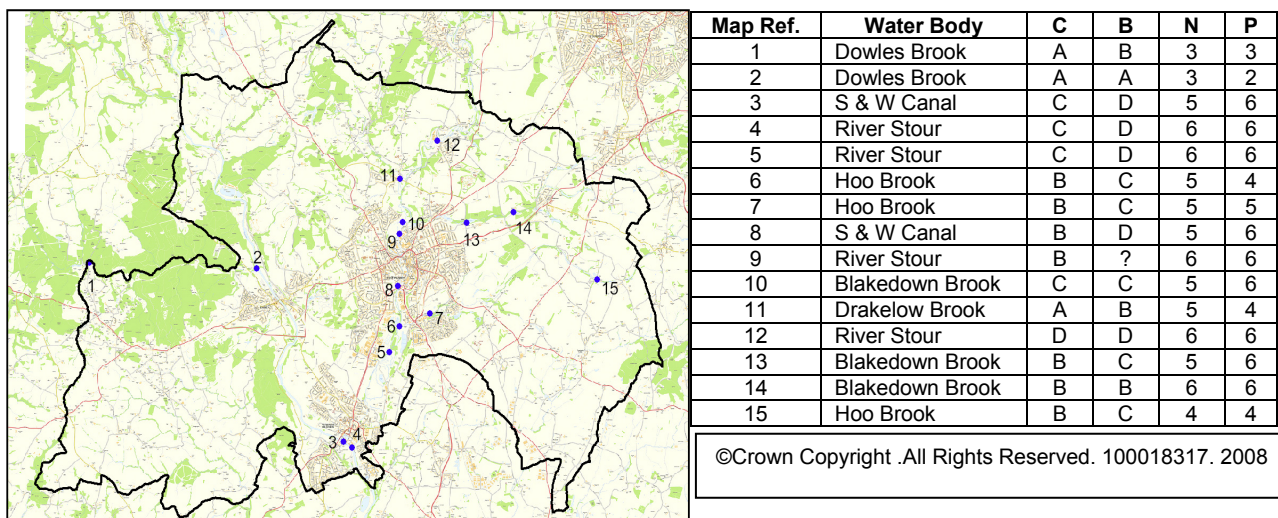
Restoration to some walls and edges of the Upper Basins is now well underway, while the Lower Basins are benefiting from landscaping works to tidy them up after months of construction activity. The work is due to be completed during July 2008.

Water Consumption

Most of the public water supply for the District comes from groundwater abstraction. These groundwater reserves have no scope for further abstraction. In parts of the District the Environment Agency is working with the water companies and other abstractors in order to reduce abstraction to sustainable rates and avoid long term adverse impact on wetlands and landscape and nature conservation interests.

Water Pollution

The map below indicates the areas where the Environment Agency has taken samples of water. For each site levels of nitrates (N), phosphates (P), chemicals (C) and the level of biology (B) were measured and then graded accordingly. The table indicates the results of the survey.



(Source: Environment Agency, 2006)

The scoring of the different indicators for water pollution is as follows:

- Chemicals and Biology are rated A -good to F - bad.
- Nitrates and Phosphates are rated 1 - very low to 6 - very high.

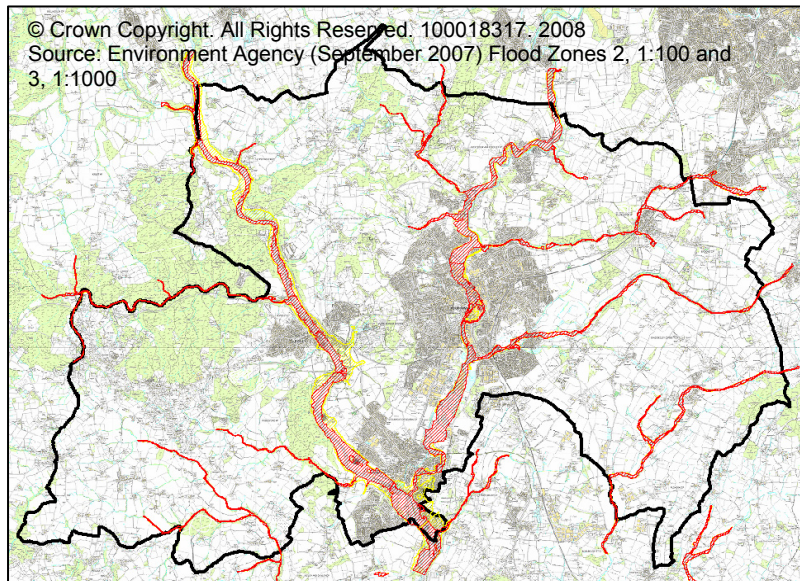
By using this analysis the state of the waterways around the district can be identified. Overall, the water bodies are generally healthy throughout the district. The main area for concern is the River Stour as this scored the lowest within the district for biological and chemical presence. It also has high levels of phosphates and nitrates, which could be potentially damaging.

The healthiest waterway is Dowles Brook, which scored well over two different locations in all four of the criteria measured by the Environment Agency.

Flooding Information

The Environment Agency's designated flood zones are indicated on the map to the right. The map shows those areas affected by fluvial flooding from the main rivers. Other types of flooding also affect the District, including surface-water run-off, groundwater, and foul water flooding.

As main rivers pass through the centre of all three towns in the District there is a pressure for development within the flood zones. The Environment Agency is consulted on proposals for development within the flood zones and in 2007 no developments were built against Environment Agency advice.



A level 1 SFRA has been produced for the District and is available on the District Council's website.

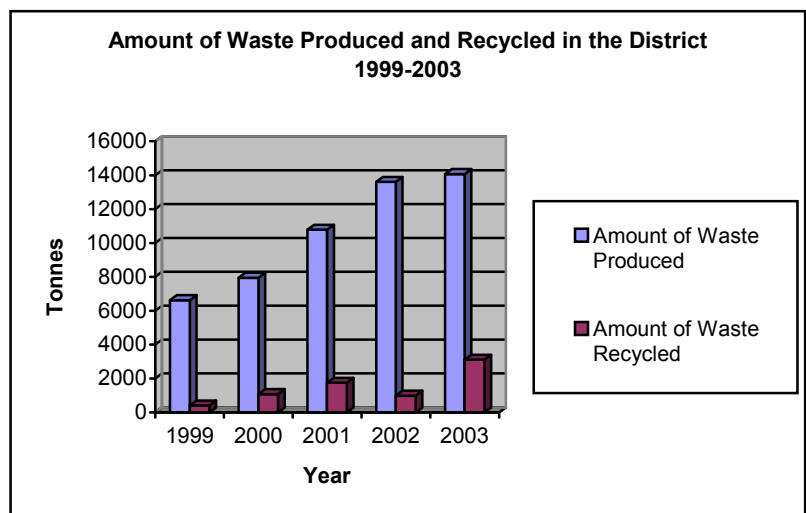
Flood Defences

Due to the nature of heavy flooding that the District has received in the past, steps have been taken by the EA to alleviate the impact of flooding in certain areas. Flood defence schemes have been constructed in Severn Side South/North, Bewdley and Crossley Park/Puxton Marsh in Kidderminster.

Waste Produced and Recycled Over Time

The graph below indicates the increase in the amount of waste produced, and the amount of waste recycled in Wyre Forest District from 1999 – 2003. The table below indicates the percentage of the waste produced that is recycled. The figures represent waste from all sources (household, Industrial and Commercial and Construction).

There has been a rapid increase in the amount of waste produced within the Wyre Forest District as the amount has more than doubled between 1999 and 2003. There has also been an increase in the amount of waste recycled, in terms of both the number of tonnes of waste that has been recycled and the proportion of waste produced that has been recycled.

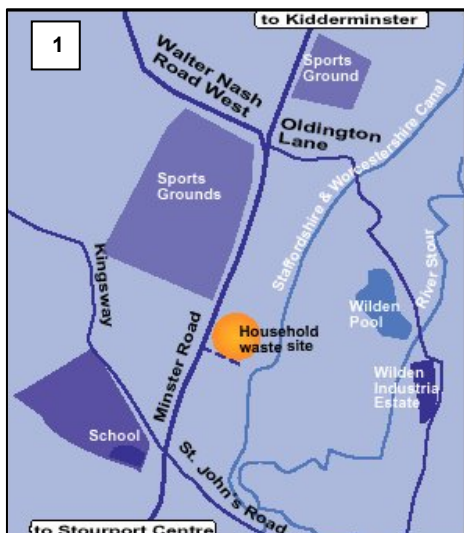


	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
% of Waste Recycled	6	14	16	7.2	22

All values are tonnes per year. Values taken from Environment Agency's National Waste Survey (2003)

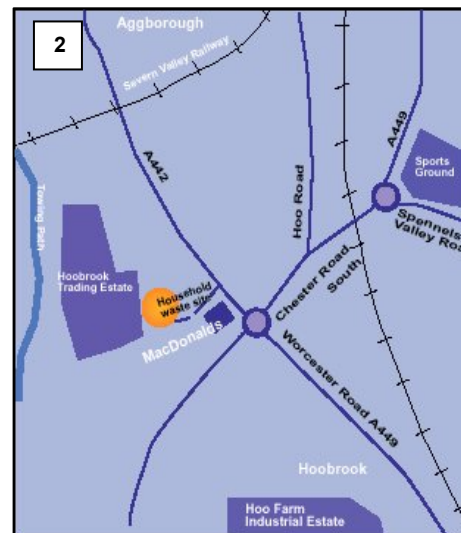
Household Waste Bring Sites

The maps below indicate the location of household bring waste sites within the District. Wyre Forest has two household bring waste sites, both of which are located away from residential development and both of which are accessible by main A roads, allowing ease of access to the sites.



Site 1 is located along Minster Road (A451), situated between Stourport-on-Severn and Kidderminster and recycles all household waste.

Site 2 is located along the Worcester Road (A442) in Kidderminster. It is located within the Hoo Brook Industrial Estate and accepts all household waste apart from asbestos.



Maps taken from www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Recycling (Source: Wyre Forest District Council)

Approximately 97% of households within the Wyre Forest are currently recycling. As well as the kerbside collections there are a number of sites where it is possible to recycle numerous items. These are listed below by location and by which items can be recycled at each location.

KIDDERMINSTER	Glass	Cans	Paper	Textiles	Shoes	Books
Aldi, Green Street	yes	yes	yes	yes		
B&Q		yes	yes	yes		
Birchen Coppice, Whittle Drive				yes		
Bromsgrove Street (Leisure Centre)	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Co-op, Franche	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Heronswood Road, Spennells	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Offmore Farm Community Centre	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Sainsburys	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
The Roundhead, Franche	yes	yes	yes			
The Swan, Blakedown	yes			yes		
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN	Glass	Cans	Paper	Textiles	Shoes	Books
Co-op, Lombard Street	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes
Lidl, Vale Road	yes	yes		yes		
Swan Hotel, Lickhill Road	yes					
Walshes Community Centre	yes	yes	yes	yes		
BEWDLEY	Glass	Cans	Paper	Textiles	Shoes	Books
Dog Lane	yes	yes	yes	yes		
The Ramada, Habberley Lane,	yes	yes	yes			
The Duke William, Callow Hill	yes		yes	yes		

Historic Environment (Source: Wyre Forest District Council Records)

The historic environment includes all designated historic assets together with the potential impacts on non-designated features of local historic interest and value since these can make an important contribution to creating a sense of place and local identity. Statutory designations include Listed Buildings, and Scheduled Monuments, (which have statutory protection), and Conservation Areas, which have some statutory protection, as well as other archaeological sites, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Local List Buildings, and the settings of all of these assets, which have no statutory protection, they rely upon local authorities to put in place policies to protect them. Other important elements of the historic environment, which are often without any statutory protection, include other archaeological sites, locally listed buildings, parks and gardens, landscape and townscape features, the character of the wider landscape/townscape, as well as the potential for as yet unrecorded archaeology.

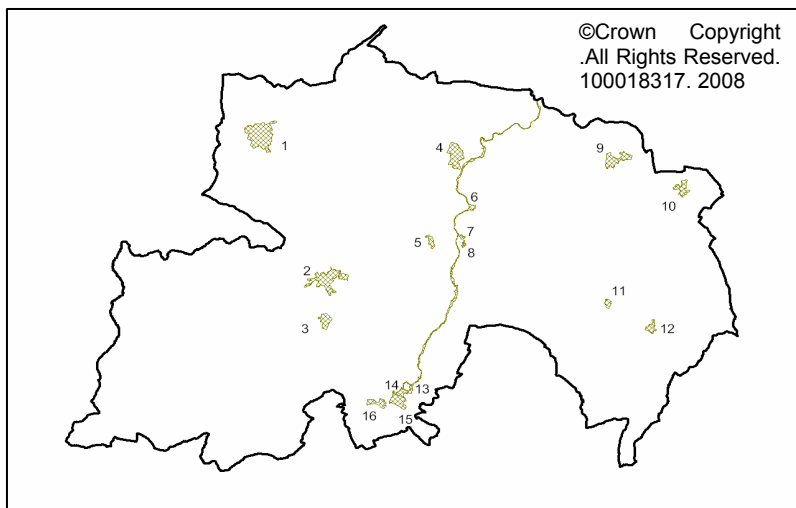
Conserving and enhancing the quality of the environment is a key element in the achievement of sustainable development. A high quality built and historic environment will help to attract and retain investment and contribute to the quality of life of residents. It is important that the wider historic environment is retained through protecting and enhancing the setting of historic assets. Wyre Forest district contains a variety of heritage interests, including buildings, areas, monuments, landscapes and archaeology.

At March 2008, there were six Grade I, twenty-nine Grade II* and 850 Grade II list entries on the statutory lists. This covers over 900 individual buildings and structures. These buildings and structures vary greatly in age and include cottages, farm buildings, country houses, carpet works, bridges and telephone kiosks. The district also has 9 Scheduled Ancient Monuments ranging from moated sites to hill forts. English heritage also keeps a register of Parks and Gardens, which are considered to be of national importance. Arley House with its arboretum is the only registered park and garden in Wyre Forest District. The Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust has also identified 31 other landscaped parks and gardens of interest within Wyre Forest District.

The majority of the District's Listings date to the Iron Age, late medieval or post medieval period and are located within areas that are relatively well represented with additional assets on the Historic Environment Record.

Conservation Areas (Source: Wyre Forest District Council Records)

There are 16 conservation areas throughout the district, which are highlighted on the map below. The conservation areas cover approximately 1.6% of the district. Currently, 10 Conservation areas have Character Appraisals and one has a management plan. The character appraisals are currently being prepared for two further Conservation Areas.



Areas in bold have a Character Appraisal
Areas in Italic have management Plans

Map Ref.	Conservation Area
1	Upper Arley
2	Bewdley
3	Ribbesford
4	Wolverley
5	Blakebrook
6	<i>Staffs & Worcs canal</i>
7	Church Street
8	Vicar & Exchange St.
9	Churchill
10	Broome
11	Harvington
12	Chaddesley Corbett
13	Gilgal
14	Stourport-on-Severn No.2
15	Stourport-on-Severn No.1
16	Areley Kings

Locally Listed Buildings (Source: Wyre Forest District Council Records)

Under the provisions of PPG15 local planning authorities can draw up lists of locally important buildings and structures. A Locally Listed Building is one that is recognised by the District Council as being of local interest, either for historical associations, or for its architectural style. There are 424 buildings and structures on the Kidderminster Local List (237 entries) ranging from entire terraces to chapels, walls and viaducts. A Local List for Kidderminster was adopted in 2004 and a Local list for Stourport-on-Severn was adopted in 2006 which has 266 entries. Work is currently underway to develop a Local List for Bewdley. It is anticipated that this will be adopted during 2008.

Any works requiring planing permission will need to be sympathetic to protect the character and appearance of the building and structure. Locally listing a building can sometimes lead to its placing on the statutory register. This has happened in the case of St. John the Baptist Church and the War Memorial to the front of St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster.

Buildings at Risk

The term 'Building At Risk' (BAR) has been defined by English Heritage as "an historic building at risk through neglect and decay" as distinct from the threat posed by unsympathetic alteration. In practice, the term has been used more narrowly and 'Building at Risk' is shorthand for listed building at risk. The National Building at Risk register therefore contains only listed buildings. The Register was updated in 2006 and it features three buildings within the District. These are: Baches Forge, Churchill Lane; Hoarstone Farmhouse, Hoarstone Lane; and Ribbesford House. The national list does not include Grade II listed buildings.

The Local Buildings at Risk Survey Update was completed in 2006. The Update Survey covered Grade II Listed Buildings in the three main towns. In total 627 buildings were surveyed, the results are detailed below by town.

Town	Number of Listed Buildings Surveyed	Number of Buildings at Risk
Kidderminster	70	6
Stourport	128	8
Bewdley	429	15

Historic Parkland

English Heritage's Heritage Counts - The State of the West Midlands Historic Environment 2006 presents figures on the loss of Historic parkland between 1918 and 1995. In 1918, there were 353 hectares of historic parkland in Wyre Forest District, covering 1.8% of the total area of the District. In 1995, there were 165 hectares, covering 0.8% of the District. This represents a loss of 53.5% of the District's historic parkland during this time.

Archaeology - Historic Environment Record (HER) assets

In Wyre Forest District there are currently 1134 other Historic Monuments of national, regional or local significance and 1188 Listed and other Historic Buildings recorded in the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER). There is a wide variation in the coverage of HER assets across the District, with both distinctive concentrations and areas of low density, the latter often correlating with areas of key risk and sensitivity (E.g. within modern areas of expansion around Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport, the suburban fringe, The Wyre Forest and Rock parish). These areas of low density do not necessarily relate to areas of low archaeological potential, the paucity of data in some areas is due to the wooded and pastoral nature of the landscape and the

lack of development over the last few decades. In other areas of the County, cropmarks are visible on arable fields and extensive ploughing has brought quantities of artefacts to the surface. Also, in the more open landscapes of south Worcestershire, earthwork features are easily visible. This has led to the archaeology in the southern districts being recognised and targeted by both antiquarians and through the modern development process, resulting in archaeology that is well understood, but often poorly preserved. The type of landscape in Wyre Forest and the lack of targeted fieldwork have meant that many important and well-preserved historic assets are simply currently unknown. Consequently these archaeological features are probably of significant archaeological importance.

A program of work is currently underway to address this problem through desk-based assessment and targeted ground investigation. In addition, the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), Historic Farm Buildings Project (see below) and the forthcoming results of a Forestry Commission LiDAR survey, carried out as part of the Wyre Forest Project, will all provide future enhancements within the 2007 – 2010 period.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	9
Registered Parks and Gardens	1
Listed Buildings	691
Registered Battlefields	0
Non-designated Monuments	1134
Non-designated Historic Parks and Gardens	40
Non-designated Historic Buildings	497

The designated and non-designated historic features in Wyre Forest District

Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (HLC)

An English Heritage funded project to provide a detailed historic landscape characterisation of Worcestershire commenced in July 2007. Key stages will be:

- July 2007: commence pilot stage
- January 2008: completion pilot stage, refine methodology
- July 2009: completion of County characterisation
- January 2010: launch online HLC and publication of Project report
- January 2010: integrate results into regional Historic Landscape Characterisation

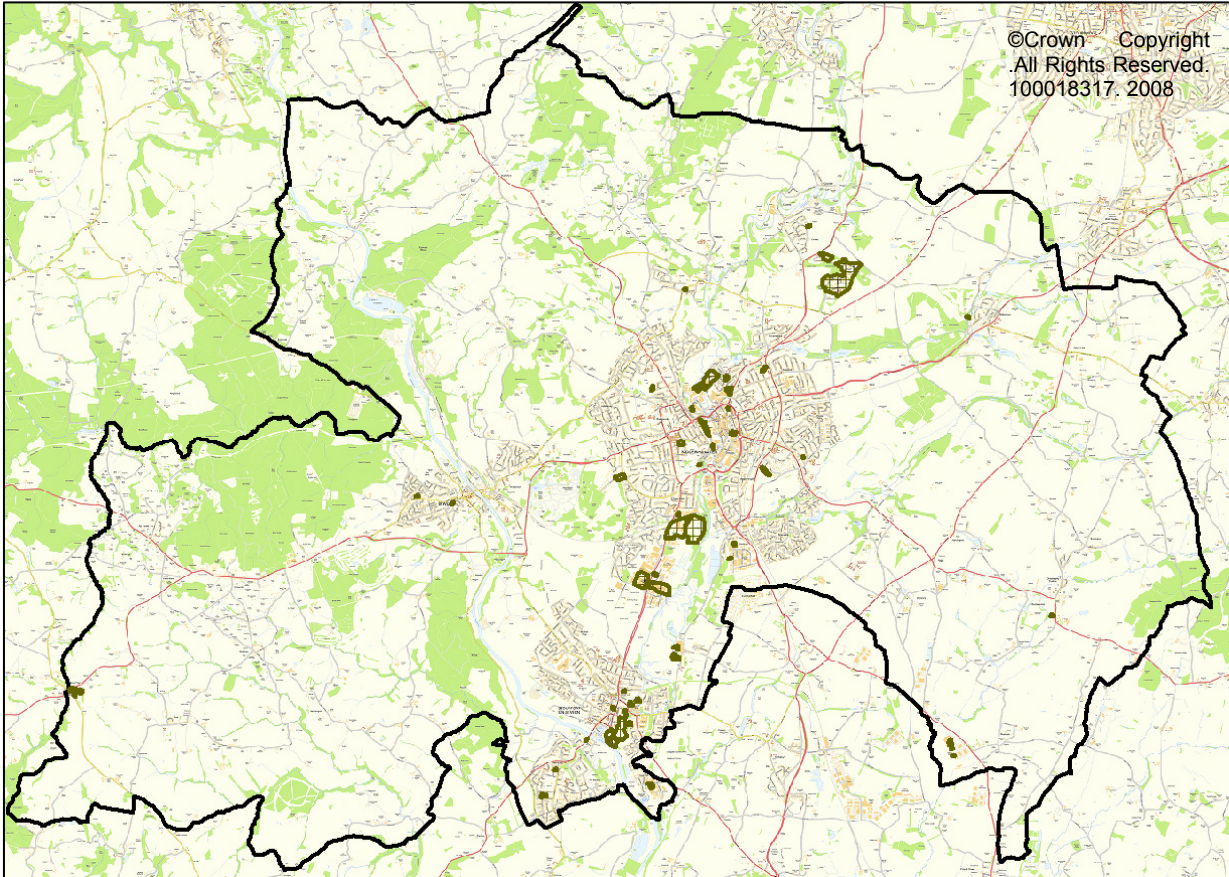
The Project will provide a GIS based resource, linked to the HER, which will aim to deliver a time-depth based interpretation of landscape units, similar to the existing County Landscape Character Assessment. HLC units will vary in size depending on the character type identified, down to 1 hectare for the smallest areas. Descriptive and interpretative information relating to the evolution of each landscape unit will be presented in the GIS linked database. Results from the HLC will inform the County historic environment research cycle and both strategic and local planning policy. An online version will be developed and the results will also be presented in a paper report. The pilot study, which included Rock Parish has now been completed and a detailed report will be available shortly.

Historic Farm Buildings Characterisation Project

Nationally, historic farm buildings are underrepresented in the context of listing designation and are also often poorly recorded and understood. Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service is seeking funding to carry out a characterisation project that will aim to deliver better records, identify key farm complex and building types and facilitate better advice for the rural community, conservation officers and planners. The Project will be based on pilot work carried out by English Heritage and will tie in regionally with projects currently underway in Shropshire and Staffordshire.

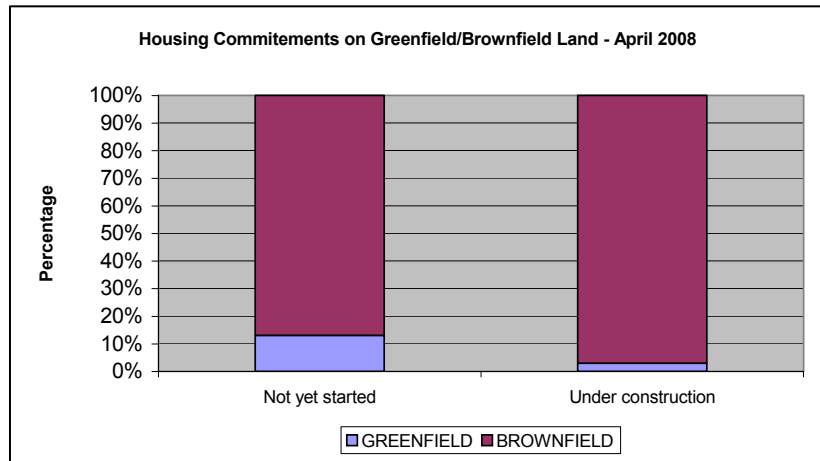
Brownfield Land in Wyre Forest District

The map below shows the brownfield sites above 0.1 ha which are available for redevelopment within the District. The majority of the sites are within Kidderminster and Stourport, however, there are two sites within Bewdley.



Housing Development on Brownfield/Greenfield Land 2007/2008 (Wyre Forest District Council)

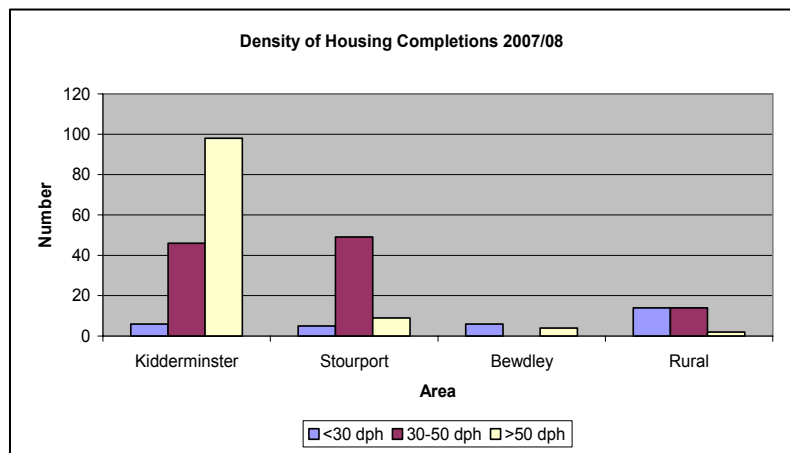
The district planning authority aims to make the best use of land by encouraging the re-use of previously developed or brownfield land and buildings. Over the last 10 years, the numbers of new dwellings (either new-build or conversions) has been carefully monitored to assess how much greenfield land is being used for housebuilding. In 2007/08 93% of completions were on brownfield sites. Over 90% of houses under construction, with permission or a Local Plan allocation at April 2008 were on brownfield sites. The chart shows the current housing supply by former land use.



It should be noted that barn conversions are classified as greenfield. The only major greenfield site with a long-standing permission is at Puxton Drive in Kidderminster.

Average Density of New Development

Government policy encourages higher densities of housing to make better use of land and provide more support for public transport. It is recommended that most new housing is built at a density of over 30 dwellings per hectare (d.p.h). During 2007/08 there were 253 new dwellings completed in the district. 88% of dwellings completed in 2007/08 were at a density of at least 30 d.p.h.



(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Residential Land Availability Report)

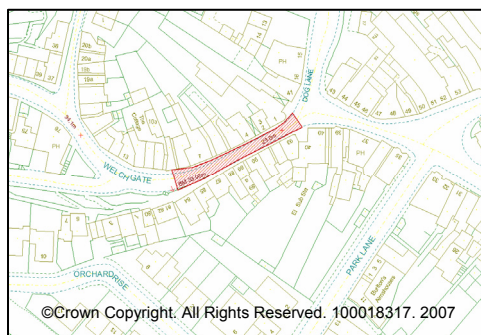
Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) (Source: Wyre Forest District Council Air Quality Action Plan (2004))

Air Quality Management Areas are areas designated by Wyre Forest District Council where the level of pollutant concentrations in the atmosphere results in the air quality not meeting the objectives set out by central government in 2005. There are two locations designated as AQMAs within the Wyre Forest and these are shown on the maps below. There is a strong correlation between the higher levels of NO² and high levels of traffic congestion. Road traffic congestion appears to be exacerbated by the fact that:

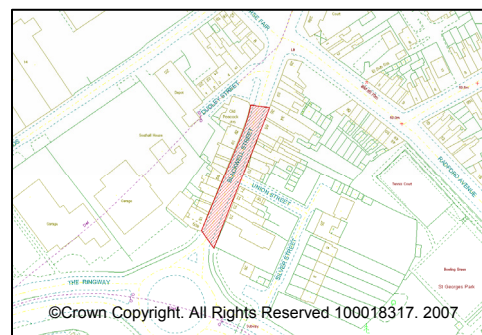
- The roads are street canyons
- Both are restrictively narrow for large vehicles
- In Welch Gate, traffic flows up an incline or downhill to a busy T-Junction (with priority currently given to another road)

The net effect of these site-specific features is slow moving and standing traffic, especially at peak times.

The Wyre Forest Air Quality Strategy identifies borderline air quality areas in Stourport-on-Severn town centre (particularly around the one-way system) and also along the Kidderminster Ring Road at St Marys.



AQMA 1 – Welch Gate, Bewdley.



AQMA 2 – Horsefair, Kidderminster.

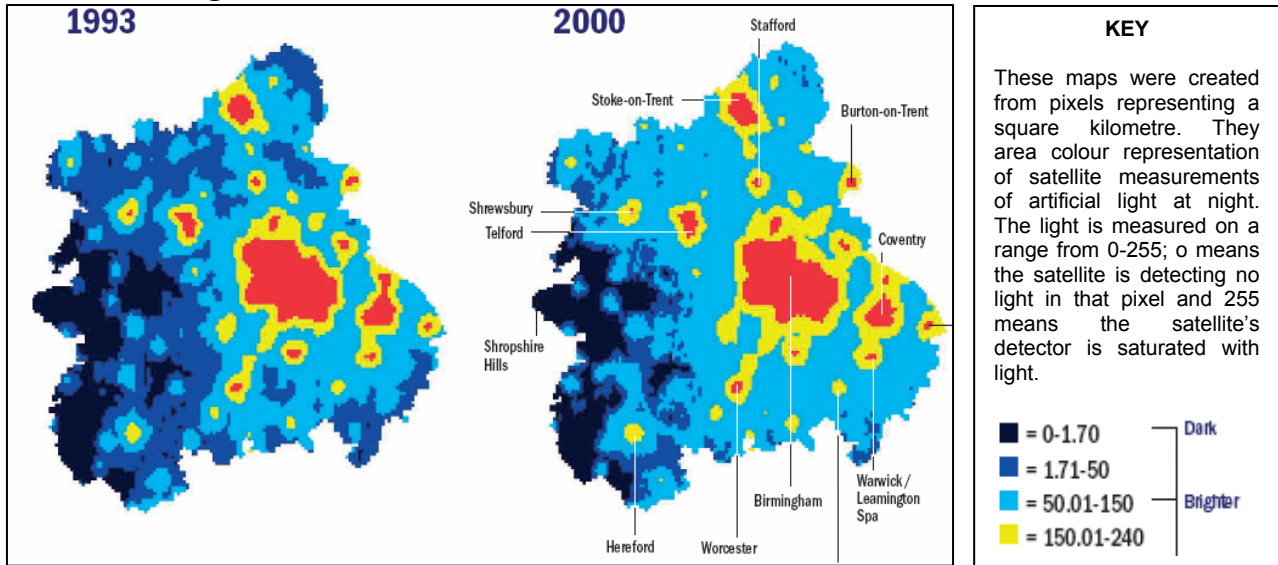
Pollution – Noise

The Environmental Health Section of the Wyre Forest District Council investigates a wide range of noise complaints. Examples include loud music and noisy dogs from neighbouring property and noise from pubs, clubs and factories. During the twelve months to 31/03/2006 the number of noise complaints received increased by 17.3% to 460. Of these over 65% related to domestic incidents. The table below shows the number of complaints received over the last two year by category.

Nature of Complaint	Year to 31/03/2005	Year to 31/03/2006
Pubs -Loud Music	14	37
Commercial	35	56
Bird Scarers	2	2
Industrial	12	12
Commercial Alarm	7	2
Industrial Alarm	2	0
Sports	9	20
Commercial - other	32	23
Domestic - Music	89	100
Domestic - TV	5	8
Domestic - Dog	88	100
Domestic - DIY	8	8
Domestic - Car Repairs	9	6
Domestic - Banging	4	3
Domestic - Alarm	12	8
Domestic - Shouting	16	12
Domestic - Other	38	49
Domestic - Children	2	7
Traffic	2	2
Vehicle in Street	4	4
Vehicle Stereo	2	1
	392	460

Source: Environmental Health Database 7/04/06

Pollution – Light



Light pollution in the West Midlands 1993 and 2000. Source: www.cpre.org.uk

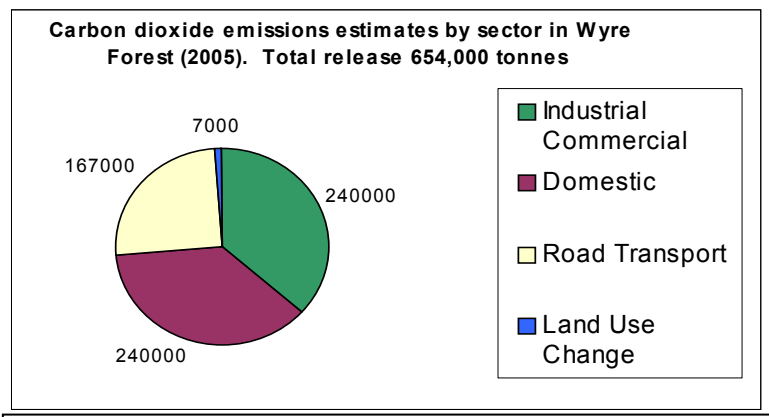
The light pollution maps show that there has been a substantial increase in light pollution from light in the West Midlands in recent years. This has a detrimental impact upon nature and consumes electricity. Light pollution in Herefordshire and Worcestershire increased by 24% between 1993 and 2000, by comparison, the regional increase was 30% and the national increase was 24%.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Emissions and Renewable Energy

CO₂ from burning fossil fuels is the major cause of climate change. The pie chart shows the origins of CO₂ emissions.

The District currently relies heavily on fossil fuels, with low use of renewables and energy from waste (Source: DTI, Regional Energy Consumption Statistics).

- Electricity used in District: (2004) 446 GWh
- Gas used in District: (2004) 1152 GWh
- Renewables and Wastes: (2003) 1.16 GWh



Data from Defra, Local and Regional Estimates for CO₂, (2005).

Energy use in the average dwelling in Wyre Forest emits 5.304 tonnes of CO₂ per year (British Gas, Domestic CO₂ Emissions). This is slightly lower than the West Midlands average of 5.666 tonnes.

The Clear Skies Grant (now the Low Carbon Buildings Programme) supports installation of domestic renewable energy systems. Between 2003 and 2005 grants were made for 1 biomass burner, 1 ground source heat pump, and 5 solar hot water systems in the District.

Sources

British Gas – Domestic Carbon Dioxide Emissions. (2006) http://www.britishgasnews.co.uk/managed_content/files/pdf/greenCity.pdf
 Defra - Local and Regional CO₂ estimates for 2003. (2005) <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/globalghg.htm>
 DTI - Regional Energy Consumption Statistics. <http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/regional-stats/index.html>

Emissions/Energy Usage Detailed Sector Split/Comparator CO₂ Emissions (Kilaton Carbon Dioxide) (KT CO₂) 2004

The table below shows the CO₂ produced by Sector in the Wyre Forest District. The figures are taken from a project commissioned by Defra and carried out by AEA Energy and Environment (formerly Netcen) to produce a set of experimental statistics of CO₂ emissions for local authority and Government Office Region areas for the year 2004.

TYPE	West Midlands KT CO ₂ Emissions	Wyre Forest District KT CO ₂ Emissions	Malvern Hills District KT CO ₂ Emissions	Bromsgrove District KT CO ₂ Emissions
Industrial - Electricity	8676	*128	79	94
Industrial - Gas	5443	*100	57	51
Industrial Commercial Oil	1040	*30	21	19
Industrial Commercial Solid Fuel	1167	1	1	4
Industrial Commercial Waste & Biomass	106	-	-	-
Industrial Process Gasses	1156	5	-	-
Industrial Non Fuel	380	-	-	-
Industrial off road machinery	1023	18	9	8
Agriculture Oil	298	3	14	4
Agriculture Solid	2	-	-	-
Agriculture Non Fuel	3	-	-	-
Railways	243	1	6	3
Domestic Electricity	5013	105	94	102
Domestic Gas	6806	*105	88	152
Domestic Oil	407	10	26	9
Domestic Solid Fuel	411	14	15	6
Domestic Home & Garden Machinery	23	-	-	-
Domestic Household Products	132	2	2	3
Road Transport Petrol (Major Roads)	3905	52	100	204
Road Transport Petrol (Minor Roads)	2143	31	52	31
Road Transport diesel (Major Roads)	4645	39	136	258
Road Transport diesel (Minor Roads)	1498	21	37	22
Road Transport Other	51	1	1	2
LULUCF Emissions: agricultural, soils and deforestation	71	1	3	1
LULUCF Emissions: Other	1096	18	56	21
LULUCF Removals	-802	-12	-39	-12

(*Higher comparable levels of emissions for the Wyre Forest District)

Source: DEFRA Local & Regional CO₂ Emissions Estimates for 2004 for the UK. Report by AEA Energy & Environment for DEFRA (November 2006) <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/galocalghg.htm>
24/11/2006

Climate Change

(Source: ENTEC Report – www.ukcip.org.uk/resources/publications/documents/wm_section3_Baseline_climate)

Chandler & Gregory (1976) assigns the West Midlands to a class BD2 Climate;

- Growing season of 7-8 months
- Greater than or equal to 30% probability of at least 750mm of rain during the year
- Most rainfall in the second half of the year

The distinguishing feature about the West Midlands climate is its variability.

Worcestershire's climate is characterised by:

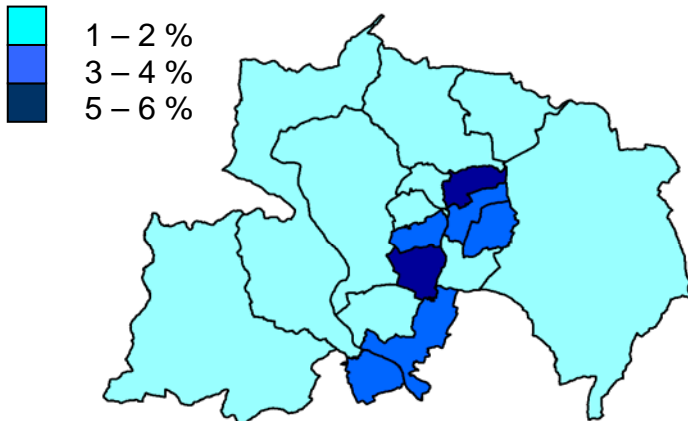
- Spring radiation frost, spring and summer thunderstorms with hail, high summer temperature, warm nights and less rain than the other counties.

UKCIP08 (The Climate of the United Kingdom and recent trends) states that the Central England temperature has risen by about a degree Celsius since the 1970s, with 2006 being the warmest on record. It is likely that there has been a significant influence from human activity on the recent warming.

**ECONOMIC SUCCESS THAT IS
SHARED BY ALL**

BACKGROUND DATA

Unemployment by Ward (2001 Census)



Source: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

The adjacent map indicates the unemployment level in Wyre Forest by ward. The majority of wards have only 1–2% of the resident population unemployed. There are pockets of high unemployment, noticeably in Oldington and Foley Park and within Broadwaters where the unemployment figure is above 5%.

Unemployment Percentage

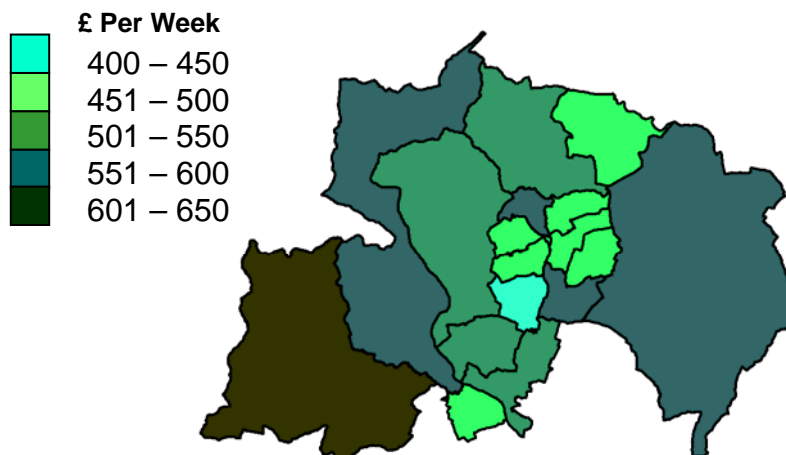
Although Wyre Forest's unemployment is higher than the County's, the District is performing well when compared to the West Midlands and to England.

Date	England	West Midlands	Worcestershire	Wyre Forest
January 2000	3.3	3.7	2.3	2.5
January 2001	2.8	3.4	2.0	2.2
January 2002	2.7	3.1	1.7	2.0
January 2003	2.6	3.0	1.8	2.0
January 2004	2.5	3.0	1.7	2.0
January 2005	2.2	2.7	1.6	1.7
January 2006	2.5	3.2	2.0	2.2
January 2007	2.6	3.4	2.0	2.2

Unemployment in the District fell from 2.5% in January 2000 to 2.2% in January 2007. Both the regional and national unemployment rates have fallen during this time but began to increase again at the start of 2006. (<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>)

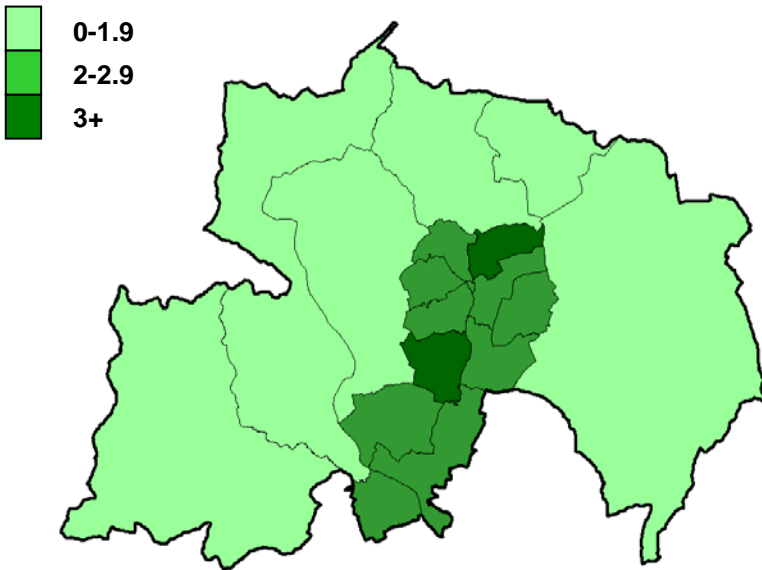
Estimated Average Earnings per Household (£)

The map of the district below indicates the average earnings per household (in pounds per week) as estimated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).



Estimated Earnings per household (ONS, Feb 2006)

Benefits – Percentage of People Claiming JSA (March 2008)



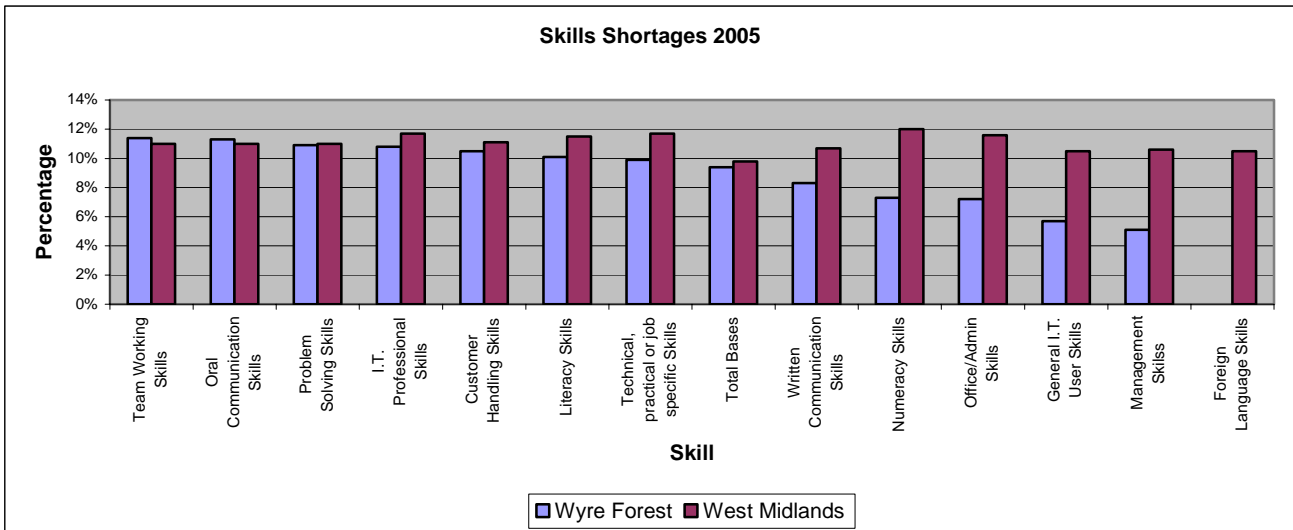
Year	Number of Claimants in Wyre Forest District
2001	1336
2002	1206
2003	1199
2004	1176
2005	1028
2006	1327
2007	1315

The adjacent map indicates the percentage of people in each ward claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). The wards with the greatest percentage of people claiming this benefit are Broadwaters and Oldington & Foley Park. The table (above) shows that the number of JSA claimants in the District declined between 2001 and 2005. However, it rose again in 2006.

(<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>)

Skills Shortages within Wyre Forest (Source: 2005 Employee Skills Survey)

The graph below is taken from the National Employers Skills Survey of 2005. This survey establishes skills gaps as reported by employers.

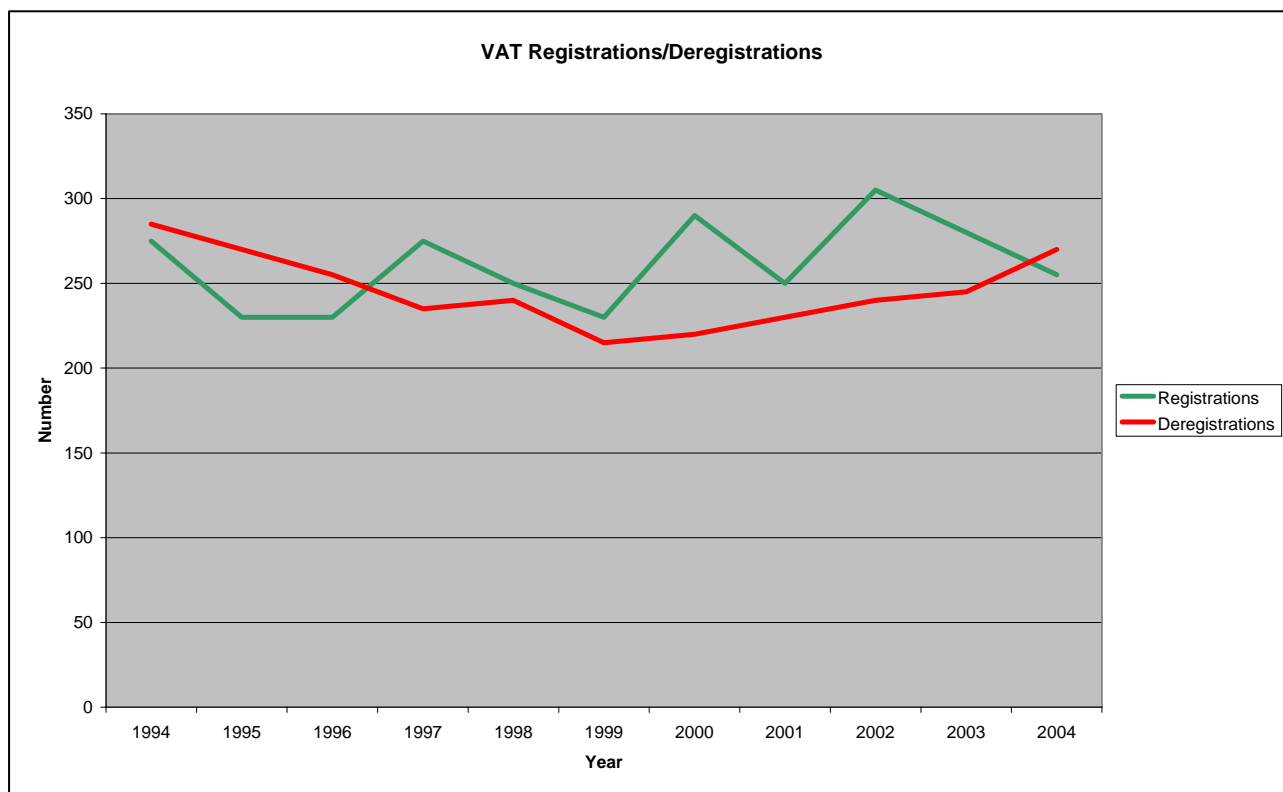


In the National Employers Skills Survey of 2005, employers were asked which skills they thought needed improving. In order of highest proportion the four most common skills Wyre Forest employers cited were:

1. Team Working Skills (11.4%)
2. Oral Communication Skills (11.3%)
3. Problem Solving Skills (10.9%)
4. IT Professional Skills (10.8%)

INDUSTRY/BUSINESS

Business Survival Rates –Wyre Forest (Source: Small Business Statistics Survey, Feb 2006)



The above graph indicates the number of business start-ups and the number of closures over an 11 year time period from 1994 – 2004. During this time the Wyre Forest has received a net increase of 180 business, from a base stock of 2,785 in 1994 rising to 2,965 in 2004.

Local Pattern of Industrial and Office Costs

District	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bromsgrove	5.87	5.75	5.98	4.30
Malvern	4.39	4.20	4.67	4.47
Redditch	5.26	5.95	5.31	5.52
Worcester City	4.41	5.14	4.90	4.89
Wyre Forest	3.89	4.06	3.80	3.40
Wychavon	4.44	4.96	5.40	4.58

The following tables give an indication of the values of Industrial and Office rents demanded by the different districts of Worcestershire between 2004 and 2007. The tables clearly indicate that the Wyre Forest has the lowest average rent for both Industrial and for Office space.

Source: Worcestershire Property Service Annual Report 2006-2007

District	2004	2005	2006	2007
Bromsgrove	12.49	10.62	11.67	14.17
Malvern	8.12	9.89	9.71	14.51
Redditch	11.43	12.83	10.36	10.41
Worcester City	9.14	10.78	10.10	14.66
Wyre Forest	7.54	7.54	8.84	9.75
Wychavon	10.00	11.06	10.27	11.36

Employment by Industrial Sector 2001 (People aged 16-74) (Source: Census 2001)

	Total no.	% in Wyre Forest	% in Worcs	% in England
Agriculture, hunting and forestry and fishing	725	1.5	2.1	1.5
Mining and Quarrying	51	0.1	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	11,967	25.4	20.2	14.8
Electricity, gas and water supply	359	0.8	0.8	0.7
Construction	2,915	6.2	6.3	6.8
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	8,714	18.5	18.4	16.9
Hotels and catering	2,041	4.3	4.3	4.7
Transport, storage and communication	2,415	5.1	5.2	7.1
Financial Intermediation	1,091	2.3	3.1	4.8
Real estate, renting & business activities	4,853	10.3	12.3	13.2
Public admin & defence	1,903	4.0	4.9	5.7
Education	3,142	6.7	7.7	7.7
Health and social care	4,966	10.5	10.4	10.7
Other	2,019	4.3	4.2	5.2

The above table provides a breakdown of employment by sector. The largest employer in the Wyre Forest District, in terms of sector, remains the manufacturing industry.

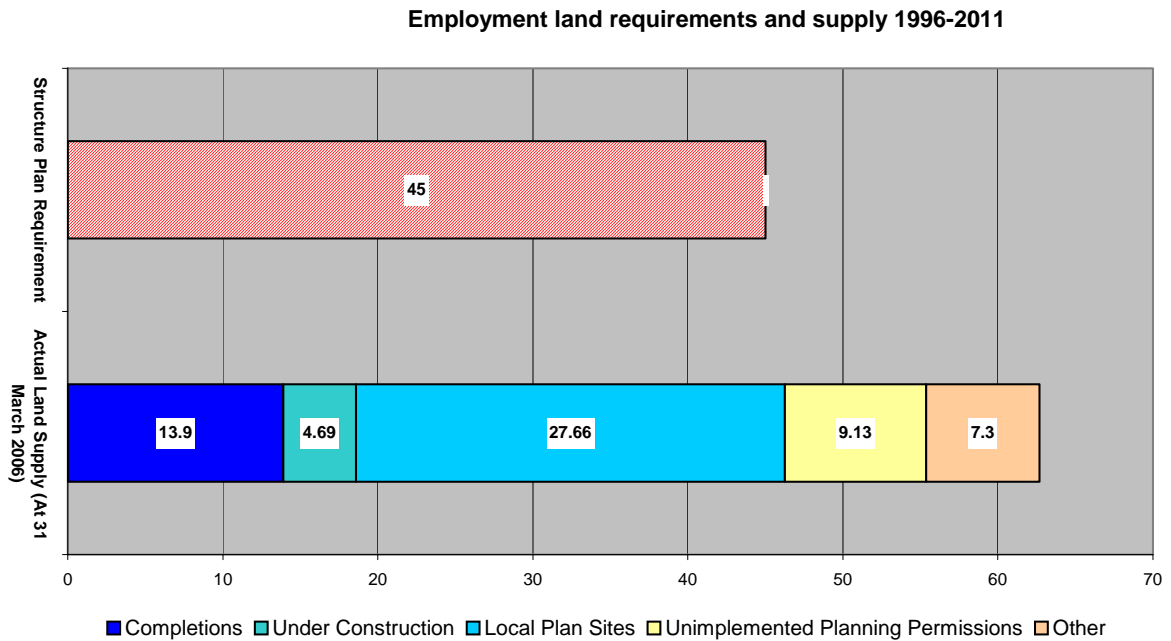
Employee Jobs

	Wyre Forest employee jobs		Wyre Forest %		Worcester-shire %		West Midlands %	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Total employee jobs	34,081	35,574						
Full-time	22,390	22,475	65.7	63.2	66.1	65.3	68.6	68.0
Part-time	11,690	13,099	34.3	36.8	33.9	34.7	31.4	32.0
Manufacturing	7,255	7,050	21.3	19.8	18.7	18.3	18.0	16.6
Construction	1,515	1,547	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.3
Services	24,844	26,535	73.0	74.6	76.2	76.3	76.3	77.8
-Distribution, hotels & restaurants	9,566	9,852	28.1	27.7	25.7	25.1	23.8	24.8
-Transport & communications	1,115	1,244	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.0	5.6	5.4
-Finance, IT, other business activities	4,539	4,934	13.3	13.9	17.3	17.0	16.5	17.3
-Public admin, education & health	8,061	8,961	23.7	25.2	23.6	24.8	25.6	25.8
-Other services	1,563	1,544	4.6	4.3	5.7	5.4	4.8	4.5
-Tourism-related	3,386	2,875	9.9	8.1	8.6	7.5	6.9	7.4

Source: Annual Business Inquiry employee analysis Dec.2004.

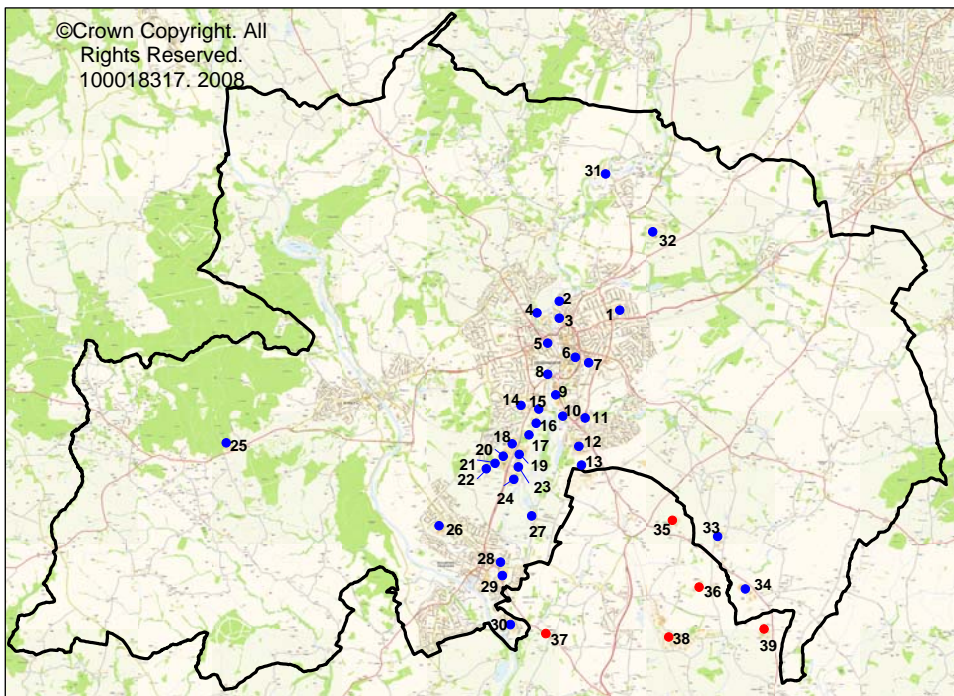
The above table shows how the Wyre Forest economy has changed in the twelve months since December 2003. The number of jobs has risen by nearly 1,500 but most of these have been part-time. The service sector has gained almost 1,700 jobs, whilst manufacturing has seen a loss of 200 jobs. Manufacturing now accounts for just below 20% of local jobs, whereas in 2001 it accounted for more than 1 in 4 jobs. However, 6 of the 10 largest employers are in the manufacturing sector, including Brintons carpets, Sealine Industries (luxury boat-builders) and Titan Steel Wheels (Source: Chamber of Commerce).

Employment Land Availability (Source: Wyre Forest Employment Land Availability Report)



The graph above shows the actual employment land supply for the whole district. The Worcestershire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 requires the provision of ‘about 45 hectares’ of land in the Wyre Forest District for employment uses within Classes B1, B2 and B8 between April 1996 and March 2011. The graph indicates that the current employment land available in the district exceeds the required amount by 16.77ha.

Employment Areas within and Adjacent to the Wyre Forest



Main Employment Areas within the Wyre Forest

The adjacent map indicates a concentration of employment sites in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn, with particular focus on the Stourport Road. Additionally there are some significant sites to the south east of the District in the rural areas along the corridors to the M5 south.

Kidderminster

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Greenhill Industrial Estate | 14. Oasis and Reilloc Chain |
| 2. Stoney Lane Industrial Estate | 15. Lisle Avenue |
| 3. Churchfields Business Park | 16. Former British Sugar Site |
| 4. Puxton Mill | 17. Vale Industrial Estate |
| 5. Park Street | 18. Oldington Trading Estate |
| 6. Stourvale and Meadow Mills | 19. Foley Industrial Estate and Foley Business Park |
| 7. Harriers Trading Estate | 20. Brintons |
| 8. Park Lane | 21. Coppice Trading Estate & Former Romwire Site |
| 9. Worcester Road Business Area | 22. Ceramaspeed |
| 10. Hoobrook Industrial Area | 23. Folkes Forge |
| 11. Spennells Valley and Brockway Carpets | 24. Firs Industrial Estate |
| 12. Hoo Farm Industrial Estate | |
| 13. Summerfield | |

Bewdley

25. Bewdley Business Park

Stourport-on-Severn

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 26. Bewdley Road | 29. Worcester Road |
| 27. Wilden Industrial Estate | 30. Sandy Lane Industrial Estate |
| 28. Riverside Business Centre and Baldwin Road | |

Rural

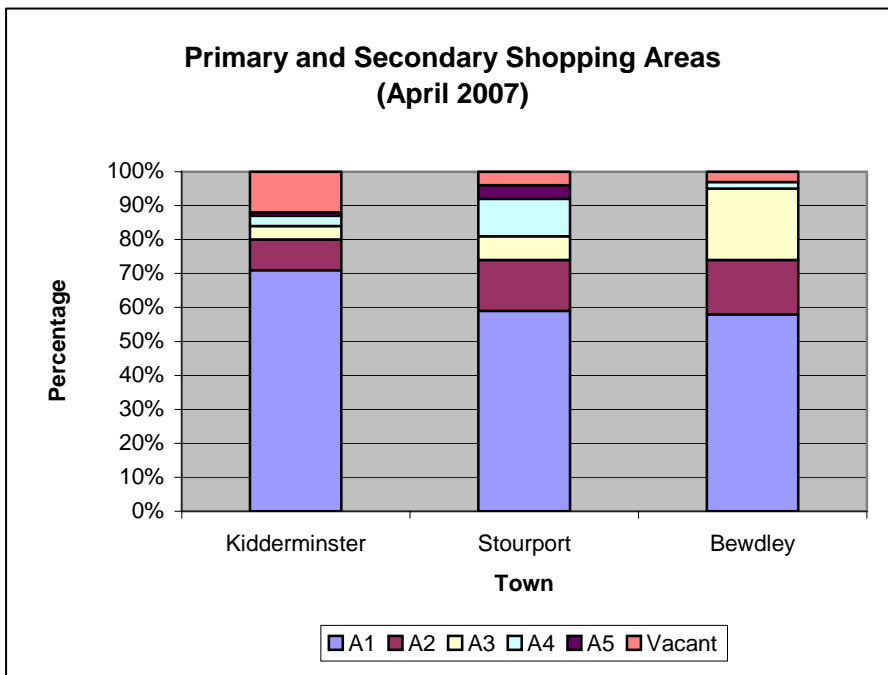
31. Titan Steel Wheels, Cookley
 32. Lea Castle
 33. Cursley Distribution Park
 34. Rushock Trading Estate

Employment Areas Adjacent to the Wyre Forest

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 35. Ikon Trading Estate | 38. Hartlebury Industrial Estate |
| 36. Oak Park Industrial Estate | 39. Site 7 Trading Estate |
| 37. Chadwick Bank Industrial Estate | |

RETAIL AND SERVICES

Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas



(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Annual Retail Monitoring Report (2007))

The graph to the left indicates the make up of shops within the primary and secondary shopping areas of the three towns.

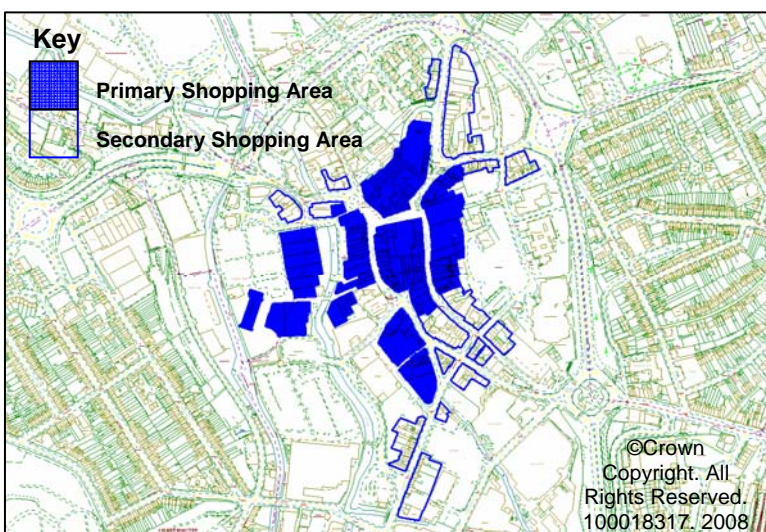
Retailing within the Wyre Forest is centred on the main town of Kidderminster, which is home to many national companies and has the largest retail floorspace out of anywhere in the district.

Kidderminster has a total retail floorspace of 145,729 sqm gross (106,654 sqm net) of which 81,285 sqm gross is within the town centre or edge-of-centre. Crossley Park and B&Q, which are both in close proximity to the town centre, take the bulk of out-of-centre floorspace at 46,463 sqm gross.

which are both in close proximity to the town centre, take the bulk of out-of-centre floorspace at 46,463 sqm gross.

The Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas of Stourport-on-Severn contain approximately 20,481 sqm gross of retail floorspace (13,313 sqm net) whereas Bewdley (a District Centre) has a total floorspace of 6,557 sqm gross (4,263 sqm net).

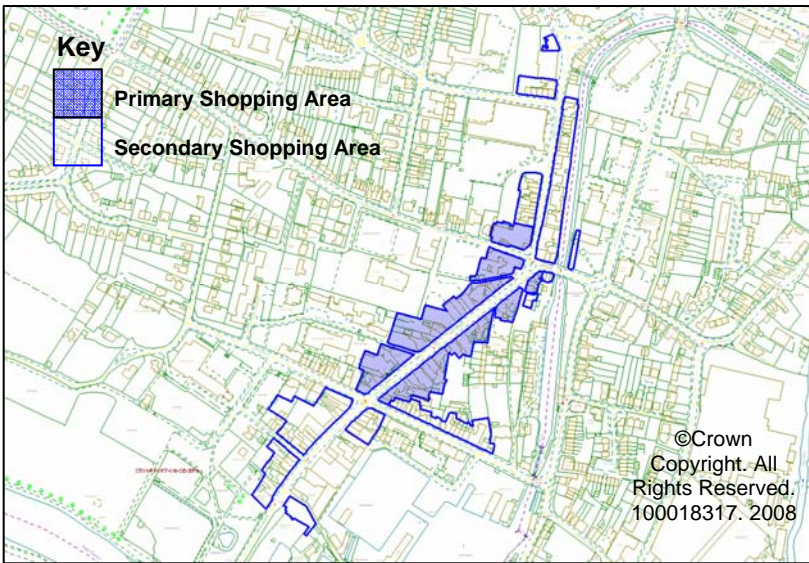
Shopping Areas within Kidderminster



The map to the left indicates the main shopping areas within Kidderminster Town Centre.

(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Adopted Local Plan, 2004)

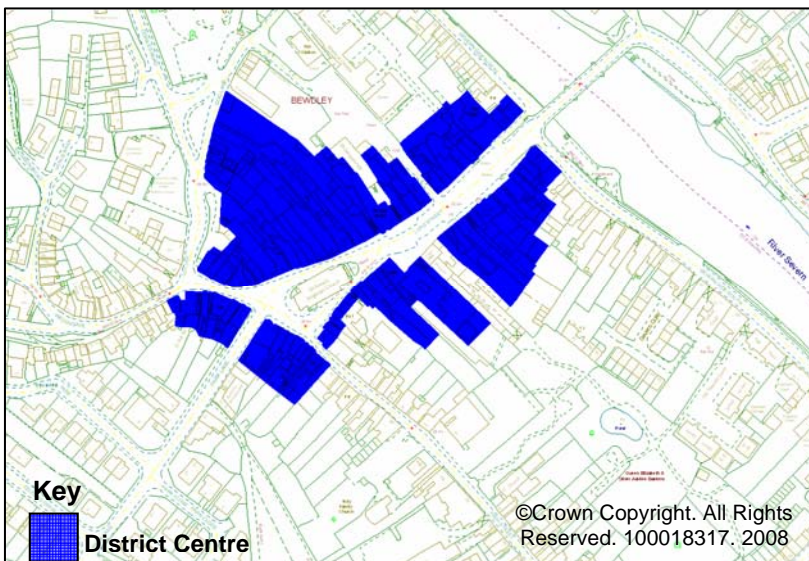
Shopping Areas within Stourport-on-Severn



The map to the left indicates the predominant shopping areas within Stourport-on-Severn.

(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Adopted Local Plan, 2004)

Shopping Areas within Bewdley



There are no primary and secondary shopping areas within Bewdley, due to the size of the town and the nature of the shopping. Instead Bewdley is designated as a 'District Centre' and the map above highlights where the main shopping area is located.

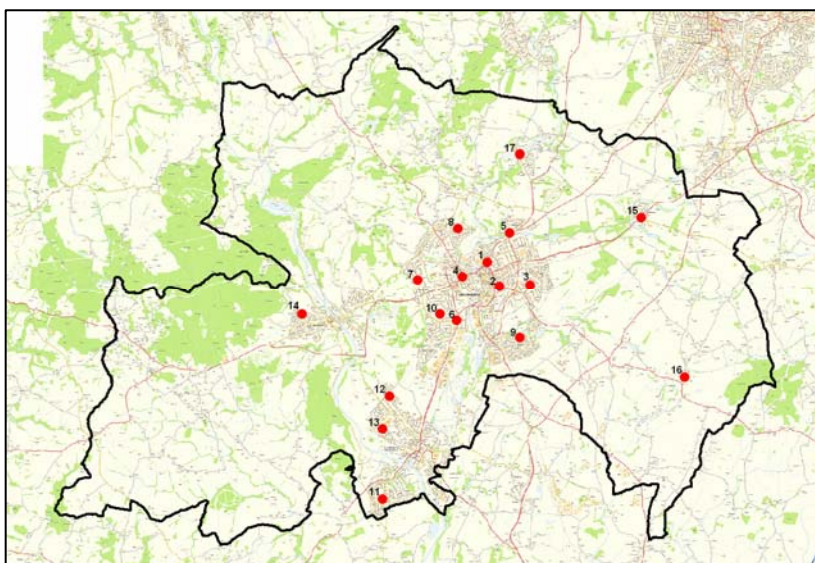
(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Adopted Local Plan, 2004)

Major Stores within the Wyre Forest District (Source: Forest District Council Annual Retail Monitoring Report (2007))

(>1000 m2 Gross) Kidderminster					
Operator	Location	Address	Trade	Gross Floorspace (m2)	Net Floorspace (m2)
Vacant (Formerly Littlewoods)	Town Centre	Worcester Street		3265	2122
Next	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Clothing	1942	1262
TK Maxx	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Clothing	2440	1586
TJ Hughes	Town Centre	1 High Street	Department Store	2499	1624
JJB Sports	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Sports Shop	1730	1125
Sports World	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Sports Shop	1784	1160
Waitrose	Town Centre	St Georges Mall (Swan Shopping Centre)	Supermarket	1040	676
De Bradley Mill Shop	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Variety Store	3727	2423
Vacant (Formerly M&S)	Town Centre	High Street		1520	988
Marks & Spencer (M&S)	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Variety Store	2020	1313
Wilkinson	Town Centre	Market Street	Variety Store	2010	1307
Woolworths	Town Centre	Worcester Street	Variety Store	2180	1417
PC World	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Computers	1737	1390
B&Q	Out-of-Centre	Green Street	DIY/Hardware	13800	11040
Focus	Out-of-Centre	Hoo Brook Trading Estate	DIY/Hardware	3446	2757
Comet	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Electrical	1380	1104
Currys	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Electrical	1223	978
Dreams	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Furniture & Carpets	1038	830
Vacant (Formerly Klausner)	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park		1235	988
MFI	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Furniture & Carpets	1167	934
SCS	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Furniture & Carpets	1412	1130
Halfords	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Motor Accessories	1187	950
Staples	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Stationary	1641	1313
Sainsburys	Out-of-Centre	Carpet Trades Way	Supermarket	7645	6116
Co-op	Out-of-Centre	Franche Road	Supermarket	2618	2094
Somerfield	Out-of-Centre	New Road	Supermarket	1403	1122
Matalan	Out-of-Centre	Park Lane	Variety Store	2638	2110
The Range	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Variety Store	11688	9350
Aldi	Edge-of-Centre	Green Street	Supermarket	1200	780
Safeway	Edge-of-Centre	Oxford Street	Supermarket	3621	2354
Tesco	Edge-of-Centre	Castle Road	Supermarket	7590	4934
TOTAL				93826	69276

Major Existing Retail Stores (>1000 m2 Gross) Stourport-on-Severn					
Operator	Location	Address	Trade	Gross Floorspace (m2)	Net Floorspace (m2)
Co-op	Edge-of-Centre	Lombard Street	Supermarket	2840	1846
Lidl	Edge-of-Centre	Vale Road	Supermarket	1250	813
Wigleys	Out-of-Centre	Sandy Lane Industrial Estate	DIY/Hardware	3677	2942
TOTAL				4090	2659

Local Centres



The map to the left indicates the location and distribution of the local centres within the Wyre Forest area. The majority of centres are located in and around Kidderminster while important local centres serve parts of the towns of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley and the surrounding villages.

(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Adopted Local Plan 2004)

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Kidderminster		
1. Horsefair	2. Comberton Hill	3. Comberton Estate
4. Blakebrook	5. Broadwaters	6. Stourport Road
7. Habberley	8. Marlpool	9. Spennells
10. Sutton Farm		
Stourport-on-Severn		
11. Areley Common	12. Burlish	13. Lickhill
Bewdley		
14. The Lakes		
Surrounding Villages		
15. Blakedown	16. Chaddesley Corbett	17. Cookley

Retail Rents

	Rents (£/sq ft)					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kidderminster	65	65	65	65	65	70
Birmingham	330	310	285	300	325	325
Redditch	110	110	110	110	115	115
Stourbridge	40	40	40	45	45	50
Dudley	50	50	50	50	50	50
Bromsgrove	50	55	60	60	60	65
Halesowen	45	50	50	55	65	70
Worcester	150	150	150	160	160	170
Droitwich	-	35	35	40	50	50

The average retail rents in Kidderminster remained stable between 2001 and 2005, and then increased slightly between 2005 and 2006.

Source: Focus database, WFDC Retail and Commercial Leisure Report, 2006

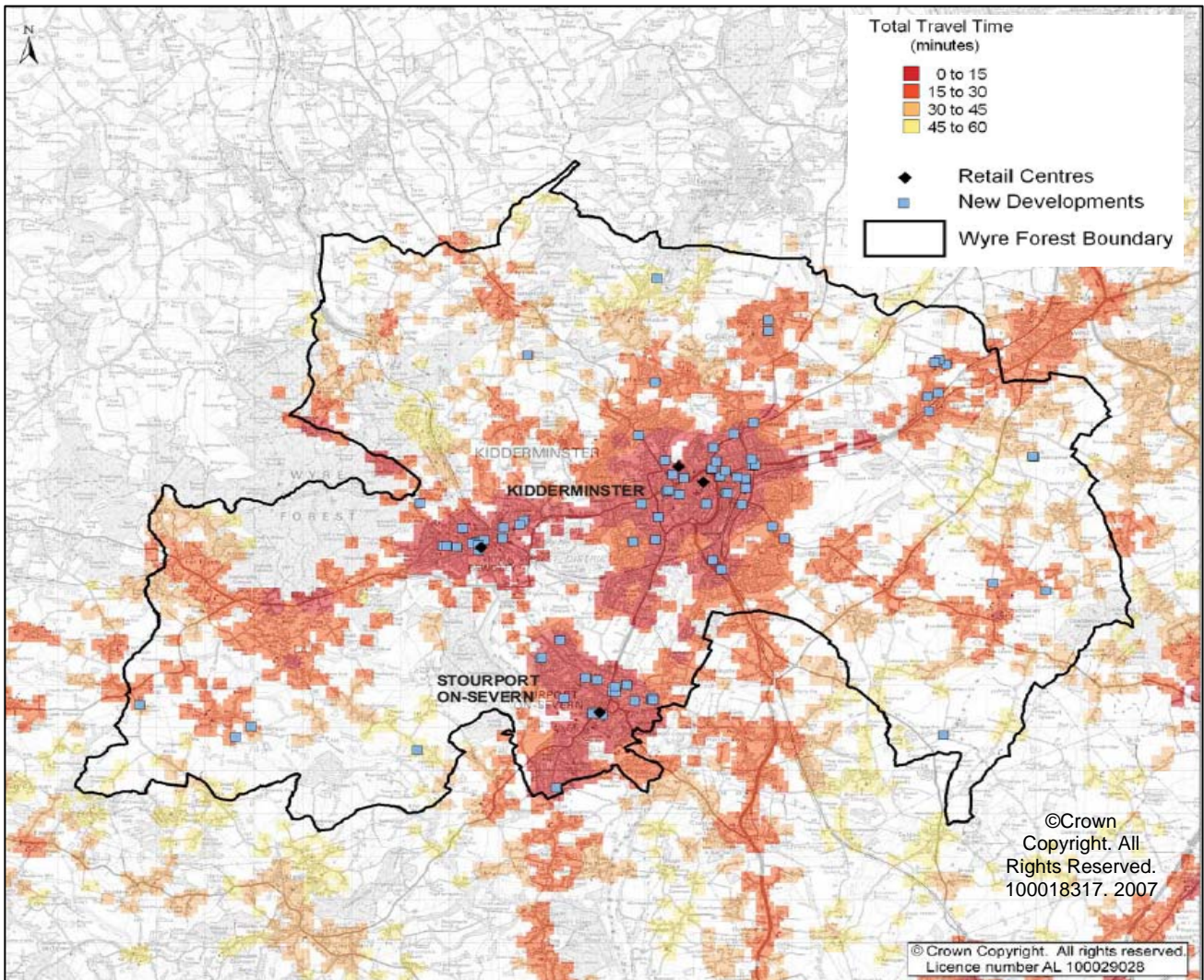
Retail Yields

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Kidderminster	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.50
Stourport-on-Severn	10.00	10.00	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25
Birmingham	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75	5.00	5.00
Wolverhampton	6.00	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Worcester	5.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
Dudley	9.00	9.00	8.75	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.50
Stourbridge	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Halesowen	9.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25

Source: Focus database, WFDC Retail and Commercial Leisure Report, 2006

The retail yields (which are calculated by dividing the annual rent by the capital value or sale price of the property and broadly represents the market's evaluation of risk and return attracted to the income stream of shop rents) in both Kidderminster and Stourport on Severn have improved slightly during the last 10 years. Lower yield figures represent a town that is considered to be attractive and more likely to attract investment. Regionally, overall yields have tended to improve or remain stable, with none of the centres having a poorer yield in 2005 than in 1996.

New Housing Sites within 60 Minutes Access to Retail Facilities (By Public Transport)

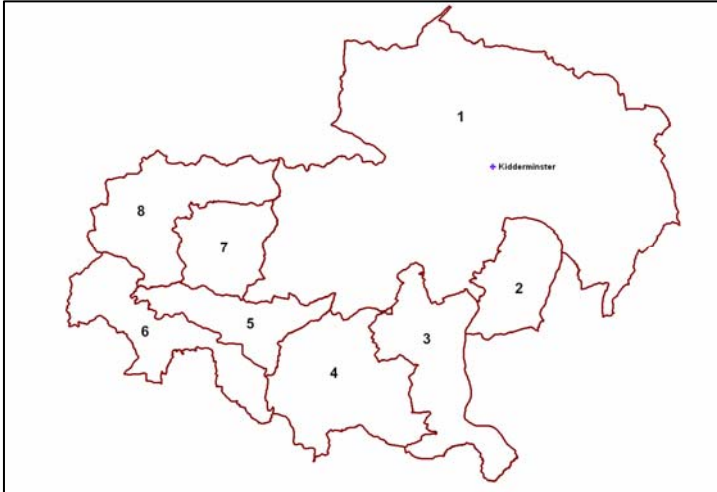


The map shows that all of the new housing sites completed during 2005/06 within the District are within 60 minutes travel time of retail facilities by public transport. Most of the new housing sites fall within the 0-15 minutes time bracket, and a significant number are between 15 and 30 minutes away from retail facilities.

TRANSPORT

Kidderminster - Travel to Work Area (T.T.W.A)

The map (below) indicates Kidderminster's T.T.W.A. The area is based on 1991 census data and came into effect in May 1998. The areas included within Kidderminster's T.T.W.A are:



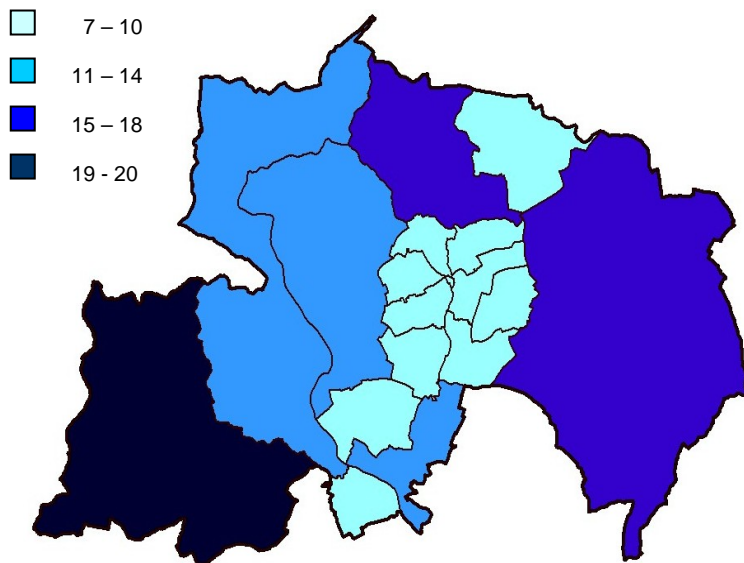
1. Wyre Forest District Council
2. Hartlebury Ward, Wychavon District Council
3. Baldwin Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
4. Woodbury Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
5. Lindridge Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
6. Valley of the Teme Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
7. Bayton & Mamble Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
8. Cleobury Mortimer, South Shropshire District Council

The fundamental criterion of T.T.W.As is that, of the resident economically active population, at least 75% actually work in the area, and also, that of everyone working in the area, at least 75% actually live in the area. (ONS, 2004)

Wyre Forest District Council's Travel to Work Area stretches South and West of the District Boundary. It includes wards which form part of Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and South Shropshire District Council.

Percentage of People Working from Home

Key – Percentage of People working from home



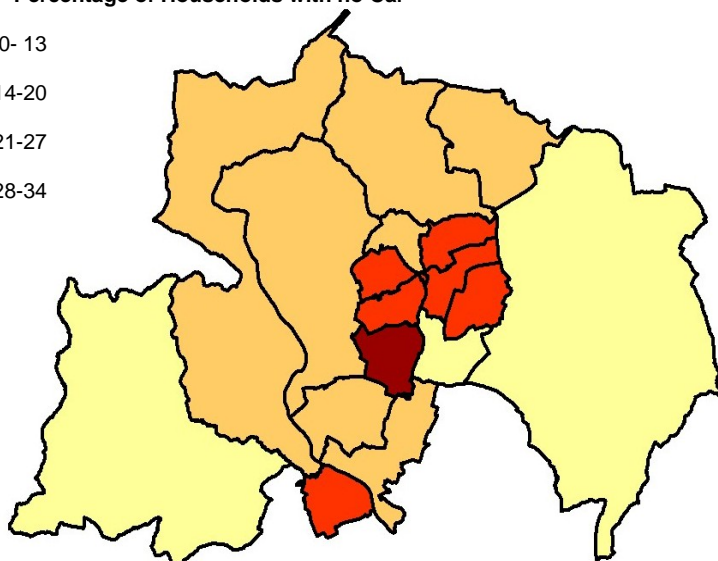
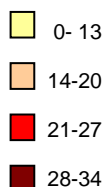
Area	% working from Home (2001 Census)
Wyre Forest	9.64%
Worcestershire	10.32%
West Midlands	8.94%

The adjacent map indicates the percentage of people working from home by ward. As expected, the more rural locations have a greater percentage of people working from home. The average number of people working from home across the District is 9.64%, this is slightly higher than the West Midlands average and slightly lower than the average for Worcestershire County.

(Source: 2001 Census via <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

Car Ownership Levels

Key – Percentage of Households with no Car



Area	% Households with no Car
Wyre Forest	19.52%
Worcestershire	17.64%
West Midlands	26.77%

The adjacent map indicates the percentage of households, by ward, with no car. The ward with the highest percentage (i.e. where the least cars are owned) is Oldington and Foley Park. The average percentage of households with no car across the District is 19.52, this is higher than Worcestershire as a whole and lower than the West Midlands.

(Source: 2001 Census via <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

Public Transport within the Wyre Forest

Rail

Worcestershire Station Usage – Annual Journeys 1994 – 2005

Station	1994	2005	% Change
Kidderminster	645,517	1,038,129	61%
Blakedown	23,894	45,802	92%

Source: Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2006 – 11 (WCC) p.97

Kidderminster is the 2nd busiest station in Worcestershire, carrying over a million passengers a year, with a significant growth having been recorded over the past 11 years. This increase can be attributed to the continual improvement of services from Kidderminster to Birmingham now operated by London Midland and the introduction of peak time train services to London Marylebone by Chiltern Railways during 2002. It is notable that Kidderminster and Worcester Stations generate more passengers per train than any other comparable non-metropolitan stations within the West Midlands region.

There has also been significant growth in passengers using Blakedown Rail Station with a 92% increase over the 11-year period. This can also be attributed to improved services and the increase in commuters into the metropolitan areas.

Cycling

The 2001 Census Results showed that from a total of 47,161 working Wyre Forest residents aged 16-74, 1,033 people cycled to work. This represents a total of 2.19%. 2002/03 statistics from the WCC cycle counter located on Minster Road, Stourport demonstrate that the numbers of cyclists increase during the warmer spring and summer months when it is lighter in the mornings and evenings. Figures are set out below for information:

Jun 02	Jul 02	Aug 02	Sep 02	Oct 02	Nov 02	Dec 02	Jan 03	Feb 03	Mar 03
79	80	77	72	63	59	43	54	57	57

(Source: WCC Cycle Counter Data representing an average daily flow for the specified month)

WCC also has limited figures from the counter located on the canal towpath adjacent to the Gilgal. These show that average daily flow figures have nearly doubled from 36 cyclists in March 2003 to 71 cyclists in April 2004.

Road Links

Within the District the key strategic highways are as follows:

- The A449, which runs north/south through the District and the eastern side of Kidderminster, linking Worcester and Wolverhampton.
- The A456 runs east/west through the District providing the main route from the conurbation to Kidderminster, Bewdley and on to the Marches.
- The A448 Kidderminster to Bromsgrove Road.
- The A442 which connects Kidderminster with Bridgnorth and Droitwich
- The A451 Stourport-on-Severn – Kidderminster – Stourbridge route.

Car-Parking

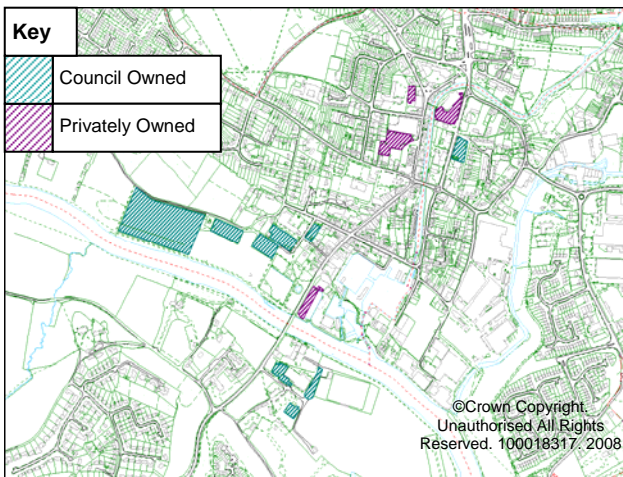
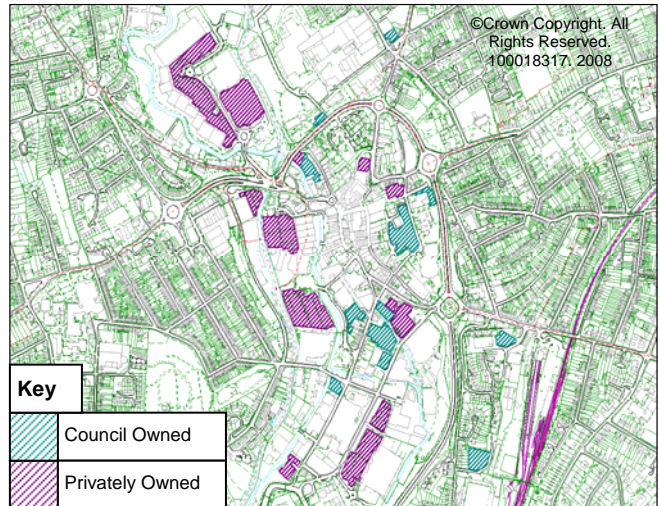
Table of District Council Pay and Display Facilities

Car Park	Duration	No of Spaces
Kidderminster		
Comberton Place	Short Stay	88
Market Street	Short Stay	72
Bateman Yard	Long Stay	50
Horsefair	Medium/Long Stay	45
Bromsgrove Street	Short/Medium/Long Stay	330
Weavers Wharf	Short/Medium Stay	402
Pike Mills	Medium/Long Stay	210
Aldi Store	Medium/Long Stay	65
Castle Road	Medium/Long Stay	42
St Marys Church	Medium/Long Stay	40
Youth Centre	Medium/Long Stay	65
Stadium Close	Long Stay	153 (Park & Ride)
Stourport-on-Severn		
Raven Street	Short Stay	28
Vale Road	Short/Medium/Long Stay	72
Severn Meadows No1	Medium/Long Stay	105
Stourport Sports Centre	Medium/Long Stay	49
Severn Meadows No2	Long Stay	101
Severn Meadows No 3	Long Stay	116
Riverside Meadows	Long Stay	600 (Seasonal)
Bewdley		
Load Street	Short Stay	41
Dog Lane	Medium/Long Stay	168
Gardeners Meadow	Medium/Long Stay	125

(Source: WFDC Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services Division 2006)

Kidderminster (Source: Wyre Forest GGP Overlay)

The adjacent map shows the car parking areas in Kidderminster town centre. The town centre is relatively well served by public car parking. A large proportion of parking is maintained privately and has been provided through development including the KTC.1 regeneration scheme (Weavers Wharf). Generally speaking, the town’s car parks are easily accessed.



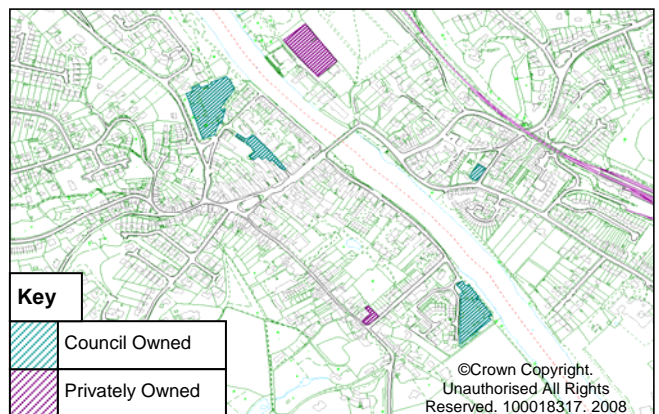
Stourport-On-Severn (Source: Wyre Forest GGP Overlay)

The adjacent map outlines the town centre car parking areas for Stourport on Severn. Overall there is adequate car parking provision although during the summer months there is much pressure from visiting tourists.

Bewdley (Source: Wyre Forest GGP Overlay)

There are four Council operated car-parks within Bewdley. The Load Street short stay car-park plays an important role in parking for the health centre. There are also a number of on street car-parking spaces.

A recent retail study (December 2006) asked public opinion regarding the ‘adequacy of parking arrangements’ within the three main settlements, the table below highlights the results:



Opinion on Car Parking	Kidderminster	Stourport-on-Severn	Bewdley
Average or Good	55.8%	53.6%	43.3%
Poor	26%	39.3%	42.2%
Don't Know	18.2%	7.1%	14.4%

Source: Wyre Forest Retail and Leisure Study, December 2006

IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health and Wellbeing in the Wyre Forest District

Health Status % of resident population in each group				
Area	General health: Good	General health: Fairly good	General health: Not good	People with a limiting long-term illness
England and Wales	68.6	22.2	9.2	18.2
West Midlands	67.2	23.1	9.7	18.9
Wyre Forest District	67.5	23.7	8.9	17.9
Aggborough & Spennells Ward	73.7	20.3	6.0	12.6
Areley Kings Ward	62.8	26.2	10.9	20.2
Bewdley & Arley Ward	68.0	23.8	8.3	18.1
Blakedown & Chaddesley Ward	71.6	21.9	6.5	15.0
Broadwaters Ward	66.7	24.3	9.1	16.7
Cookley Ward	63.5	27.0	9.6	22.5
Franche Ward	69.0	22.7	8.3	16.3
Greenhill Ward	67.2	24.2	8.6	18.5
Habberley & Blakebrook Ward	66.0	24.4	9.6	19.5
Lickhill Ward	68.9	22.9	8.2	17.4
Mitton Ward	69.6	21.9	8.6	16.0
Offmore & Comberton Ward	64.9	25.2	9.8	20.5
Oldington & Foley Park Ward	63.4	25.3	11.4	20.7
Rock Ward	68.8	23.5	7.7	17.1
Sutton Park Ward	66.7	24.3	9.1	17.5
Wolverley Ward	63.4	24.7	11.9	22.9
Wribbenhall Ward	68.3	22.2	9.5	19.4

The table to the left shows that overall the District's population has a good level of health. The wards with the perceived levels of poorer health are Areley Kings, Wolverley, Cookley, Oldington & Foley Park and Offmore & Comberton.

The 'People with a limiting long-term illness' column shows that Aggborough and Spennells has the lowest number of people suffering from a limiting long term illness, and Wolverley ward has the highest number. This may be because there is a higher concentration of senior citizens residing in the ward.

(Source: Census Statistics, 2001)

Major Causes of Death (2003)

Deaths all Ages 2003	Standardised Death Rate per 100,000 Source: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=8987 http://www.wmpho.org.uk		
	Circulatory Diseases	All Cancers	Respiratory Disease
Males			
England & Wales*	299.5	228.2	102.6
West Midlands	311.74	228.78	104.61
Worcestershire	277.54	202.27	89.79
Wyre Forest	293.01	210.18	90.47
Females			
England & Wales*	190.5	160.4	72.8
West Midlands	198.81	155.33	72.24
Worcestershire	177.28	141.14	59.71
Wyre Forest	143.34	120.50	46.98

The figures show a much higher level of death through the three main diseases in males. Circulatory diseases are a major cause of death in both sexes. The District has a consistently higher death rate than Worcestershire amongst males in all three categories. However, the health of the District's female population is consistently higher than the County, Regional and National levels.

Life Expectancy at Birth (years) 2006

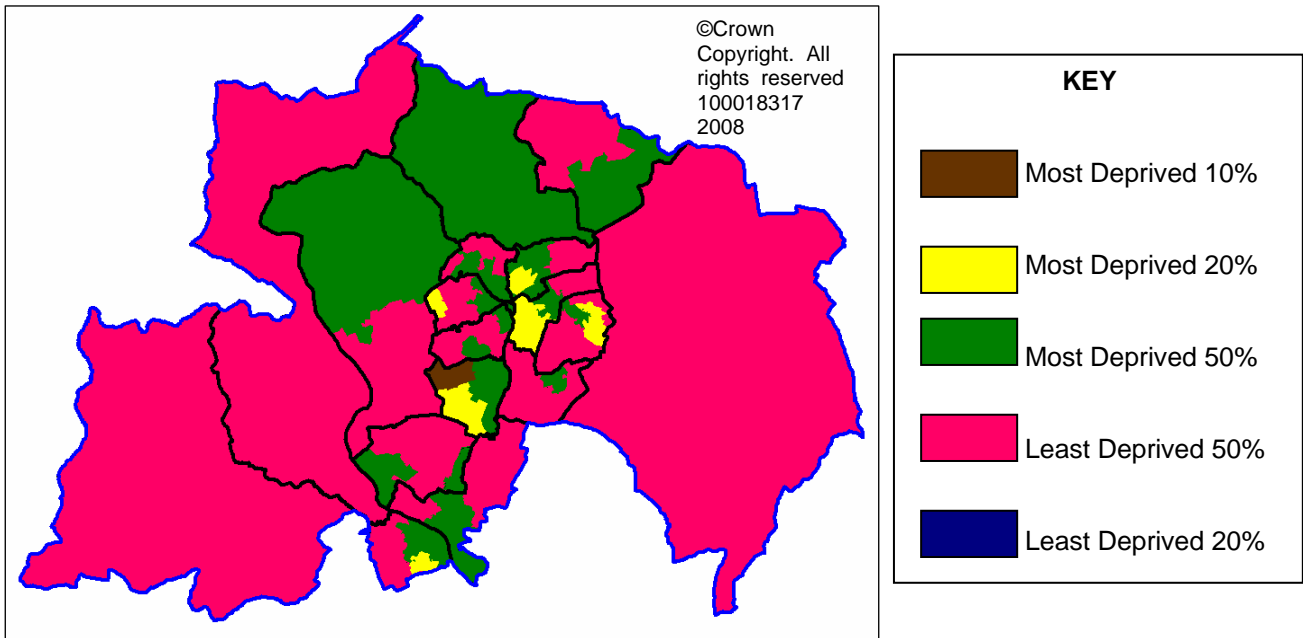
	Wyre Forest	West Midlands	England and Wales
Life Expectancy at Birth, Males	77.7	76.6	77.32
Life Expectancy at Birth, Females	81.6	81.1	81.55

Source: www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

The life expectancy rates are higher than the regional and national average. There is a marked difference of 4 years between male and female life expectancy.

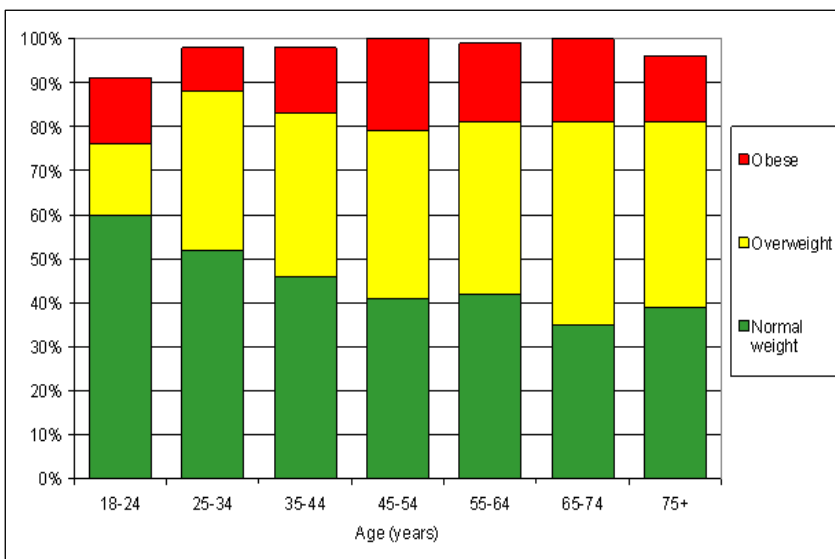
Index of Multiple Deprivation Health Profiles

The 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a Super Output Area level measure of multiple deprivation. There are seven different domains: income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation and disability, education, skills and training deprivation, barriers to housing and services, living environment deprivation and crime. The health domain identifies areas with high concentrations of people who die prematurely and whose quality of life is reduced by poor health or disability.



The map above shows the Ranking of the Super Output Areas (SOAs) within the District. SOAs are small areas which fit together to make up wards. The ward boundaries are shown on the map. There are no SOAs in the top 10% most deprived nationally for health. The least deprived wards are Rock, Blakedown and Chaddesley, Wolverley, and Bewdley and Arley where all of the SOAs are in the 50% least deprived nationally. The most deprived SOA is in Oldington and Foley Park ward and is one of the 20% most deprived wards nationally in terms of health. (Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007))

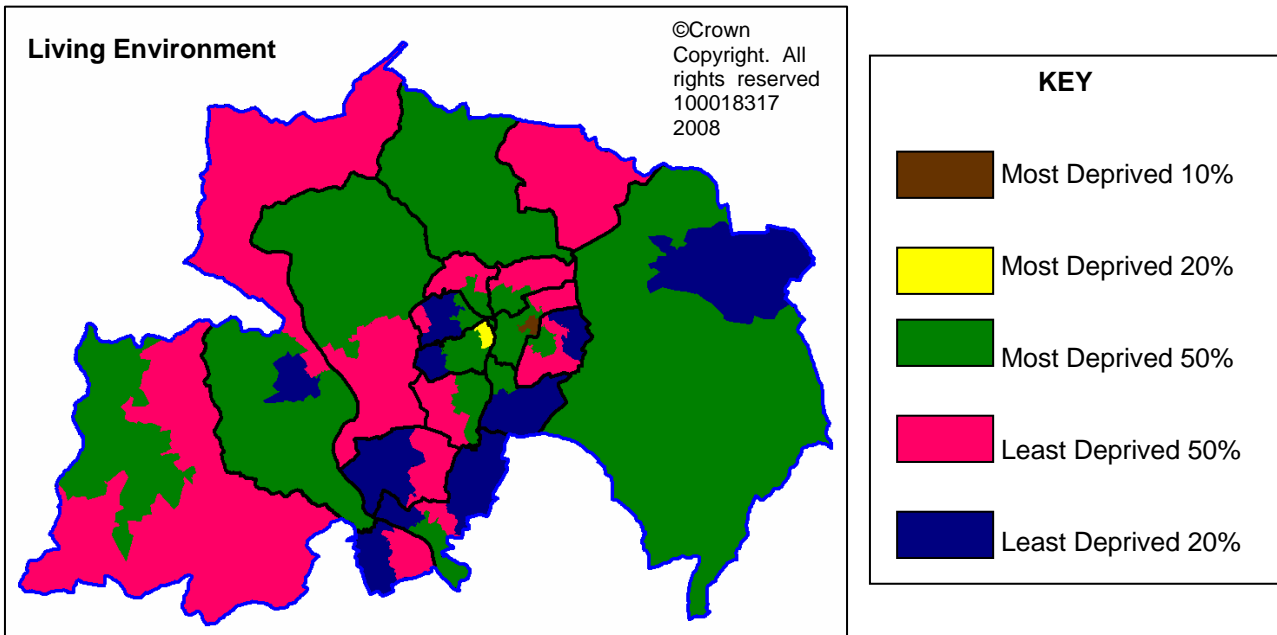
Weight within the District (Source: Wyre Forest Public Health Report 2006)



The West Midlands Regional Lifestyle Survey, carried out by the West Midlands Regional Observatory in 2005 provides data about obesity. In Wyre Forest, over half the adult population are overweight, with 16% being obese. Obesity is more common in men (60% overweight; 18% obese) than women (55% overweight; 14% obese). By comparison, 36% of Worcestershire residents are overweight, and 13% are obese.

Wellbeing and Access to Facilities

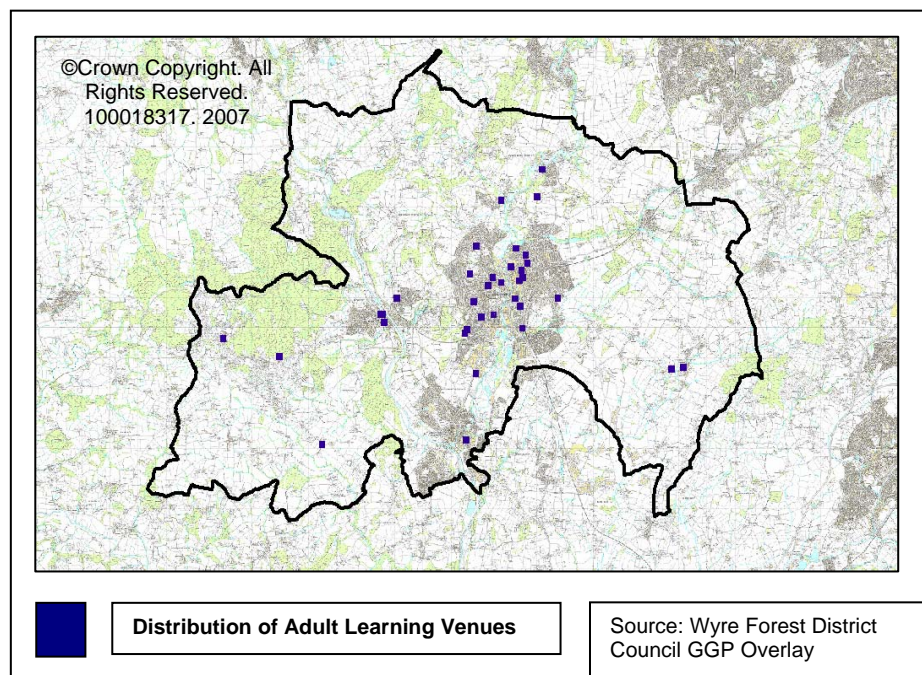
The living environment domain of the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation focuses on deprivation in the living environment. It includes both the 'indoors' living environment measuring the quality of housing, and the 'outdoors' living environment measuring the air quality and road traffic accidents. Other issues considered include overcrowding, homelessness and affordability of housing.



The Living Environment IMD profiles show that many of the SOAs within the District amongst the 50% most deprived nationally. One SOA is within the 10% most deprived nationally, this is within Greenhill ward. This is an improvement on 2004 when a number of the District's SOAs were amongst the 10% most deprived nationally. (Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007) www.statistics.gov.uk).

Adult and Community Learning (ACL)

The ACL Mapping Project was developed by the Worcestershire Learning and Skills Partnership. It was implemented in September 2003 to develop a dynamic mapping process for Adult Community Learning provision and facilities across Worcestershire and Hereford City. One of the objectives of the project was to identify the locations where adult and community learning is delivered. The map and table below show the distribution of venues across the Wyre Forest District.



Ward	Primary School (December 07)	High Schools (December 07)	Other Education Venues (ACL -Dec.2004)***
Aggborough & Spennells	1		1
Areley Kings	1		0
Bewdley & Arley	2		3
Blakedown & Chaddesley	2		2
Broadwaters	2		5
Cookley	1		1
Franche	2		1
Greenhill	2		4
Habberley & Blakebrook	1	1	2
Lickhill	3	1	0
Mitton	2		1
Offmore & Comberton	2	1	1
Oldington & Foley Park	2		3
Rock	1		3
Sutton Park	1		5
Wolverley	1	1	2
Wribbenhall	1	1	1
Total	27	5	35

Sources:

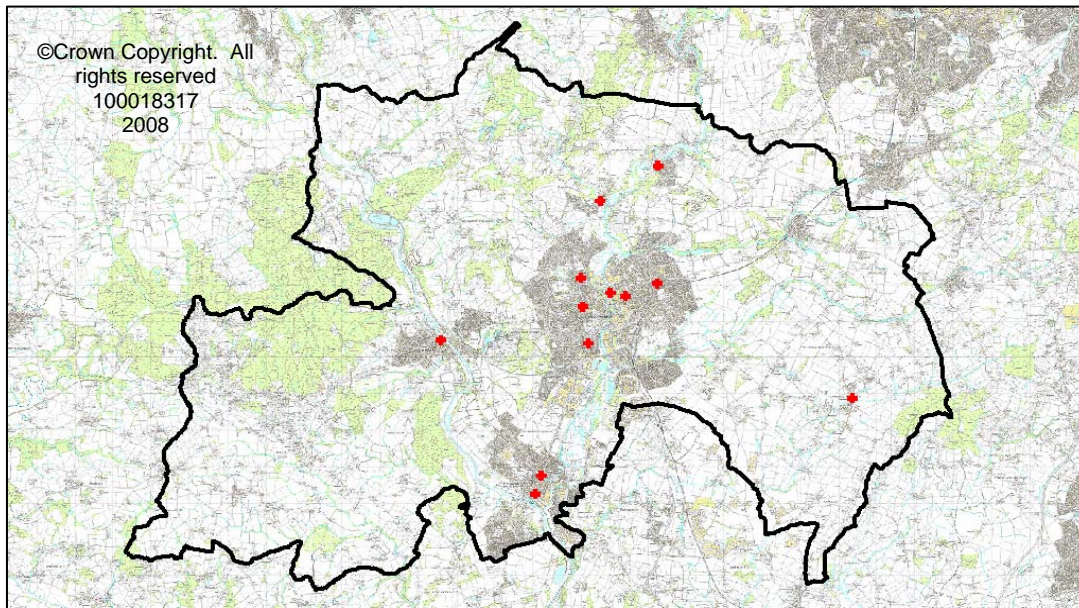
*** WCC - Adult and Community Learning (ACL) Mapping Project - Sept 2003 - Dec 2004

Community Facilities in the District

District Ward	Ward Population (2001 Census)	Community Civic Halls	Primary Schools	High Schools	Private Schools & ACLs	Doctor's Surgeries
Aggborough & Spennells	7,225	2	1		1	
Areley Kings	6,041	5	1		0	
Bewdley & Arley	6,295	8	2		3	1
Blakedown & Chaddesley	4,264	9	2		2	1
Broadwaters	7,787	4	2		5	
Cookley	2,491	2	1		1	1
Franche	7,071	3	2		1	
Greenhill	7,293	11	2		4	3
Habberley & Blakebrook	6,477	4	1	1	2	1
Lickhill	7,131	5	3	1	0	
Mitton	6,541	6	2		1	2
Offmore & Comberton Ward	6,901	3	2	1	1	
Oldington & Foley Park Ward	5,261	3	2		3	1
Rock Ward	2,366	5	1		3	
Sutton Park Ward	7,167	3	1		5	1
Wolverley Ward	2,096	2	1	1	2	1
Wribbenhall Ward	4,574	4	1	1	1	
Total	96,981	75	27	5	35	12

Sources: WFDC- Environmental Health - Licensing Jan 2006; WFDC Adopted Local Plan 2004; Valuation Office - www.voa.gov.uk WCC SPG April 2003, WCC - ACL Mapping Project - Sept 2003 - Dec 2004

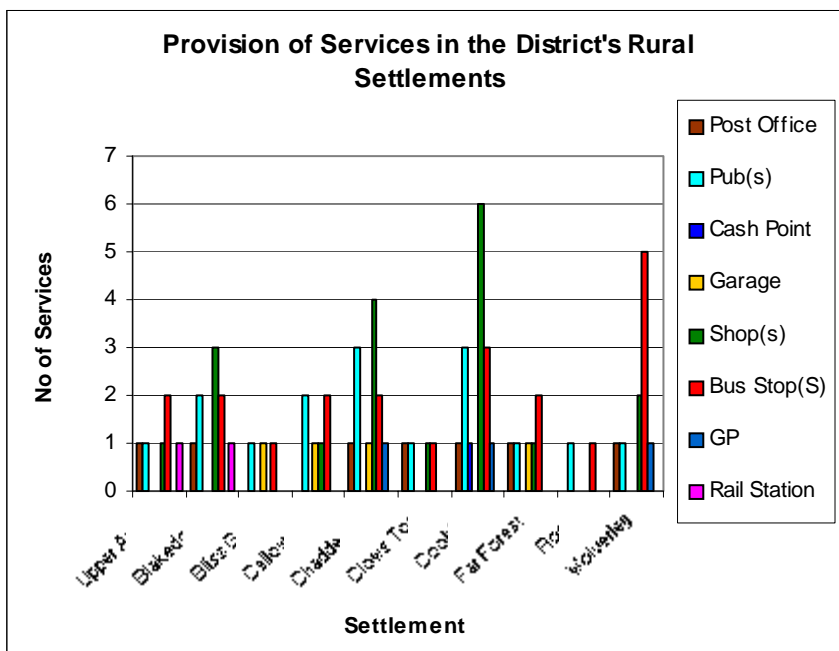
The above table indicates that there is a marked variation in the provision of community facilities for wards across the District. Surprisingly, some of the more urban wards are poorly served, particularly Aggborough & Spennells and Franche. Greenhill, Bewdley and Arley and Mitton have a higher number of community facilities for their residents.



Location of GP Surgeries Source WFDC GGP overlay

The map shows that the GP surgeries within the District are located within the three towns of Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport on Severn and the villages of Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett and Fairfield, Wolverley. Provision of GP surgeries in the rural areas of the District is more sparse.

Rural Facilities

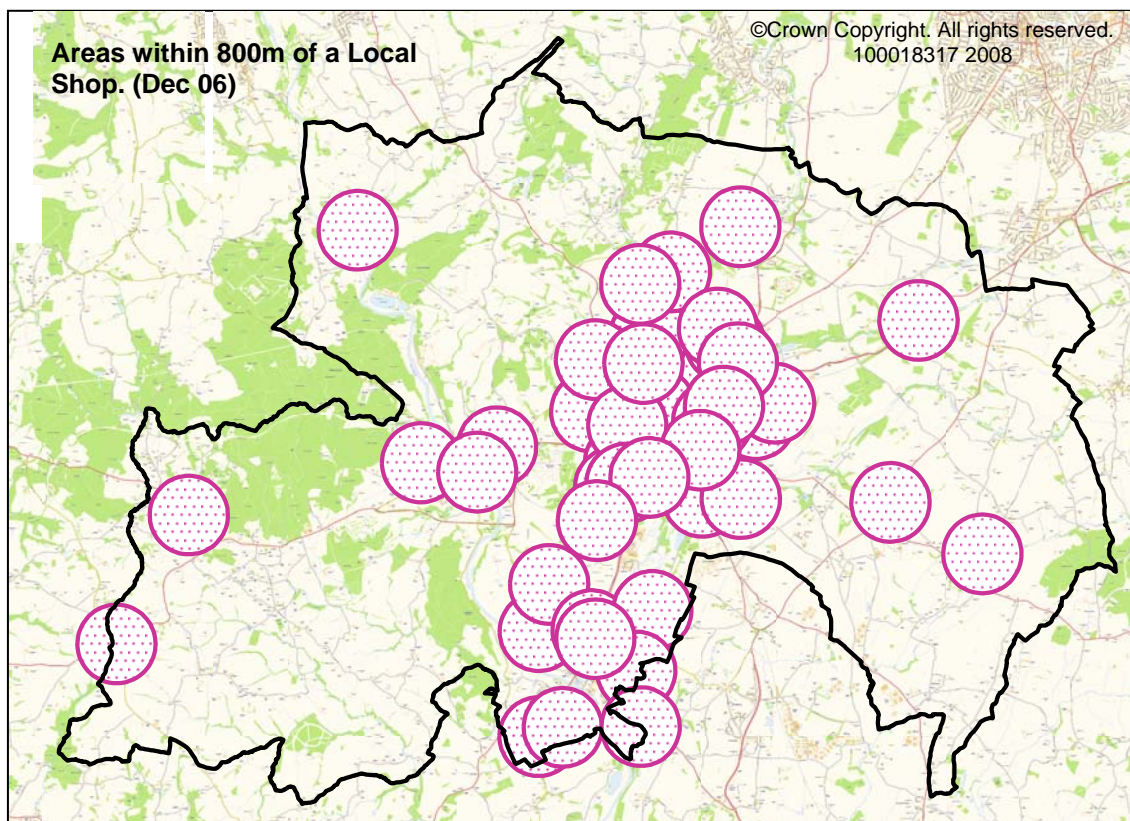


The chart indicates that Cookley has a good level of service provision for its local residents, followed by Wolverley and Chaddesley. The rural settlements to the west of the District including Rock, Bliss Gate, Callow Hill, Far Forest and Clows Top all have lower levels of service provision. In particular, Bliss Gate and Rock do not have access to a local general stores or post office. The pub plays an important role as a community hub in these areas. This may also show some correlation with the poor scores for Rock & Ribbesford Wards in living environment

and barriers/access to housing and services.

There is a marked variation in service provision between the rural settlements to the east and those to the west of the District. However, this displays correlation with the scale of settlement rather than the location east or west of the River Severn. (Source: Adopted Local Plan (2004) & 2005 Retail Update).

Areas within 800m of a Local Shop



The map shows that most of the urban areas of the District are within 800m of a local shop. This is approximately 10 minutes walking distance. The rural areas are poorly served by local shops, with most of the properties being located more than 800m away from a local shop. (Source: Wyre Forest GGP Overlay)

Open Space Provision (Area in Hectares)

Ward	Population 2001 census	Allotments	Amenity Open Space	Natural Green Space	School Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports (excl. golf)	Golf Course	Church Yard	Total
Aggborough. & Spennells	7225	1.55	2.95	22.47	0.45			-	27.42
Broadwaters	7787	-	26.81	13.61	7.41	5.82		2.8	56.45
Franche	7071	-	1.62	22	2.2	4.34		-	30.16
Greenhill	7293	-		1.91	0.8	2.86		-	5.57
Habberley & Blakebrook	6477	1.06	2.92	6.97	10.23	9.75		1.61	32.54
Offmore & Comberton	6901	3.8	3.18	0.4	8.07	3.11	44.35	-	62.91
Oldington & Foley Park	5261	0.8	2.85	53.68	1.5			-	58.83
Sutton Park	7167	3.4	14.32	6.49	0.55	1.65		7.92	34.33
Kidderminster	55163	10.61	54.65	127.53	31.21	27.53	44.35	12.33	308.21
Areley Kings	6041	1.99	10.31	19.27	0.85	14.29		0.5	47.21
Lickhill	7131	1.73	11.37	19.72	0.47	41.3	59.27	-	133.86
Mitton	6541	-	19.41	11.82		4.07		2.1	37.4
Stourport	19713	3.72	41.09	50.81	1.32	59.66	59.27	2.6	218.47
Bewdley & Arley	6295	-	4.79	7.17	1.75	10.91	98.94	-	123.56
Wribbenhall	4574	-	4.21	99.56	3.87	4.6	67.62	0.62	180.48

Ward	Population 2001 census	Allotments	Amenity Open Space	Natural Green Space	School Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports (excl. golf)	Golf Course	Church Yard	Total
Blakedown & Chaddesley	4264	1.19		43.04	11.3	7.47	24.08	0.91	87.99
Cookley	2491	0.17				3.78		1.02	4.97
Rock	2366					7.18			7.18
Wolverley	2096			142.75	13.69	8.1			164.54
Bewdley & Rural Areas	22086	1.36	9	292.52	30.61	42.04	190.64	2.55	568.72

(Source Open Space Audit baseline data 2007)

The above table shows the distribution of accessible open space by ward. Greenhill ward in the centre of Kidderminster has minimal provision for its population. Broadwaters, Offmore & Comberton and Oldington & Foley Park wards are all well catered for with traditional parks, Kidderminster Golf Course and nature reserves respectively. Lickhill ward contains the Minster Road Outdoor Sports Area with a number of sporting facilities. The rural areas contain a number of golf courses and nature reserves. The main villages all contain sports grounds.

Leisure Facilities

The main leisure visitor attractions in the District are the Severn Valley Railway, the West Midlands Safari Park and the Wyre Forest itself. However, there are a number of smaller leisure facilities including parks and open spaces, leisure centres and sports pitches. There are also three country parks and seven golf courses.

In terms of parks and open spaces the District is fortunate that it has a number of parks such as Brinton, St. Georges, Baxter Gardens, Broadwaters and Springfield in Kidderminster and the Memorial Park and Riverside in Stourport-on-Severn and in Bewdley there are the Jubilee Gardens.

In addition to the open spaces mentioned above 57% of the district is covered by the West Midlands Green Belt, additional information on this is available in the 'Better Environment' section.

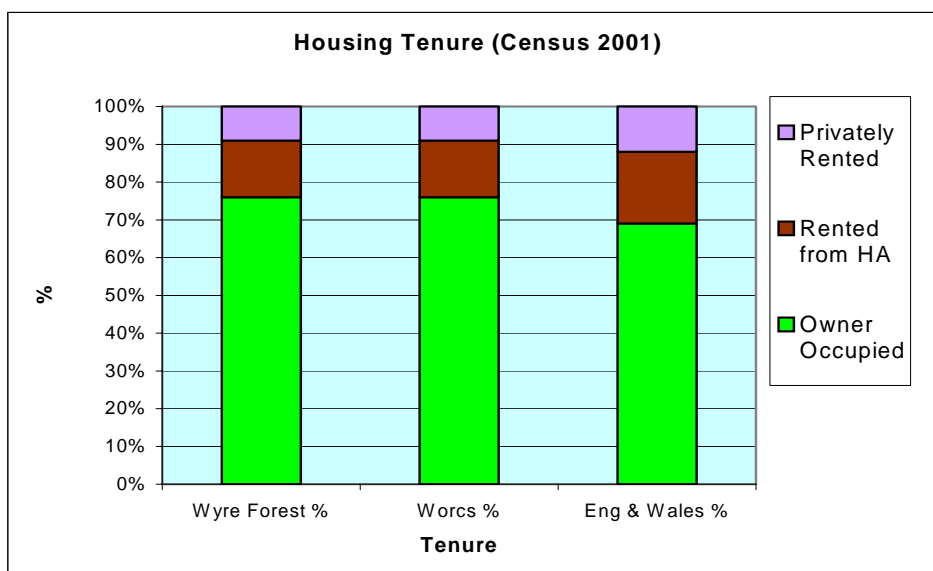
Museums and Cultural Sites/Learning Opportunity Sites

There are a number of museums and cultural sites within the District where there is opportunity to learn. These are set out below.

Arley Arboretum Arley Bewdley	Arley Arboretum is one of the oldest Arboretums in Great Britain. It has been growing and maturing in this idyllic setting for two centuries and boasts more than 300 species of trees in formal and informal plantings and gardens. The collection includes many rare and spectacular domestic and exotic trees.
Bewdley Museum Load Street Bewdley	The museum depicts the lives and working crafts of the area through the ages. Traditional crafts are brought to life through daily demonstrations.
Bodenham Arboretum and Earth Centre Wolverley Kidderminster	Bodenham Arboretum is a collection of over 2500 trees set in 134 acres of Worcestershire countryside with 11 pools, 4 miles of footpaths and a working farm. There is also an award-winning 'Earth Centre' set in the hillside overlooking the Big Pool.
Caldwell Tower Castle Road Kidderminster	This octagonal tower is Grade II* Listed. Apparently a fragment of a small castle or fortified manor house.
Harvington Hall Harvington Kidderminster	Harvington Hall is an unaltered Elizabethan moated manor house which gives a true picture of what a Tudor House would have been like, with authentic Elizabethan wall paintings and the best surviving series of priests' hiding places in the country.
Kidderminster Railway Museum Comberton Hill Kidderminster	The Kidderminster Railway Museum houses a vast range of railway artefacts, most of which date back to the days of steam travel.
The Forge Blakedown Kidderminster	Churchill forge water mill, was one of the last working water powered forges in Britain, and was until the early 1970s producing metal tools such as spades, shovels and ladles. As such it is an important example of the industrial history and, to ensure that it

The Weavers Loft Church Street Kidderminster	is not lost to future generations is now being restored as a working museum. The Weavers Loft is a small museum belonging to the Friends of the Carpet Museum Trust.
Wyre Forest Visitor Centre Bewdley	Wyre Forest Visitors Centre is set within one of the largest surviving areas of semi-natural woodland in Great Britain. The Visitor Centre combines restaurant, shop and unique displays. These displays which are produced in-house, change with the seasons and designed to inform and entertain.

Housing Provision within the District



Census 2001 figures show that Wyre Forest District's housing tenure is predominantly owner occupied and has a higher level of owner occupation than the national average. However, levels of both social and privately rented properties are lower than national.

Average House Prices

Property Type	West Midlands	Worcestershire	Wyre Forest
Terraced	123754	147062	128975
Semi Detached	151719	175023	152704
Detached	278897	297823	260806
Flats/Maisonette	124378	128170	109653

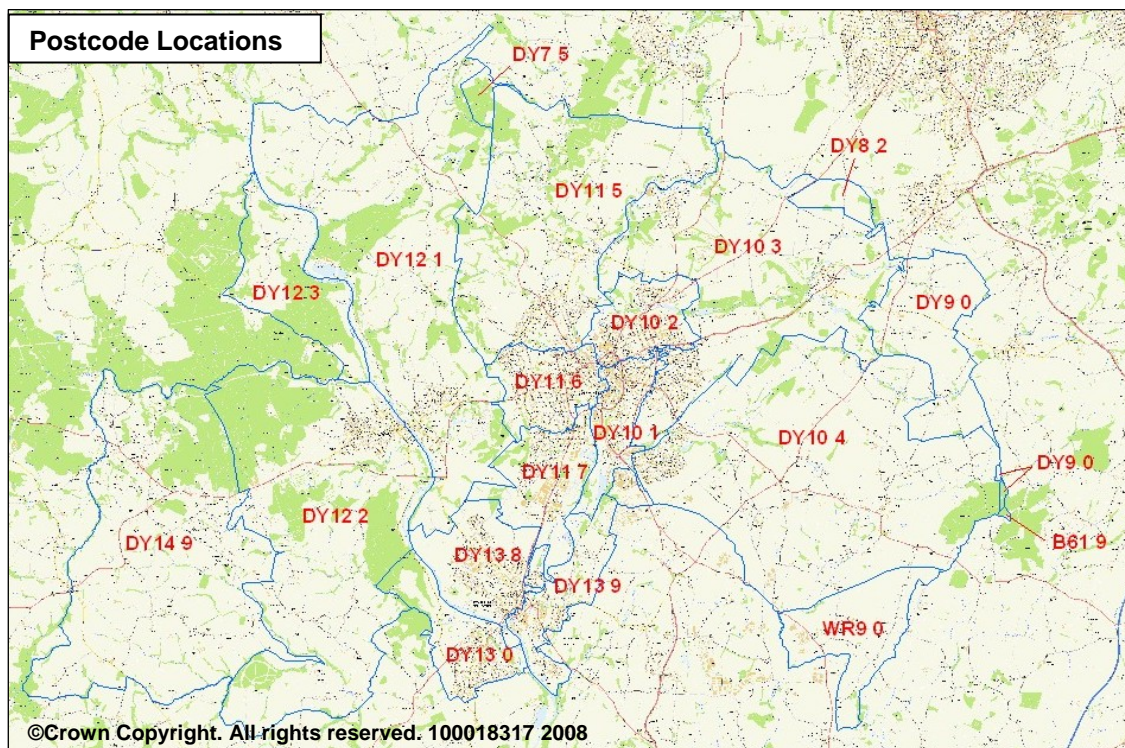
Source: Land Registry Average Prices Jan 06-Dec06 (2007)

Generally, Wyre Forest District house prices for terraced and semi detached properties are higher than the regional average but much lower than Worcestershire's. The average price for a detached property or a flat in Wyre Forest District is substantially lower than the regional or county average price.

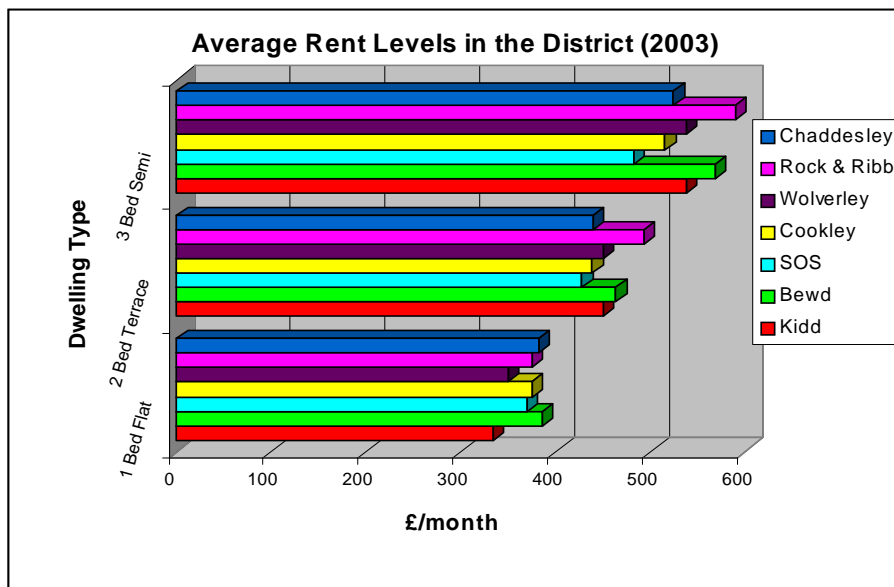
The table below indicates all sales during 2006. The table reflects increasing house prices across all areas of the District. Central Kidderminster has the lowest house prices. There is a marked contrast between affordability in the urban and rural areas of the District and house prices within the villages and hamlets of the District are generally much higher. In Stourport, the cost of flats is high in comparison with the average costs of its other dwellings. This could be due to the large number of canalside apartments that have recently been constructed which has pushed up the average sale price of flats in the town. Bewdley's house prices remain consistently high with the villages to the West of Bewdley having the highest house prices.

Region/Area	Detached		Semi-Detached		Terraced		Flat/Maisonette		Overall	
	Av Price £	Sales	Av Price £	Sales	Av Price £	Sales	Av Price £	Sales	Av Price £	Sales
DY10 1 - Central Kidderminster	223707	28	145812	56	120734	83	87261	30	137401	197
DY10 2 – East Kidderminster	204334	44	148445	82	127448	86	116481	19	148644	231
DY10 3 – Blakedown and Cookley	317701	58	188176	61	149711	43	141291	17	216452	179
DY10 4 – South-East Kidderminster and Chaddesley Corbett	249078	68	149014	28	121716	41	102816	3	188632	140
DY11 5 – North-East Kidderminster and Wolverley	293585	28	156521	116	131799	23	78362	4	173811	171
DY11 6 – West Kidderminster	236605	53	148296	100	122844	123	99722	18	150593	294
DY11 7 – South-West Kidderminster	248826	30	139159	50	122728	32	0	0	163840	112
DY12 1 – Eastern Bewdley and Arley	267998	25	171722	18	161421	14	0	0	211418	57
DY12 2 – Western Bewdley	268037	35	156124	31	151918	25	120750	12	189011	103
DY13 0 – Stourport – Areley Kings	282801	36	140937	28	138108	24	0	0	198201	88
DY13 8 – Stourport West	215555	47	153450	72	134340	36	106606	26	159047	181
DY13 9 – Stourport East and Wilden	267457	56	148327	48	132260	44	128117	16	182723	164
DY14 9 – Villages West of Bewdley	351493	23	133000	3	0	0	0	0	326282	26

Source: Land Registry, 2007



Average Rent Levels



The rent levels vary markedly across the District. Generally, rental prices are lower in the main urban areas of Kidderminster and Stourport. However, rented properties in Bewdley are very high. In the rural areas of Rock and Ribbesford, Wolverley and Chaddesley prices are also high, particularly in comparison with Stourport.

Source: Wyre Forest Housing Needs Survey Update (2003)

Property Type	Kidderminster	Bewdley	Stourport on Severn	Cookley	Wolverley	Rock & Ribbesford	Chaddesley
1 bed flat	334	386	370	375	350	375	383
2 bed flat	407	506	487	405	413	483	508
2 bed terrace	450	464	428	439	450	493	440
3 bed terrace	494	488	488	458	500	553	450
2 bed semi	475	488	450	450	515	523	448
3 bed semi	538	569	483	516	538	590	525

Source: DCA House Price Survey.

Affordable Housing

The table below sets out the current levels of affordable housing provision as part of new developments in the District. It demonstrates that affordable housing levels are improving within the urban areas of Kidderminster and Stourport, particularly as part of the allocated housing sites.

Affordable Housing Provision Completed 2001-08		
Location/Parish	No of units	Financial Year Implemented
Rifle Range Road (BCHA), Kidderminster	12	2000/01
Watery Lane (McAlpine), Stourport	6	2000/01
Park Street, Kidderminster	14	2001/02
York Street, Broadwaters	16	2001/02
Chapel Street/Park Street, Kidderminster	13	2001/02
Fairfield, Wardle Way DLP, Wolverley	10	2001/02
End of St David's Close, Kidderminster	11	2002/03
Former Garage Court, Kidderminster	8	2002/03
Park Lane, Sutton Park, Kidderminster	8	2003/04
Hoo Road (Plots 114-121), Kidderminster	8	2004/05
Comberton Place, Kidderminster	32	2004/05
Timber Lane (Morris Homes) Stourport	6	2004/05
Hoo Road (College Site), Kidderminster	8	2004/05
Areley Kings, 36 and 38, Stourport	3	2004/05
Timber Lane, Westbury Homes, Stourport	1	2004/05
Mill Road, Timber Lane, Stourport	9	2005/06
Mitton Park, Timber Lane, Stourport	5	2005/06

Affordable Housing Provision Completed 2001-08		
Location/Parish	No of units	Financial Year Implemented
Chapel Street, Kidderminster	33	2005/06
Drake Crescent, Habberley, Kidderminster	8	2005/06
Queensway, Bewdley	9	2005/06
Adj 47 Broome Crescent, Kidderminster	5	2005/06
Cordle Marsh Road, Bewdley	2	2005/06
Springside Place, Bewdley	5	2005/06
Queensway, Bewdley	2	2005/06
Broom Rise, Kidderminster	5	2005/06
Parkwood Court, Kidderminster	33	2005/06
Drake Crescent, Kidderminster	3	2005/06
St. Michael's Place, Kidderminster	5	2005/06
Evergreen Way, Stourport-on-Severn	5	2005/06
Millgate Close, Stourport-on-Severn	9	2005/06
Brindley Arms, Stourport-on-Severn	8	2006/07
Thomas Vale Site, Stourport	29	2007/08
Gaymore Road, Cookley	5	2007/08
Freeman Court, Parry Road, Kidderminster	8	2007/08
Doverdale Avenue, Kidderminster	17	2007/08
Horsefair, Kidderminster	25	2007/08

Empty Houses within the District

The table below shows that Wyre Forest has the highest percentage of empty homes in Worcestershire with 4.52% of homes being empty. Wyre Forest also has the highest number of low demand homes within the County. Wyre Forest District also has the second highest number of households accepted as homeless within the county. This would suggest a lack of choice in the housing market and a mismatch between supply and demand.

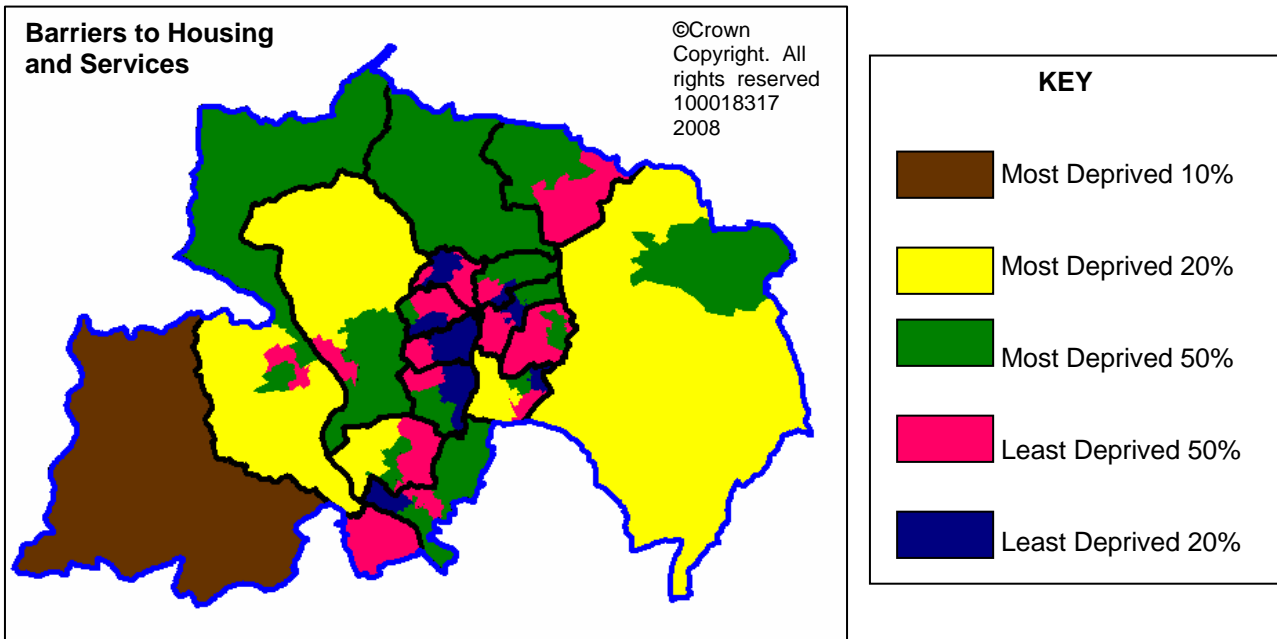
Local Authority	Total No of Empty Homes (2006)	% of homes empty (2006)	Households accepted as homeless (2004)	No of low demand houses	No. Properties Brought back into Use (2004/05)
Bromsgrove	643	1.68	141	100	2
Malvern Hills	1,085	3.35	180	0	0
Redditch	370	1.08	354	36	-
Worcester	1269	3.86	139	326	1
Wychavon	1,074	2.13	153	6	5
Wyre Forest	1,974	4.52	240	469	7
West Midlands	78,835	3.43%	14,125	100,796	1,083

Source: www.emptyhomes.com/resources/statistics 2006 Breakdown
HIP Raw Data Regional & England grossed totals. (2006)

Barriers to Housing & Services

The barriers to housing and services domain of the 2007 IMD measures barriers to accessing housing and key local services. The indicators cover two sub domains 'geographical barriers' which are road distances to key facilities, and 'wider barriers' including household overcrowding and the difficulty of accessing owner occupied housing.

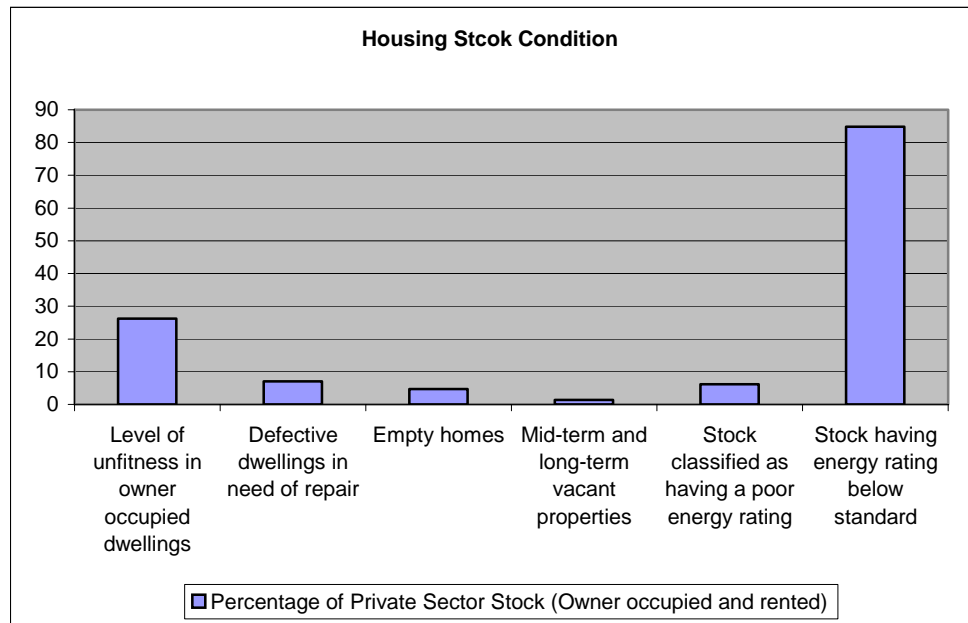
The map below shows that the more rural wards within the District experience greater barriers to accessing housing and services than the urban areas. All SOAs in the Rock ward are in the 10% most deprived nationally. The least deprived wards in terms of access to services and facilities are found in the urban areas, around the town centre of Kidderminster, and along the Stourport Road which is a high frequency bus corridor.



Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007) www.statistics.gov.uk

Housing Stock Condition Survey 2007

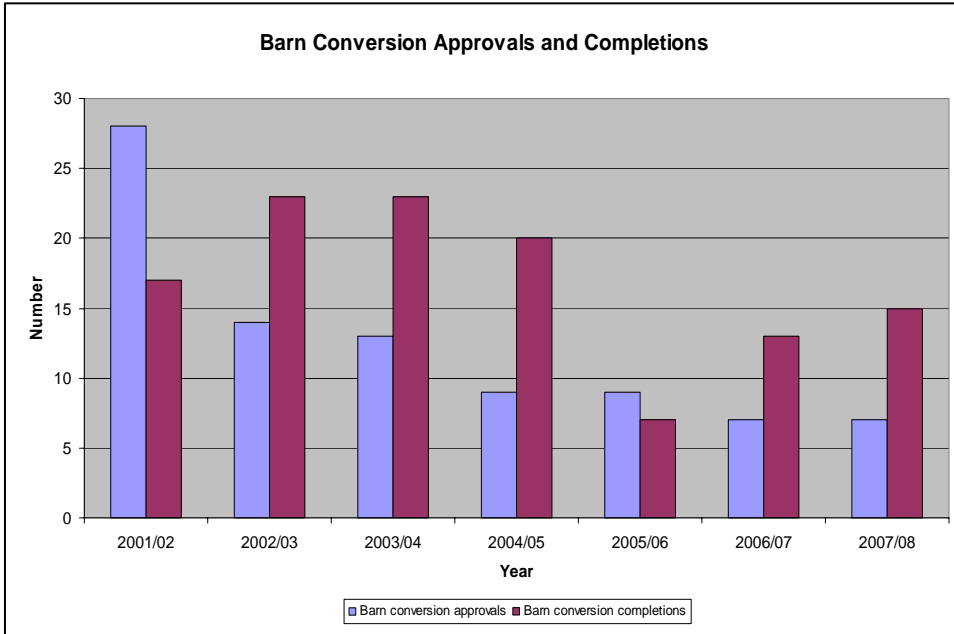
The Stock Condition Survey shows there are quite a high number of dwellings which are habitable but in need of repair within the District. The majority of dwellings within the District are not energy efficient and there is a need for new development to incorporate sustainable building methods.



Fuel Poverty

‘Affordable Warmth for Worcestershire’ defines fuel poverty as the inability to heat your home adequately for comfort and health without getting into debt as a result. It estimates the percentage of households in fuel poverty in each of the County’s Districts. In Wyre Forest District, it is estimated that 15% of households suffer from fuel poverty. This is above the average for the Worcestershire County, which is 13.3%. In the least deprived ward, this figure is 9%, however, in the most deprived ward, it is 27.3%, and this is the highest level of fuel poverty in any ward in the County.

Barn Conversions

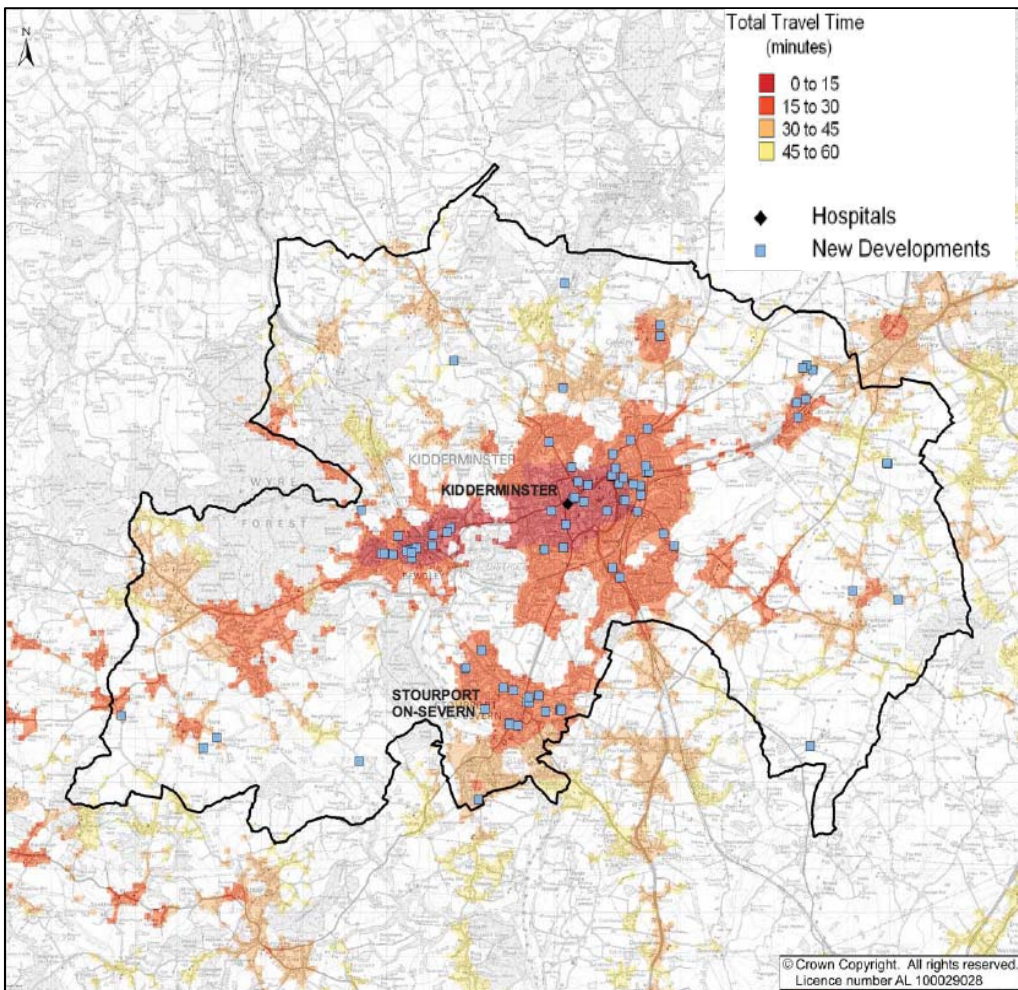


The chart adjacent shows that the number of barn conversion approvals has dropped over the last 6 years. The number of completions has risen steadily over the last three years. At April 2008 there were 28 approved but not started and 17 in the course of being converted.

(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Residential Land Availability Report)

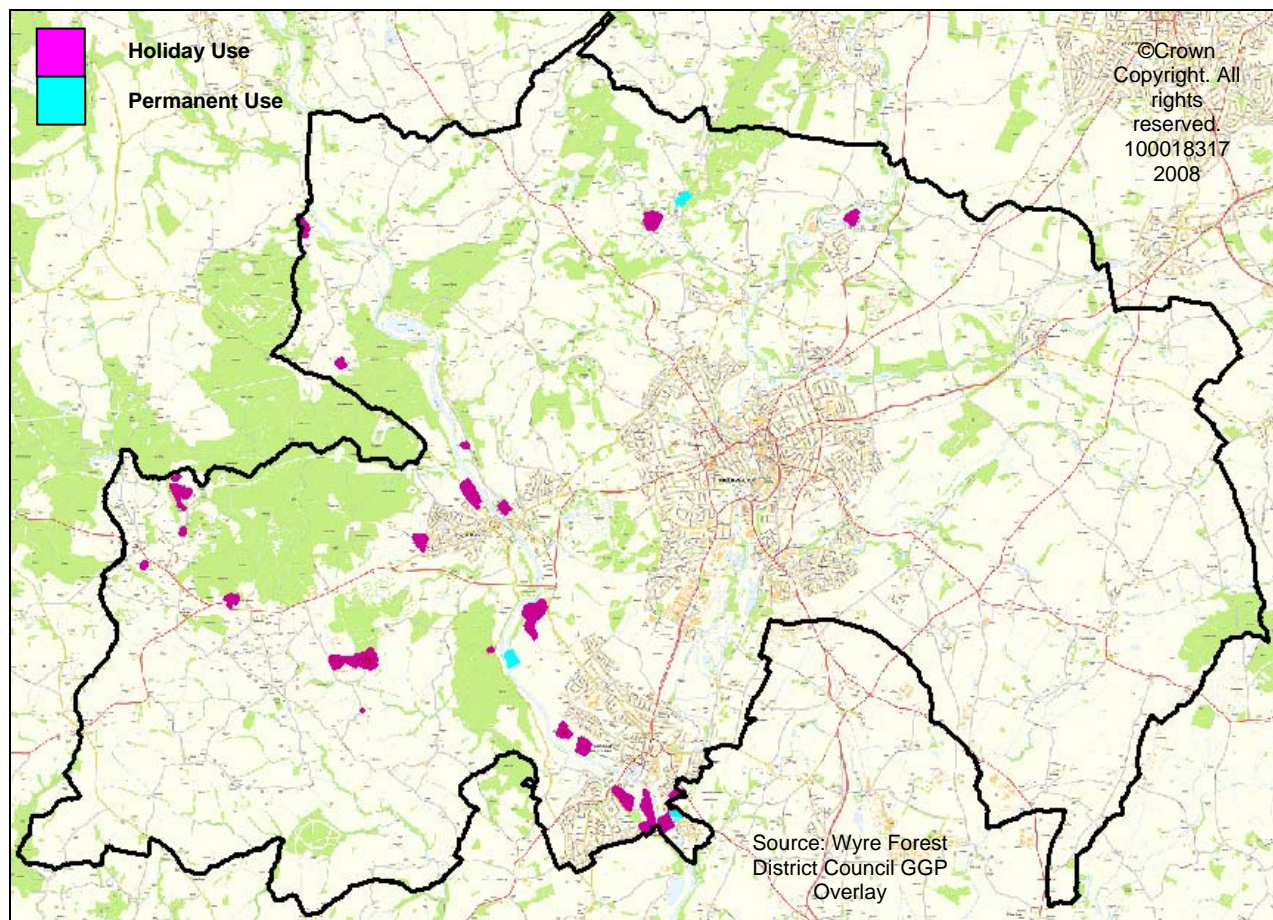
Housing development within 30 minutes public transport travel time from a Hospital

(Source: WCC (2006) Accessibility Strategy)



The map above shows that most new housing developments completed during 2006/07 are located within 0-30 minutes travelling time by public transport, of a Hospital. However, a significant number of developments are located between 30 and 60 minutes away from a hospital by public transport.

Caravan Sites



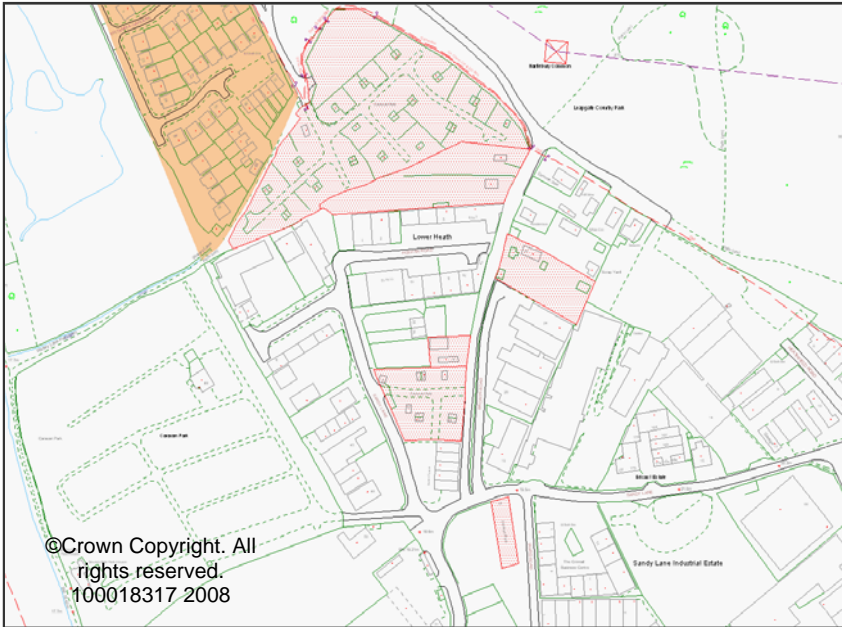
The District currently has 211 caravans that are licensed for use 12 months of the year. The majority of these are situated within two caravan parks, Severn Bank Caravan Park in Stourport on Severn (86) and Kinverdale Park, Kingsford Lane, Wolverley (104). There are also in excess of 2750 caravans licensed for holiday use. The period for permitted use of these caravans ranges from 6 to 12 months.

Chalets

Within Wyre Forest District there are approximately 380 known properties described as 'shacks' or 'chalets'. These are buildings constructed of materials of less than average permanency and used for residential occupation. Most of them were built in the 1920s and 1930s in response to a post War housing shortage. Further chalets were built after the war, but before the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act began to be used as a means of control. Each chalet is individual, and most have no conditions restricting the time of year during which they may be occupied.

Of the 380 chalets in the Wyre Forest District, approximately 78% are situated in the Severn Valley itself. The largest concentrations being at Hill Farm (including Severn Meadow), Northwood Lane, Bewdley; Hawkbatch Farm in the Parish of Upper Arley on the west bank of the Severn opposite Hill Farm; and Hungry Hill Farm in the north west corner of Upper Arley. Smaller concentrations are to be found at Pound Green and Far Forest.

Gypsy Site Provision within the District



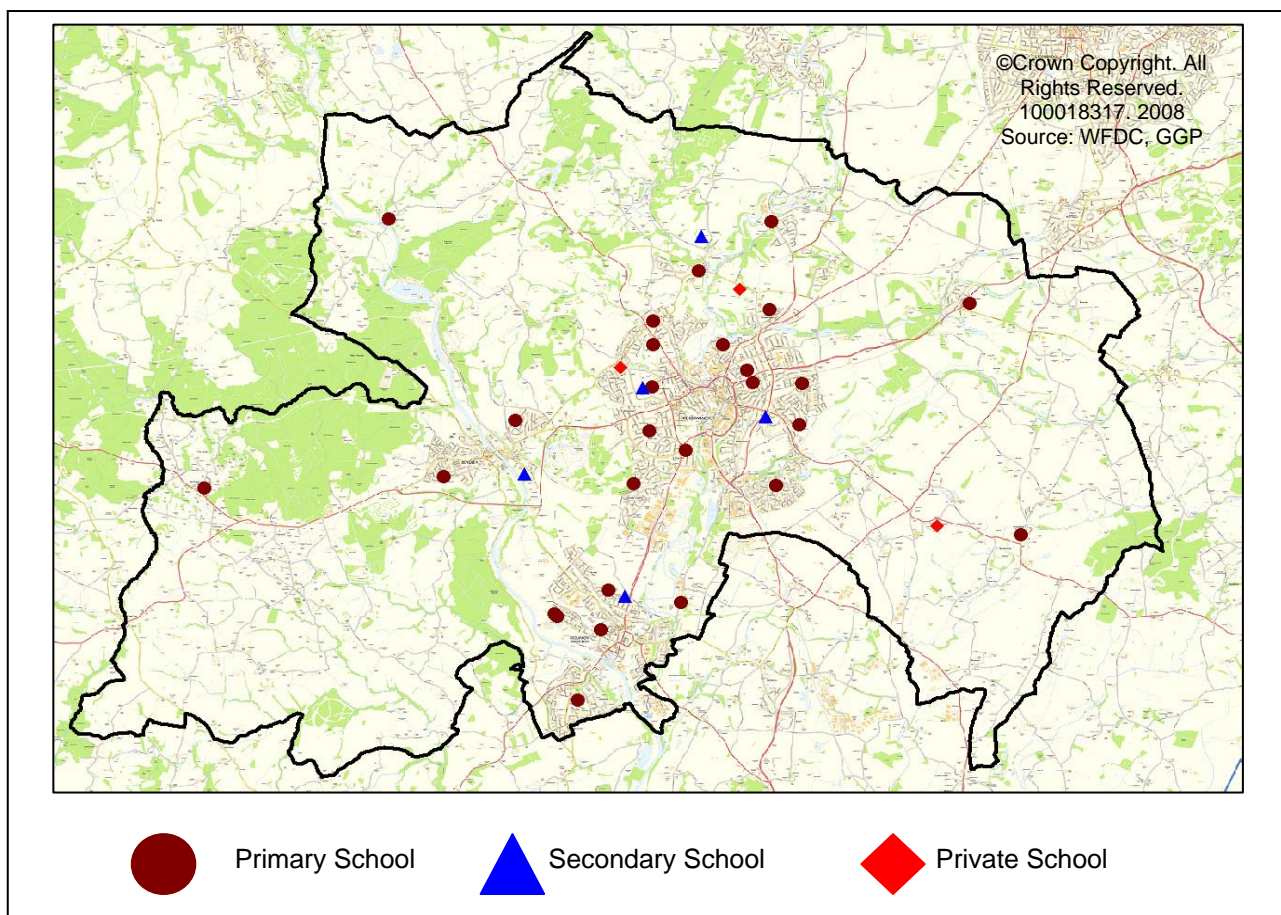
The adjacent map shows the District's gypsy site provision which is currently concentrated south of Stourport-on-Severn. There are a total of 6 sites in the Lower Heath/ Sandy Lane area, which are either local authority operated, tolerated or private. There is relatively good accessibility to the town's services and public transport from these sites.

Source: Adopted Local Plan Proposals Map (2004)

MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Education

Schools



Until September 2007, schools in the Wyre Forest District (Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport) were based on a three-tier model. However, the District has now moved to the two-tier system with pupils attending a primary school until the age of 11 and then moving to a secondary school until they are 16. The Surplus Places Return January 2008 will give details of the surplus school places across the District.

Numbers on School Rolls

State Schools (Data from Worcestershire County Council, January 2008)

School	Number of Pupils
St. Anne's Primary School	313
Bewdley Primary School	288
Far Forest Primary School	174
Upper Arley CE Primary School	93
Cookley Sebright Primary School	207
St. Catherine's CE Primary School	284
St. Mary's CE Primary School	134
St. Oswald's CE Primary School	227
Wolverley Sebright Primary School	114
Birchen Coppice Primary School	207

Foley Park Community Primary School	174
Franche Community Primary School	541
St John's CE Primary	414
Sutton Park Community Primary School	240
Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Primary School	191
Comberton Primary School	325
Heronwood Primary School	319
Offmore Primary School	405
St. George's CE Primary School	214
St. Ambrose Catholic Primary School	201
Burlish Park Primary School	405
Lickhill Primary School	174
St. Bartholomew's CE Primary School	274
The Stourport High School and Sixth Form Centre	1305
King Charles I Secondary School	1391
Baxter College	1045
Wolverley CE Secondary School	972
The Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre	963
TOTAL	11,594

Private Schools (Data from the Independent Schools Database)

School	Age Range	Number of Pupils
Winterfold	2 – 13	280
The Knoll	2 – 11	142
Holy Trinity	3 – 18	351
Heathfield	4 – 16	260
TOTAL		1033

Travel to School – Modal Split

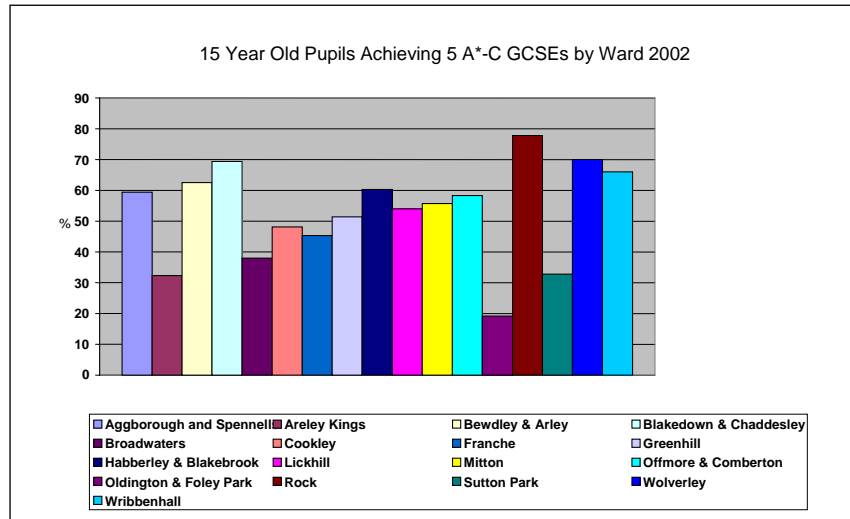
The table below shows the number of pupils in Worcestershire travelling to schools with School Transport Plans (STPs) by various modes of transport. The data is not available at District level. The table shows that where schools have adopted STPs there has been an increase in the number of pupils walking to school. However, there has been a decline in the number of pupils cycling to school, and a decline in the number of pupils travelling to school by bus. There has also been an increase in the number of pupils travelling to school by car. It should however be noted that the data sets do not necessarily represent the true picture due to an inconsistency in the number of schools reporting in the two years.

Indicator	2003/2004	2004/2005
% of pupils walking to schools signed up to a STP.	30.6%	40.1%
% of pupils walking to schools with a walking school bus.	43.2%	40.0%
% of pupils cycling to schools with a STP.	4.7%	4.0%
% of pupils travelling by car to schools with a STP.	45.0%	46.5%
% of pupils travelling by bus to schools with a STP.	13.9%	10.4%

(Source: Worcestershire County Council Local Transport Plan, Annual Progress Report (2004/2005))

Qualifications – GCSE

The graph shows the percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE by place of residence. Educational attainment varies markedly between the wards within the District. Arley Kings has the highest educational attainment, with over 75% of pupils gaining 5 A*-C passes at GCSE. Educational attainment at GCSE is considerably lower in Oldington and Foley Park than anywhere else in the District with less than 20% of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades compared to a District average of 49.8%.



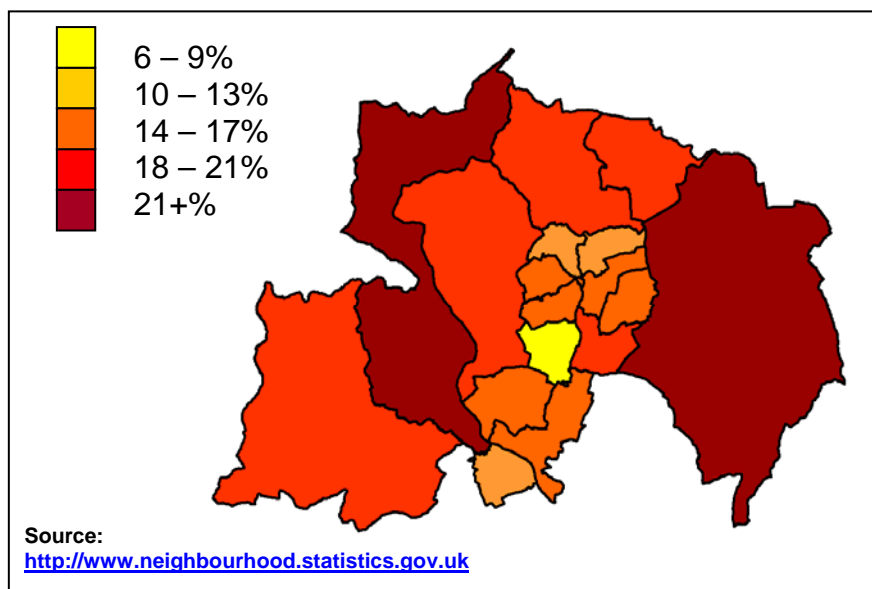
(Source: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

The table to the right shows the percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE over time and compared to regional and national averages.

	Wyre Forest	West Midlands	England
Sept 05 - Aug 06	51.6	56.3	58.5
Sept 04 - Aug 05	49.8	54.3	56.0
Sept 03 - Aug 04	49.9	50.9	53.6
Sept 02 - Aug 03	45.1	50.3	52.9
Sept 01 - Aug 02	49.8	48.3	51.2

Qualifications - Higher Level

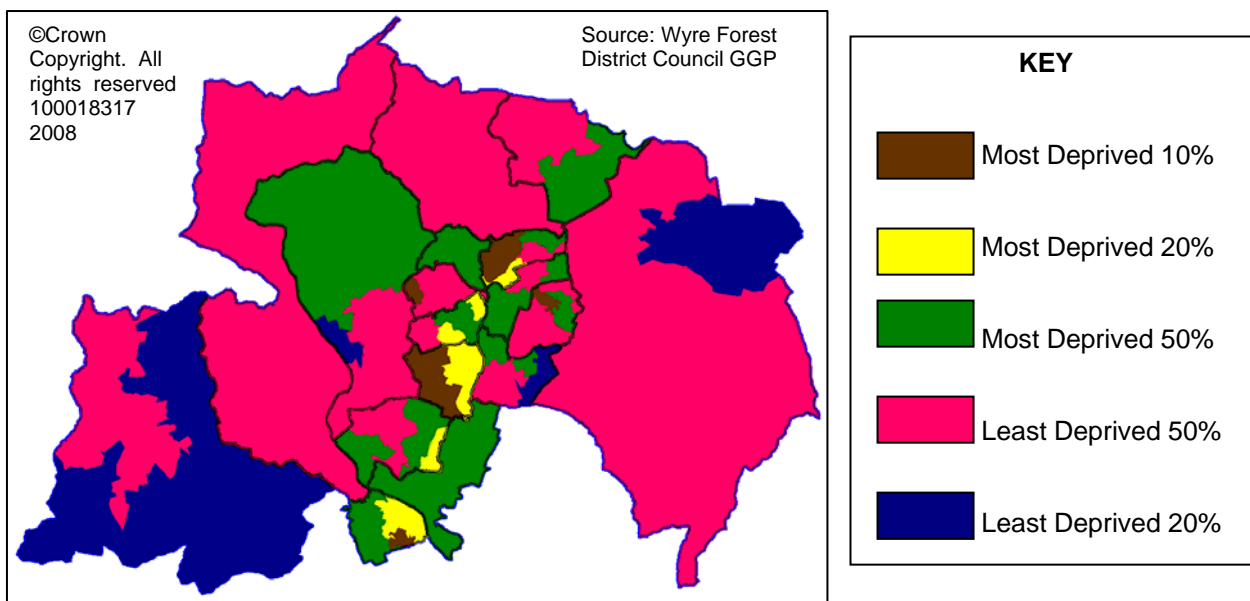
The adjacent map indicates the areas where qualifications are higher. Overall there is quite an even spread of higher level qualifications, although there is a shortage in certain wards, most noticeably within the Oldington and Foley Park ward where only approximately 6% of people are qualified to a higher level. This follows on the trend noticed at GCSE level, where Oldington and Foley Park has a significantly lower level of achievement than any other ward in the District.



Further Education

The District is served by Kidderminster College which offers a wide range of full and part time courses. The college moved to its purpose built premises within Kidderminster Town Centre in May 2003.

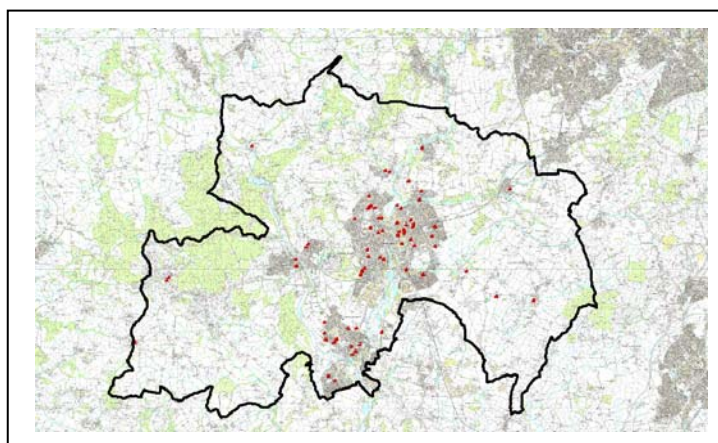
Index of Multiple Deprivation – Education



In terms of education, there are a number of Super Output Areas (SOAs) which are in the most deprived 10% nationally. These are located in the wards of Areley Kings, Broadwaters, Habberley and Blakebrook, Sutton Park, Oldington and Foley Park, and Offmore and Comberton. The least deprived SOAs are in the wards of Rock, and Blakedown and Chaddesley. Overall, the most deprived ward is Oldington and Foley Park, where all of the SOAs are in the most deprived 20% nationally and the Riffle Range area is the 20th most deprived SOA in the country in terms of education.

Childcare Facilities

There are a number of childcare facilities available across the District.



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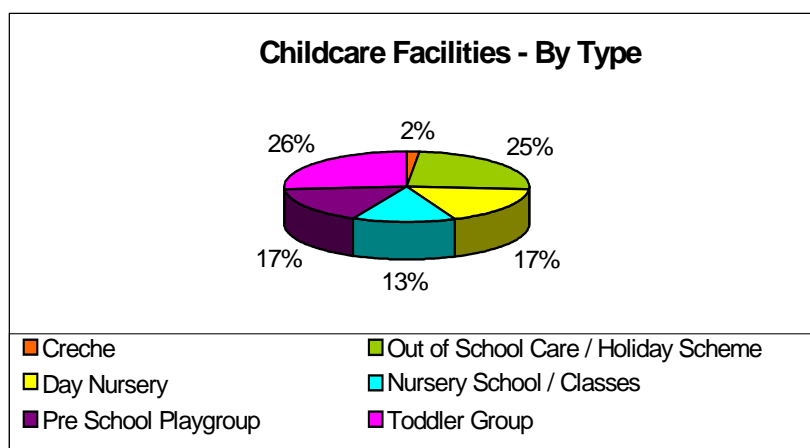
Source: www.Childcarelink.gov.uk This list is not complete due to some providers preferring not to have their details published on the website.

Ward	No. of Facilities
Aggborough & Spennells Ward	4
Areley Kings Ward	4
Bewdley & Arley Ward	3
Blakedown & Chaddesley Ward	9
Broadwaters Ward	12
Cookley Ward	3
Franche Ward	10
Greenhill Ward	16
Habberley & Blakebrook Ward	7
Lickhill Ward	7
Mitton Ward	12
Offmore & Comberton Ward	6
Oldington & Foley Park Ward	14
Rock Ward	5
Sutton Park Ward	4
Wolverley Ward	6
Wribbenhall Ward	4
TOTAL	126

The types of child care on offer consist of:

Crèches	Facilities that provide occasional care for Children under eight. They need to be registered when they run for more than 2 hours a day.
Day Nurseries	Nurseries are for children under five years old to play and learn and have fun in groups while their parents work or study.
Nursery Schools/Classes	Provide early education and childcare for the under 5's, including parent involvement and family support.
Out of School Care/ Holiday Schemes	Sometimes called 'Kids Clubs'. They offer a safe place to play for 4 to 12 year olds outside school hours.
Pre school play groups	Playgroups or pre-schools provide sessions of play and education to children aged about 3 to 5.
Toddler Groups	Informal, unregistered, part-time self help groups of parents and carers that meet locally with their children on a regular basis. Toddler groups cater for children 0 to 5 years old.

In addition there are more than 75 Registered Childminders within the area.



The graph to the left shows that there are a range of childcare facilities available within the District. The most popular are toddler groups and Out of school/holiday clubs. The map and table above show that childcare facilities are concentrated in the urban areas of the District and the main villages, with the outlying rural areas having poor provision.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

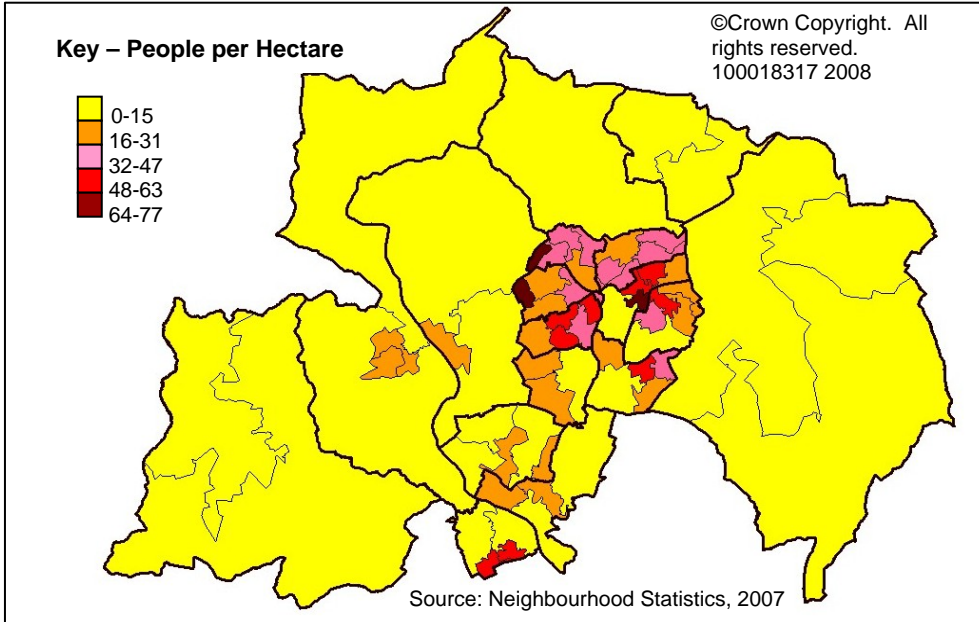
Settlement Character & Population Structure

The Wyre Forest District has a total population of 98,300 (2006 Mid Year Estimates MYE). The table to the right shows the distribution of population between the three main towns.

Kidderminster	55,182
Stourport-on-Severn	19,713
Bewdley	9,178

Population Density

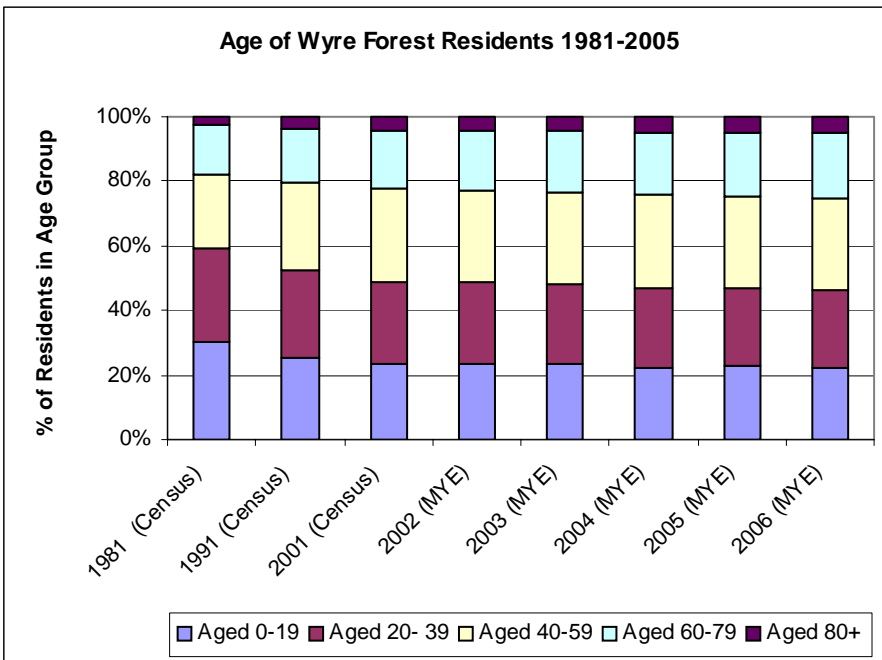
The population density of the District (by lower layer super output area) is shown below.



The population density of the District is generally low, with the exception of Kidderminster which is generally higher density, and has pockets of very high population density which result from areas of terraced housing and areas where there is little open space.

Population Age, Structure and Change

Total District Population	1981	1991	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	91,169	94,814	96,900	97,100	97,500	97,700	98,100	98,300



The table above shows the change in the District's population between 1981 and 2006. The adjacent chart shows that the population of the District is aging. The percentage of 0-39 year old persons residing in the District has decreased, while the percentage of residents aged 40+ in the District has increased. There has been a noticeable increase in the percentage of residents who are aged 80 and over.

(Source: www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk and WFDC)

Population and Households

Table 1: Population of Principal Towns		
Principal Town	No. Persons	No. Households
Kidderminster	55182	22875
Stourport-on-Severn	19713	8230
Bewdley	9178	3904
©Crown copyright 2001		
Table 2: Population by Parish		
Parish (2001 Census)	No. Persons	No. Households
Broome	338	113
Chaddesley Corbett	1440	607
Churchill & Blakedown	1566	667
Kidderminster Foreign	809	314
Ribbesford	237	114
Rock	2366	946
Rushock	138	60
Stone	782	235
Upper Arley	645	284
Wolverley & Cookley	4587	1932
©Crown copyright 2001		
Table 3: Population by Ward		
Ward (2001 Census)	No. Persons	No. Households
Aggborough & Spennells	7225	2832
Areley Kings	6041	2535
Bewdley & Arley	6295	2699
Blakedown & Chaddesley	4264	1682
Broadwaters	7787	3212
Cookley	2491	1012
Franch	7071	2839
Greenhill	7293	3141
Habberley & Blakebrook	6477	2743
Lickhill	7131	2858
Mitton	6541	2837
Offmore & Comberton	6901	3005
Oldington & Foley Park	5281	2053
Rock	2366	946
Sutton Park	7167	3050
Wolverley	2096	918
Wribbenhall	4574	1917
©Crown copyright 2001		

The number of households in the district stood at 40,280 in 2001 (Census 2001 and ONS). This figure represents a 10.1% increase on the 1991 number. The average household size in Kidderminster is 2.41, in Stourport-on-Severn it stands at 2.4 and in Bewdley, households average 2.35 persons. The table highlights the population in different areas within the District and also highlights how many households are present there. This gives a good indication of the distribution of people spatially across the District.

The table shows that the most populated rural parishes are Wolverley & Cookley (4587 persons), Rock (2366 persons), Churchill & Blakedown (1566 persons) and Chaddesley Corbett (1440 persons). By contrast Ribbesford (237 persons), Rushock (138 persons) and Broome (338 persons) parishes are all sparsely populated.

(Source: www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)

Pensionable Households within the District by Ward

Source: 2001 Census. Crown Copyright	One Person Pensioner Households		One Family and no Others: All Pensioners		Other Households: All Pensioners		All Households with Pensioners	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Aggborough and Spennells	212	2.93	191	2.64	3	0.04	406	5.62
Areley Kings	399	6.60	301	4.98	7	0.12	707	11.70
Bewdley and Arley	406	6.45	309	4.91	5	0.08	720	11.43
Blakedown and Chaddesley	224	5.26	211	4.95	7	0.16	442	10.37
Broadwaters	340	4.37	217	2.79	3	0.04	560	7.19
Cookley	170	6.81	140	5.61	4	0.16	314	12.58
Franch	365	5.16	268	3.79	10	0.14	643	9.09
Greenhill	501	6.87	215	2.95	10	0.14	726	9.95
Habberley and Blakebrook	484	7.47	336	5.19	9	0.14	829	12.80
Lickhill	415	5.82	326	4.57	12	0.17	753	10.56
Mitton	413	6.32	259	3.96	7	0.11	679	10.39
Offmore and Comberton	564	8.18	290	4.20	9	0.13	863	12.51
Oldington and Foley Park	340	6.46	132	2.51	5	0.10	477	9.06
Rock	107	4.53	126	5.33	4	0.17	237	10.03
Sutton Park	433	6.04	239	3.34	17	0.24	689	9.61
Wolverley	173	8.23	119	5.66	0	0.00	292	13.90
Wribbenhall	308	6.74	218	4.77	8	0.18	534	11.68
TOTAL	5854	6.04	3897	4.02	120	0.12	9871	10.18

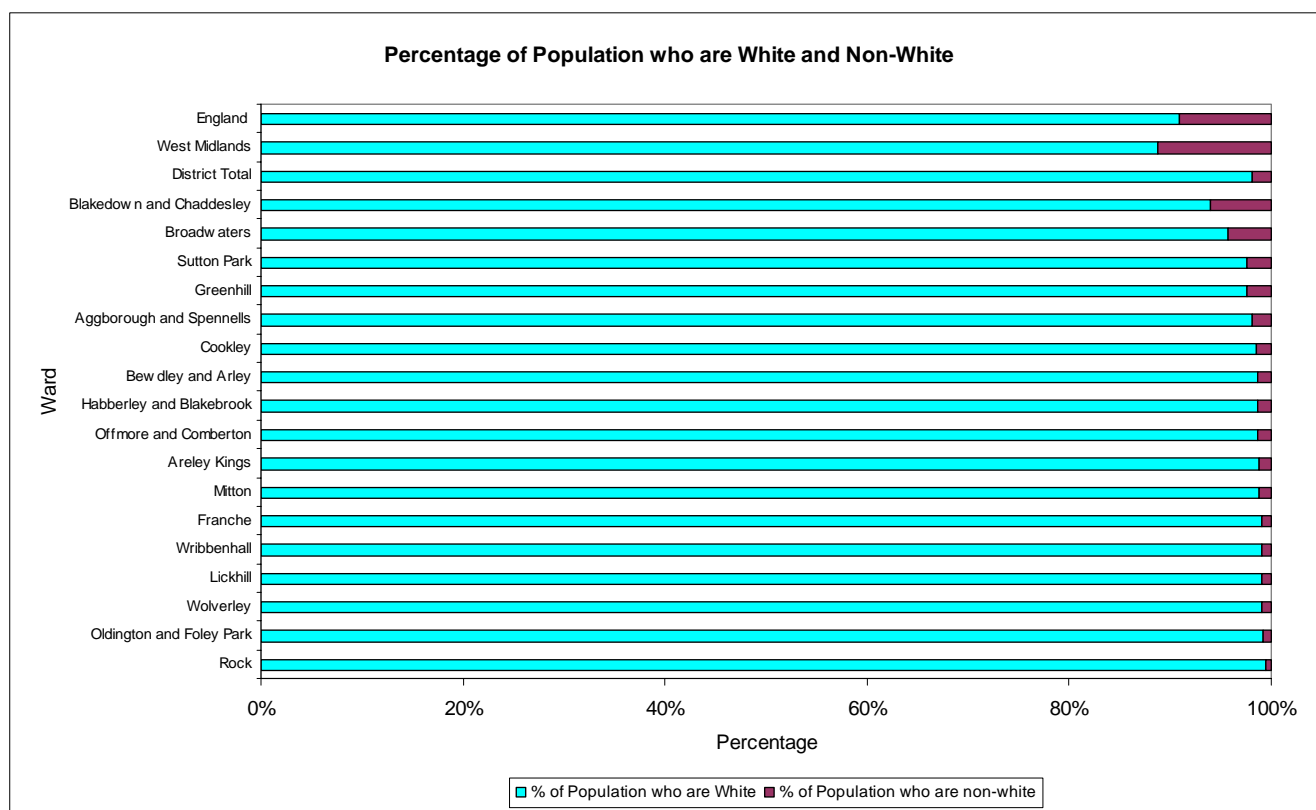
The above table demonstrates that there are larger concentrates of pensioner households in Wolverley, Habberley and Blakebrook, Cookley, Offmore and Comberton, Areley Kings and Wribbenhall. There are larger numbers of rented properties for the elderly in Offmore & Comberton, Habberley & Blakebrook and Areley Kings wards.

Ethnic Minorities

District Ward	All People	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Chinese	Other
Aggborough and Spennells	7228	7091	49	30	16	20	22
Areley Kings	6042	5971	34	15	5	10	7
Bewdley and Arley	6297	6210	52	18	7	3	7
Blakedown and Chaddesley	4262	4006	24	222	3	0	7
Broadwaters	7787	7459	46	243	15	11	13
Cookley	2496	2459	11	11	9	3	3
Franche	7070	7005	42	16	3	0	4
Greenhill	7294	7116	63	88	15	12	0
Habberley and Blakebrook	6476	6387	45	28	6	5	5
Lickhill	7130	7065	37	14	6	5	3
Mitton	6538	6462	31	14	4	16	11
Offmore and Comberton	6898	6804	36	33	12	9	4
Oldington and Foley Park	5263	5218	30	3	5	3	4
Rock	2364	2350	3	6	0	0	5
Sutton Park	7166	6989	42	51	28	25	31
Wolverley	2101	2082	10	0	3	3	3
Wribbenhall	4571	4529	16	14	6	6	0
District Total	96983	95203	571	806	143	131	129
West Midlands	5267308	4674296	73225	385573	104032	16099	14083
England	49138831	44679361	643373	2248289	1132508	220681	214619

Source: Adapted from 2001 Census Statistics

The table above and the graph below show that the ethnic minority across all District Wards is predominantly white. However, there are higher concentrations of Asian people residing in the Blakedown & Chaddesley and Broadwaters wards. This is probably due to the location of an Islamic College at Stone. The District has seen a rise in levels of immigration from Eastern Europe since the expansion of the EU in 2004. It is expected that this will be reflected in the 2011 Census.



Religion

The table shows that Wyre Forest has a higher than the national figure of people stating their religion as Christian, this is a marked difference of nearly 8%. By contrast, it has lower than the national average numbers of people represented in all of the other main religions.

Source: 2001 Census

Percentage of People Stating Religion as:	Wyre Forest	West Midlands	England and Wales
Christian	79.4	72.6	71.8
Buddhist	0.1	0.2	0.3
Hindu	0.1	1.1	1.1
Jewish	0.0	0.1	0.5
Muslim	0.6	4.1	3.0
Sikh	0.1	2.0	0.6
Other Religions	0.2	0.2	0.3
No Religion	11.7	12.3	14.8
Not Stated	7.7	7.5	7.7