



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

October 2022

Quality information

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Name	Position
V1.0	September 2022	First draft for QB review	Rachel Hogger	Modicum Planning (on behalf of the QB)
V2.0	October 2022	Draft for consultation	Cheryl Beattie	Principal Environmental Planner

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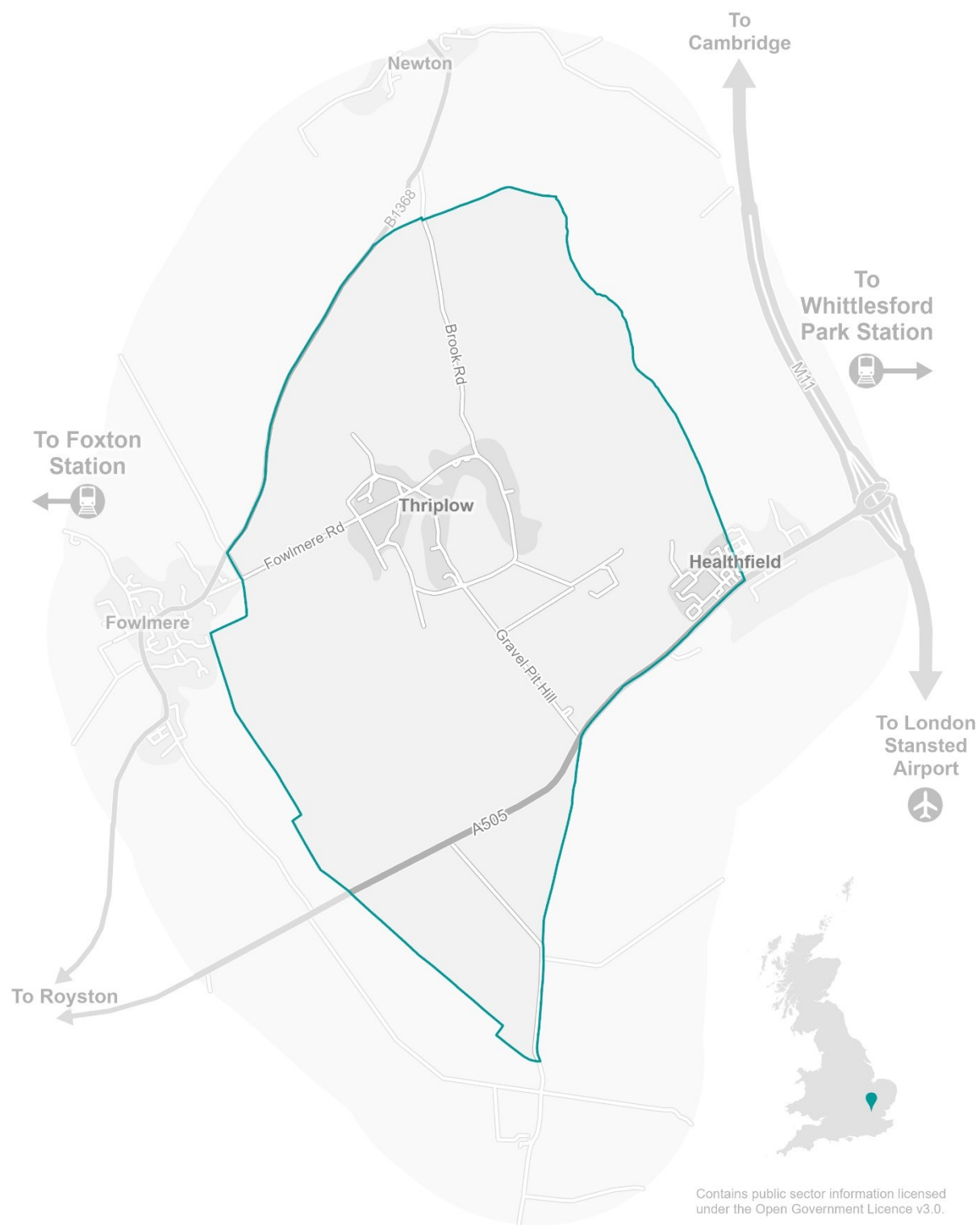
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1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan (THNP).
- 1.2 The THNP is being prepared under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and in the context of the local planning framework of South Cambs District Council.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Area (see Page 1), designated in 2017, lies south of Cambridge, west of the M11, and is intersected by the A505 in its southern extent. The Parish is formed of two main separate settlements, the village of Thriplow and the settlement at Heathfield.

SEA explained

- 1.4 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts and maximising the potential for positive effects. Through this approach, SEA seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.5 SEA is undertaken to meet the specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.6 The THNP has been screened in as requiring SEA.¹ This is predominantly because of the scope of the plan, which proposes to allocate land for additional homes with the potential to lead to a range of environmental effects. SEA is therefore required to assess the potential for significant environmental effects.
- 1.7 The next stage of SEA (this report) seeks to establish a suggested scope for the assessment. A key procedural requirement of the SEA Regulations is to present this scope for the SEA, so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

¹ SEA screening was undertaken by PlaceServices on behalf of South Cambs District Council in 2022.

SEA scoping explained

1.9 The scope is explored and presented under a series of key environmental themes as follows:

- Air quality
- Biodiversity
- Climate change and flood risk
- Community wellbeing
- Historic environment
- Land, soil, and water resources
- Landscape
- Transportation and movement

1.10 The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive.² These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

1.11 Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:

1. Exploring the policy context for the neighbourhood plan and SEA to summarise the key messages arising. Overarching plans and the strategic policy context are presented in the first chapter (as part of the context for the plan), whilst localised plans and strategies are explored under each environmental theme.
2. Establishing the baseline for the SEA (i.e., the current and future situation in the area) to help identify key sensitive receptors. Following a series of maps, key statistics, and cited evidence sources, a narrative summarises the baseline for each environmental theme. The future baseline (in the absence of the plan) is explored in the first chapter (as part of the context for the plan).
3. Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA. Key issues are explored for each environmental theme; and
4. Considering this information, developing a SEA framework comprising SEA objectives and assessment questions, which can then be used as a guiding framework for the subsequent assessment. Objectives are explored for each environmental theme scoped in as part of the assessment, and then brought together as a whole (the SEA framework) in the final chapter.

1.12 Options and proposals within the emerging neighbourhood plan will be assessed consistently using this framework.

² The SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus 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'

2. Context

- 2.1 This section presents the strategic planning policy context provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the local development framework of South Cambridgeshire. It also identifies plans and strategies of distinct relevance to the interests of statutory consultees, and other broad national strategies of relevance. Finally, a narrative is provided which considers the future baseline.

Strategic policy context

Document title	Year of publication
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
Planning practice guidance	2021
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan	2018
Emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan	2022

- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides an overarching framework for development in England. It sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It is supported by planning practice guidance, which is a suite of policy papers covering a broad range of topics, including SEA. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the NPPF.
- 2.3 The strategic policy context is also set by South Cambridgeshire's local development framework, which consists predominantly of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (SCLP), adopted 2018. This is further supported by Area Action Plans (though these do not cover Thriplow and Heathfield), and neighbourhood plans.
- 2.4 South Cambridgeshire District Council are currently working with Cambridge City Council to create a Joint Local Plan, the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP). The GCLP will seek to guide development across the joint authority area in the period up to 2041. The GCLP is at an early stage of development, but as part of 'First Proposals' consultation, the Councils have suggested 19 new sites that may be suitable for additional development. The GCLP currently recognises Heathfield as an existing policy area of the adopted SCLP but does not propose any new sites within the THNP area.

Historic England

Document title	Year of publication
Historic England: Heritage and Climate Change	2022
Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Appraisal Designation and Management	2019
Historic England Advice Note 12: Statement of Heritage Significance	2019
The National Design Guide	2019
Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning: The Setting of Heritage Assets	2017
Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	2016
Historic England: Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance	2008

2.5 Historic England champions England's heritage. The key high-level principles for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment are as follows:

- The historic environment is a shared resource
- Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment
- Understanding the significance of places is vital
- Significant places should be managed to sustain their values
- Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent, and consistent
- Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.³

2.6 The significance of places is the key element which underpins the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Significance is a collective term for the sum of all the heritage values attached to a place, be it a building an archaeological site or a larger historic area such as a whole village or landscape.

³ Historic England: Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance

Natural England and the Environment Agency

Document title	Year of publication
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment	2022
Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener	2021
Environment Act	2021
National Model Design Code	2021
Changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017	2021
The National Design Guide	2019
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
Space for people: Targeting action for woodland access	2017
Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance	2009
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations	2017
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	2010
Climate Change Act 2008	2008

- 2.7 The interests of Natural England and the Environment Agency span a range of SEA themes, including landscape, biodiversity, land, soil, and water resources (including waste), community wellbeing, and climate change and flood risk. Key documents which link to these interests are outlined above.

Other national strategies

Document title	Year of publication
Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain	2021
National Infrastructure Assessment	2021
Waste Management Plan for England	2021
Blueprint for a resilient economy	2020
National Infrastructure Strategy	2020
Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On	2020
The UK Sixth Carbon Budget	2020
The Clean Air Strategy	2019
Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy	2019
Healthy High Streets	2018
The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting	2018
The Clean Growth Strategy	2017
UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations	2017

Future baseline

- 2.8 In the context of SEA, there is a need to consider the future baseline. The future baseline is the expected continuation and/ or evolution of aspects of the baseline, based on what we know today. The future baseline is inevitably uncertain and predicted.
- 2.9 In the future, development (housing, employment, and wider infrastructure) will continue to come forward without a neighbourhood plan. Either allocated through the Local Plan or speculatively through the planning system. In this respect a 'business as usual' approach means that development in line with Local Plan policies and the NPPF is likely to continue as a natural evolution of the baseline.
- 2.10 In accepting a 'business as usual' approach, we also accept that increases in absolute carbon emissions are likely to continue (in the absence of strategic, including global, action). A focus is therefore paid to per capita emissions, whereby planning can influence root behaviours and support lifestyle changes which have a recognisable and measurable localised impact.
- 2.11 It is assumed that development would be delivered alongside suitable, and widely accepted, mitigation in line with Local Plan and national policies. This would include sustainable drainage systems, efficiency standards, sequential and exception testing etc. More recently, it is recognised that a biodiversity net gain standard (10%) is being embedded in development standards nationally.
- 2.12 Furthermore, it is recognised that assets are afforded a level of protection, according to their significance, through the planning system (with internationally and nationally designated features afforded greater weight in planning decisions). It is assumed that existing national and local planning and policy protections will remain in the future, as a key consideration for the development management process.
- 2.13 These assumptions will be considered throughout the assessment process, whilst recognising that uncertainty remains, and a precautionary principle will still be required.

3. Air quality

3.1 This section seeks to summarise any air pollution issues, in particular; exceedances in air pollution objectives/ declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and air quality issues associated with the main road network.

Maps

Figure 3.1: Air Quality Management Areas in proximity

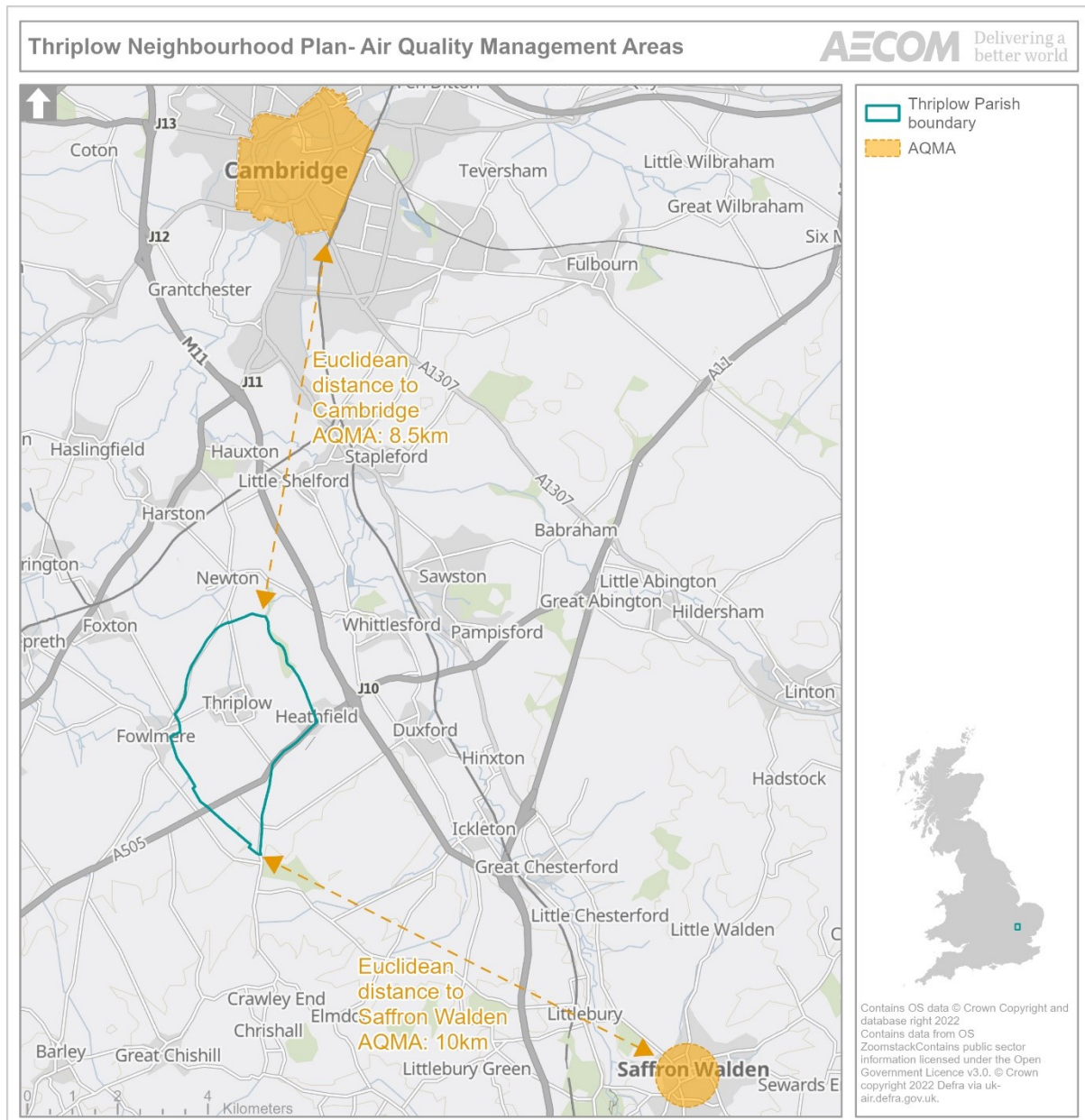
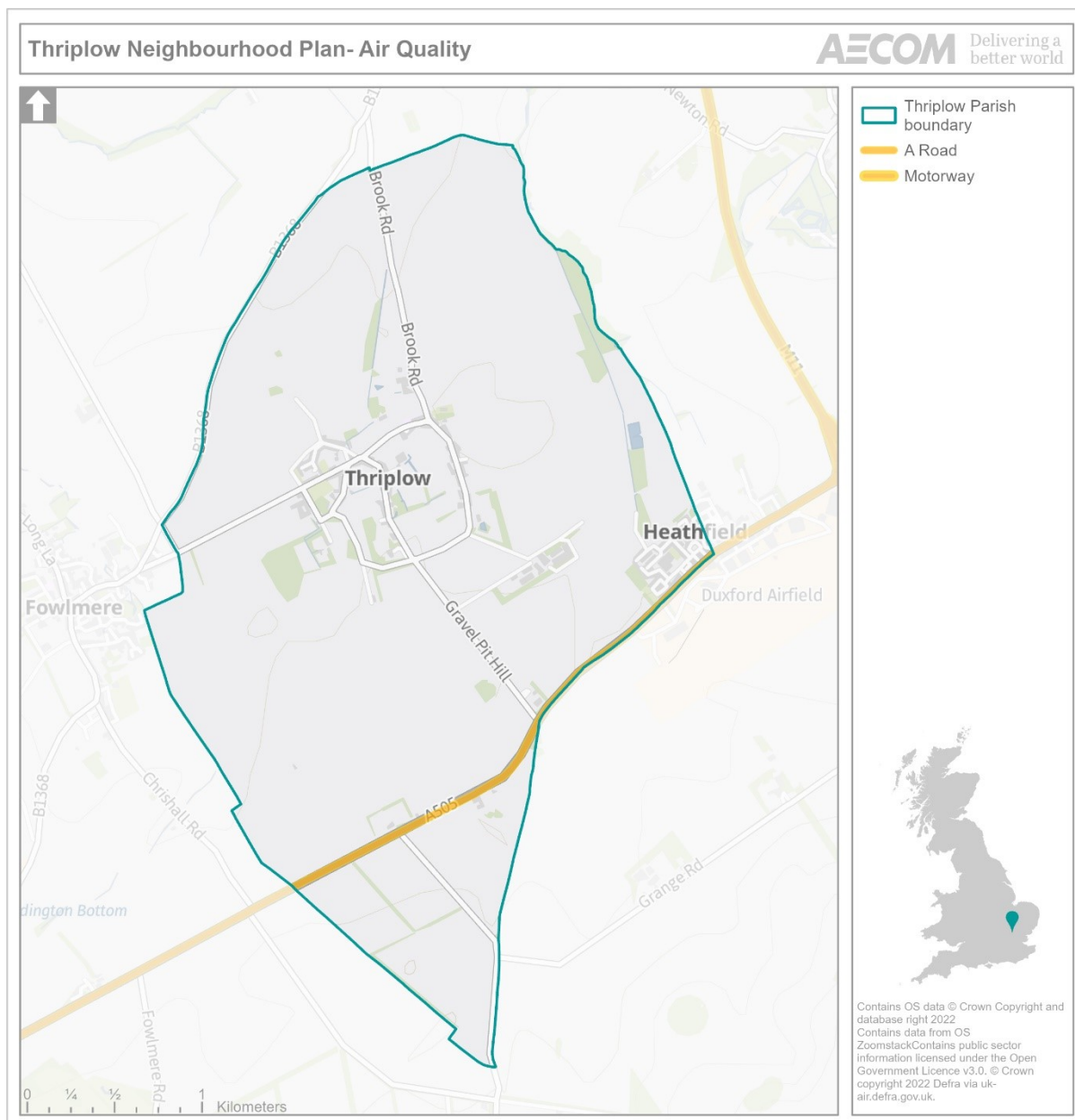


Figure 3.2: Strategic roads

Key statistics

Figure 3.3: Resident questionnaire findings, 2019



- Parking hotspots were identified at: School Lane, The Green Man, Woburn Place, Woburn Mews, Kingsway, Whitehall Gardens, Queen's Row, and Ringstone.
- The biggest traffic concerns raised by residents relate to school run traffic, traffic speeds, and traffic volume.

Key evidence sources

3.2 Evidence sources which have informed the development of key issues include:

- [Cambridge Insight - Air Quality](#)
- [South Cambridgeshire District Council:](#)
 - [Local air quality management](#)
 - [Air quality dashboard](#)
 - [Annual status report, 2021](#)
 - [Public air quality portal](#)

Policy context

Table 2.1: Additional plans and policies relating to air quality

Document title	Year of publication
South Cambridgeshire District Council Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025	2021
Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document	2020

Commentary

3.3 Exceedances in air pollution objectives are found within larger towns surrounding the Neighbourhood Area (Cambridge and Saffron Walden). The residents of Thriplow and Heathfield are likely to rely on these larger towns to some degree to access a wider range of goods, services, and employment opportunities. No exceedances have been recorded within the Neighbourhood Area.

Key issues

- 3.4 No strategic development of a significant scale is being planned for through the THNP, and in this respect traffic generation is likely to be limited, and less likely to impact upon air quality objectives within surrounding AQMAs. With no exceedances recorded within the Neighbourhood Area, this theme is **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA for the THNP.

4. Biodiversity

4.1 This section seeks to summarise nature conservation designations, habitats, and species within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Area.

Maps

Figure 4.1: Internationally designated biodiversity sites

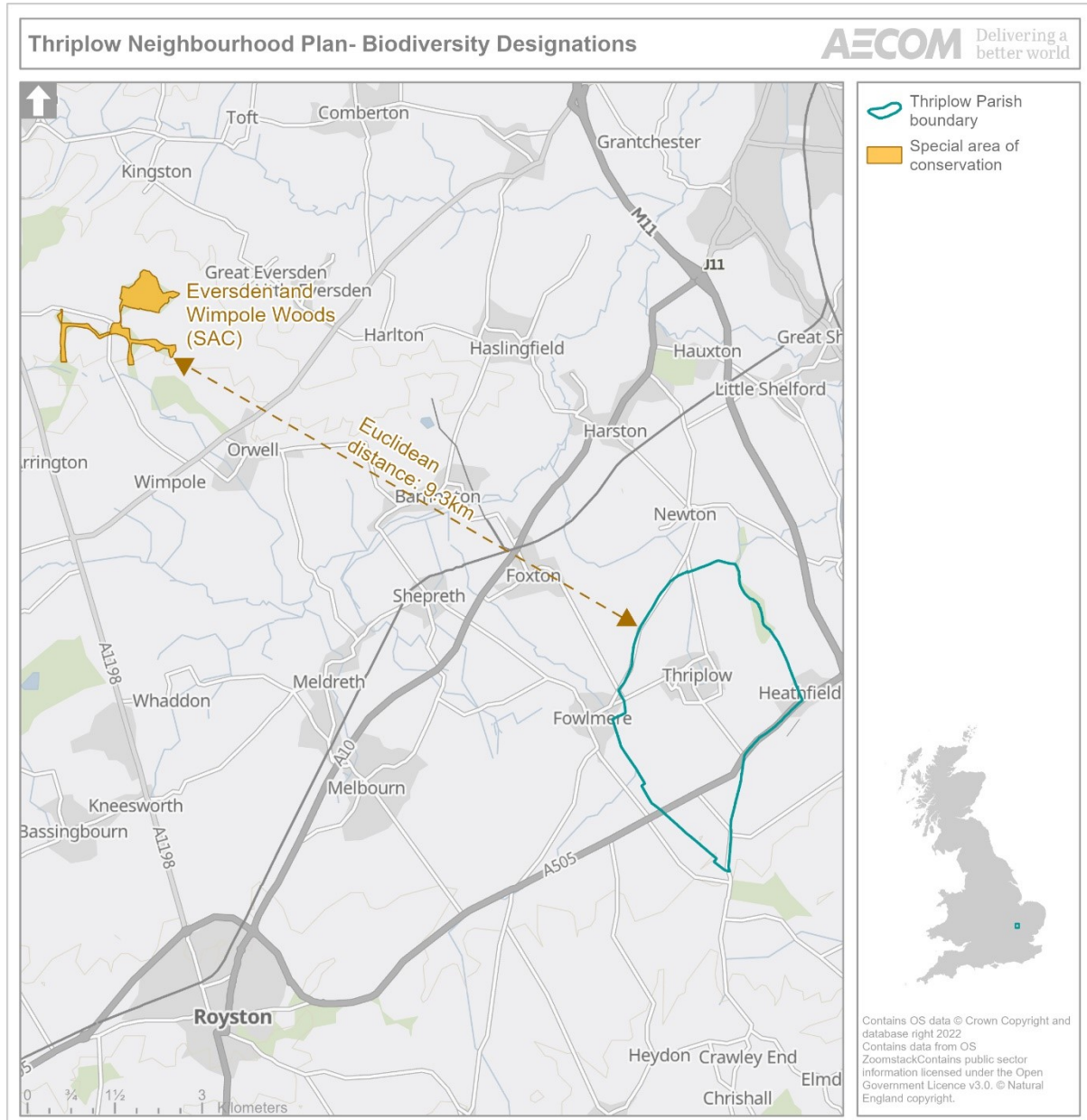


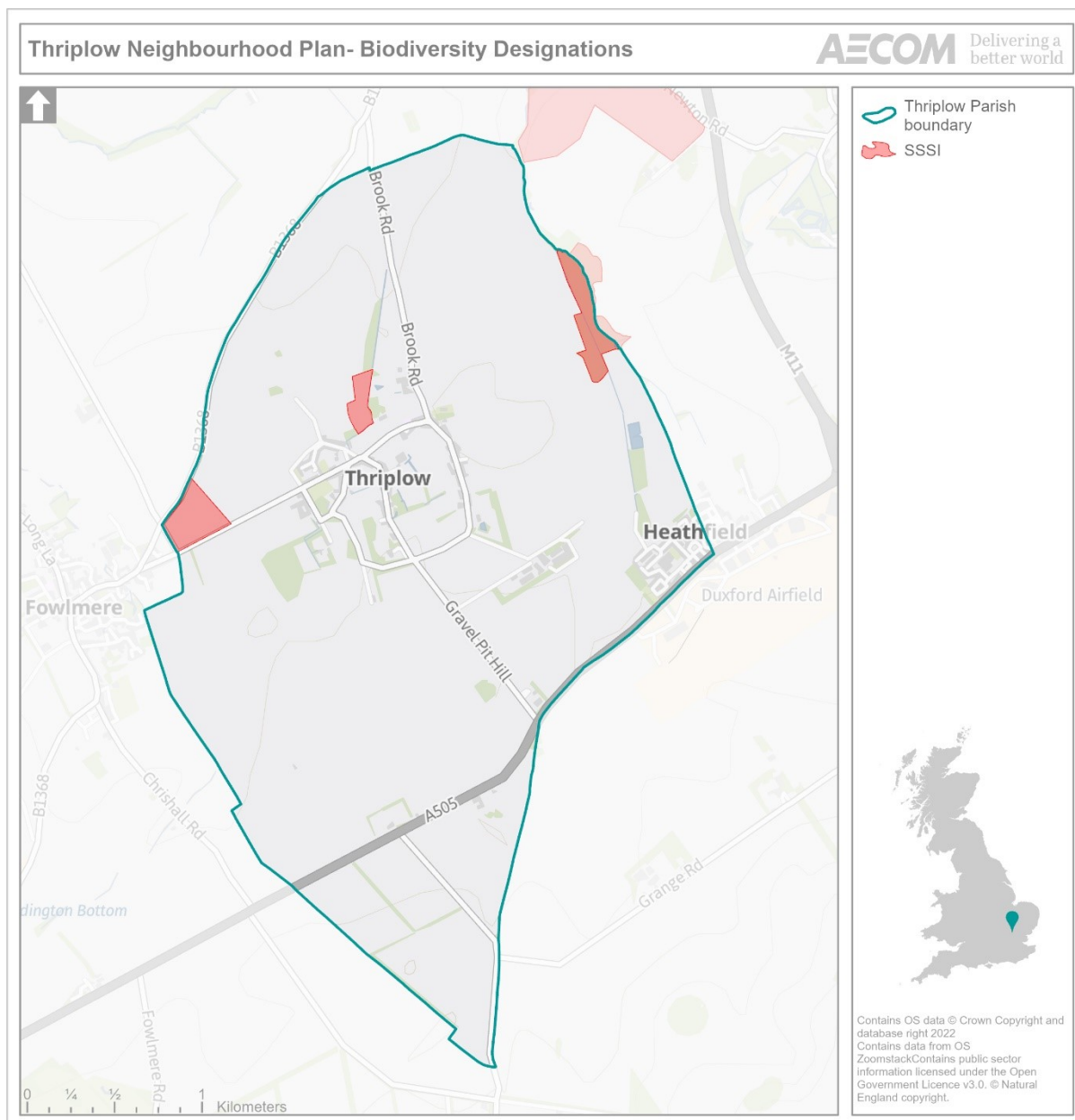
Figure 4.2: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (nationally protected)

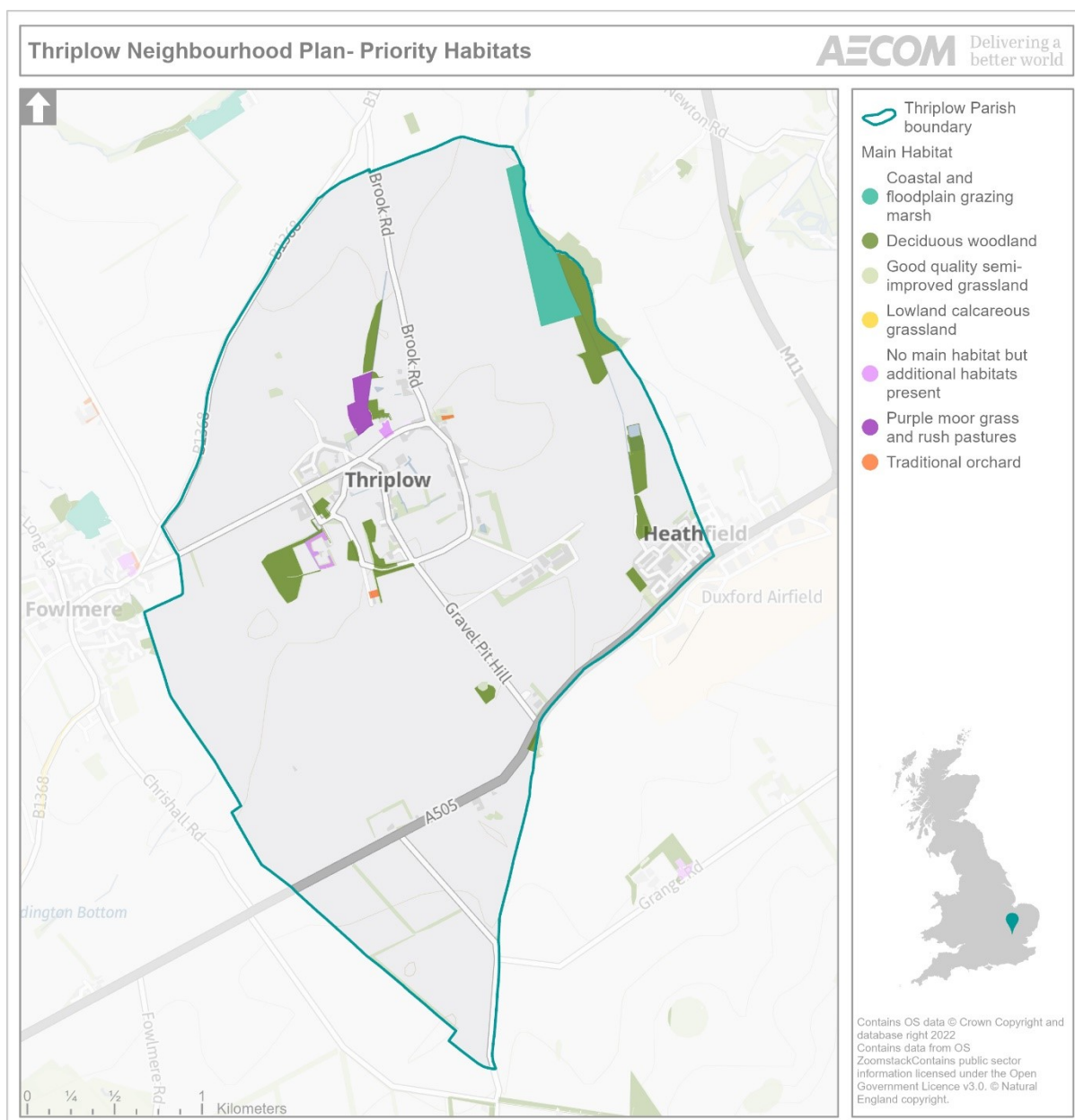
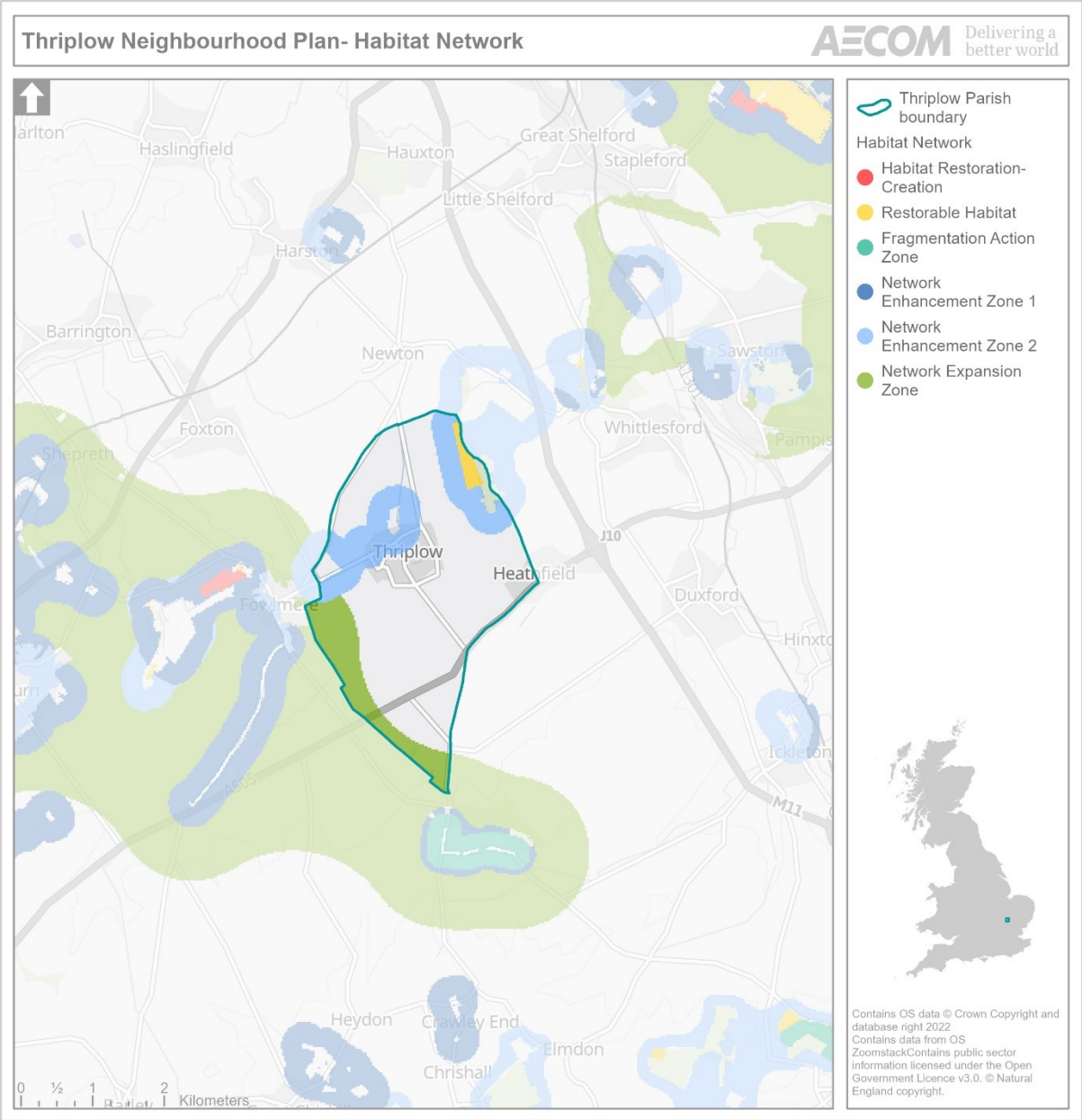
Figure 4.3: Priority habitats

Figure 4.4: National Habitat Network



Key statistics

Figure 4.5: Status of SSSIs



Key evidence sources

4.2 Evidence sources which have informed the development of key issues include:

- [DEFRA's Magic Map](#)
- [Cambridgeshire County Council - Improving the natural environment](#)
- [Cambridge Nature Network](#)
- [Natural Cambridge](#)
- [Natural England - Protected sites and species](#)
- [Natural England - Wildlife and habitat conservation](#)
- [Thriplow and Heathfield Priority habitats](#)
- [Hoffer Brook Restoration Project](#)

Policy context

Table 3.1: Additional plans and policies relating to biodiversity

Document title	Year of publication
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning - Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document	2022
South Cambridgeshire District Council - Doubling Nature Strategy	2021

Commentary

- 4.3 The closest internationally designated site is over 9km away. Potential impact pathways will be informed by a separate Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) process.
- 4.4 The SSSIs in the neighbourhood area are in generally good status or improving though there exist unfavourable areas in decline. There are also a range of priority habitats, and the land north of Thriplow village (around existing SSSIs) is considered suitable for habitat enhancement.

Key issues

- 4.5 Existing ecological connections are predominantly found in the north of the Thriplow settlement area. There will be a need to consider avoidance and mitigation for development in this part of the neighbourhood area, and there is also the potential to focus biodiversity gains in this area too as a recognised enhancement zone.

SEA objective

- 4.6 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA theme	SEA objective
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.

- 4.7 Supporting assessment questions include (will the option / proposal...):
- Protect and enhance internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites, including supporting habitats and mobile species that are important to the integrity of these sites including SACs?
 - Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats as well as priority habitats and species, including ancient woodland?
 - Achieve biodiversity and environmental net gains and support the delivery of ecosystem services and multifunctional green infrastructure networks?
 - Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
 - Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

5. Climate change and flood risk

5.1 This section seeks to summarise existing and future flood risk and the wider impacts of climate change, activities in the district which contribute to climate change, and measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and increase resilience.

Maps

Figure 5.1: Fluvial flood risk

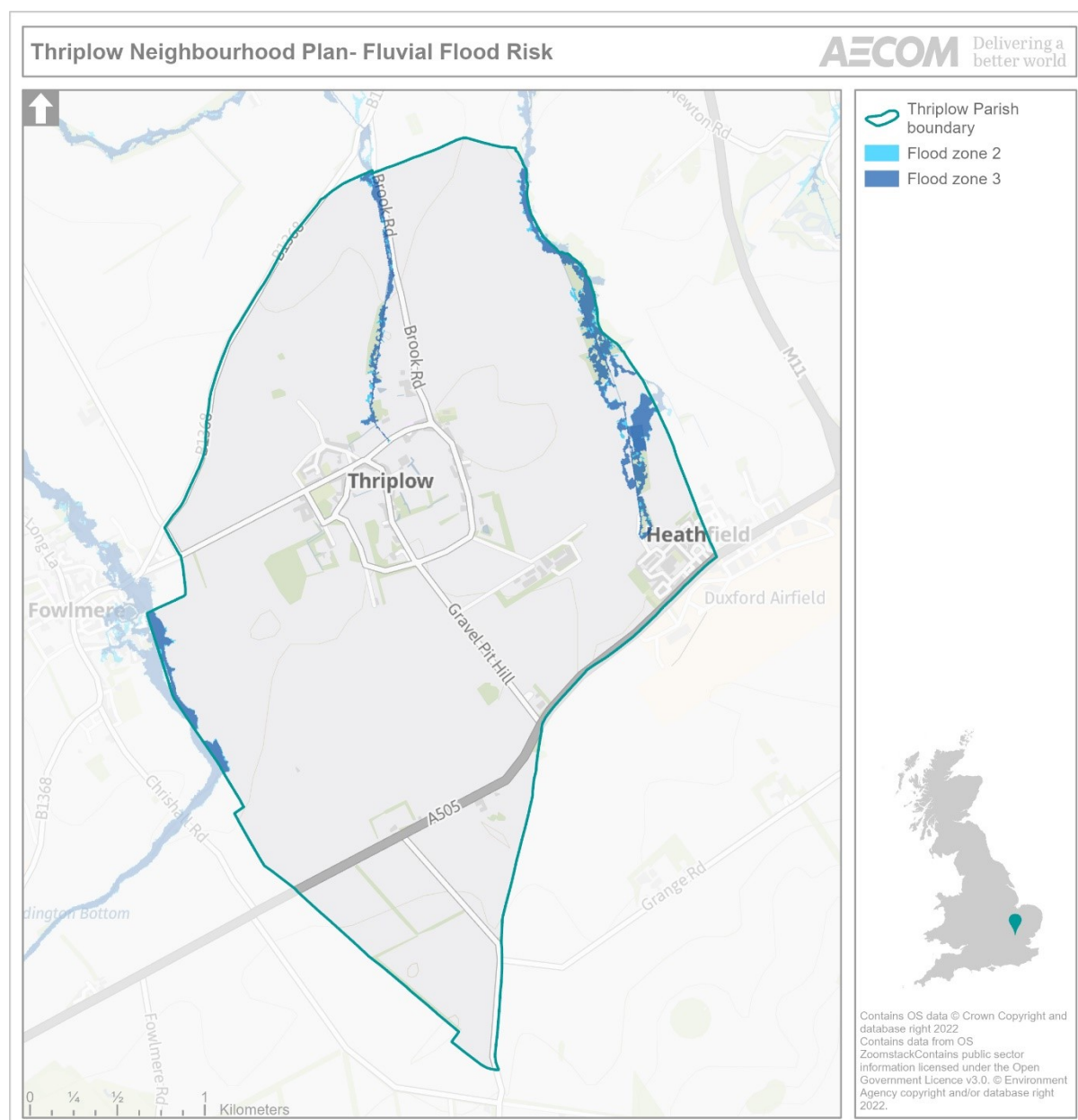


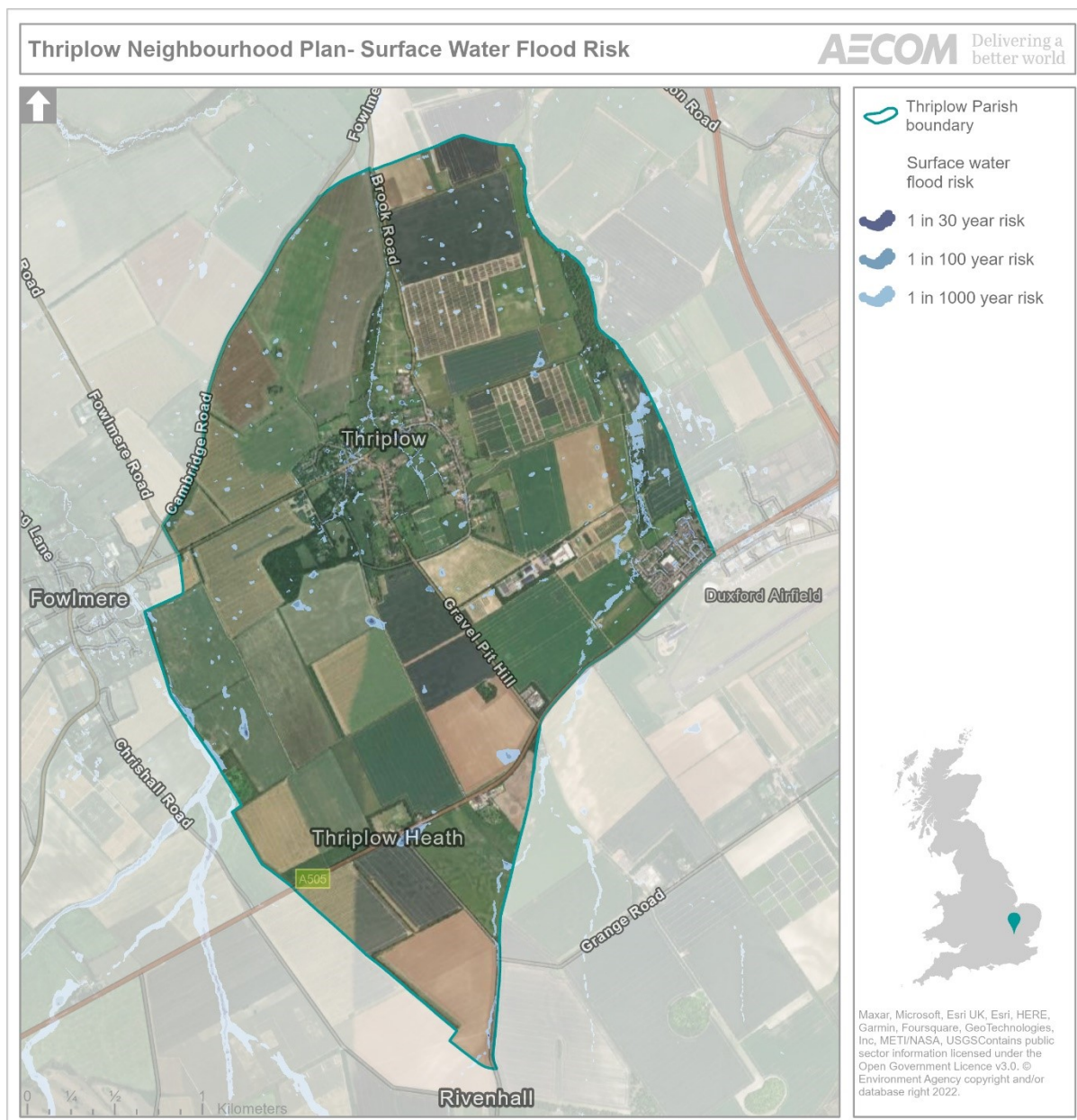
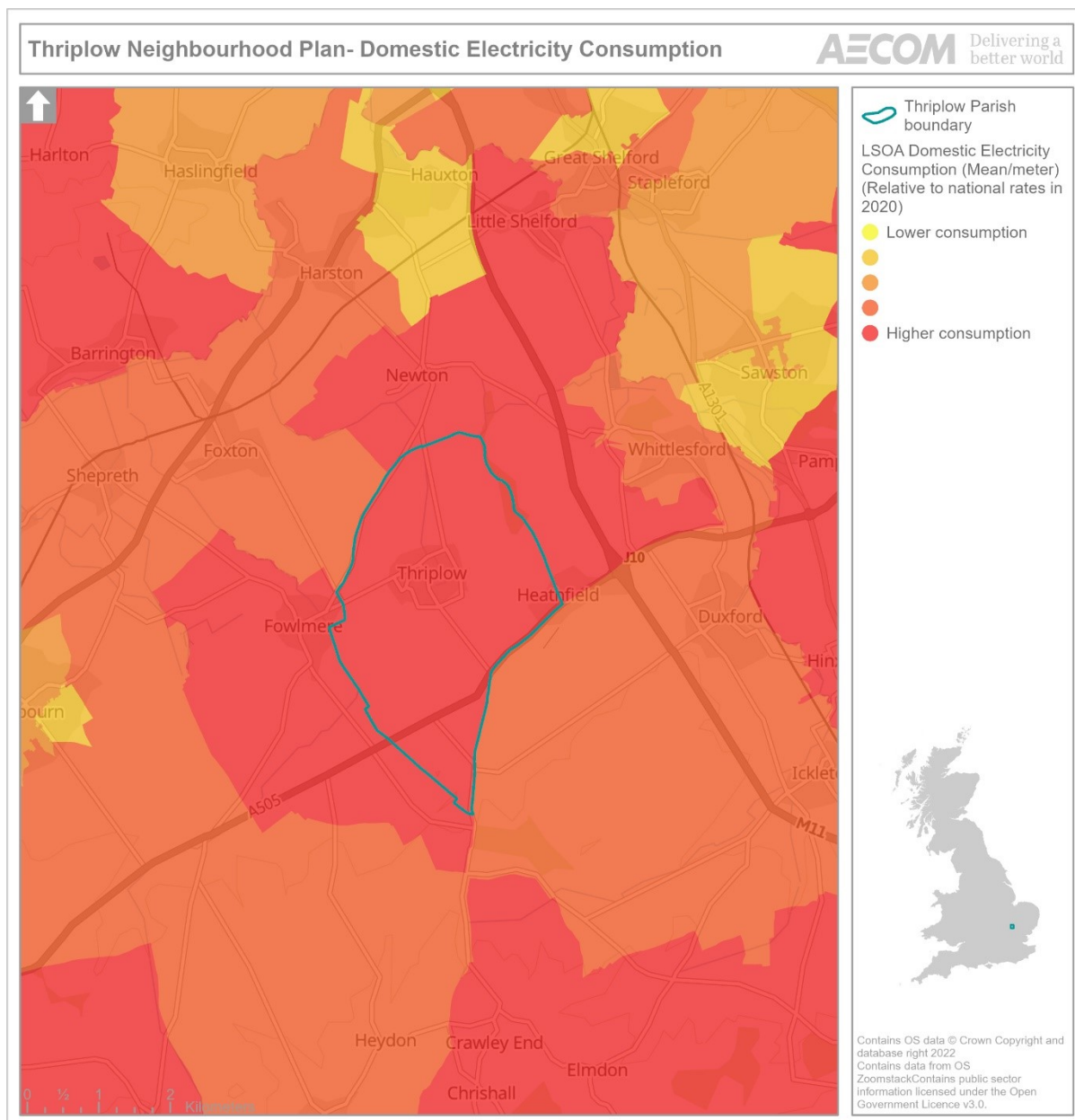
Figure 5.2: Surface water flood risk

Figure 5.3: Domestic electricity consumption (2020)

Key statistics

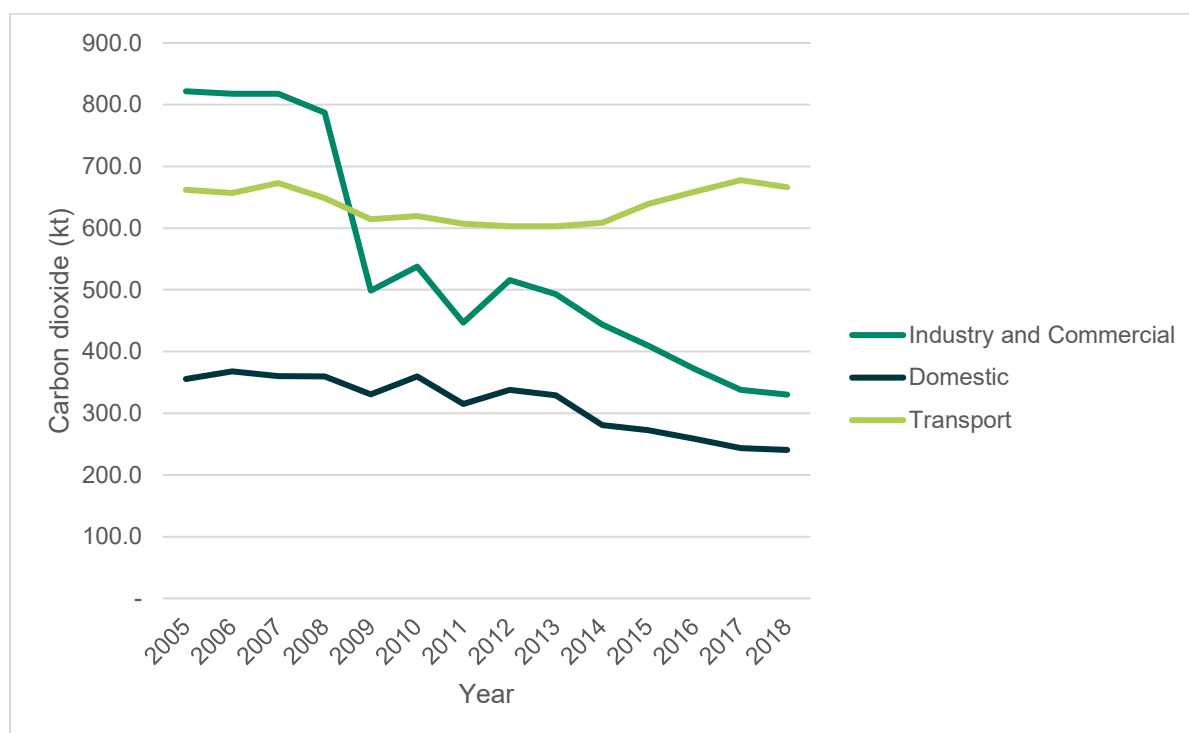


Figure 4.4: CO₂ emissions in kilotons per year for each sector in South Cambridgeshire (2005-2018)

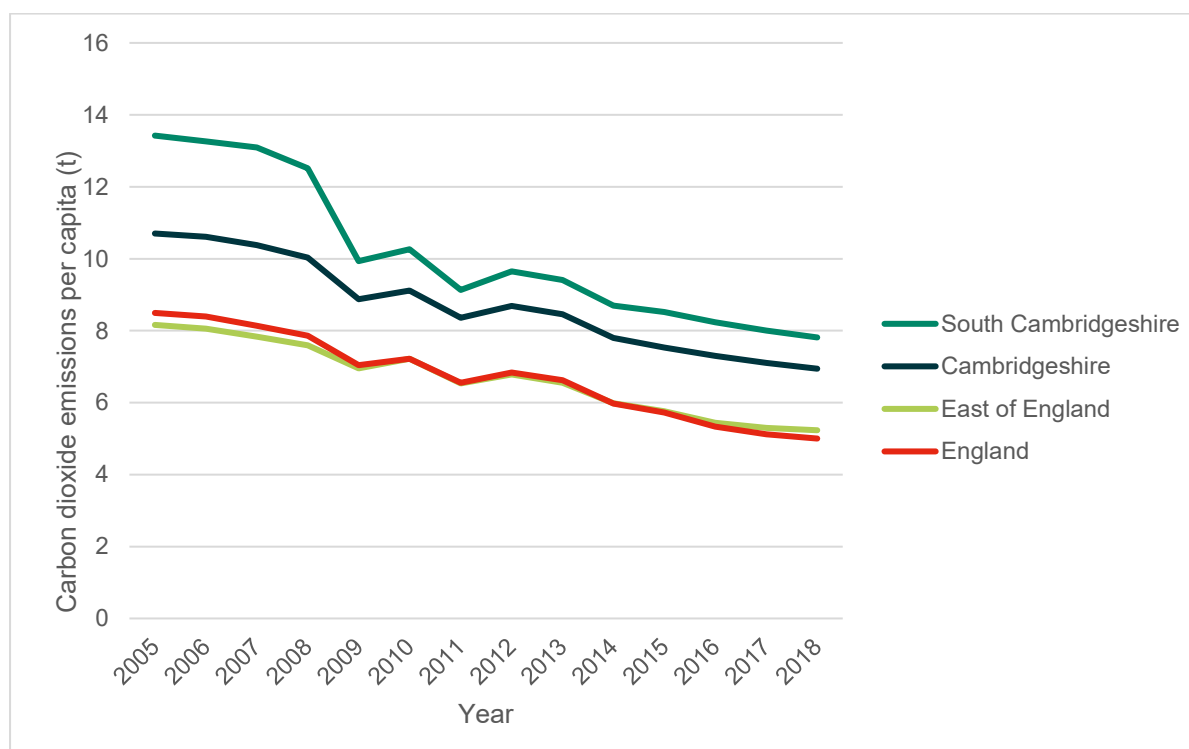


Figure 4.5: CO₂ emissions per capita (in tons) for South Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire, East of England, and England (2005-2018)

Table 4.2: Average changes in climate variables during winter and summer periods for the East of England region under the ‘business as usual’ climate model

	Mean Average Air Temperature (°C)		Mean Precipitation Rate (mm/day)		Mean Relative Humidity (%)	
	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer
1981-2000	4.23	15.80	2.47	1.95	87.40	73.87
2021-2040	5.52	18.06	2.55	1.76	87.02	69.88
2061-2080	7.34	20.88	2.89	1.34	86.54	66.08

5.2 The above table indicates:

- There could be 3.11°C increase in winter mean average air temperature, and a 5.08°C increase in summer mean average air temperature.
- There could be a 0.42mm/day increase in winter mean precipitation rate, and a 0.62mm/day decrease in summer mean precipitation rate.
- There could be a 0.86% decrease in winter relative humidity, and a 7.79% decrease in summer relative humidity.

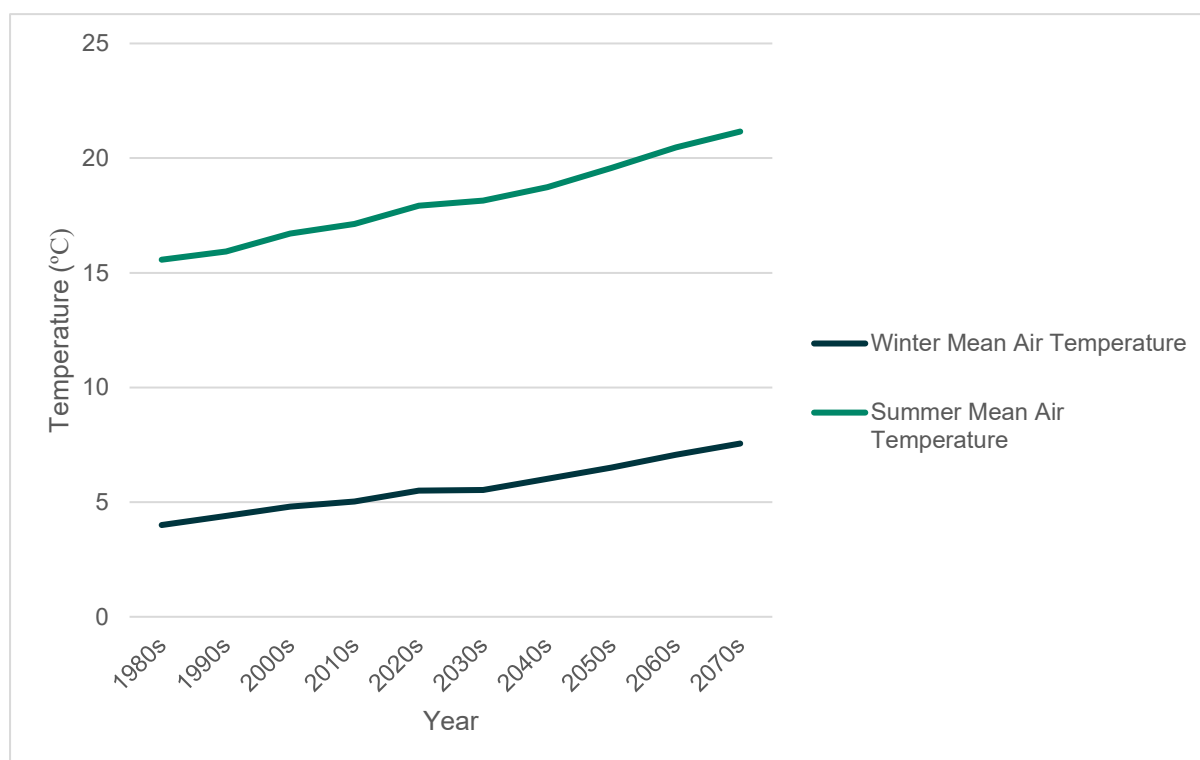


Figure 4.6: The change in mean air temperature (°C) for winter and summer seasons in the East of England region (1980s-2070s)

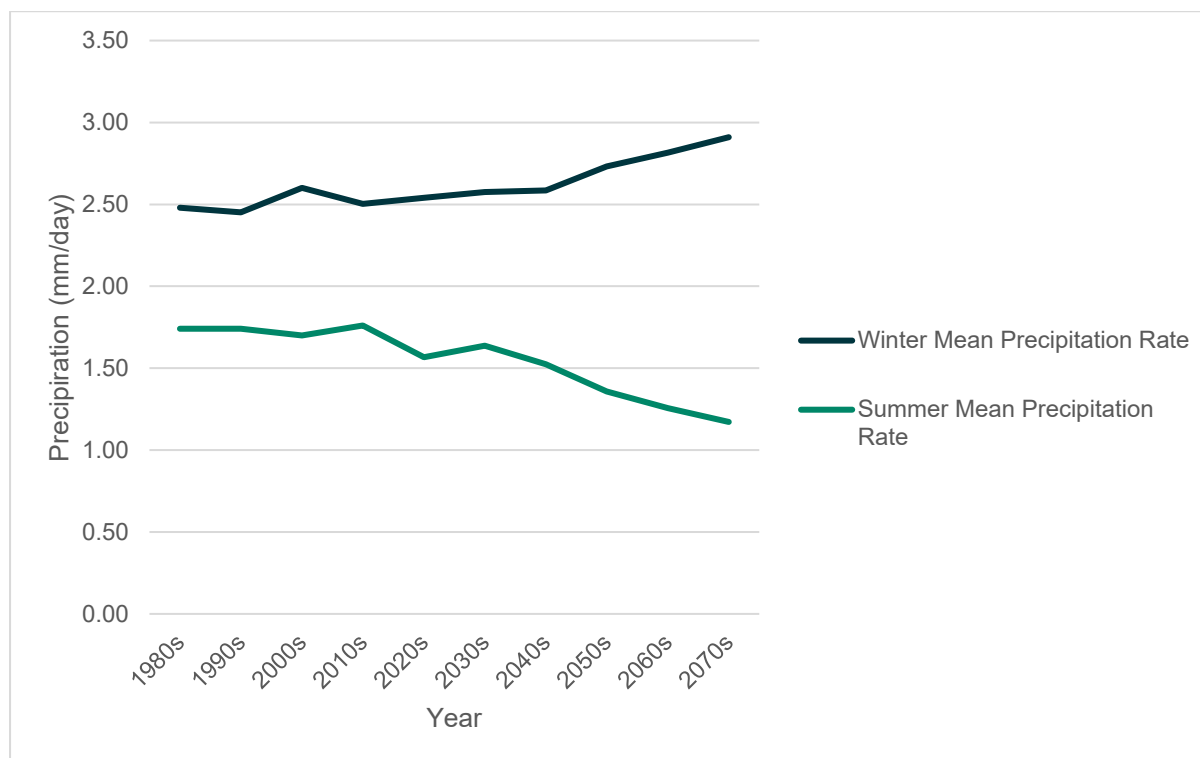


Figure 4.7: The change in mean precipitation rate (mm/day) for winter and summer months in the East of England (1980s-2070s)

Key evidence sources

5.3 Evidence sources which have informed the development of key issues include:

- [Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency](#)
- [Cambridgeshire County Council - Protecting and providing green space](#)
- [Cambridgeshire County Council - Rights of Way](#)
- [Check the long-term flood risk for an area in England](#)
- [Environment Agency's Flood risk information for planning in England](#)
- [Greater Cambridge Local Plan - Climate Change Topic Paper](#)
- [National Highways - East](#)
- [Net Zero Cambridgeshire 2045](#)
- [Thriplow Flood map planning 2019](#)
- [Thriplow Footpaths](#)
- [UK Climate Projections \(UKCP\)](#)
- [UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2018](#)

Policy context

Table 4.1: Additional plans and policies relating to climate change and flood risk

Document title	Year of publication
Cambridgeshire County Council - Net Zero Cambridgeshire 2045	2022
Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027	2021
Fairness, nature, and communities: addressing climate change in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	2021
South Cambridgeshire District Council - Doubling Nature Strategy	2021
Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document	2020
South Cambridgeshire District Council - Zero Carbon Strategy	2020
Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document	2016
Cambridgeshire green infrastructure strategy	2011

Commentary

- 5.4 Areas of Flood Zone 3 in the neighbourhood area are largely constrained to the north-eastern boundary, to the north of Heathfield, and the western boundary, to the east of Fowlmere. A narrow strip of land in Flood Zone 3 also extends from the northern boundary of the neighbourhood area to the boundary of Thriplow. Overall, fluvial flood risk is not a big concern for Thriplow, but more of a concern for development north of Heathfield. Surface water flood risk is more prevalent throughout both settlement areas (Thriplow and Heathfield), but areas of high risk are most prevalent around waterbodies and roads.
- 5.5 Domestic electricity consumption in Thriplow is higher than national rates as of 2020, which is the same for neighbouring Fowlmere, Newton and Whittlesford.
- 5.6 In South Cambridgeshire, according to data from 2018, the transport sector is the biggest contributor to CO₂ emissions. Notably, in 2005, the industry and commercial sector was the biggest contributor to CO₂ emissions. However, emissions have decreased significantly during the period 2005 to 2018. South Cambridgeshire emits more CO₂ emissions per capita when compared to Cambridgeshire as a whole, the East of England and England. Nevertheless, emissions have decreased in line with these three regions during the period 2005 to 2018.
- 5.7 The mean air temperature for winter and summer seasons in the East of England is projected to increase up to the 2070s. Whilst the mean precipitation rate for winter is also projected to increase up to the 2070s, the mean precipitation rate for summer is projected to decrease.

Key issues

- 5.8 CO₂ emissions associated with transport remain high in South Cambridgeshire, highlighting the importance of the delivery of sustainable transport infrastructure, which the THNP can seek to address locally, particularly by strengthening active travel routes and opportunities to increase self-containment.
- 5.9 As with much of the country, extreme heat events are likely to occur more frequently in the future. In addition to this, drought is likely to become an increasing issue in summer, whilst surface water/ groundwater flooding is likely to increase during winter months. In this respect, climate change resilience should form an integral part of the THNP policy framework.
- 5.10 There is a need to consider flood risk, avoiding vulnerable development in areas of high fluvial flood risk, and managing, and where possible, improving drainage rates.

SEA objective

- 5.11 Based on the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objectives:

SEA theme	SEA objective
Climate change and flood risk	Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the neighbourhood area and increase resilience to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.

- 5.12 Supporting assessment questions include (will the option / proposal...):
- Reduce the number of journeys made and reduce the need to travel?
 - Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling, public transport, and EV infrastructure?
 - Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?
 - Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources, or reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
 - Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change?
 - Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the neighbourhood area?
 - Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing runoff where possible?
 - Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?

6. Community wellbeing

6.1 This section seeks to summarise population and age structures, deprivation issues, housing mix and affordability, community assets and infrastructure, and influences on health and wellbeing in the Neighbourhood Area.

Maps

Figure 6.1: Green space in Thriplow

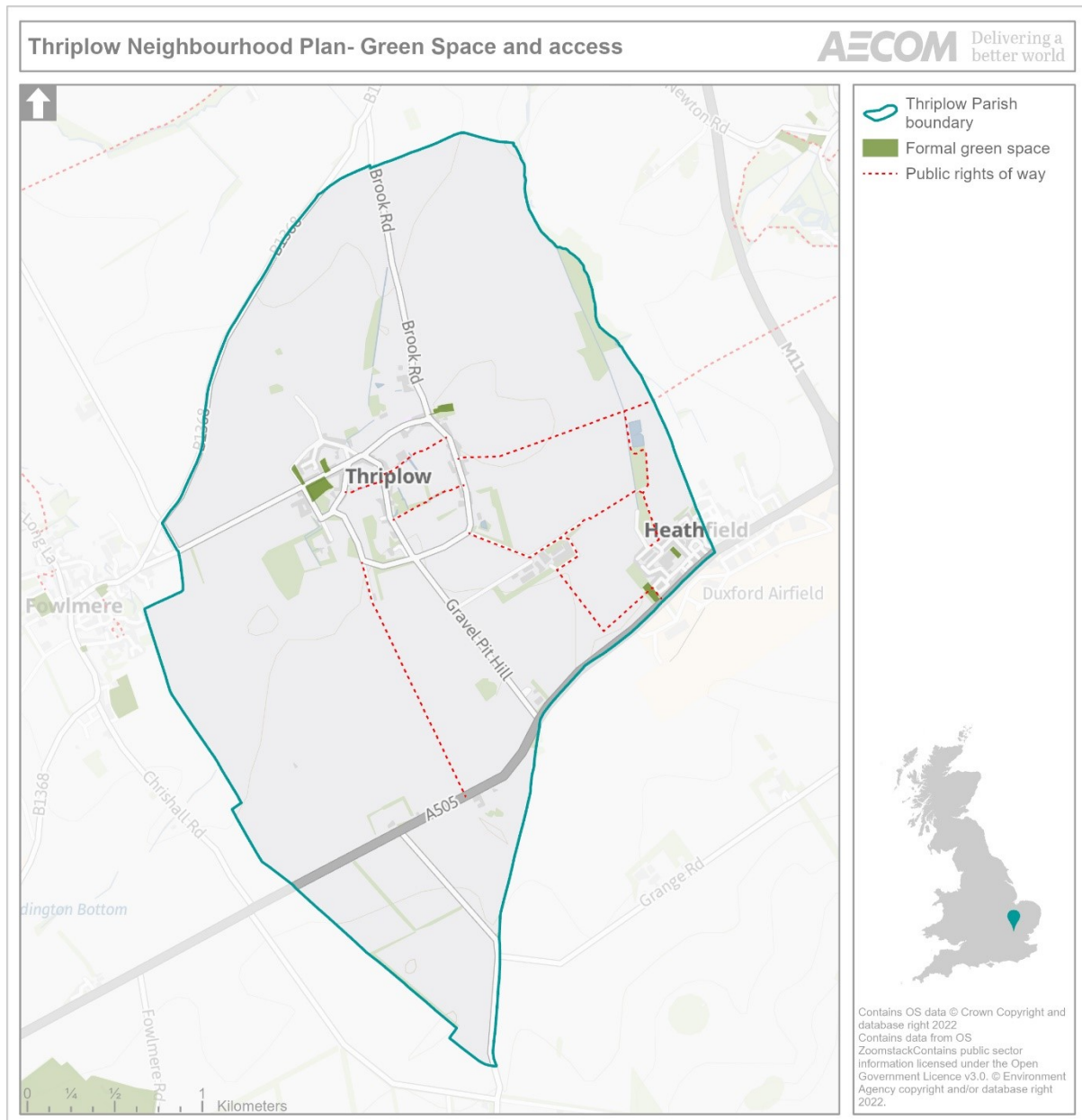


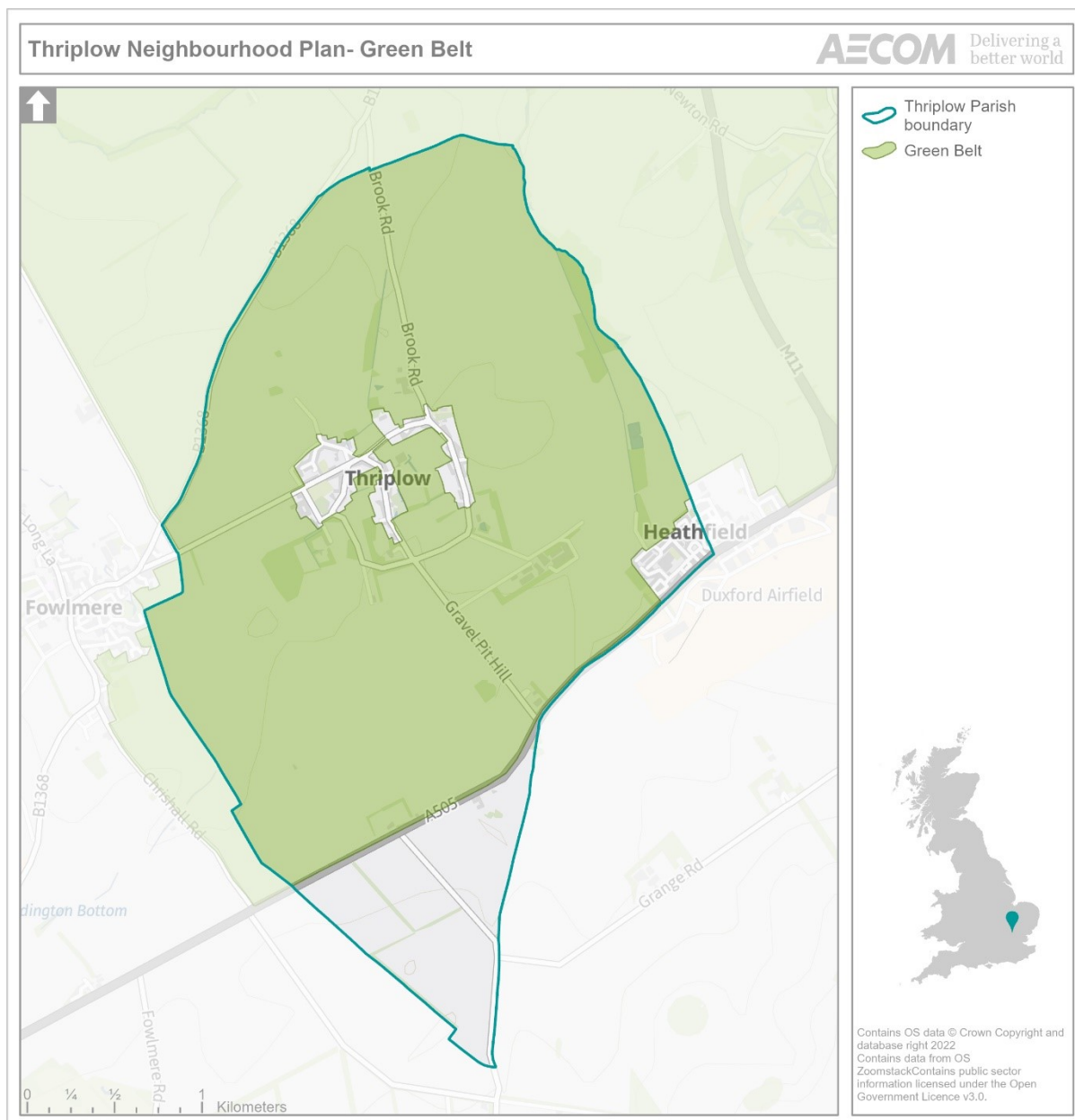
Figure 6.2: Designated Green Belt land

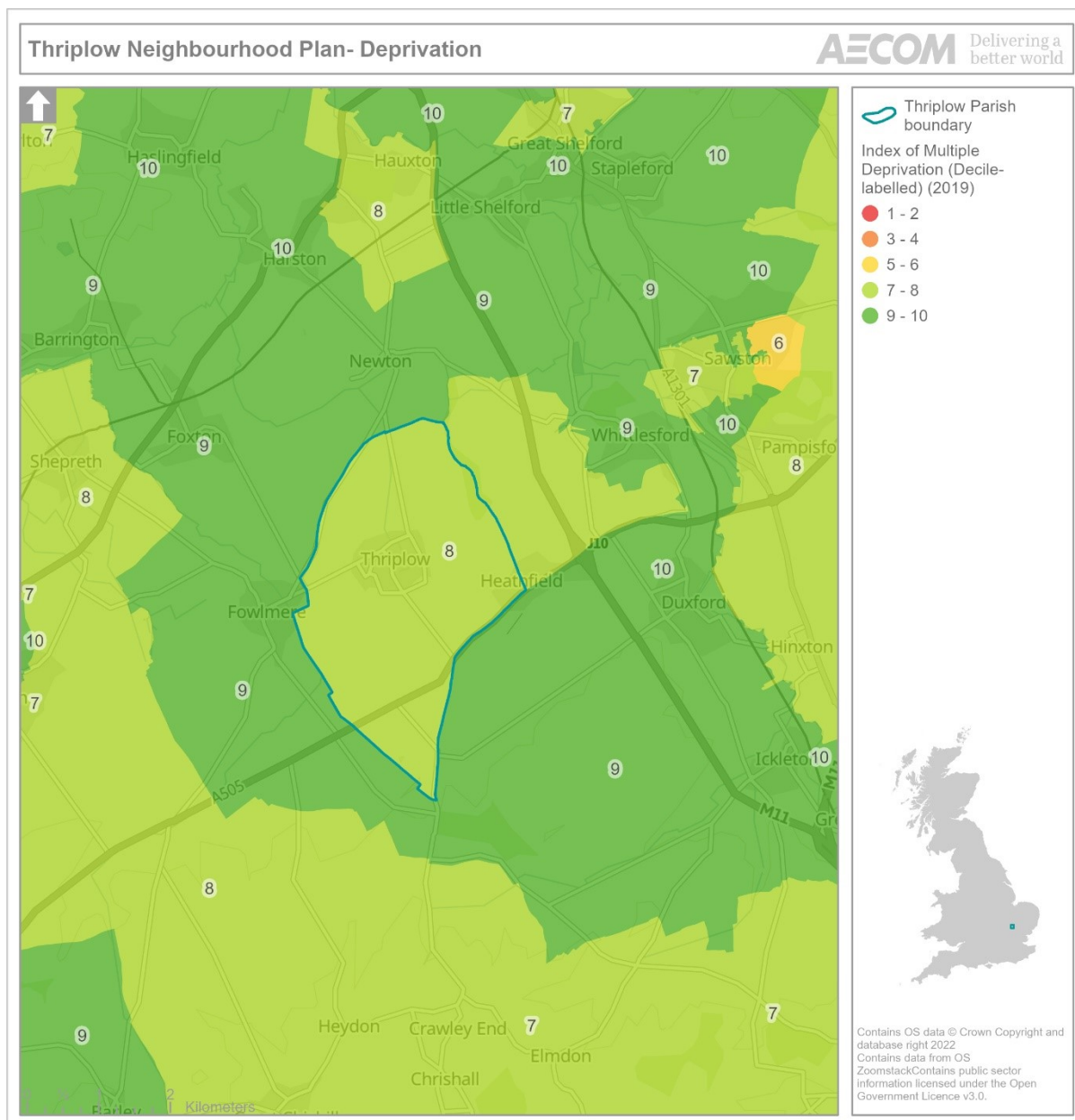
Figure 6.3: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2019

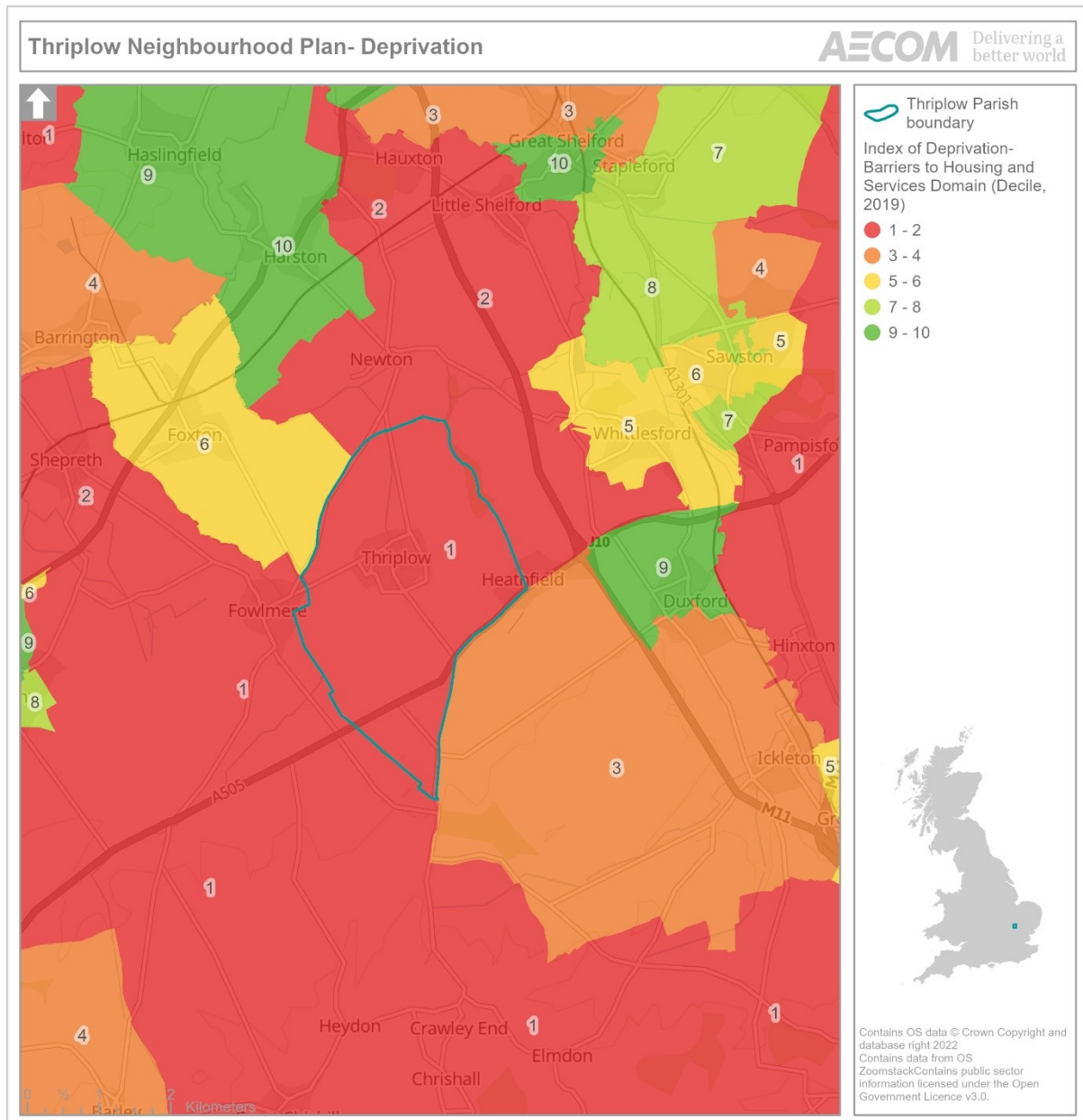
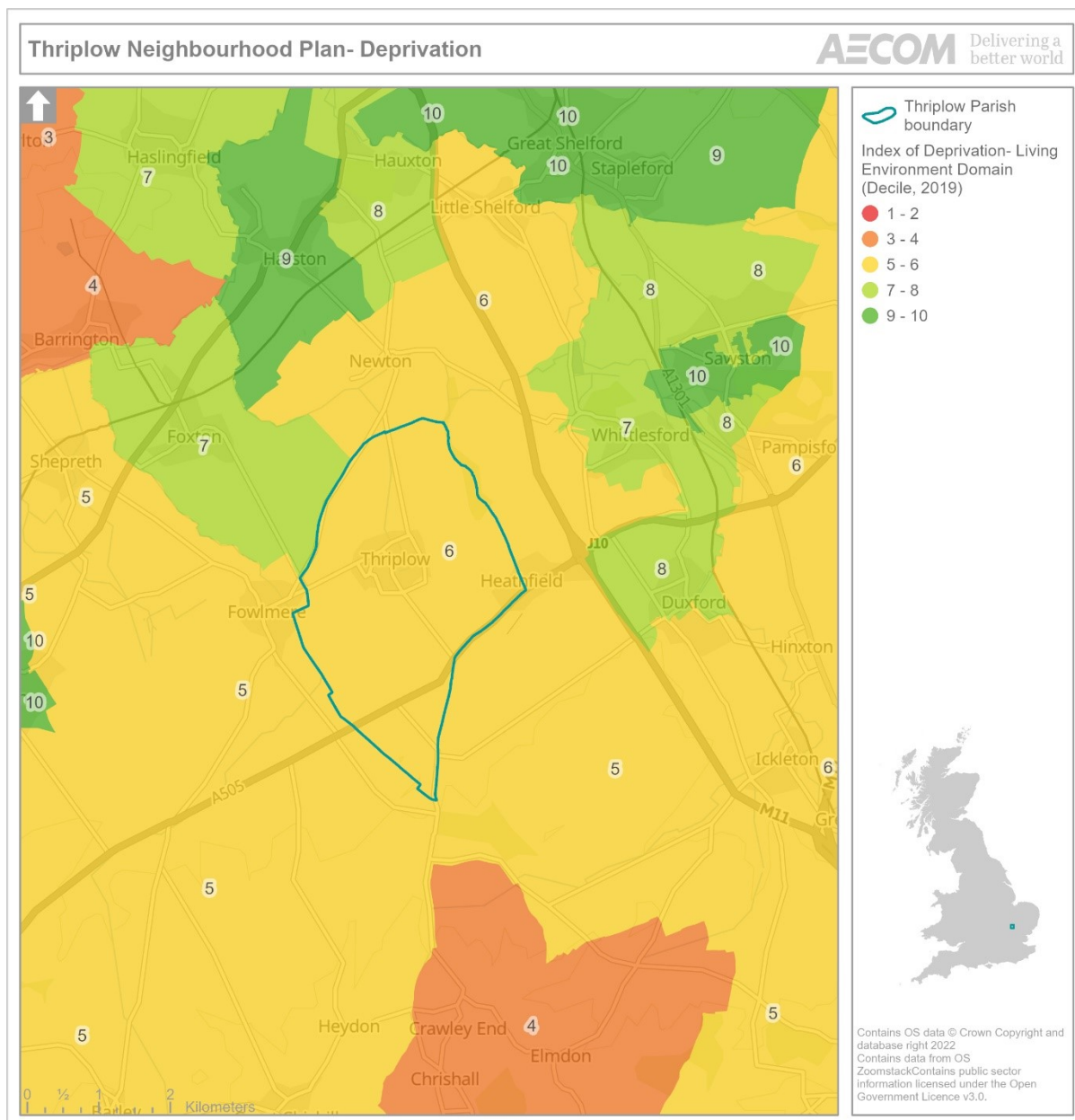
Figure 6.4: IMD, 2019, access to housing and services domain

Figure 6.5: IMD, 2019, living environment domain

Key statistics

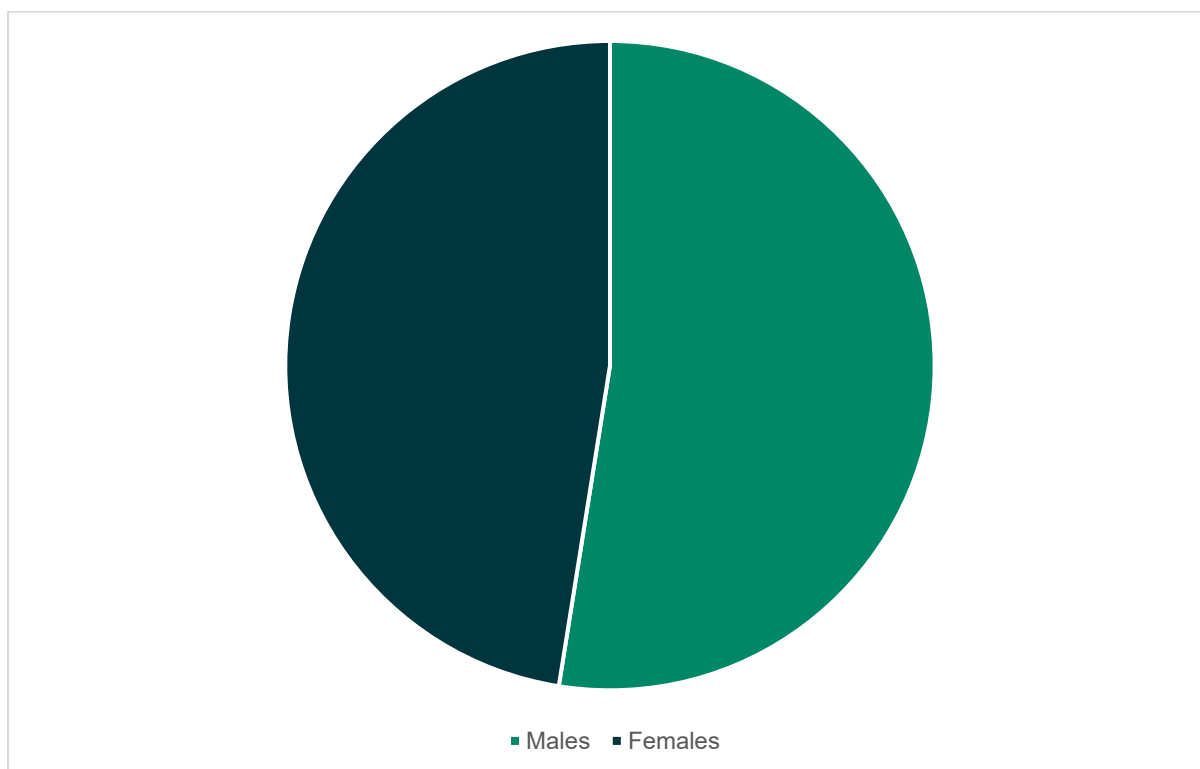


Figure 5.1: Estimated gender split in the neighbourhood area in 2020

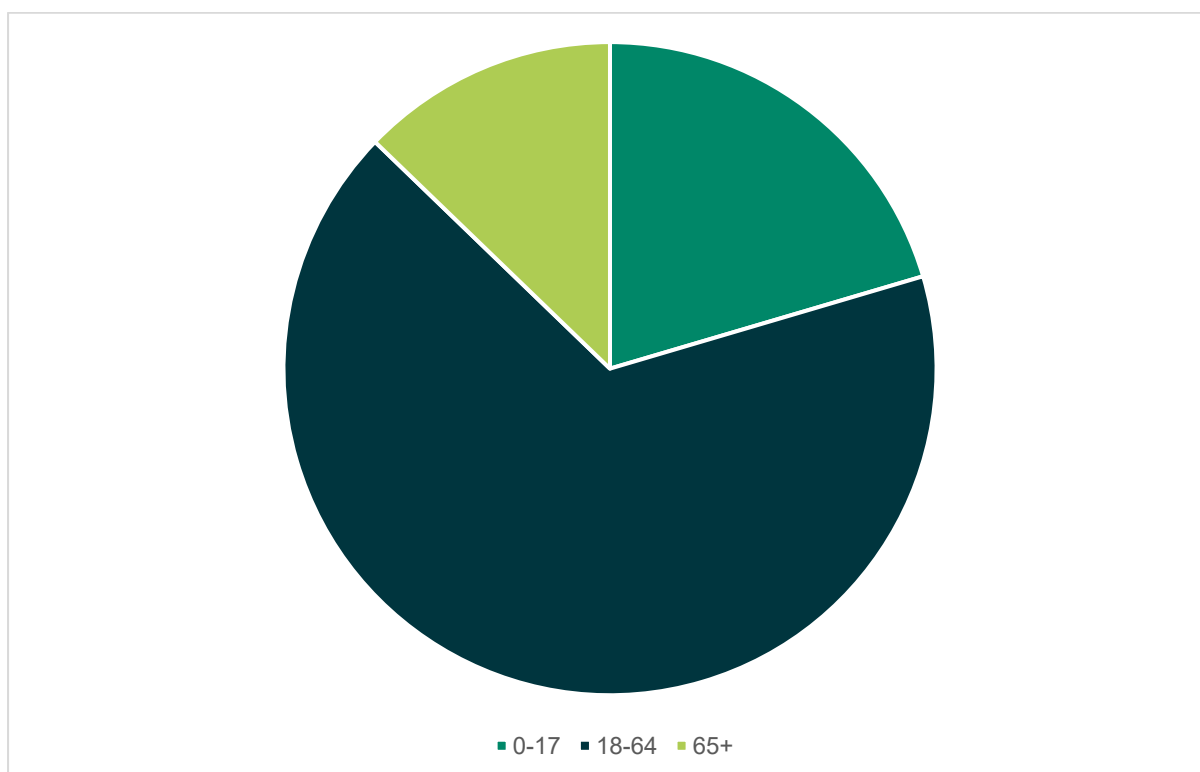


Figure 5.2: Estimated age split in the neighbourhood area in 2020

Table 5.2: Indices of Deprivation in 2015 and 2019 for the neighbourhood area

Indices	2015	2019	Change
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	25,255 (amongst 30% least deprived neighbourhoods)	24,049 (amongst 30% least deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is a decrease in rank number
Income deprivation	30,976 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	31,303 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is an increase in rank number
Employment deprivation	31,531 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	30,808 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is a decrease in rank number
Education, Skills and Training	25,110 (amongst 30% least deprived neighbourhoods)	25,800 (amongst 30% least deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is an increase in rank number
Health Deprivation and Disability	31,652 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	31,150 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is a decrease in rank number
Crime	29,464 (amongst 20% least deprived neighbourhoods)	30,312 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	There is a change in deprivation group (decreased), there is an increase in rank number
Barriers to Housing and Services	1,290 (amongst 10% most deprived neighbourhoods)	579 (amongst 10% most deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is a decrease in rank number
Living Environment	19,046 (amongst 50% least deprived neighbourhoods)	18,044 (amongst 50% least deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is a decrease in rank number
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	30,633 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	31,899 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is an increase in rank number
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI)	30,313 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	30,291 (amongst 10% least deprived neighbourhoods)	No change in deprivation group, there is a decrease in rank number

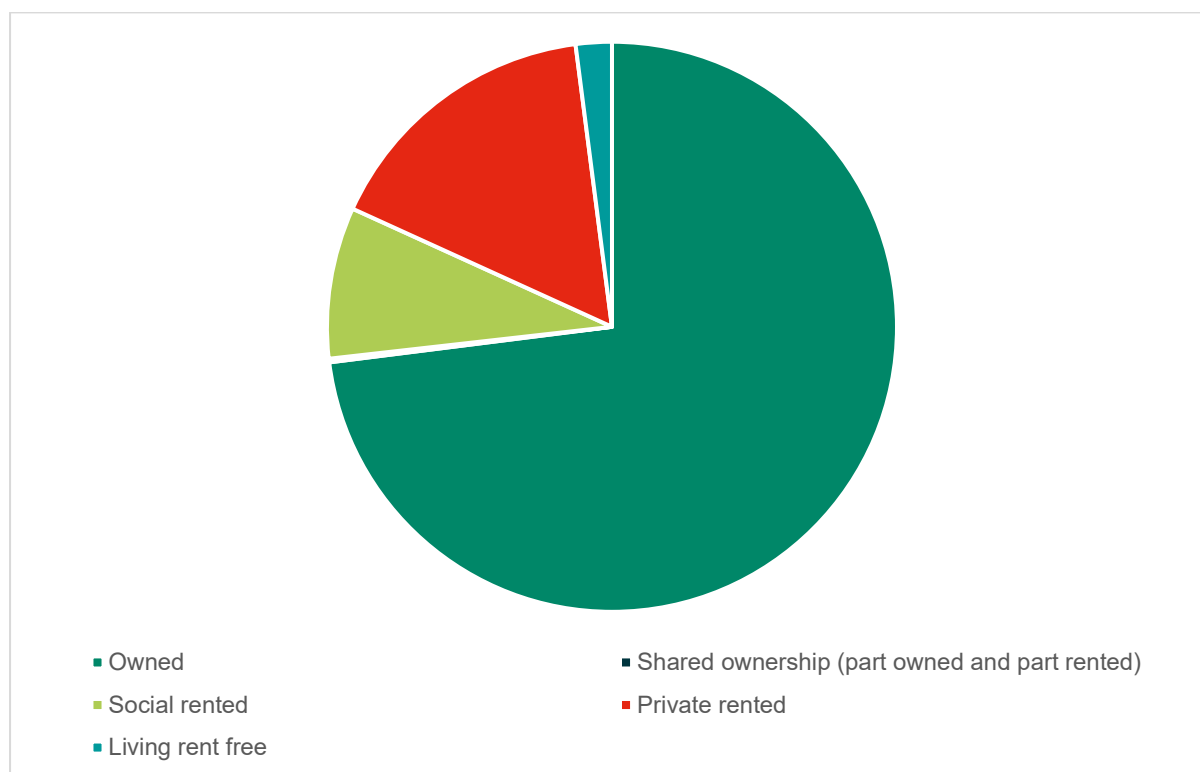


Figure 5.3: Tenure by household composition for the neighbourhood area (based on 2011 Census data)

Key evidence sources

- [City Population](#)
- [Indices of Deprivation: 2019 and 2015](#)
- [Nomis - Official census and labour market statistics](#)
- [Thriplow Demographic and Socio-Economic Review](#)
- [Thriplow Housing Need Survey Results Report](#)

Policy context

Table 5.1: Additional plans and policies relating to community wellbeing

Document title	Year of publication
Greater Cambridgeshire Housing Strategy 2019 to 2023	2019
New Build Council Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025	2020

Commentary

- 6.2 There are only six formal green spaces in the neighbourhood area; four of these are in Thriplow, and the remaining two in Heathfield. However, much of the neighbourhood area intersects with the Cambridge Green Belt, including the area surrounding the settlement boundary of Thriplow. Hence, Thriplow has good access to the open countryside.
- 6.3 Thriplow has a relatively low level of deprivation overall, comparable with neighbouring Whittlesford. However, neighbouring Duxford, Fowlmere, Foxton and Newton all have a slightly lower level of deprivation than Thriplow.
- 6.4 When considering the 'barriers to housing and services' domain, Thriplow is considered deprived. The same can be said for neighbouring Newton, Whittlesford and Fowlmere. This implies that the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services is poor in Thriplow.
- 6.5 In terms of the 'living environment' domain, Thriplow experiences an average level of deprivation, sitting in the middle of the scale. This is the same for all neighbouring parishes, except for Foxton, which has a lower level of deprivation concerning this domain.
- 6.6 In terms of age structure, according to 2020 estimates, 12.8% of the population is aged 65 years and older. This is lower than the average for Cambridgeshire (19.4%), indicating that Thriplow does not suffer from an aging population to the same degree as found at the county level. However, the Demographic and Socio-Economic Review of Thriplow identifies that there are significant differences between the demographic profiles of Thriplow village and Heathfield. Around 60% of the Parish population are located in Heathfield, and looking at the settlement areas individually, Thriplow has an older age profile with around one in five households comprised entirely of people aged over 65. Consequently, health issues are more prevalent in the village.
- 6.7 In terms of tenure, most residents in the neighbourhood area own their home, followed by private rented and social rented.

Key issues

- 6.8 The Cambridge Green Belt, covering much of the neighbourhood area, represents a significant constraint to development in Thriplow.
- 6.9 Thriplow is deprived in terms of the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services. The THNP represents an opportunity to provide both affordable housing and improved local services.

SEA objective

6.10 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA theme	SEA objective
Community wellbeing	Ensure growth in the neighbourhood area is aligned with the needs of all residents, improving accessibility, anticipating future needs and specialist requirements, and supporting cohesive and inclusive communities.

6.11 Supporting assessment questions include (will the option / proposal...):

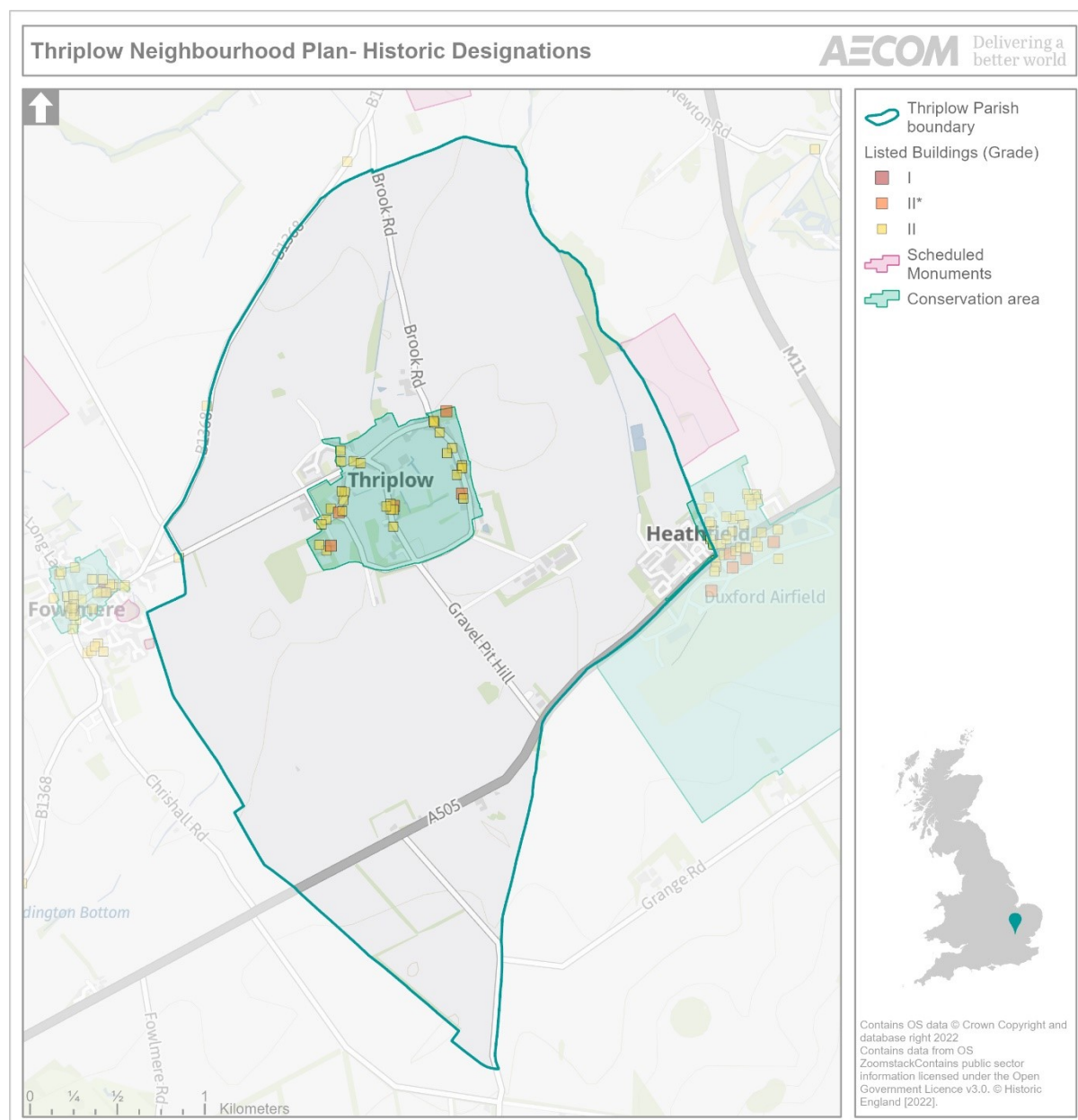
- Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing?
- Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes?
- Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?
- Provide flexible and adaptable homes that meet people's needs, particularly the needs of an ageing population?
- Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?
- Encourage and promote social cohesion and active involvement of local people in community activities?
- Facilitate green infrastructure enhancements, including improved access to open space?
- Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents?

7. Historic environment

7.1 This section seeks to summarise designated and non-designated heritage assets (including archaeology) and their settings, within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Area.

Maps

Figure 7.1: Designated heritage assets



Key statistics

7.2 There are 36 listed buildings in the neighbourhood area – five Grade II* and 31 Grade II. The Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)⁴ returns 37 results, and therefore one heritage asset within the neighbourhood area is not

⁴ Cambridgeshire County Council (no date): 'Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

formally designated. This is the building 'sergeants mess and barrack block, Heathfield, Duxford'.⁵

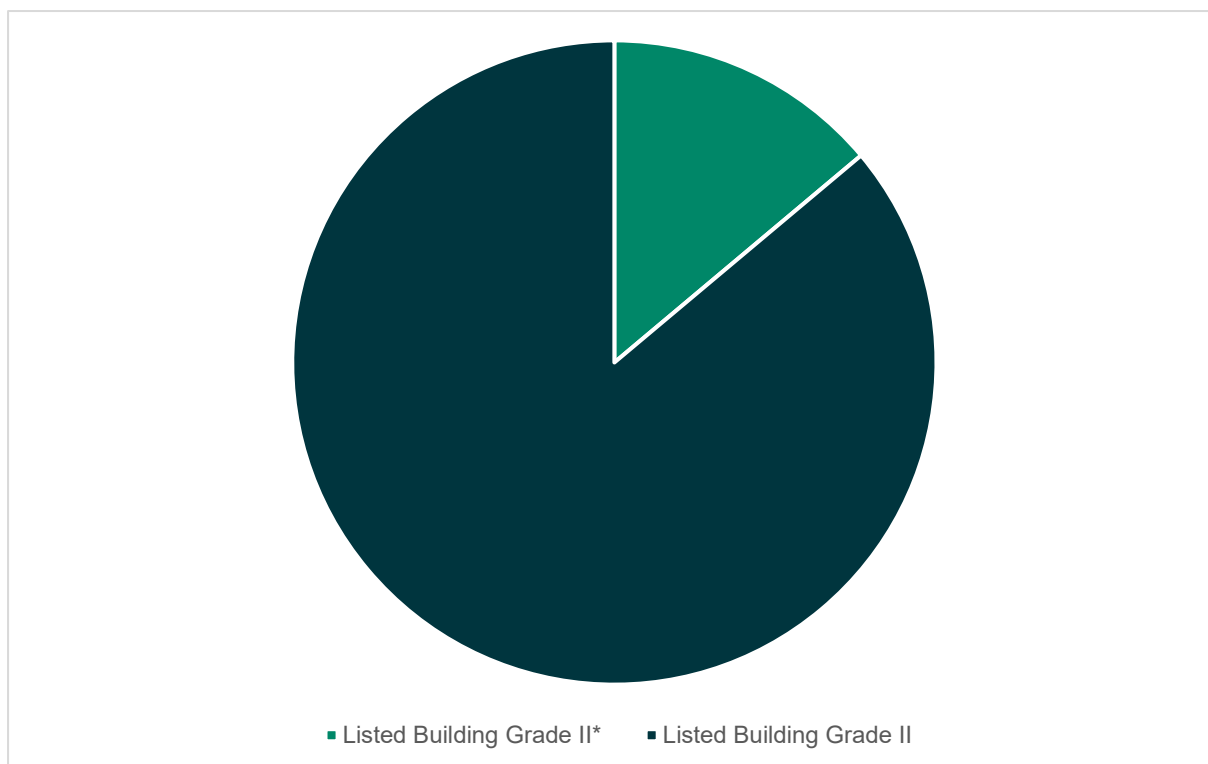


Figure 6.1: Historic environment assets in the neighbourhood plan area

Key evidence sources

- [DEFRA's Magic Map](#)
- [Cambridgeshire County Council - Archaeological advice for planning developments](#)
- [Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record \(CHER\)](#)
- [Heritage Gateway](#)
- [Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register for the East of England](#)
- [Thriplow and Heathfield Heritage statement](#)
- [Thriplow and Heathfield Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England \(SHINE\) sites](#)

Policy context

Table 6.1: Additional plans and policies relating to the historic environment

Document title	Year of publication
South Cambridgeshire District Council - Development Affecting Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document	2009

⁵ Heritage Gateway (no date): 'Decision summary', [online] available to access via [this link](#)

Commentary

- 7.3 Thriplow village contains a relatively dense concentration of listed buildings. The designated Conservation Area covers most of the village but no Conservation Area Appraisal can be found.
- 7.4 There is one historic asset on the Heritage at Risk Register – the Roman settlement south of Chronicle Hills, Whittlesford / Thriplow and Heathfield (Historic England List Entry Number: [1006794](#)).
- 7.5 SHINE (Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England) is a single, nationally consistent dataset of undesignated historic environment features across England that could benefit from the Natural England Environmental Stewardship environment scheme. Having sites on the SHINE dataset will result in more monuments being cared for and entered into beneficial management by farmers and land managers entering into the environment scheme, enhancing the historic landscape in England.

Key issues

- 7.6 The dense concentration of listed buildings in Thriplow village presents a constraint to future development within the neighbourhood area. The THNP can help overcome this by ensuring that any development that comes forward during the plan period is appropriately located and sensitive to the historic setting of the village in terms of design and layout.
- 7.7 In the absence of a Conservation Area Appraisal, the THNP provides good opportunity to provide policy that protects the key characteristics of this area, and identifies the significance associated with different settings.

SEA objective

- 7.8 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA theme	SEA objective
Historic environment	Protect, conserve, and enhance the historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Area.

- 7.9 Supporting assessment questions include (will the option / proposal...):
- Protect the integrity of the historic setting of the conservation area?
 - Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings?
 - Protect the integrity of the historic setting of key monuments of cultural heritage interest as listed in the CHER?
 - Support the undertaking of early archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?
 - Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the Neighbourhood Area?

8. Land, soil, and water resources

8.1 This section seeks to summarise the quality of soil resources, the extent of mineral resources, water supply resources, and water quality within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Area.

Maps

Figure 8.1: Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Post-1988 survey

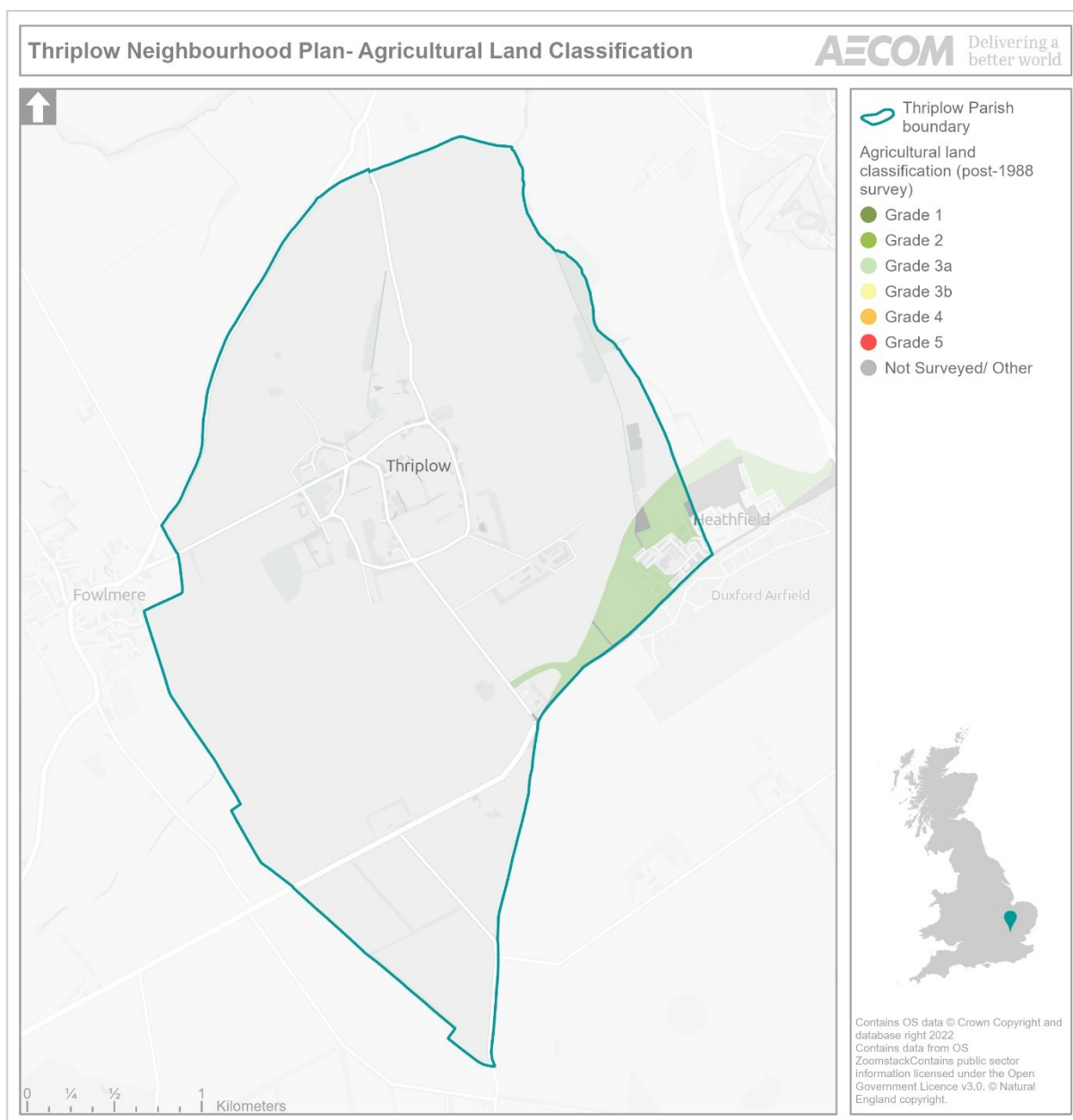


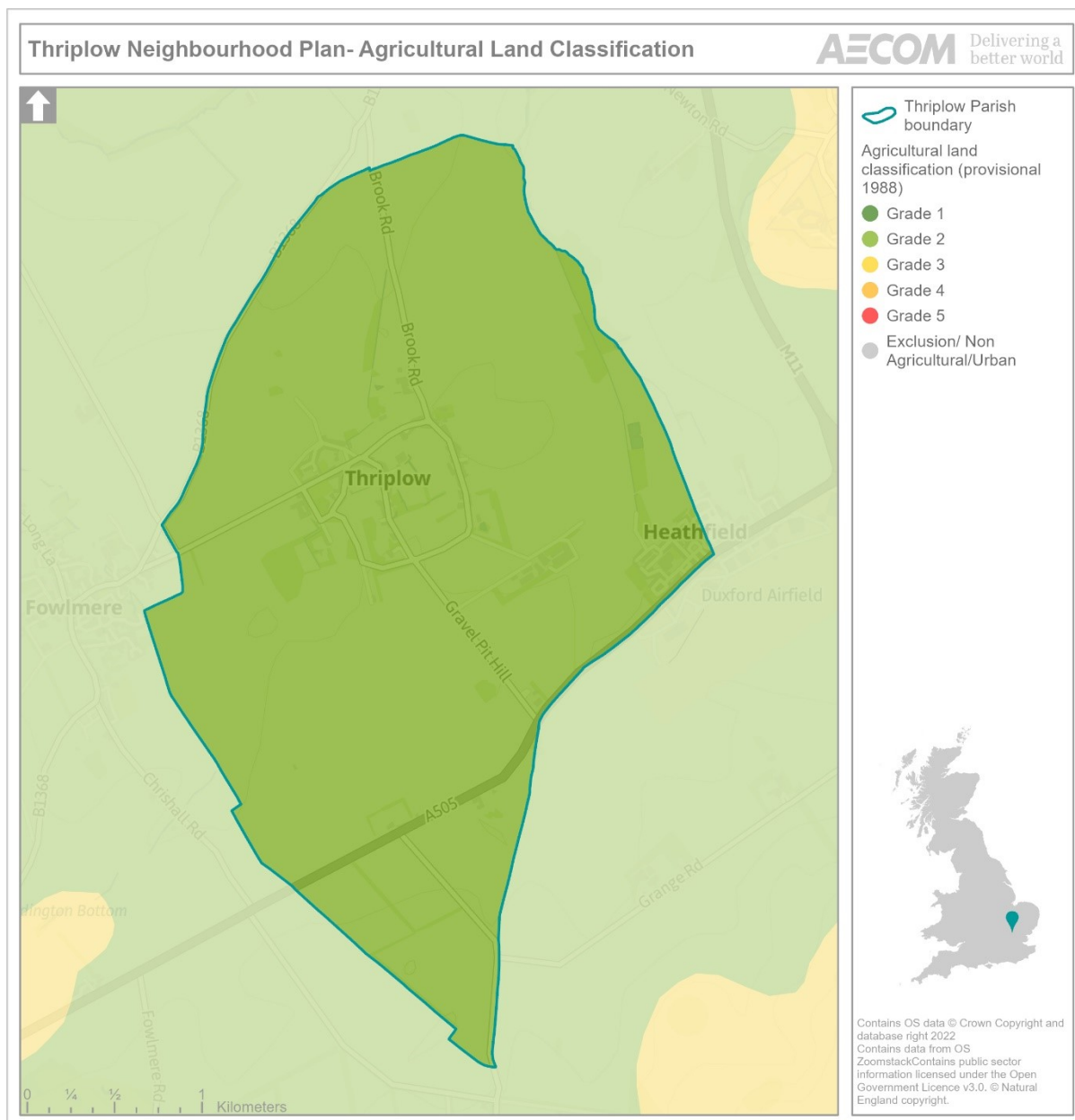
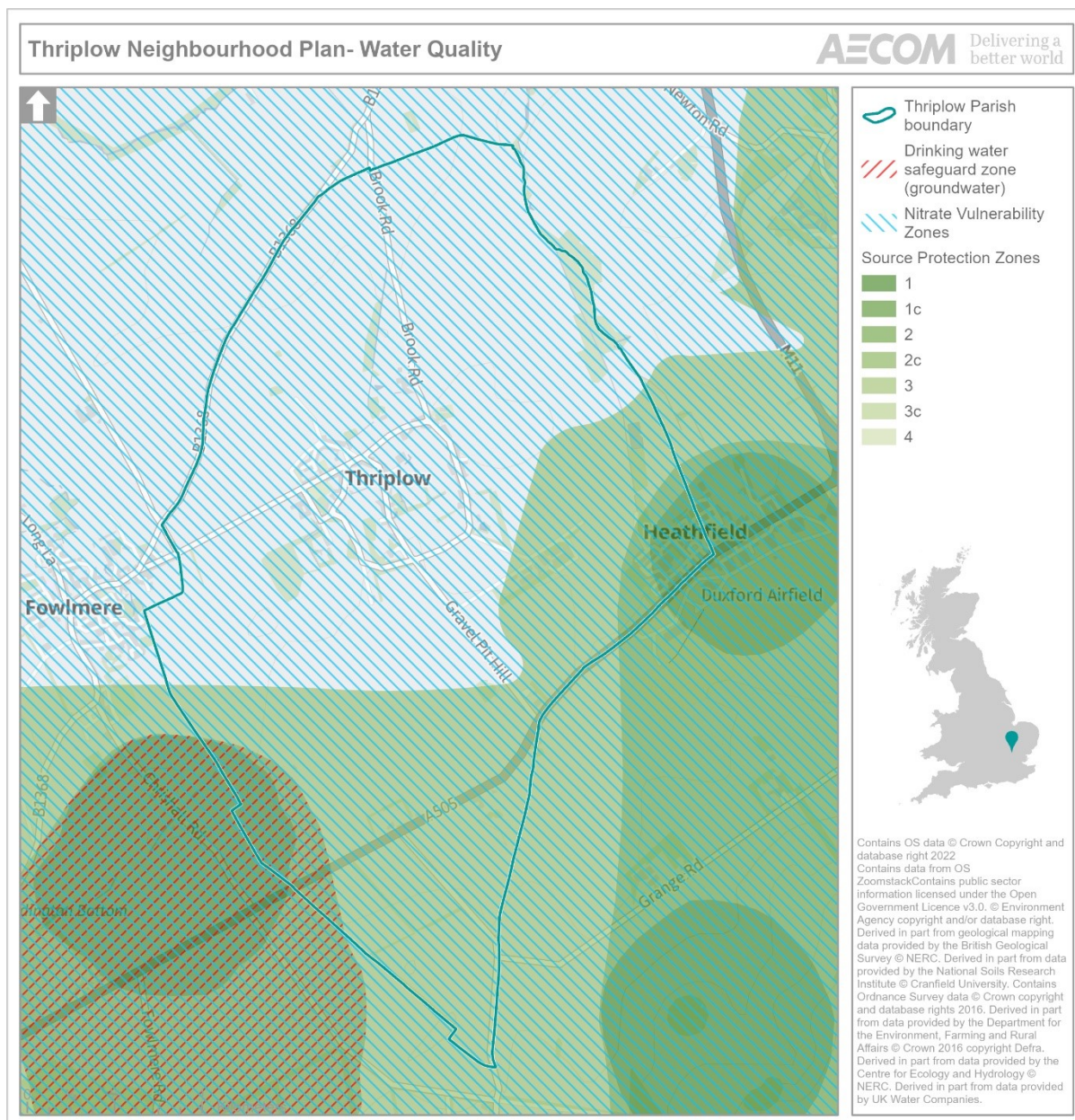
Figure 8.2: Provisional ALC (national dataset)

Figure 8.3: Water protection areas

Key statistics

Table 8.2: Ecological status classification of waterbodies overlapping the neighbourhood area

Name of Water Body	2013	2014	2015	2016	2019
Rhee (DS Wendy)	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Hoffer Brook	Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate

Table 8.3: Chemical status classification of waterbodies overlapping the neighbourhood area

Name of Water Body	2013	2014	2015	2016	2019
Rhee (DS Wendy)	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fail
Hoffer Brook	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fail

Key evidence sources

- [DEFRA's Magic Map](#)
- [Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer](#)
- [Natural England - ALC map East Region](#)

Policy context

Table 8.1: Additional plans and policies relating to land, soil, and water resources

Document title	Year of publication
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mineral and Waste Local Plan	2021
Cambridge Water's Water Resource Management Plan	2019

Commentary

- 8.2 The neighbourhood area contains Grade 2 agricultural land, and therefore any development within Thriplow will lead to the loss of productive agricultural land. However, this is largely unavoidable given the rural nature of the parish.
- 8.3 The entire neighbourhood area intersects with a Nitrate Vulnerability Zone (NVZ), whilst the eastern and southern extents of Thriplow intersects with a Source Protection Zone (SPZ) III (Total Catchment). The ecological status of the two waterbodies that intersect with the neighbourhood area is moderate.

Key issues

- 8.4 Development in Thriplow will lead to the loss of productive agricultural land, although this is largely unavoidable given the rural nature of the parish.
- 8.5 Development will need to be sensitive to both the NVZ and SPZ that intersect with the neighbourhood area. However, given the scale of these designations, development in Thriplow is unlikely to significant impact these zones.
- 8.6 It will be important that future development within the neighbourhood area does not lead to further deterioration of the two waterbodies in Thriplow.

SEA objective

- 8.7 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA theme	SEA objective
Land, soil, and water resources	Ensure the efficient and effective use of land, protect, and enhance water quality, and use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner

- 8.8 Supporting assessment questions include (will the option / proposal...):

- Avoid the loss of high-quality agricultural land resources?
- Support the continued operation of waste infrastructure within and surrounding the Plan area?
- Promote any opportunities for the use of previously developed land, or vacant/ underutilised land?
- Avoid impacts on water quality?
- Support improvements to water quality?
- Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside development?
- Protect waterbodies from pollution?
- Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/ or water recycling?
- Improve the resilience of water supplies?

9. Landscape

9.1 This section seeks to summarise designated and protected landscapes within or near the Neighbourhood Area, as well as landscape character, landscape quality, and visual amenity.

Maps

Figure 9.1: National Character Areas

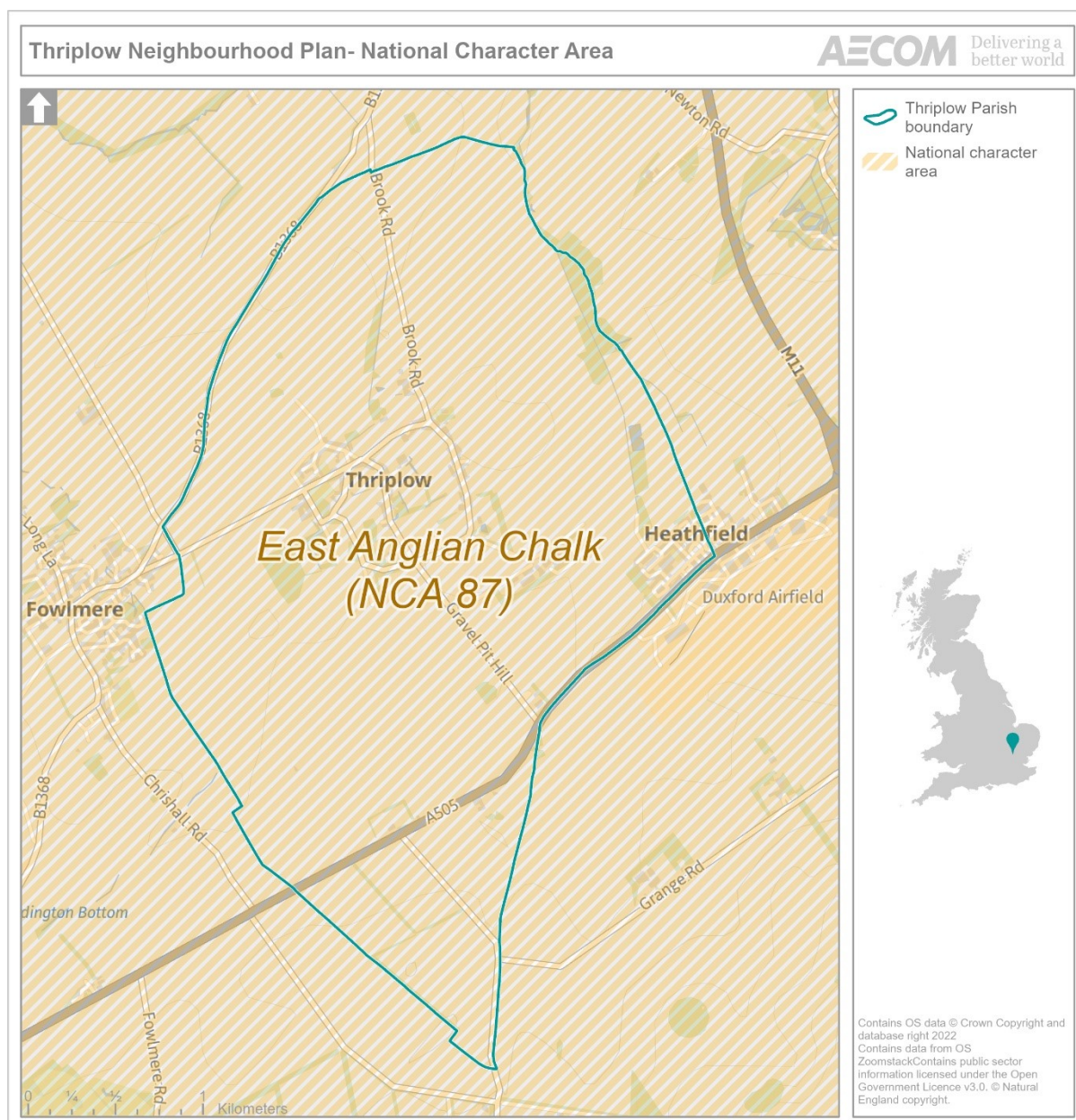
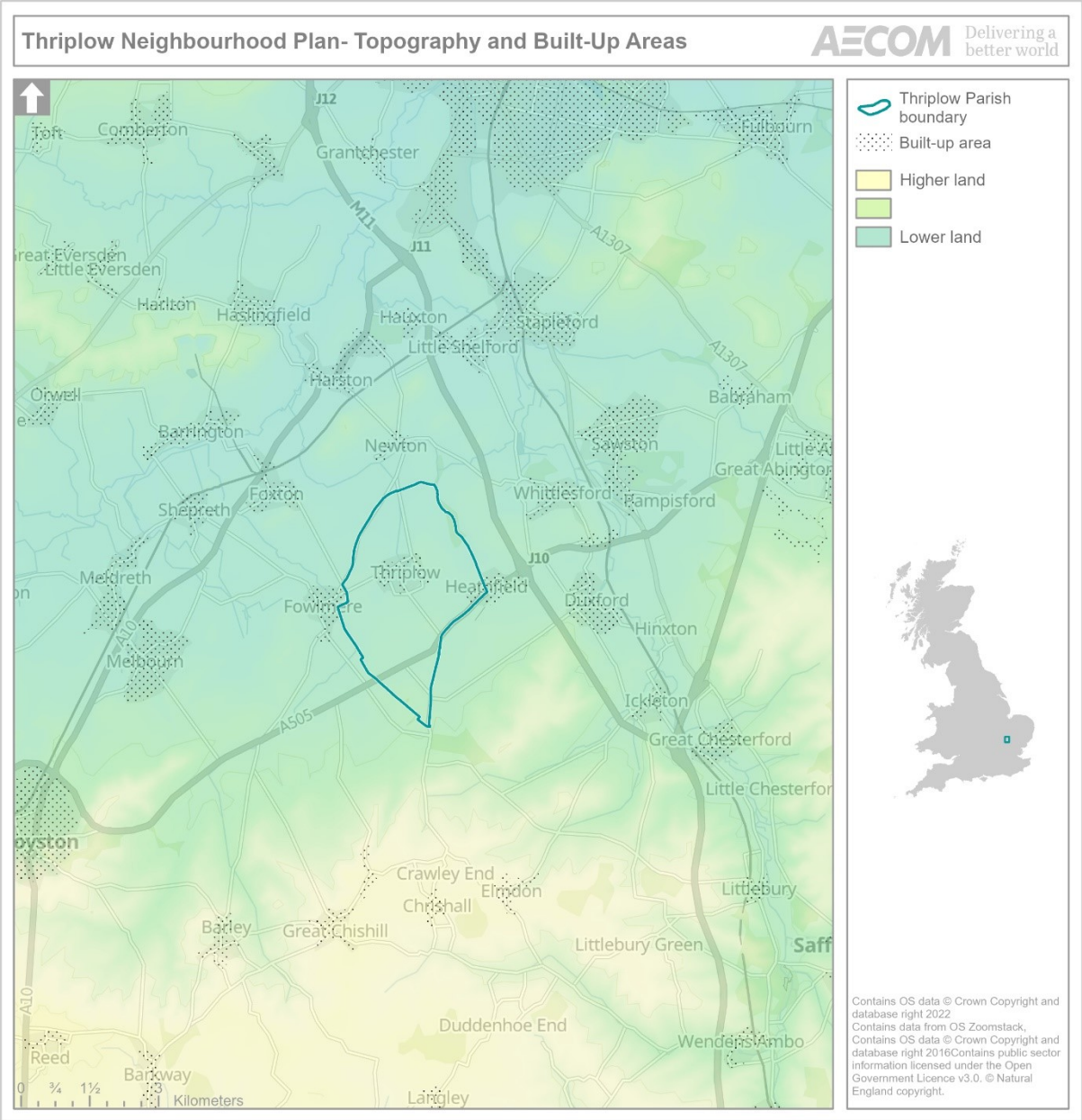


Figure 9.2: Topography and built-up areas



Key statistics

9.2 According to the latest brownfield register there are 76 brownfield sites within the South Cambridgeshire District Council area.

- The brownfield sites within the South Cambridgeshire District Council have the potential to bring forward 17,508 new homes.
- Of the 76 sites, three do not have permissioned status.

Table 8.2: Permission types for brownfield sites in South Cambridgeshire District Council

Permission type	Number
Outline planning permission	10
Full planning permission	57
Reserved matters approval	5
Other	4

Table 8.3: Ownership status for brownfield sites in South Cambridgeshire District Council

Ownership status	Number
Mixed ownership	3
Not owned by a public authority	52
Owned by a public authority	3
Unknown	18

9.3 Within the neighbourhood area there is one brownfield site – site reference S/2557/19/FL located on Church Street in Thriplow. The site is 0.26 hectares in size and has full planning permission⁶ for a detached two-storey house and detached double garage.

9.4 There are three tree preservation orders (TPOs) in the neighbourhood area:

- TPO 0032 (2022) on Fowlmere Road.
- TPO 0030 (2022) at Lane Farm; and
- TPO 0032 (1973) on Chishill Road.

⁶ Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (no date) 'Application summary' can be accessed [here](#).

Key evidence sources

- [Cambridgeshire County Council - Protecting and providing green space](#)
- [Cambridgeshire Geological Society](#)
- [Cambridgeshire Green infrastructure Strategy](#)
- [Cambridge Past, Present and Future - Cambridge Green Belt](#)
- [Department for Communities and Local Government - Protected trees](#)
- Greater Cambridge Landscape Assessment [Part A](#) and [Part B](#)
- [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning - Brownfield Register](#)
- [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning - Monitoring delivery and land use in Greater Cambridge](#)
- [Greater Cambridge Local Plan - Biodiversity and Green Spaces Topic Paper](#)
- [Natural England - Landscape character assessments: identify and describe landscape types](#)
- [Natural England - Landscape sensitivity assessment](#)
- [Thriplow and Heathfield Parish Character Assessment](#)

Policy context

Table 8.1: Additional plans and policies relating to landscape

Document title	Year of publication
NE529: NCA Profile: 87 East Anglian Chalk	2014
Cambridgeshire green infrastructure strategy	2011
South Cambridgeshire Landscape in New Developments SPD	2010
South Cambridgeshire District Council - Cambridge Green Belt Study	2002
South Cambridgeshire Recreation and Open Space Study	2013
South Cambridgeshire Recreation and Open Space Study - Technical Annex: Thriplow and Heathfield	2013

Commentary

9.5 The neighbourhood area sits within local landscape type 8B – Lowland Chalklands Morden to Duxford Lowland Chalklands. This landscape type is moderate in strength and is in moderate condition. Conserving and enhancing this landscape is a priority. The landscape is described as a “*large scale, open, arable landscape with historic villages at the edges of the River Valleys and distinctive linear features including roads, tracks and earthworks*”. Key characteristics include:

- Low hedges and few trees create a large-scale, open and simple landscape.
- Occasional copses of trees on high ground are a distinctive feature.
- Sparse settlement pattern with small villages elevated from the River Valleys on lower ground, interspersed with isolated farms and cottages.
- Long distance views across arable fields towards the rising chalk hills to the northeast and south; and
- Historic linear features include roads, ancient trackways and earthworks.

Key issues

9.6 It will be important that the THNP seeks to protect the local landscape in future development, including its coherence and characteristics, through an appropriate spatial strategy and suitable design and layout.

SEA objective

9.7 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA theme	SEA objective
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of the immediate and surrounding landscape.

9.8 Supporting assessment questions include (will the option / proposal...):

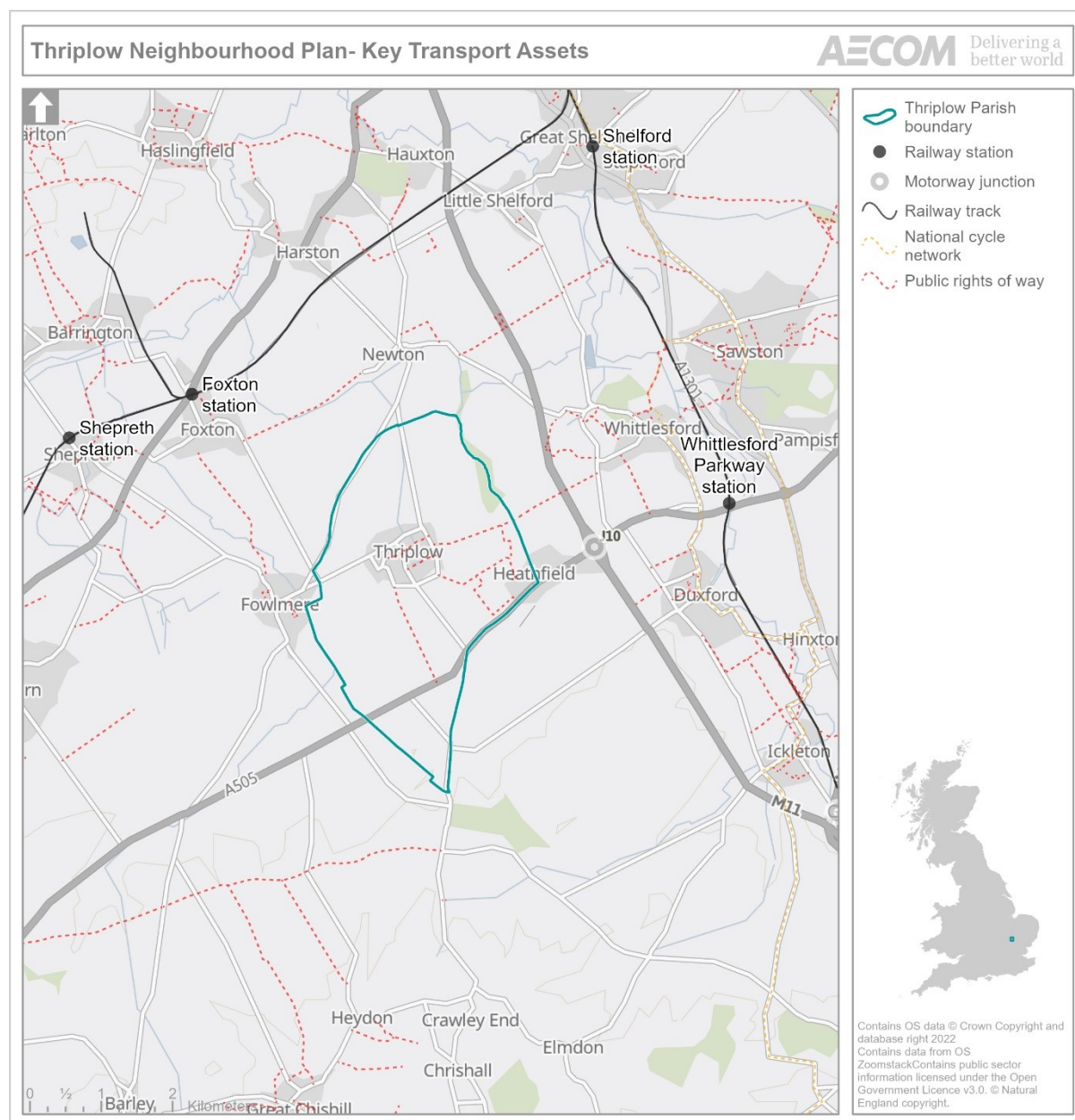
- Protect and/ or enhance local landscape character and quality of place?
- Conserve and enhance local identity, diversity, and settlement character?
- Identify and protect locally important viewpoints which contribute to character and sense of place?
- Retain and enhance landscape features that contribute to the water setting, or rural setting, including trees and hedgerows?

10. Transportation and movement

10.1 This section seeks to summarise transport infrastructure, transport usage, traffic flows and congestion, accessibility, and public rights of way within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Area.

Maps

Figure 10.1: Key transport assets



Key statistics

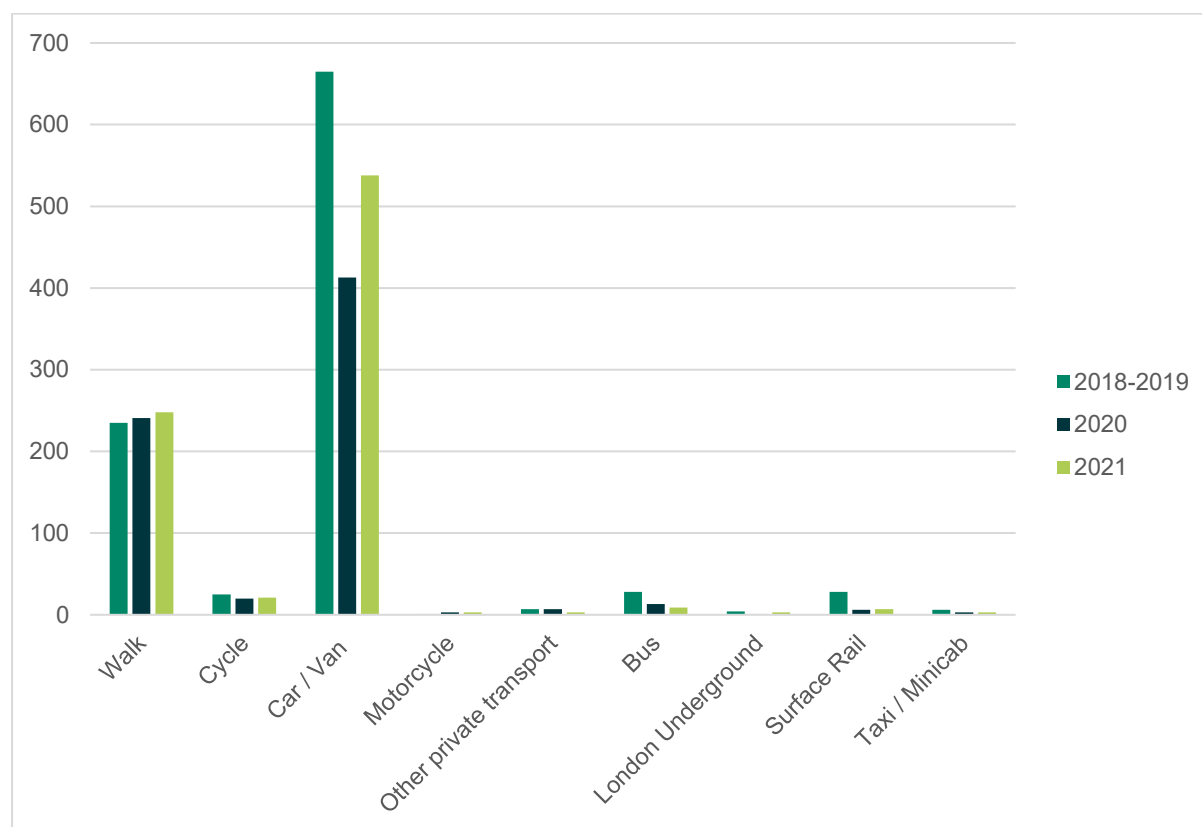


Figure 10.1: Average trips undertaken per person for each transport type per year in the East of England region

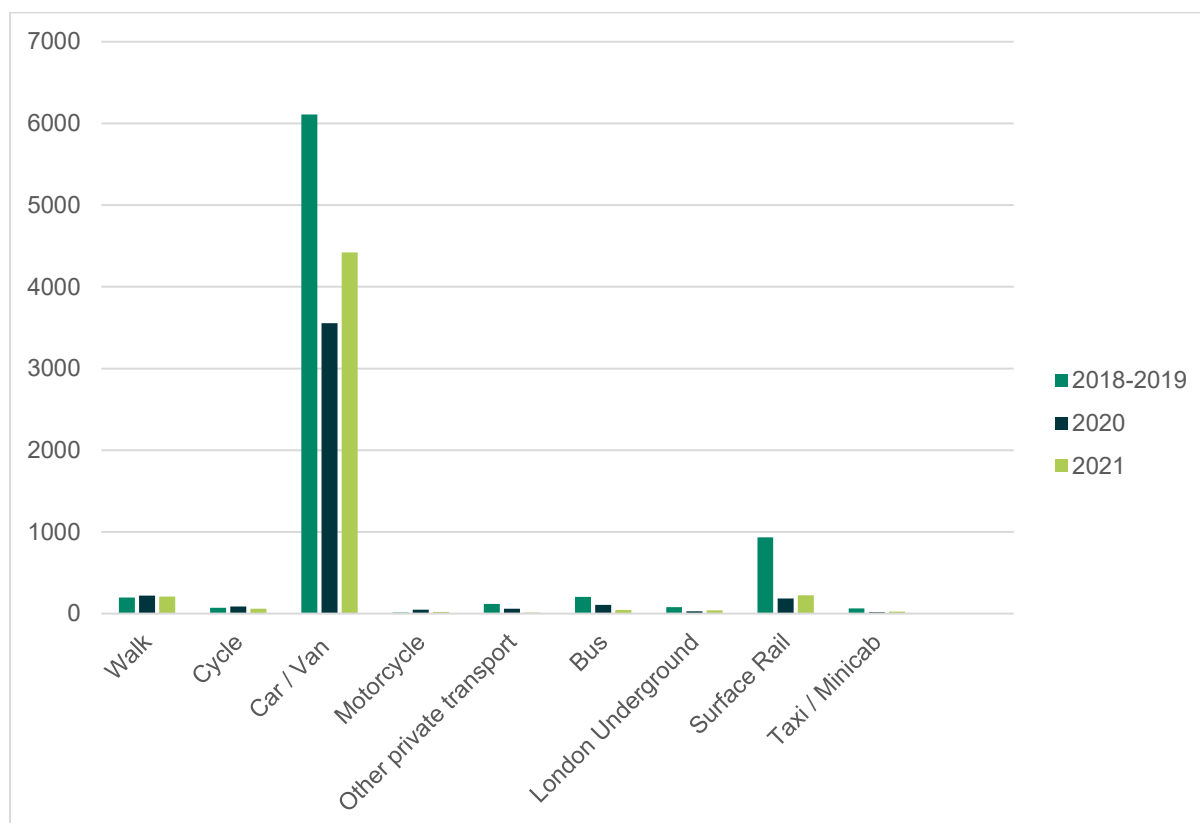


Figure 10.2: Average miles travelled per mode per person in the East of England region

Key evidence sources

- [GOV.UK - National statistics - National Travel Survey: 2021](https://www.gov.uk/national-statistics/national-travel-survey-2021)
- [Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps/)

Policy context

Table 10.1: Additional plans and policies relating to transportation and movement

Document title	Year of publication
Emerging Cambridgeshire and Petersborough Local Transport Plan	2022
Cambridge City and South Cambs Transport Strategy	2014

Commentary

- 10.2 Whilst the neighbourhood area does not contain a railway station, it is in proximity to Foxton station and Whittlesford Parkway station, which provide connections to Cambridge in the north and London to the south.
- 10.3 The A505 passes through the southern extent of the neighbourhood area, which connects with the M11 to the east of Thriplow. This also provides connections to Cambridge in the north and London to the south.
- 10.4 Several Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) intersect with the neighbourhood area, with one route providing a connection to neighbouring Whittlesford to the east.
- 10.5 Public transport usage is low in Thriplow, despite several bus services operating in the neighbourhood area.

Key issues

- 10.6 Public transport is poor in the neighbourhood area, resulting on a reliance on private vehicles, with negative knock-on impacts on climate change and air quality. The THNP provides an opportunity to encourage the use of its existing bus networking, as well as link Thriplow with nearby public transport hubs through walking and cycling infrastructure.

SEA objective

- 10.7 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA theme	SEA objective
Transportation and movement	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.

- 10.8 Supporting assessment questions include (will the option / proposal...):
- Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel and enable active travel enhancements?
 - Improve local connectivity and pedestrian and cyclist movement?
 - Facilitate working from home to reduce the use of private vehicles to access workplaces outside of the neighbourhood area?
 - Improve road safety, particularly through measures to reduce speeding and facilitate safer crossings on key roads?

11. Proposed SEA framework

- 11.1 The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been explored for a range of SEA topics (as set out in **Chapters 2 to 10**).
- 11.2 The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and supporting assessment questions, which will be used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft THNP (and reasonable alternatives).
- 11.3 **Table 11.1** below outlines the proposed SEA framework, bringing together the objectives and assessment questions that have been set out at the end of each SEA topic.

Table 11.1: Proposed SEA framework

SEA theme	SEA objective
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.
Climate change and flood risk	Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the neighbourhood area and increase resilience to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.
Community wellbeing	Ensure growth in the neighbourhood area is aligned with the needs of all residents, improving accessibility, anticipating future needs and specialist requirements, and supporting cohesive and inclusive communities.
Historic environment	Protect, conserve, and enhance the historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Area.
Land, soil, and water resources	Ensure the efficient and effective use of land, protect, and enhance water quality, and use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of the immediate and surrounding landscape.
Transportation and movement	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.

12. Next steps

Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- 10.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process:
- Screening
 - Scoping
 - Assess reasonable alternatives (to inform preparation of the draft plan)
 - Prepare the Environmental Report (to inform consultation and plan finalisation)
- 12.1 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the THNP. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to the Parish Council so that they might be considered when preparing the draft plan.
- 12.2 Once the draft ('pre-submission version') plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.
- 12.3 Following consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Environmental Report, the Neighbourhood Plan will be finalised and submitted to South Cambs District Council for Independent Examination.

Consultation on the scoping report

- 12.4 At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report; in particular, the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues, and the proposed SEA Framework.
- 12.5 The consultation period runs from **Monday 3rd October to Tuesday 8th November 2022**. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:
- Cheryl Beattie, AECOM
- Email address: cheryl.beattie@aecom.com
- 12.6 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

