

Great Brickhill

Housing Needs Assessment (HNA)

January 2025

Quality information

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List of acronyms used in the text:

HMA	Housing Market Area
HNA	Housing Needs Assessment
HRF	Housing Requirement Figure (the total number of homes the NA is expected to plan for, usually supplied by LPAs)
HLIN	Housing Learning and Improvement Network
HRP	Household Reference Person
LA	Local Authority
LHN	Local Housing Need
LHNA	Local Housing Needs Assessment
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSOA	Lower Layer Super Output Area
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government
MSOA	Middle Layer Super Output Area
NA	Neighbourhood (Plan) Area
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OA	Output Area
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PRS	Private Rented Sector
RQ	Research Question
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
VOA	Valuation Office Agency

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.1. Great Brickhill is a Neighbourhood Area (NA) located in the unitary authority area of Buckinghamshire. The NA boundary covers the areas administered by Great Brickhill Parish Council.
- 1.1.2. The 2021 Census recorded 867 individuals in Great Brickhill, indicating an increase of 50 people since the 2011 Census.
- 1.1.3. There has been some development in Great Brickhill in recent years. Buckinghamshire Council has provided data showing that 39 new homes have been built between 2011/12 and 2023/24. As of March 2024, outstanding commitments (dwellings on sites with planning permission) total 6 homes.
- 1.1.4. This Executive Summary details the conclusions of each chapter of this Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), addressing each of the themes agreed with the Parish Council at the outset of the research.
- 1.1.5. Data from the 2021 Census is continuing to be released. At present, the available data covers population, households, tenure, and dwelling stock characteristics. Some data from the Census 2021 at the localised level is not yet available, as well as some data comparing numerous variables. As such this HNA will draw on the latest available data from the 2021 Census where possible and will also continue to use other data sets, including 2011 Census, Valuation Office Agency data, and ONS projections where necessary to build up evidence at the neighbourhood level.
- 1.1.6. This HNA has been undertaken in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ and practice guidance (both published in December 2024)².

1.2. Conclusions – Affordability and Affordable Housing

Current tenure profile

- 1.2.1. 2021 Census data shows that 79.9% of households in Great Brickhill owned their own home, compared to 70.0% across Buckinghamshire and 61.3% nationally. There were no households in Great Brickhill living in shared ownership dwellings, with fewer households living in social rented dwellings (10.0%) than the local authority (13.0%) and country (17.1%). Great Brickhill also had the smallest private rented sector.

Affordability

- 1.2.2. Between 2014 and 2023 there was an overall increase in house prices in Great Brickhill, although with some year-on-year fluctuation, likely due to small sample sizes. Over this period the median house price increased by 61.0%, peaking in 2023 at £744,000. The lower quartile house price increased by 40.3% over the same period, peaking in 2020 at £570,000. The 2023 lower quartile house price was £490,000.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework published in December 2024

² Housing and economic needs assessment - GOV.UK published in December 2024

- 1.2.3. Local households on average incomes are unable to access even entry-level homes unless they have the advantage of a very large deposit. The median house price would require an annual income more than 3 times higher than the current average. Private renting is generally only affordable to higher earners. Households on mean incomes can only afford entry level rents, with households made up of one or two lower quartile earners unable to afford any of the given rental thresholds.
- 1.2.4. Looking at affordable home ownership specifically, it is recommended that First Homes are delivered at a 50% discount in Great Brickhill, making the product marginally affordable to households on mean incomes. Shared ownership appears to be slightly more affordable than First Homes but is broadly accessible to the same groups, with households on mean incomes able to afford shared ownership at 10% equity, and potentially at 25% equity. Rent to Buy may be a useful product for households with little or no savings for a deposit.
- 1.2.5. Affordable rented housing is generally affordable to households with two lower earners whilst households with a single lower earner appear only able to afford social rented housing. Many such individuals will, if unable to secure a social rented dwelling require additional subsidy through Housing Benefit/Universal Credit to access housing.

The need for Affordable Housing

- 1.2.6. AECOM estimates the need for 1.1 affordable rented homes per annum in Great Brickhill, equating to a total of 12.2 over the plan period.
- 1.2.7. Buckinghamshire Council provided data showing that there are 20 households on the Housing Register for social/affordable rented housing with a local connection to Great Brickhill. This suggests a significant backlog of need, with it potentially advisable to deliver Affordable Housing early in the plan period to meet these needs.
- 1.2.8. AECOMs estimate potential demand for 1.8 affordable home ownership dwellings per annum in Great Brickhill, equating to a total of 20.3 over the Neighbourhood Plan period.

Affordable Housing policy

- 1.2.9. AECOM suggests an indicative mix of Affordable Housing in response to the expectation that the delivery of Affordable Housing will be lower than the needs identified here. In this context, affordable rented tenures should be prioritised. AECOM suggests an indicative mix of 60% social/affordable rented housing and 40% affordable home ownership. This mix complies with the various minimum requirements mandated nationally.
- 1.2.10. Looking specifically at affordable home ownership, it is recommended 15% of Affordable Housing is delivered as First Homes or other forms of discounted market sale housing. In the interests of diversity and maximising choice, a further 20% is allocated to shared ownership and 5% to Rent to Buy as an option for households with little or no savings for a deposit.

- 1.2.11. The expected level of delivery of Affordable Housing in Great Brickhill does not meet the quantity of demand identified in estimates of the need for Affordable Housing. It is therefore recommended that the policy requirement is met wherever possible, and for further avenues for delivering greater quantities of Affordable Housing (such as exception sites) to be explored.
- 1.2.12. Affordable Housing is typically provided and made financially viable by its inclusion as a proportion of larger market developments, as guided by Local Plan policy. However, if the community wishes to boost the supply of Affordable Housing, there are other, more proactive routes available for its provision. For example, using neighbourhood development orders, identifying exception sites or developing community land trusts are all ways of boosting the supply of Affordable Housing.

1.3. Conclusions – Type and Size

The current housing mix

- 1.3.1. 2021 Census data shows that Great Brickhill had a significantly greater proportion of households living in detached dwellings (62.8%) than Buckinghamshire (34.3%) and England (22.9%). The proportion of households living in semi-detached dwellings in Great Brickhill was more closely aligned with the wider district and England, but below the comparator proportions. A significantly smaller proportion of households lived in terraced dwellings in the NA (8.5%) than England (23.0%), with a notably small proportion of households living in flats in Great Brickhill, at just 1.7%, which is not unusual in rural villages. VOA data shows that 16.1% of dwellings in Great Brickhill were bungalows in 2023, compared to 8.7% across Buckinghamshire and 9.1% nationally.
- 1.3.2. Turning to dwelling size, Great Brickhill had a smaller proportion of smaller 1-2 bedroom dwellings than Buckinghamshire and England. The greatest proportion of households in the NA lived in 4+ bedroom dwellings, at 52.5%, compared to 32.0% across the local authority and 21.1% nationally, potentially indicating a lack of mid-sized family housing as well as smaller housing options.

Population characteristics

- 1.3.3. Between 2011 and 2021 the population of Great Brickhill grew by 6.1%. The greatest proportion of the population in both years was aged 45-64. The proportion aged 65-84 increased from 19.2% to 22.3% over the decade whilst the number of people aged 85+ increased by 92.3%, highlighting the aging population. The proportion of young adults (15-24) and children decreased between 2011 and 2021.
- 1.3.4. The NA had a greater proportion of family households than Buckinghamshire and England. Great Brickhill had the largest proportion of family households aged 66 and over. The greatest proportion of family households in Great Brickhill had no children, with the NA having the smallest proportion of households with dependent children, at 20.3% of households compared to 29.1% across Buckinghamshire and 25.8% nationally.

Future population and size needs

- 1.3.5. Population growth can be expected to be driven by the oldest households, with households with a reference person aged 65 and over projected to increase by 56% between 2011 and 2035. There is also projected to be an increase in households with a reference person aged 55 to 64, but a decrease in those aged 54 and under.
- 1.3.6. AECOM modelling suggests that in order to reach the suggested mix of housing by 2035, around half of future housing is delivered as 3-bedroom dwellings, with the rest provided as 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom dwellings. It may however not be appropriate to prohibit the delivery of larger dwellings over the Neighbourhood Plan period but the modelling provides a starting point for thinking about dwelling mix in policy and on sites that may come forward in the future.
- 1.3.7. It is important to remember that other factors should be considered in determining the dwelling mix that is desirable in the NA or on any particular site. These include the specific characteristics of the nearby stock of housing (such as its condition and design), the role of the NA or site within the wider housing market area (linked to any Local Authority strategies or plans) and site-specific factors.

1.4. Conclusions – Specialist Housing for Older People

- 1.4.1. There are currently no units of specialist housing for older people in Great Brickhill. The national average supply for England is 136 units per 1,000 of the 75+ population.
- 1.4.2. 2021 Census data shows that at this time there were 76 individuals aged 75+ in Great Brickhill. It is projected that by the end of the plan period this will increase to 105, with the 75+ population accounting for 11.8% of the population by 2035, slightly below the Buckinghamshire proportion of 12.1%.

Specialist housing for older people

- 1.4.3. The potential need for specialist housing with some form of additional care for older people can be estimated by bringing together data on population projections, rates of disability, and what tenure of housing the current 55-75 cohort occupy in the NA. This can be sense-checked using a toolkit based on national research and assumptions.
- 1.4.4. These two methods of estimating the future need in Great Brickhill produce a range of 7 to 8 specialist accommodation units that might be required during the Neighbourhood Plan period. These estimates are based on the projected growth of the older population, thereby assuming that today's older households are already well accommodated. If this is found not to be the case, it would justify aspiring to exceed the range identified here.
- 1.4.5. It is helpful to look at the breakdown in tenure and care within the need for specialist housing for older people. In Great Brickhill it is identified that there is a greater need for market provision (75%) than affordable (25%), and a greater need for sheltered housing than extra-care. The greatest sub-category of need is for market sheltered

housing, with some of this need potentially met through at home adaptation or ensuring that new housing that comes forward is accessible and adaptable.

- 1.4.6. It is considered that Great Brickhill is a relatively less suitable location for specialist accommodation. Larger nearby settlements such as Leighton Buzzard and Bletchley may have potential to accommodate the specialist housing need arising from the Neighbourhood Area.

Care homes

- 1.4.7. AECOM has estimated the likely need for care home accommodation over the plan period, based on the HLIN SHOP toolkit prevalence rates for residential and nursing care homes for older people (aged 75+). Based on these rates, applied to the projected growth of the older population, it is estimated that in 2035 there would be a need for 2 residential care beds and 1 nursing care bed in Great Brickhill to meet the needs of this increase in older population.

Adaptable and accessible housing

- 1.4.8. Another key avenue to addressing those with relevant needs is to discuss the standards of accessibility and adaptability in new development.
- 1.4.9. The current adopted Local Plan policy H6c outlines that all development should meet national standards for accessibility and adaptability (Category M4(2)), with 15% of Affordable Housing to meet the needs of wheelchair users (Category M4(3)). The evidence gathered here justifies the Parish Council aligning with the LPA's approach to accessibility and adaptability.

2. Context

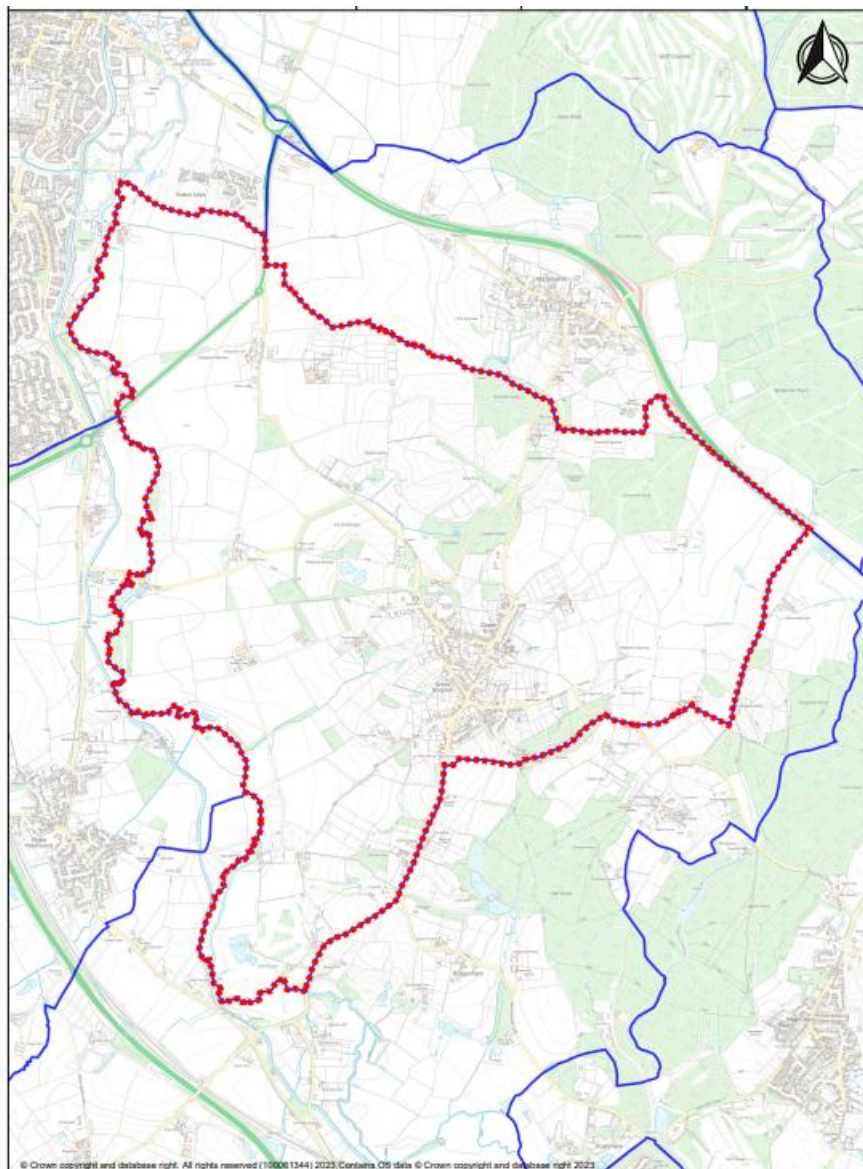
2.1. Local context

- 2.1.1. Great Brickhill is a Neighbourhood Area (NA) located in the unitary authority of Buckinghamshire. The NA boundary was designated in August 2023.
- 2.1.2. The Neighbourhood Plan is envisaged to start in 2024 and extend to 2035, therefore covering a period of 11 years. The evidence supplied in this report will look forward to the Plan end date of 2035, but where possible will also provide annualised figures which can be extrapolated to a different term if the Neighbourhood Plan period changes.
- 2.1.3. Great Brickhill is located approximately 7 miles south east of Milton Keynes and c.4 miles north west of Leighton Buzzard. The NA has limited services, with no shop, post office, or GP surgery, although there is a pub, church, and primary school.

2.2. The NA boundary and key statistics

- 2.2.1. For Census purposes, the NA is made up, like the rest of England, of statistical units called Output Areas (OAs). A breakdown of the OAs relevant to Great Brickhill is provided in Appendix A. A map of the Plan area appears below in Figure 2-1.

Figure 2-1: Map of the Great Brickhill Neighbourhood Area



Source: *Buckinghamshire Council*³

2.2.2. At the time of the 2011 Census the NA was home to 817 residents, formed into 328 households and occupying 346 dwellings. The 2021 Census indicates population growth of around 50 individuals (or 6.1%) since 2011, recording a total of 867 residents and 349 households.

2.2.3. 2021 Census data identifies 371 dwellings in Great Brickhill, an increase of 25 since the 2011 Census. This broadly aligns with the increase in households (+21 households) over the same period. Completions data provided by Buckinghamshire Council identified 39 dwellings that have been developed in Great Brickhill between 2011/12 and 2023/24. This also suggests that there has been some development in the NA since the 2021 Census was conducted.

³ Available at

<https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s65217/Great%20Brickhill%20Neighbourhood%20Area%20Designation%20Map.pdf>

2.3. The housing market area context

- 2.3.1. Whilst this Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) focuses on Great Brickhill NA it is important to keep in mind that neighbourhoods are not self-contained housing market areas (HMAs). Housing market areas are usually wider than local authority areas and often stretch across a number of districts or boroughs. This is because housing market areas are inherently linked to the labour market, employment patterns and travel to work areas.
- 2.3.2. In the case of Great Brickhill, the NA sits within Buckinghamshire HMA, which includes the former districts of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks, and Wycombe. This means that when households who live in these authorities move home, the vast majority move within this geography. The housing market area also has links to other neighbouring areas however, including central Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.
- 2.3.3. At the neighbourhood scale it is not possible to be definitive about housing need and demand because neighbourhoods, including Great Brickhill, are closely linked to other areas. In the case of Great Brickhill, changes in need or demand in settlements nearby, including Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes, is likely to impact on the neighbourhood.
- 2.3.4. In summary, Great Brickhill functions within a wider strategic area. As well as fostering good working relationships with the local planning authority (Buckinghamshire Council), it is therefore useful to think about the *role* of the neighbourhood within the wider area. This HNA can provide evidence to understand this role and the specific features of the neighbourhood within this wider context. Neighbourhood Plans can have a significant impact in shaping their neighbourhoods, enhancing the positive role the neighbourhood plays within the wider housing market, or developing policies to change entrenched patterns and improve housing outcomes in the neighbourhood and wider area.

2.4. Planning policy context

- 2.4.1. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with adopted strategic local policies.⁴ In the case of Buckinghamshire Council, the relevant adopted Local Plan consists of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013-2033⁵, adopted in September 2021. Buckinghamshire Council was formed as a unitary authority in April 2020, replacing Aylesbury Vale (where Great Brickhill was located), Chiltern, South Bucks, and Wycombe District Councils. Buckinghamshire Council are currently in the process of preparing an authority wide Local Plan, but this is in the early stages.
- 2.4.2. A detailed breakdown of the Local Plan policies relevant to housing need is provided in Appendix B. Here, it is worth summarising the most important points of the adopted Local Plan:

⁴ A description of the Basic Conditions of Neighbourhood Planning is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#basic-conditions-for-neighbourhood-plan-to-referendum>

⁵ https://buckinghamshire-gov-uk.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Aylesbury_local_plan_L46JWaT.pdf

- Adopted Local Plan Policy S2 identifies an overall housing target of 28,600 homes over the Local Plan period to 2033 for the former Aylesbury Vale district area;
- In Policy S3 Great Brickhill is designated as a Smaller Village, which will not receive housing allocations. It is expected that some small scale development could be accommodated at smaller villages through neighbourhood plans or windfall applications;
- Policy H1 states that 25% of all new dwellings are expected to be delivered as Affordable Housing on sites of 11 or more homes. The suggested tenure mix within Affordable Housing is left to be informed by the latest evidence;
- Policy H6c sets out an expectation that all new homes will be built to Category M4(2) accessibility standards.

2.5. Quantity of housing to provide

- 2.5.1. The NPPF 2024 (paragraphs 69 and 70) requires LPAs to provide neighbourhood groups upon request with a definitive or an indicative number of houses to plan for over the Neighbourhood Plan period.
- 2.5.2. There is no housing requirement for Great Brickhill at present. The new Buckinghamshire Local Plan is in the early stages and it is unknown at this stage whether this will include a housing requirement for Great Brickhill.

3. Objectives and approach

3.1. Objectives

3.1.1. This HNA is structured according to a number of themes or topics that were agreed at the outset of the research with Great Brickhill Parish Council. These themes are broadly aligned with the kinds of housing policy areas available to neighbourhood plans, and each will form a distinct chapter of this report. The sub-sections below give a brief overview of the objectives of each chapter.

Affordability and Affordable Housing

3.1.2. Neighbourhood plans may include policies that influence the scale of Affordable Housing provision and the mix of different tenures and products provided through new housing development.

3.1.3. This chapter has three aims, each given its own sub-section:

- To establish the existing **tenure** of homes within the NA at present (owner occupied, private rented, social/affordable rented, shared ownership);
- To examine the **affordability** of different tenures by considering house prices, rents, local incomes and earnings; and
- To estimate the scale of **need** for Affordable Housing, including the need for those who cannot afford to rent and those who cannot afford to buy.

3.1.4. The evidence gathered here can be used to justify planning policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, but it is likely that other supporting evidence may be needed, for example on viability. Local Plans typically include policies on Affordable Housing and whilst the Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with these strategic policies, there is scope for Neighbourhood Plan policies to adopt some local variety where this is supported by the evidence.

Type and Size

3.1.5. It is common for neighbourhood plans to include policies that influence what form new housing should take in terms of type and size. This requires evidence of what local people need.

3.1.6. The focus of this chapter is to identify relevant trends and potential gaps in the market that can be used to justify planning policies. It has three aims, each given its own sub-section:

- To establish what **mix** of housing exists in the NA at present;
- To describe relevant characteristics of the local **population**; and
- To look to the **future**, considering how the population is likely to evolve and what mix of homes would be most appropriate to build.

3.1.7. In addition to the direction of travel revealed by statistics, a variety of reasons sit behind people's housing choices that are less easy to predict, including wealth, accessibility requirements and personal preference. The evidence in this section provides a starting point for developing and justifying planning policies but does not provide definitive recommendations as it may be appropriate to take into account other factors and site-specific circumstances.

Specialist Housing for Older People

3.1.8. It may be appropriate for neighbourhood plans in areas with aging populations to include policies relating to specialist housing for older persons.

3.1.9. This chapter supplements the demographic evidence relating to Type and Size, including the potential demand for downsizing, to consider the quantity and characteristics of need for housing for older people with some form of additional care. Its approach is as follows:

- To review the **current provision** of specialist housing in the NA;
- To estimate the **potential demand** for this form of accommodation with reference to the projected growth in the older population and current rates of mobility limitation; and
- To discuss the potential for meeting this need through adaptations to the mainstream stock and other **additional considerations**.

3.1.10. This element of the HNA recognises that the majority of older people will live in the mainstream housing stock and that there is no single way to meet their needs. It may also be inappropriate to focus excessively on the needs of one group or to promote a specialist scheme in a location that lacks adequate services. These issues will be drawn out.

3.2. Approach

3.2.1. This HNA assesses a range of evidence to ensure its findings are robust for the purposes of developing policy at the neighbourhood plan level. This includes data from the 2021 and 2011 Censuses and a range of other data sources, including:

- ONS population and household projections for future years;
- Valuation Office Agency (VOA) data on the current stock of housing;
- Land Registry data on prices paid for housing within the local market;
- Rental prices from Rightmove.co.uk;
- Local Authority housing waiting list data; and
- Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) Update, December 2016.

3.2.2. Data from the 2021 Census continues to be released. At present, the available data covers population, households, tenure, and dwelling stock characteristics. Some data at the localised level, including for parishes, and some datasets which compare

numerous variables, has not yet been made available. As such, this HNA draws on the latest available data from the 2021 Census where possible and will also continue to use other data sets, including 2011 Census, Valuation Office Agency data, and ONS projections to build up evidence at the neighbourhood level.

4. Affordability and Affordable Housing

4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. Neighbourhood plans may include policies that influence the scale of Affordable Housing provision and the mix of different tenures and products provided through new housing development.

4.1.2. This chapter has three aims, each given its own sub-section:

- To establish the existing **tenure** of homes within the NA at present (owner occupied, private rented, social/affordable rented, shared ownership);
- To examine the **affordability** of different tenures by considering house prices, rents, local incomes and earnings; and
- To estimate the scale of **need** for Affordable Housing, including the need for those who cannot afford to rent and those who cannot afford to buy.

4.1.3. The evidence gathered here can be used to justify planning policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, but it is likely that other supporting evidence may be needed, for example on viability. Local Plans typically include policies on Affordable Housing and whilst the Neighbourhood Plan must conform with these policies, there is scope for Neighbourhood Plan policies to adopt some local variety where this is supported by the evidence.

4.1.4. This HNA has been undertaken in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (published 2024).

4.2. Definitions

4.2.1. This section uses a range of technical terms which are useful to define at the outset:

- **Tenure** refers to the way a household occupies their home. Broadly speaking, there are two categories of tenure: market housing (such as homes available to purchase outright or rent from a private landlord) and Affordable Housing (including subsidised products like social rent and shared ownership).
- **Affordability** refers to the relationship between the cost of housing to buy or rent and the incomes and earnings of households.
- The definition of **Affordable Housing** is set out in the NPPF 2024 (Annex 2) as 'Housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market...' We refer to Affordable Housing, with capital letters, to denote the specific tenures that are classified as affordable in the NPPF (Annex 2). A relatively less expensive home for market sale may be affordable but it is not a form of Affordable Housing.
- A range of affordable home ownership products are included in the Government's definition of Affordable Housing, to meet the needs of those aspiring to own a home. This includes discounted market sales housing and other affordable routes to home ownership (shared ownership, rent to buy etc.) which are defined in Annex 2. First Homes are also part of the range of affordable home ownership

products, but the definition of First Homes and policy is covered in a Ministerial Statement (2021) and not defined in Annex 2.⁶

4.3. Current tenure profile

- 4.3.1. The current tenure profile is a key feature of the Neighbourhood Area (NA). Patterns of home ownership, private renting and affordable/social renting reflect demographic characteristics including age (with older households more likely to own their own homes), and patterns of income and wealth which influence whether households can afford to rent or buy and whether they need subsidy to access housing.
- 4.3.2. Table 4-1 presents data on tenure in Great Brickhill compared with Buckinghamshire and England from the 2021 Census. It shows that a greater proportion of households in Great Brickhill owned their own home (79.9%) than Buckinghamshire (70.0%) and England (61.3%). There were no households in Great Brickhill living in shared ownership dwellings, with fewer households living in social rented dwellings (10.0%) than the local authority (13.0%) and country (17.1%). This shows that there may be scope for the delivery of Affordable Housing in the NA to provide wider choice locally. Great Brickhill also had the smallest private rented sector in relation to the comparator geographies.

Table 4-1: Tenure (households) in Great Brickhill and comparator geographies, 2021

Tenure	Great Brickhill	Buckinghamshire	England
Owned	79.9%	70.0%	61.3%
Shared ownership	0.0%	1.3%	1.0%
Social rented	10.0%	13.0%	17.1%
Private rented	10.0%	15.8%	20.6%

Sources: Census 2021, AECOM Calculations

- 4.3.3. It is also worth comparing how the tenure mix has changed in the last ten years, using the 2011 Census (see Table 4-2). This shows that between 2011 and 2021 there was a decrease in households living in Affordable Housing, potentially due to the sale of stock or in the case of shared ownership, the household fully staircasing the property to full ownership. The number of households living in private rented housing increased by 34.6% over the decade, the greatest increase.

⁶ The shape that the new First Homes product will take is set out in a Ministerial Statement issued in May 2021, available here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-05-24/hlws48>. The relevant update to PPG is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/first-homes#contents>.

Table 4-2: Tenure change (households) in Great Brickhill, 2011-2021

Tenure	2011	2021	% Change
Owned	264	279	+5.7%
Shared ownership	1	0	-100.0%
Social rented	37	35	-5.4%
Private rented	26	35	+34.6%

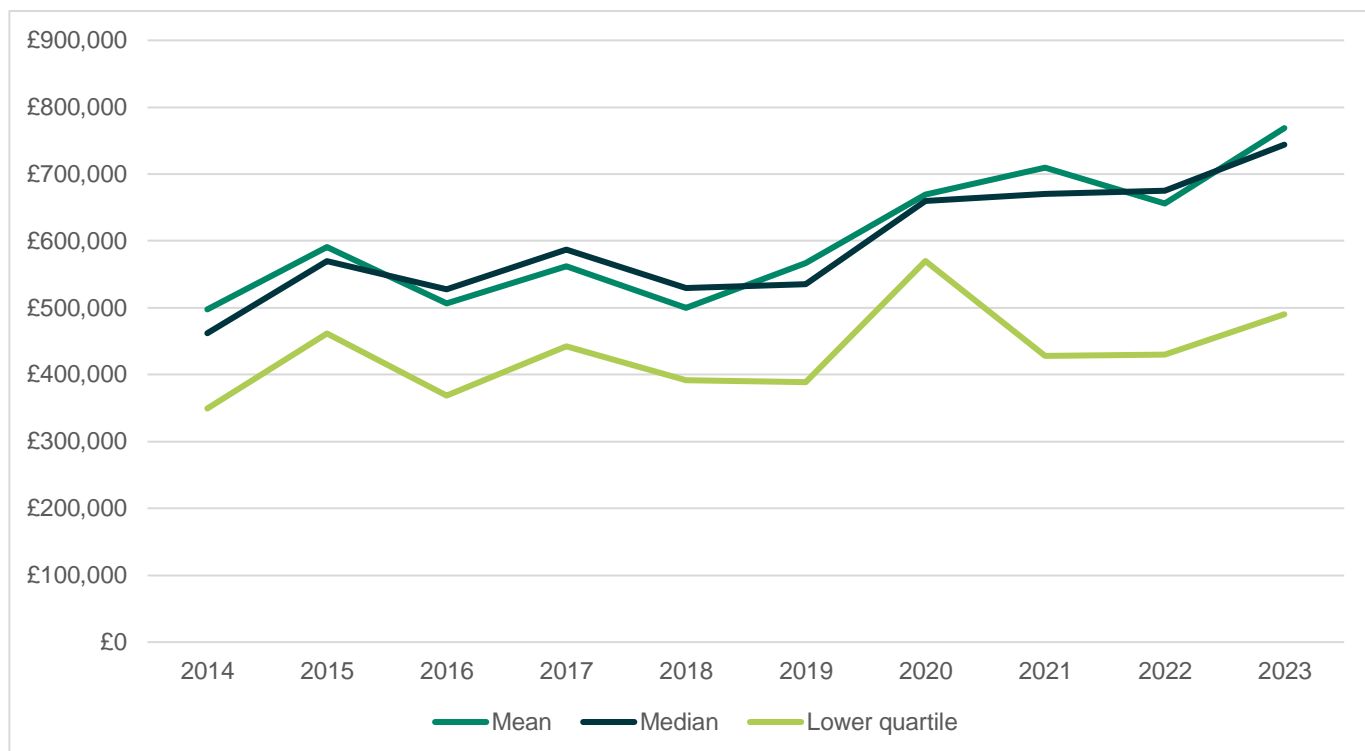
Sources: Census 2021 and 2011, AECOM Calculations

4.4. Affordability

House prices

- 4.4.1. House prices provide an indication of the level of demand for homes within an area. The relationship between house prices and incomes determines whether housing is affordable to local households and, to a large extent, what tenure, type and size of home they occupy. Changes in affordability over time can indicate pressures in the housing market. As such, it is useful for the evidence base for plans to examine trends in prices and consider what this reveals about the local housing market.
- 4.4.2. Figure 4-1 looks at the average and lower quartile house prices in Great Brickhill based on sales price data published by the Land Registry. It shows that between 2014 and 2023 there was an overall increase in house prices in Great Brickhill, although with some year-on-year fluctuation, likely due to small sample sizes.
- 4.4.3. Between 2014 and 2023 the median (middle number when the data is sorted from smallest to largest) house price increased by 61.0%, peaking in 2023 at £744,000. The lower quartile (the middle figure of the lowest 50% of prices and a good representation of entry-level housing) house price increased by 40.3% over the same period, peaking in 2020 at £570,000. The 2023 lower quartile house price was £490,000.
- 4.4.4. The median house price for Buckinghamshire in 2023 was £445,000, with a lower quartile price of £315,000. This indicates that Great Brickhill is a considerably higher value area within the unitary authority area.

Figure 4-1: House prices by quartile in Great Brickhill, 2014-2023



Source: Land Registry PPD

4.4.5. Table 4-3 breaks down house prices by type, presenting the median within each type. It shows that there was significant growth in semi-detached house prices over the decade, of 155.4%, mainly due to a significant increase between 2022 and 2023. With the exception of 2023, detached house prices were the greatest. Sales of flats were only recorded in 2022, suggesting a low provision in Great Brickhill. There is significant fluctuation in prices each year in Table 4-3 due to the annual average by type being derived from a smaller sample size within each category. This means that characteristics outside of the type of dwelling, such as the size, location, and condition, can have a greater impact on the average price.

Table 4-3: Median house prices by type in Great Brickhill, 2014-2023

Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Growth
Detached	£535,000	£620,000	£610,000	£680,000	£580,000	£596,250	£695,000	£785,000	£700,000	£749,500	40.1%
Semi-detached	£370,000	£208,000	£342,500	£472,500	£503,250	£238,000	-	£398,000	£415,000	£945,000	155.4%
Terraced	-	£487,500	£540,000	£352,563	£223,500	£337,500	£295,000	£340,000	£675,000	£490,000	-
Flats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£450,000	-	-
All Types	£462,000	£570,000	£527,500	£587,500	£530,000	£535,000	£660,000	£670,000	£675,000	£744,000	61.0%

Source: Land Registry PPD

Income

4.4.6. Household incomes determine the ability of households to exercise choice in the housing market, and consequently the level of need for affordable housing products. Two sources of data are used to examine household incomes in the NA.

4.4.7. The first source is ONS’s estimates of incomes in small areas. This is locally specific but limited to the overall average income (i.e. it does not provide the average income

of lower earners). The average total household income locally was £60,600 in 2020 (the most recent year for this dataset). Discussion about the area to which this data applies is provided in Appendix A.

- 4.4.8. The second source is ONS's annual estimates of UK employee earnings. This provides lower quartile average earnings (i.e. the income of the lowest 25% of earners). However, it is only available at the Local Authority level. It also relates to individual earnings. While this is an accurate representation of household incomes where there is only one earner, it does not represent household income where there are two or more people earning. Buckinghamshire's gross individual lower quartile annual earnings were £21,216 in 2023. To estimate the income of households with two lower quartile earners, this figure is doubled to £42,432.
- 4.4.9. It is immediately clear from this data that there is a large gap between the spending power of average earning households and those earning the lowest 25% of incomes, particularly where the household in question has one earner only.

Affordability Thresholds

- 4.4.10. To gain a clearer understanding of local affordability, it is useful to understand what levels of income are required to afford different tenures. This is done using 'affordability thresholds': the estimated amount of annual income required to cover the cost of rent or a mortgage given local housing prices.
- 4.4.11. AECOM has determined thresholds for the income required in Great Brickhill to buy a home in the open market (average and entry-level prices), and the income required to afford private rent and the range of Affordable Housing tenures as set out in the NPPF. These calculations are detailed and discussed in more detail in Appendix C.
- 4.4.12. The key assumptions made in assessing the affordability of different tenures are explained alongside the calculations, but it is worth noting here that we have assumed that the maximum percentage of household income that should be spent on rent is 30% and that mortgage financing will be offered at a maximum of 3.5 times household income. These are standard assumptions across housing needs assessments at neighbourhood and local authority scale although different approaches are sometimes taken and a case can be made for alternatives. This is discussed in more detail at the start of Appendix C.
- 4.4.13. Table 4-4 summarises the estimated cost of each tenure, the annual income required to support these costs within the NA, and whether local incomes are sufficient. The income required column assumes the household already has access to a deposit (which we have assumed to be 10% of the value to be purchased) but does not reflect the possibility that households may already hold equity from an existing property. Although these factors may be crucial to whether housing will be affordable, they are highly dependent on individual circumstances that cannot be anticipated here.

Table 4-4: Affordability thresholds in Great Brickhill (income required, £)

Tenure	Mortgage value (90% of price)	Annual rent	Income required	Affordable on average incomes? £60,600	Affordable on LQ earnings (single earner)? £21,216	Affordable on LQ earnings (2 earners)? £42,432
Market Housing						
Median House Price	£669,600	-	£191,314	No	No	No
Estimated NA New Build Entry-Level House Price	£447,442		£127,840	No	No	No
LQ/Entry-level House Price	£441,000	-	£126,000	No	No	No
LA New Build Median House Price	£406,350	-	£116,100	No	No	No
Average Market Rent	-	£20,962	£69,875	No	No	No
Entry-level Market Rent	-	£13,950	£46,500	Yes	No	No
Affordable Home Ownership						
First Homes (-30%)	£313,209	-	£89,488	No	No	No
First Homes (-40%)	£268,465	-	£76,704	No	No	No
First Homes (-50%)	£223,721	-	£63,920	Marginal	No	No
Shared Ownership (50%)	£223,721	£6,214	£84,635	No	No	No
Shared Ownership (25%)	£111,860	£9,322	£63,032	Marginal	No	No
Shared Ownership (10%)	£44,744	£11,186	£50,071	Yes	No	No
Affordable Rented Housing						
Affordable Rent	-	£8,629	£28,763	Yes	No	Yes
Social Rent	-	£5,810	£19,368	Yes	Yes	Yes

Source: AECOM Calculations

4.4.14. Before considering each tenure category in turn, it is important to stress that these affordability thresholds have been calculated to give an indication of the costs of various tenures to inform Neighbourhood Plan policy choices. These figures rely on existing data and assumptions, and it is not possible to estimate every possible permutation. The income figures also disguise a large degree of variation. For simplicity the analysis below speaks in terms of tenure products being 'affordable' or 'not affordable' for different groups, but individual circumstances and the location, condition and other factors of specific properties in each category have a large impact. These conclusions should therefore be interpreted flexibly.

Market housing for purchase and rent

4.4.15. Thinking about housing for purchase on the open market, it appears that local households on average incomes are unable to access even entry-level homes unless they have the advantage of a very large deposit. Market housing, even with the benefit of a higher than average income, is likely to remain out of reach to most. The median house price would require an annual income more than 3 times higher than the current average.

4.4.16. Private renting is generally only affordable to higher earners. Households on mean incomes can only afford entry level rents, with households made up of one or two lower quartile earners unable to afford any of the given rental thresholds. Affordability

is improved if households are able or willing to dedicate a larger proportion of their incomes to rental costs, although this has repercussions for other quality of life aspects and cannot be assumed to suit all individuals' circumstances.

Affordable home ownership

- 4.4.17. There is a relatively large group of households in Great Brickhill who may be able to afford to rent privately but cannot afford home ownership. They are typically earning between around £46,500 per year (at which point entry-level rents become affordable) and £126,000 (at which point entry-level market sale homes become affordable). This 'can rent, can't buy' cohort may benefit from the range of affordable home ownership products such as First Homes and shared ownership.
- 4.4.18. First Homes are to be offered at a discount of at least 30% on equivalent market prices (i.e. new build, entry-level properties). Local authorities and neighbourhood plan qualifying bodies will have discretion to increase the discount on First Homes to 40% or 50% where there is evidence to suggest this is appropriate.
- 4.4.19. This report has estimated the income required to afford First Homes and tested the implications of 30%, 40% and 50% discount levels. It is recommended that First Homes are delivered at a 50% discount in Great Brickhill, making the product marginally affordable to households on mean incomes. A smaller discount level would not only not be affordable to any of the households discussed, but would not meet the requirements for First Homes, as discussed further in Appendix C.
- 4.4.20. It is important to note that this evidence based on affordability does not provide a complete picture: evidence about the financial viability of development is also relevant. The question is whether demanding higher discount levels on First Homes will create a financial burden on developers that leads them to argue either that the discount level is not feasible or that the total amount of Affordable Housing may need to be decreased. This could effectively sacrifice the provision of affordable rented housing to provide a more attractive First Homes product. The issue of development viability is a specialist matter involving analysis of land values and build costs that is outside the scope of this assessment. If the Parish Council intend to set a higher First Homes discount level than that set at local authority level, further discussions with the LPA are advised.
- 4.4.21. Shared ownership appears to be slightly more affordable than First Homes but is broadly accessible to the same groups, with households on mean incomes able to afford shared ownership at 10% equity, and potentially at 25% equity. The minimum equity share for shared ownership is 10% of the property value.⁷ If this is delivered in the NA, it will make shared ownership easier to access for more people. However, while the income threshold for a 10% equity shared ownership home is lower, this product may not necessarily be more attractive than the alternatives (such as shared ownership at higher equity shares and First Homes) for those who can afford them.

⁷ The previous minimum equity share was 25%. This change took effect from 28 June 2021 and transitional arrangements are in place for planning policy documents that are prepared during the implementation timeframe. Changes are also introduced to make the process of staircasing to full ownership more gradual with lower minimum increments of 1%. The ministerial statement confirming and detailing the changes is available here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-05-24/hlws48>.

4.4.22. Rent to Buy provides households with the option to rent at a discount whilst saving for a deposit to buy their property within a set period (usually within 7 years). The income required to access Rent to Buy is assumed to be the same as that required to afford market rents. However, affordability to local households would depend on how rents are set. If Rent to Buy is offered at a discount to *entry level* rents, this would expand this route to home ownership to households on mean incomes, making it more affordable than both First Homes and shared ownership. However, discounts on *average* rents would make Rent to Buy affordability, in terms of the household income required, less affordable than First Homes at 50% discount and shared ownership at 25% and 10% equity, as well as unaffordable to the income groups discussed. However, for some households, the availability of a deposit rather than income level per se is the key barrier to accessing home ownership. Rent to Buy may therefore offer a useful product to meet the needs of some households.

4.4.23. These three affordable home ownership products need to be considered in relation to what they offer occupants in the long term beyond simply being affordable to access or not:

- First Homes allow for a greater ownership stake in the property, enabling occupiers to benefit from price appreciation over time. Monthly outgoings are also limited to mortgage costs alone, which tend to be cheaper than renting.
- Shared ownership at high equity shares performs a similar function to First Homes, but there are additional costs associated with the rented portion.
- Shared ownership at low equity shares can usually be accessed by lower earning households (than First Homes) and requires a smaller deposit. However, this is a potentially less attractive route to eventual ownership because monthly outgoings remain high. The occupant has to pay a significant monthly rent as well as service charges and other costs, so it can be harder for them to save funds to buy out a greater share in the property over time.
- Rent to Buy requires no deposit, thereby benefitting those with sufficient incomes but low savings. It is more attractive than renting but results in a much slower accumulation of the funds that can provide an eventual route to ownership than the other tenures discussed above.

Affordable rented housing

4.4.24. Affordable rents set out in the table above are substantially below market rents. Whilst affordable rents can be set at up to 80% of market rents, in many locations Registered Providers (housing associations) set them to ensure that they are affordable to those claiming housing benefit, i.e. at or below Local Housing Allowance levels. This means that they are in practice below 80% of market levels. This appears to be the case in Great Brickhill.

4.4.25. Affordable rented housing is generally affordable to households with two lower earners depending on their household size (average earning households are unlikely to be eligible). However, households with a single lower earner appear only able to afford social rented housing. Many such individuals will, if unable to secure a social

rented dwelling require additional subsidy through Housing Benefit/Universal Credit to access housing.

- 4.4.26. The NPPF 2024 makes explicit reference of the need to set out the proportion of Social Rented homes needed as part of the Affordable Housing to be delivered in a local authority area (paragraph 64, NPPF)⁸.
- 4.4.27. Social Rents are cheaper than Affordable Rents and, in theory, would leave households on lower earnings better off and better able to afford their other living costs, such as food and fuel etc. This is particularly the case for households who are supported by Housing Benefit and subject to the overall benefit cap since their benefit income is limited by the cap and they may not be able to claim enough to cover the Affordable Rent.
- 4.4.28. Where households are supported by housing benefit and not affected by benefit caps, the difference in the cost of Affordable and Social rents may be irrelevant as the level of housing benefit flexes according to the rent. This means that these households may be no better off in social rented accommodation because they receive a lower rate of housing benefit to cover their rent.
- 4.4.29. Households who are not supported by benefits, for example those whose earnings are higher and making them ineligible for benefits, would clearly benefit by the lower Social Rent levels because it would reduce their outgoings. However, these households are less likely to be in acute need on housing waiting lists. Rather, this scenario might apply to those already living in Social Rented housing where their financial circumstances have improved.
- 4.4.30. On balance, the relative need for Social Rented homes versus Affordable Rented homes is a complex area because of the interaction of benefits, rents and earnings. AECOM suggests that the local authority is best placed to assess what proportion of Affordable Housing should be provided as Social Rent, drawing on their waiting list data and more detailed evidence in LHNAs. If the neighbourhood group wishes to develop localized policy in this area, this will be best achieved through liaison with the LPA (and local housing officers) as well as local registered providers.

4.5. Estimates of the need for Affordable Housing

- 4.5.1. This section estimates the need for Affordable Housing, which should be considered separately for affordable rented housing and affordable routes to ownership. The appropriate approach is taken based on the evidence available at Local Authority and NA scale.
- 4.5.2. A Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) was undertaken for Buckinghamshire in 2016. As this report is dated, AECOM has undertaken calculations for the need for Affordable Housing in Great Brickhill below.

⁸ [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

AECOM Estimates

4.5.3. AECOM estimates the need for 1.1 affordable rented homes per annum in Great Brickhill, equating to a total of 12.2 over the plan period. The estimate and assumptions used are detailed in Appendix D and summarised in Table 4-5 below. This need is largely for social/affordable rent as it relates to households who live in unsuitable housing and who cannot afford to access market rents.

Table 4-5: Estimate of need for Affordable Housing for rent in Great Brickhill

Component of need or supply in the AECOM estimate	Per annum
Current need	1.8
Newly arising need	0.3
Supply	1.1
Net shortfall	1.1

Source: AECOM model summary of estimates. Full estimate included in Appendix D

4.5.4. AECOM estimate potential demand for 1.8 affordable home ownership dwellings per annum in Great Brickhill, equating to a total of 20.3 over the Neighbourhood Plan period. The estimate and assumptions used is detailed in Appendix D and summarised in Table 4-6 below.

4.5.5. It is important to keep in mind that the households identified in this estimate are, by and large, adequately housed in the private rented sector, Affordable Housing, or living in other circumstances. They do not necessarily lack their own housing but would prefer to buy rather than rent. They have been included in the national planning definition of those in need of Affordable Housing, but their needs are less acute than those on the waiting list for affordable rented housing.

Table 4-6: Estimate of need for Affordable Housing for sale in Great Brickhill

Component of need or supply in the AECOM estimate	Per annum
Current need	1.7
Newly arising need	0.1
Supply	0.0
Net shortfall	1.8

Source: AECOM model summary of estimates. Full estimate included in Appendix D

Additional evidence of Affordable Housing needs

4.5.6. Buckinghamshire Council provided data showing that there are 20 households on the Housing Register for social/affordable rented housing with a local connection to Great Brickhill. This suggests a reasonably substantial level of need given the size of the NA which supports earlier evidence estimating the need for Affordable Housing.

- 4.5.7. A household survey undertaken by Great Brickhill Parish Council in May/June 2024. This identified that respondents felt the most essential need for new homes was new affordable homes to buy. It is not clear however if respondents answered this question in relation to more affordable housing to buy generally, or affordable home ownership dwellings. However, it does highlight challenges with housing affordability. Respondents also identified that family homes, housing for first-time buyers, and Affordable Housing were the most important to deliver.

4.6. Affordable Housing policies in Neighbourhood Plans

- 4.6.1. This section outlines a common Neighbourhood Plan policy level around the tenure mix of affordable housing, provides a recommendation and summarises relevant considerations.

Application of Local Plan policies

- 4.6.2. Aylesbury Vale's adopted policy on this subject H1 requires 25% of all new housing to be affordable. It is not known from Buckinghamshire completions figures whether this target is met on sites in Great Brickhill.
- 4.6.3. The overall proportion of housing that must be affordable is not an area of policy that a Neighbourhood Plan can usually influence, but it is worth emphasizing that the HNA finds there to be robust evidence of need for Affordable Housing in the NA, and every effort should be made to maximise delivery where viable. Changing or influencing the overall proportion of housing that must be affordable is uncommon in Neighbourhood Plans and would demand a high standard of evidence to depart from the Local Plan. If this is of interest, it should first be discussed with the LPA to ensure their support and to determine what additional evidence (e.g. about development viability) would be needed.

Affordable Housing at Neighbourhood level

- 4.6.4. The HNA can provide more localised evidence and this may be used to support Neighbourhood Plan policies. This section suggests an Affordable Housing tenure mix that might be suitable for Great Brickhill on the basis of identified housing need and a range of other considerations detailed in Appendix D.
- 4.6.5. This indicative mix is chiefly a response to the expectation that the delivery of Affordable Housing will be lower than the needs identified here. In this context, affordable rented tenures should be prioritised. AECOM suggests an indicative mix of 60% social/affordable rented housing and 40% affordable home ownership. This takes into consideration the more acute need for rented housing, the backlog of 20 households on the Housing Register with a local connection to Great Brickhill, the higher demand for affordable home ownership options, and the lack of affordable home ownership dwellings in the NA at present.
- 4.6.6. Looking specifically at affordable home ownership, it is recommended 15% of Affordable Housing is delivered as First Homes or other forms of discounted market sale housing. In the interests of diversity and maximising choice, a further 20% is

allocated to shared ownership and 5% to Rent to Buy as an option for households with little or no savings for a deposit.

- 4.6.7. The NPPF 2024 makes explicit reference of the need to set out the proportion of Social Rented homes needed as part of the Affordable Housing to be delivered in a local authority area (paragraph 64, NPPF)⁹.
- 4.6.8. On balance, the relative need for Social Rented homes versus Affordable Rented homes is a complex area because of the interaction of benefits, rents and earnings. AECOM suggests that the local authority is best placed to assess what proportion of Affordable Housing should be provided as Social Rent, drawing on their waiting list data, housing benefit data, more detailed evidence in LHNAs and viability assessments. If the neighbourhood group wishes to develop localised policy in this area, this will be best achieved through liaison with the LPA (and local housing officers) as well as local registered providers.
- 4.6.9. It is relevant to note here that with no current housing requirement, any new development is likely to be limited. As such, the tenure mix described above may need to be adjusted to reflect the type and size of site and the practicalities of delivering Affordable Housing in rural areas.
- 4.6.10. Where the Parish Council wish to develop policy that deviates from that outlined in the Local Plan – either by differing from the headline split between renting and ownership or by specifying a greater level of detail around sub-tenures, it is important that they liaise with Buckinghamshire Council to determine what additional evidence (notably about development viability) may be needed, and to ensure that departures from the local policy context have their support.

⁹ [National Planning Policy Framework](#)

Table 4-7: Indicative tenure split (Affordable Housing)

Tenure	Indicative mix	Considerations and uncertainties
Routes to home ownership, of which	40%	
First Homes/Discounted Market Sale	15%	First Homes product somewhat untested so uncertainties around viability, developer, lenders and buyer appetite etc.
Shared ownership	20%	Recently confirmed changes to the model to allow purchases of 10% share - impact on viability unknown. RPs business plans currently reliant on shared ownership model. Impact of displacement by First Homes unknown.
Rent to Buy	5%	Emerging product with popularity and effectiveness as yet unknown. Impact of displacement by First Homes unknown.
Affordable Housing for rent, of which	60%	
Social rent	To be set by Registered Providers	Uncertain how much funding available to support this tenure in local area. Uncertain whether RPs willing to own/manage stock in this area.
Affordable rent	To be set by Registered Providers	Uncertain whether RPs willing to own/manage stock in this area.

Source: AECOM calculations

4.7. Conclusions- Affordability and Affordable Housing

Current tenure profile

4.7.1. 2021 Census data shows that 79.9% of households in Great Brickhill owned their own home, compared to 70.0% across Buckinghamshire and 61.3% nationally. There were no households in Great Brickhill living in shared ownership dwellings, with fewer households living in social rented dwellings (10.0%) than the local authority (13.0%) and country (17.1%). Great Brickhill also had the smallest private rented sector.

Affordability

4.7.2. Between 2014 and 2023 there was an overall increase in house prices in Great Brickhill, although with some year-on-year fluctuation, likely due to small sample sizes. Over this period the median house price increased by 61.0%, peaking in 2023

at £744,000. The lower quartile house price increased by 40.3% over the same period, peaking in 2020 at £570,000. The 2023 lower quartile house price was £490,000.

- 4.7.3. Local households on average incomes are unable to access even entry-level homes unless they have the advantage of a very large deposit. The median house price would require an annual income more than 3 times higher than the current average. Private renting is generally only affordable to higher earners. Households on mean incomes can only afford entry level rents, with households made up of one or two lower quartile earners unable to afford any of the given rental thresholds.
- 4.7.4. Looking at affordable home ownership specifically, it is recommended that First Homes are delivered at a 50% discount in Great Brickhill, making the product marginally affordable to households on mean incomes. Shared ownership appears to be slightly more affordable than First Homes but is broadly accessible to the same groups, with households on mean incomes able to afford shared ownership at 10% equity, and potentially at 25% equity. Rent to Buy may be a useful product for households with little or no savings for a deposit.
- 4.7.5. Affordable rented housing is generally affordable to households with two lower earners whilst households with a single lower earner appear only able to afford social rented housing. Many such individuals will, if unable to secure a social rented dwelling require additional subsidy through Housing Benefit/Universal Credit to access housing.

The need for Affordable Housing

- 4.7.6. AECOM estimates the need for 1.1 affordable rented homes per annum in Great Brickhill, equating to a total of 12.2 over the plan period.
- 4.7.7. Buckinghamshire Council provided data showing that there are 20 households on the Housing Register for social/affordable rented housing with a local connection to Great Brickhill. This suggests a significant backlog of need, with it potentially advisable to deliver Affordable Housing early in the plan period to meet these needs.
- 4.7.8. AECOMs estimate potential demand for 1.8 affordable home ownership dwellings per annum in Great Brickhill, equating to a total of 20.3 over the Neighbourhood Plan period.

Affordable Housing policy

- 4.7.9. AECOM suggests an indicative mix of Affordable Housing in response to the expectation that the delivery of Affordable Housing will be lower than the needs identified here. In this context, affordable rented tenures should be prioritised. AECOM suggests an indicative mix of 60% social/affordable rented housing and 40% affordable home ownership. This mix complies with the various minimum requirements mandated nationally.
- 4.7.10. Looking specifically at affordable home ownership, it is recommended 15% of Affordable Housing is delivered as First Homes or other forms of discounted market sale housing. In the interests of diversity and maximising choice, a further 20% is

allocated to shared ownership and 5% to Rent to Buy as an option for households with little or no savings for a deposit.

- 4.7.11. The expected level of delivery of Affordable Housing in Great Brickhill does not meet the quantity of demand identified in estimates of the need for Affordable Housing. It is therefore recommended that the policy requirement is met wherever possible, and for further avenues for delivering greater quantities of Affordable Housing (such as exception sites) to be explored.
- 4.7.12. Affordable Housing is typically provided and made financially viable by its inclusion as a proportion of larger market developments, as guided by Local Plan policy. However, if the community wishes to boost the supply of Affordable Housing, there are other, more proactive routes available for its provision. For example, using neighbourhood development orders, identifying exception sites or developing community land trusts are all ways of boosting the supply of Affordable Housing.

5. Type and Size

5.1. Introduction

- 5.1.1. It is common for neighbourhood plans to include policies that influence what form new housing should take in terms of type and size. This requires evidence of what local people need.
- 5.1.2. This can be done using statistics to identify relevant trends and potential gaps in the market. That is the focus of this chapter of the HNA. The evidence gathered here can be used to justify planning policies either on its own or in combination with survey results expressing the specific wants and concerns of local residents. It will also build up a picture of the population and existing range of homes that may provide useful context for the neighbourhood plan.
- 5.1.3. This chapter has three aims, each given its own sub-section:
- To establish what **mix** of housing exists in the NA at present;
 - To describe characteristics of the local **population** that are relevant to housing need; and
 - To look to the **future**, considering how the population is likely to evolve and what mix of homes would be most appropriate to build.
- 5.1.4. It is important to keep in mind that housing need is not an exact science. To get from a set of facts about the population to an ideal mix of homes requires making assumptions. For example, there are clear patterns about what size of home families tend to live in at different stages of life. However, a variety of other reasons sit behind people's housing choices that are less easy to predict, including wealth, accessibility requirements and personal preference. Some trends can also change rapidly over time, such as the increasing preference for home working.
- 5.1.5. The conclusions and recommendations given here are therefore not definitive. Rather, they are what the statistics suggest future needs will look like based on current trends. This is sufficient for justifying planning policies, but it is also appropriate to take into account other factors and evidence if desired.

Definitions

- **Dwelling type:** whether a home is detached, semi-detached, terraced, a flat, bungalow or other type. Which a household chooses to occupy tends to be more about wealth and preference than a specific need.
- **Dwelling size:** how many rooms or bedrooms a home contains. While this could also mean floor area or number of storeys, the number of bedrooms is most reliably recorded in housing statistics. Bedroom numbers are also closely linked to family size and life stage.
- **Household:** a unit of people who live together, commonly a family, couple or single person. Not all dwellings contain a household, including properties that are

vacant and second homes, so the number of dwellings and the number of households in an area is usually different.

- **Household composition:** the specific combination of adults and children who form a household. The Census offers a number of categories, for example distinguishing between families with children who are dependent or non-dependent (i.e. adults). 'Other' households in the Census include house-sharers, groups of students, and multi-family households.
- **Household life stage:** the age of the lead member of a household – usually the oldest adult, or what used to be called the 'head of household'. Life stage is correlated with dwelling size as well as wealth.
- **Housing mix:** the range of home sizes and types in an area.
- **Over- and under-occupancy:** the degree to which the size and composition of a household lines up with the number of bedrooms in their home. If there are more bedrooms than the household would be expected to need, the home is considered under-occupied, and vice versa.

5.2. The current housing mix

5.2.1. This section establishes the current housing mix of Great Brickhill, highlighting recent changes to it and comparing the mix to wider averages.

Dwelling type

5.2.2. Table 5-1 below shows that Great Brickhill had a significantly greater proportion of households living in detached dwellings than the comparator geographies, at 62.8% of households, compared to 34.3% across Buckinghamshire and 22.9% nationally. The proportion of households living in semi-detached dwellings in Great Brickhill was more closely aligned with the wider district and England, but below the comparator proportions, at 26.8%. A significantly smaller proportion of households lived in terraced dwellings in the NA (8.5%) than England (23.0%), with a notably small proportion of households living in flats in Great Brickhill, at just 1.7%. The latter is not unusual in rural villages.

5.2.3. Unfortunately, Census data does not count bungalows as an individual category, instead counting them within other categories (mainly detached and semi-detached). Valuation Office Agency (VOA) data does count the number of bungalows, although for a slightly larger area than the NA (see Figure A-1). This shows that 16.1% of dwellings in Great Brickhill were bungalows in 2023, compared to 8.7% across Buckinghamshire and 9.1% nationally.

Table 5-1: Accommodation type, Great Brickhill and comparator geographies, 2021

Type	Great Brickhill	Buckinghamshire	England
Detached	62.8%	34.3%	22.9%
Semi-detached	26.8%	30.2%	31.5%
Terrace	8.5%	17.8%	23.0%
Flat	1.7%	17.2%	22.2%

Source: Census 2021, AECOM Calculations

5.2.4. Table 5-2 looks at the change between the 2011 and 2021, which shows that there was little change in the type mix of housing over the decade. There were slight increases in the number and proportion of households living in detached, terraced, and flatted dwellings, with a slight decrease in the number and proportion of households living in semi-detached dwellings. Overall, this reflects the small amount of development that has taken place, and suggests that this development has generally been in line with the existing type mix.

Table 5-2: Accommodation type, Great Brickhill, 2011-2021

Type	2011	%	2021	%
Detached	217	62.7%	223	62.8%
Semi-detached	96	27.7%	95	26.8%
Terrace	29	8.4%	30	8.5%
Flat	3	0.9%	6	1.7%
Total	346	-	355	-

Source: ONS 2021 and 2011, AECOM Calculations

Dwelling size

Table 5-3 below presents the current housing mix in terms of size compared to the wider local authority and country. It shows that Great Brickhill had a smaller proportion of smaller 1-2 bedroom dwellings, at 19.2% of dwellings, than Buckinghamshire (31.8%) and England (38.9%). Usually, the greatest proportion of households live in mid-sized 3-bedroom dwellings, but in Great Brickhill the greatest proportion of households lived in 4+ bedroom dwellings, at 52.5%. This is well above both Buckinghamshire (32.0%) and England (21.1%), indicating a potential lack of mid-sized family housing as well as smaller housing options.

Table 5-3: Dwelling size (bedrooms), Great Brickhill and comparator geographies, 2021

Number of bedrooms	Great Brickhill	Buckinghamshire	England
1	3.1%	9.5%	11.6%
2	16.1%	22.3%	27.3%
3	28.2%	36.1%	40.0%
4+	52.5%	32.0%	21.1%

Source: Census 2021, AECOM Calculations

5.2.5. Table 5-4 shows that between 2011 and 2021 there were slight increases in the proportion of households living in smaller and the largest dwellings, with a slight decrease in the proportion of households living in mid-sized 3-bedroom dwellings.

However, the actual changes are relatively small, with the greatest increase in the number of households living in 4+ bedroom dwellings, increasing by 18 households.

Table 5-4: Dwelling size (bedrooms), Great Brickhill, 2011-2021

Number of bedrooms	2011		2021	
		%		%
1	9	2.7%	11	3.1%
2	50	15.2%	57	16.1%
3	101	30.8%	100	28.2%
4+	168	51.2%	186	52.5%
Total	328	-	354	-

Source: ONS 2021 and 2011, AECOM Calculations

5.3. Population characteristics

5.3.1. This section examines key characteristics of the local population that have a bearing on what housing might be needed in future years. Where available, recent data is used. However, for some information it is necessary to fall back on the 2011 Census.

Age

5.3.2. Table 5-5 shows the most recent age structure of the NA population, alongside 2011 Census figures. It shows that between 2011 and 2021 the population of Great Brickhill grew by 6.1%. The greatest proportion of the population in both years was aged 45-64, although the proportion decreased from 38.7% in 2011 to 34.7% in 2021. The proportion of the population aged 65-84 increased from 19.2% to 22.3% whilst the number of people aged 85+ increased by 92.3%, highlighting the aging of the population over the decade. The proportion of the population aged 25-44 also increased, whilst the proportion of young adults (15-24) and children decreased between 2011 and 2021.

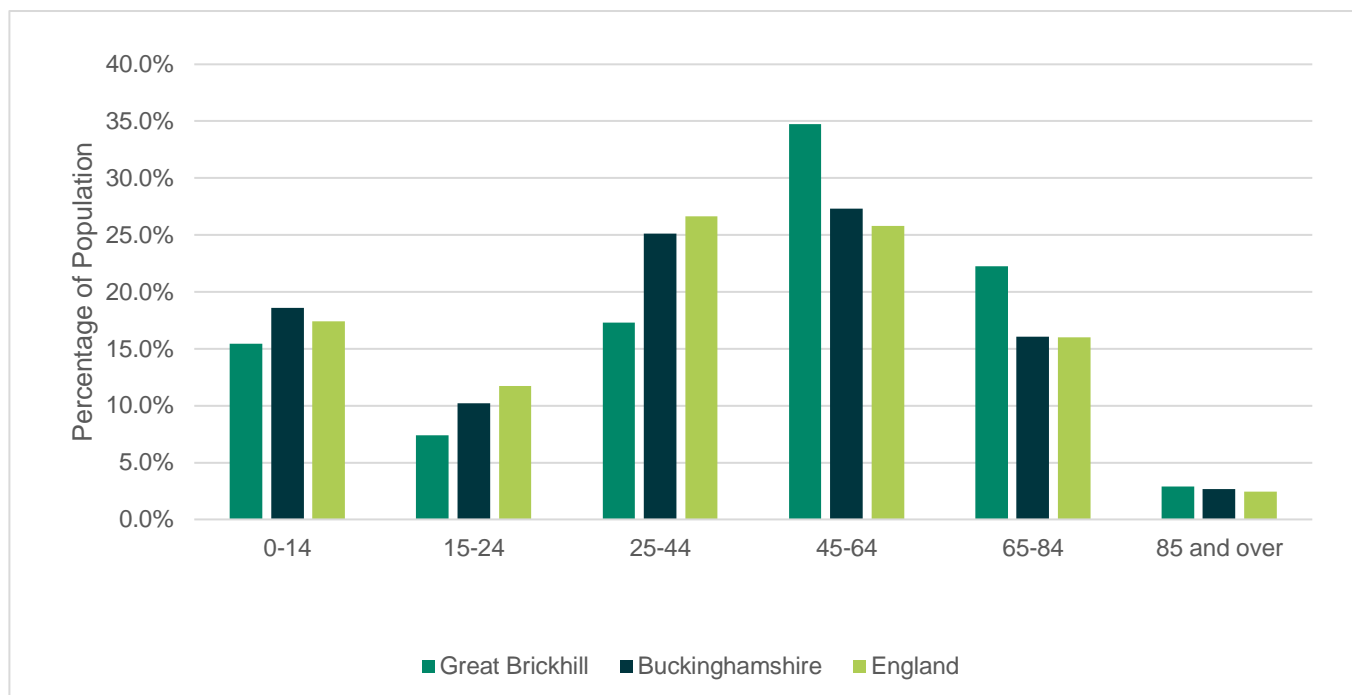
Table 5-5: Age structure of Great Brickhill, 2011 and 2021

Age group	2011 (Census)		2021 (Census)		Change
0-14	130	15.9%	134	15.5%	+3.1%
15-24	83	10.2%	64	7.4%	-22.9%
25-44	118	14.4%	150	17.3%	+27.1%
45-64	316	38.7%	301	34.7%	-4.7%
65-84	157	19.2%	193	22.3%	+22.9%
85 and over	13	1.6%	25	2.9%	+92.3%
Total	817	-	867	-	+6.1%

Source: ONS 2011, ONS 2021, AECOM Calculations

5.3.3. For context, it is useful to look at the NA population structure alongside that of the local authority and country. Figure 5-1 (using 2021 Census data) shows that Great Brickhill had a greater proportion of the population aged 45 and over than both Buckinghamshire and England. The NA had a smaller proportion of the population aged 44 and under than the comparator geographies.

Figure 5-1: Age structure in Great Brickhill, 2021



Source: ONS 2021, AECOM Calculations

Household composition and occupancy

- 5.3.4. Household composition (the combination and relationships of adults and children in a dwelling) is an important factor in the kinds of housing needed over the Neighbourhood Plan period. Table 5-6 shows that Great Brickhill had a smaller proportion of single person households (21.1%) than Buckinghamshire (26.3%) and England (30.1%). Great Brickhill had the greatest proportion of family households aged 66 and over. The largest proportion of family households in Great Brickhill had no children, at 23.7% of total households, compared to 16.8% nationally. The NA therefore had a smaller proportion of households with dependent children (20.3%) than both the local authority (29.1%) and country (25.8%).
- 5.3.5. It is also helpful to look at the changes between the 2011 and 2021 Census. Data shows that the number of households with dependent children in Great Brickhill fell by 17.2% over the decade, despite an increase of 9.2% across Buckinghamshire, which is likely to reflect some loss of family households through moves out of the NA as well as the ageing of existing families with grown up children moving out (or staying at home as ‘non-dependent children’). The number of households with non-dependent children in both the NA and local authority increased (by 19.4% and 22.1% respectively), compared to just 3.5% nationally. This may suggest affordability challenges for young adults locally leaving the family home, or a lack of appropriate housing choices.

Table 5-6: Household composition, Great Brickhill and comparator geographies, 2021

Household composition		Great Brickhill	Buckinghamshire	England
One person household	Total	21.1%	26.3%	30.1%
	Aged 66 and over	10.4%	12.3%	12.8%
	Other	10.7%	14.0%	17.3%
One family only	Total	70.7%	67.8%	63.1%
	All aged 66 and over	15.8%	10.4%	9.2%
	With no children	23.7%	17.1%	16.8%
	With dependent children	20.3%	29.1%	25.8%
	With non-dependent children ¹⁰	10.4%	10.6%	10.5%
Other household types	Total	8.2%	5.9%	6.9%

Source: ONS 2021, AECOM Calculations

- 5.3.6. The tendency of households to over- or under-occupy their homes is another relevant consideration to the future size needs of the NA. A person is considered to under-occupy their home when there are more bedrooms in their home than a family of their size and composition would normally be expected to need. This is expressed as an occupancy rating of +1 or +2, indicating that there is one surplus bedroom or at least two surplus bedrooms (respectively). Over-occupancy works in the same way, with a rating of -1 indicating at least one bedroom too few.
- 5.3.7. Under-occupancy is relatively common in Great Brickhill, with 88.4% of households living in a dwelling with at least one additional bedroom based on their household size. This is most common in families aged 66+ (98.3% under-occupancy) and families aged under 66 with no children (97.6% under-occupancy). Whilst not uncommon, this suggests that larger housing in the NA is not necessarily occupied by the largest households, but by households with the most wealth or by older households that have chosen not to or been unable to downsize.
- 5.3.8. There is also some over-occupancy (overcrowding) in Great Brickhill, with 2.9% of families with dependent children and 2.4% of households with non-dependent children living in a dwelling with too few bedrooms based on their household size. Whilst this is a small proportion of family households it does provide further evidence of some acute housing pressure within the NA.

¹⁰ Refers to households containing children who are older than 18 e.g students or young working people living at home.

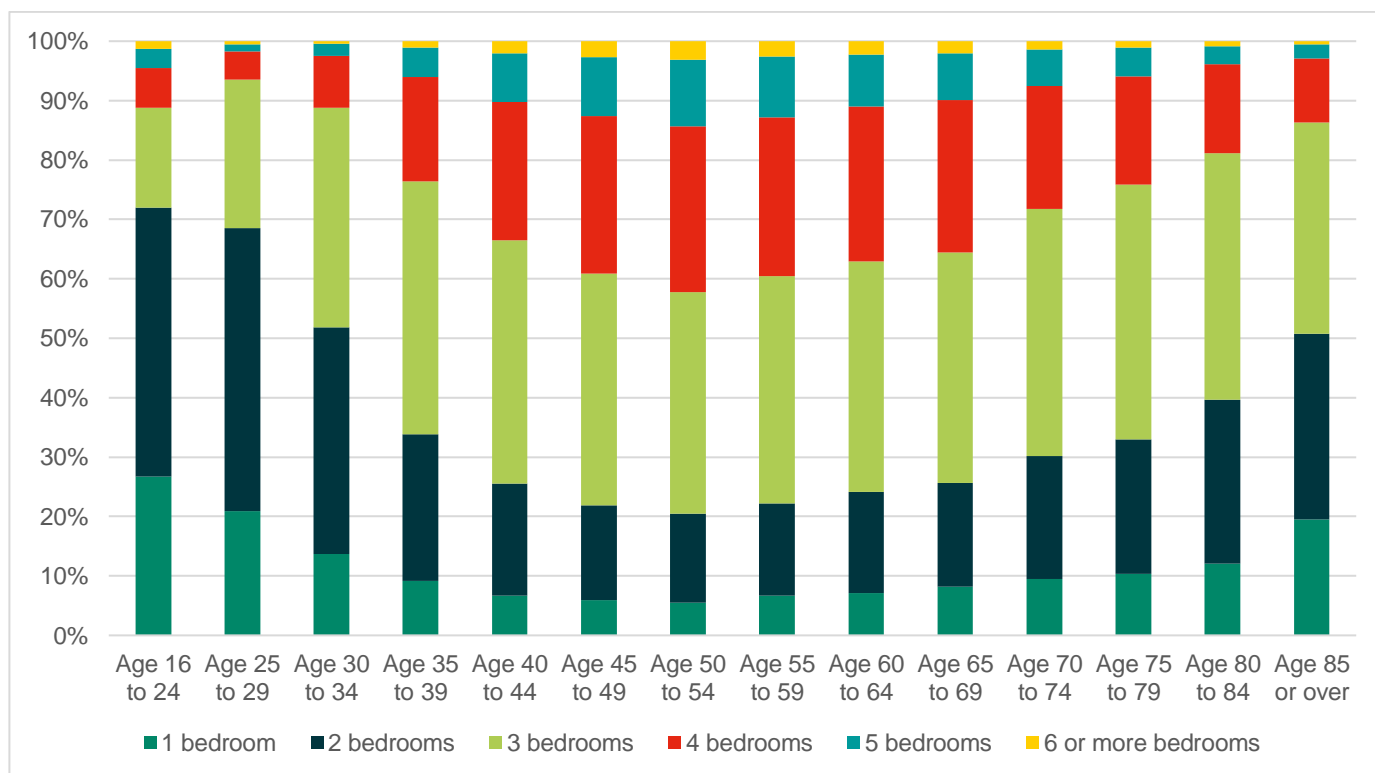
Table 5-7: Occupancy rating by age in Great Brickhill, 2021

Household type	+2 rating	+1 rating	0 rating	-1 rating
Family 66+	81.0%	17.2%	1.7%	0.0%
Single person 66+	63.9%	27.8%	8.3%	0.0%
Family under 66 - no children	84.3%	13.3%	2.4%	0.0%
Family under 66 - dependent children	54.3%	28.6%	14.3%	2.9%
Family under 66 - adult children	41.5%	31.7%	24.4%	2.4%
Single person under 66	50.0%	44.1%	5.9%	0.0%
All households	64.3%	24.1%	9.3%	2.3%

Source: ONS 2021, AECOM Calculations

5.3.9. As noted in the introduction to this chapter, the life stage of households is strongly correlated with the size of home they tend to occupy. Figure 5-2 sets out this relationship for Buckinghamshire in 2011 (because this data is not available at smaller scales). Generally, the graph shows how the youngest households tend to occupy the smallest dwellings, before rapidly taking up larger homes as their families expand, and then more gradually downsizing to smaller homes again as they age. This trend is seen across Buckinghamshire, although there are a greater proportion of the youngest households (16-24) living in larger dwellings than the next category (25-29), potentially linked to students living in large house shares at university.

Figure 5-2: Age of household reference person by dwelling size in Buckinghamshire, 2011



Source: ONS 2011, AECOM Calculations

5.4. Future population and size needs

5.4.1. This section projects the future age profile of the population in Great Brickhill at the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period and then estimates the mix of dwelling sizes they may need.

Age

5.4.2. The result of applying Local Authority level household projections to the age profile of Great Brickhill households in 2011 is shown in Table 5-8. This makes clear that population growth can be expected to be driven by the oldest households, with households with a reference person aged 65 and over projected to increase by 56% between 2011 and 2035. This group would then account for 41.6% of households in 2035, compared to 32.3% in 2011, highlighting the aging population. There is also projected to be an increase in households with a reference person aged 55 to 64, but a decrease in those aged 54 and under.

Table 5-8: Projected age of households, Great Brickhill, 2011 - 2035

Year	24 and under	25 to 34	35 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over
2011	4	7	128	83	106
2035	4	7	125	97	166
% change 2011-2035	-4%	-5%	-2%	+16%	+56%

Source: AECOM Calculations

5.4.3. The demographic change discussed above can be translated into an ideal mix of dwelling sizes. This is achieved through a model that maps the dwelling size preferences by life stage shown earlier (in Figure 5-2) onto the projected age profile for the NA in Table 5-8 immediately above. The resulting 'ideal' future mix of dwelling sizes can then be compared to the current stock of housing to identify how future development might best fill the gaps.

5.4.4. This approach has limitations, in that it embeds existing size preferences and does not anticipate changes in what people want from their homes. As such, it is appropriate for the results to be taken as a baseline scenario – what would occur if current trends persisted. It may well be the intention of the community to intervene to produce a different outcome more in line with their interpretation of emerging trends and their place- and community-shaping objectives. Layering these factors on top of the indicative picture provided by this model is appropriate for the purpose of drafting neighbourhood plan policies.

5.4.5. The result of this exercise is presented in Table 5-9. It suggests that by the end of the plan period there should be an increase in the proportion of smaller and mid-sized dwellings and a significant decrease in the proportion of 4+ bedroom dwellings. In order to reach the suggested mix, it is recommended that around half of future housing is delivered as 3-bedroom dwellings, with broadly equal proportions of 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom dwellings (23%). It is unlikely to be appropriate to prohibit the delivery of larger 4-bedroom plus dwellings, as discussed further below, but this modelling

provides a starting point for thinking about the appropriate dwelling mix in new developments.

Table 5-9: Suggested dwelling size mix to 2035, Great Brickhill

Number of bedrooms	Current mix (2021)	Suggested mix (2035)	Balance of new housing to reach suggested mix	Indicative policy range
1	3.1%	9.0%	23.5%	20-30%
2	16.1%	20.4%	23.0%	20-30%
3	28.2%	39.3%	53.6%	50-60%
4+	52.5%	31.4%	0.0%	0-10%

Source: AECOM Calculations

5.4.6. The following points sense-check the results of the model against other evidence and suggest ways to interpret them when thinking about policy options.

- The preceding chapter found that affordability is a serious and worsening challenge in the NA. While the provision of Affordable Housing (subsidised tenure products) is one way to combat this, another is to ensure that homes come forward which are of an appropriate size, type and density for local residents' budgets.
- Continuing to provide smaller homes with fewer bedrooms would help to address this situation, although it should be considered whether large numbers of 1-bedroom homes are suitable given the area's character and current density.
- To best meet the needs of the growing cohort of older households expected to be present by the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period, it should also be considered whether the existing options are well tailored to older people's requirements in terms of space, flexibility, quality, location and accessibility.
- Variety should be sought within the mid-sized homes that are built in future to attract both newly forming households on lower budgets and older households with equity from their existing larger homes. While the number of bedrooms required may be similar, other preferences and levels of purchasing power could be very different. Facilitating downsizing among older households may also release those larger homes for use by families who need more bedrooms if they existing stock of larger homes is sufficiently affordable. However, if the existing larger stock is not sufficiently affordable for families, there may need to be some provision of more affordable larger dwellings over the plan period, either more affordable dwelling types (e.g. terraced rather than detached) or larger Affordable Housing).
 - A household survey was undertaken by Great Brickhill Parish Council in May/June 2024. This identified that family homes were among the most important to deliver, in line with AECOM's modelled need for mid-sized homes.

Tenure

5.4.7. The recommendation discussed immediately above applies to all housing in the NA over the Neighbourhood Plan period. This is considered proportionate for devising

policy at neighbourhood scale. However, in practice different size mixes may be appropriate for market housing and Affordable Housing. While this distinction may not be appropriate to make in Neighbourhood Plan policy, since Local Authorities tend to define the precise mix of Affordable Housing required on applicable sites, it is worth thinking through the factors at play.

5.4.8. Generally speaking, the size mix needed within affordable tenures, particularly affordable and social rent, is smaller than the size mix of market housing. This is because there tend to be higher proportions of single people and couples in need of affordable rented housing, and they are likely to be eligible only for 1 or 2 bedroom properties. In contrast, people buying their own homes tend to want more space than they technically 'need', such as spare rooms for guests, home working or other uses. This fact is established in the data on under-occupancy presented earlier in this chapter.

5.4.9 The waiting list for affordable rented housing, kept by Buckinghamshire Council, provides a current snapshot of the size needs of applicant households. As this changes over time, individual planning applications can be decided in ways that meet evolving needs. Households on the Housing Register with a local connection to Great Brickhill are eligible for the following sized dwellings:

- 90% 1-bedroom;
- 5% 2-bedroom; and
- 5% 3-bedroom.

5.4.9. To summarise, the overall size mix recommendation presented above applies generally to new housing in the NA. Within this mix, Affordable Housing might require a greater weighting towards smaller sizes while market homes focus on mid-sized homes and some larger options. It is not necessary (and is potentially not appropriate) for Neighbourhood Plans to be prescriptive about the size mix within different tenures, but a range of data sources exist that indicate a direction of travel, which Local Planning Authorities will draw upon when determining applications, and which it is possible for the neighbourhood planners to monitor.

Type

5.4.10. Planning policy also tends to be less prescriptive about the mix of dwelling types that are needed than the mix of home sizes. This is because the choice to occupy a terraced rather than a detached home, for example, is primarily a matter of wealth, personal preference, and the amount of outdoor space or other features sought than 'need' in the strict sense. This stands in contrast to the matter of dwelling size, where it can be more clearly established that a household with a certain number of members, closely correlated with age, requires a particular number of bedrooms.

5.4.11. The key distinctions when it comes to dwelling type are between flats and houses and, to a lesser extent, bungalows, each of which tend to appeal to occupants with different life circumstances. However, it remains difficult to generalise about this, particularly when drawing on demographic evidence.

- 5.4.12. The benefits of delivering a certain blend of dwelling types are more closely related to affordability, which is clearly established as an issue in Great Brickhill, and which favours more dense options (e.g. terraces and flats). This imperative to improve affordability is often in conflict with matters of character, which in rural areas tend to favour lower density options that blend in with the existing built environment. This is particularly relevant in the case of flats, a large block of which may not be a welcome proposition in the NA. That said, it is possible to deliver flats in the form of low-rise maisonettes that resemble terraces from street level, which can counter this issue.
- 5.4.13. In summary, there is a balance to be struck between, on the one hand, improving affordability and choice in the market by encouraging flats and terraces, and, on the other hand, preserving the distinctive character and other features that residents like about the NA today. How far the Neighbourhood Plan should guide on this issue, and in what direction, is a policy decision for the Parish Council and community to consider.

5.5. Conclusions- Type and Size

The current housing mix

- 5.5.1. 2021 Census data shows that Great Brickhill had a significantly greater proportion of households living in detached dwellings (62.8%) than Buckinghamshire (34.3%) and England (22.9%). The proportion of households living in semi-detached dwellings in Great Brickhill was more closely aligned with the wider district and England, but below the comparator proportions. A significantly smaller proportion of households lived in terraced dwellings in the NA (8.5%) than England (23.0%), with a notably small proportion of households living in flats in Great Brickhill, at just 1.7%, which is not unusual in rural villages. VOA data shows that 16.1% of dwellings in Great Brickhill were bungalows in 2023, compared to 8.7% across Buckinghamshire and 9.1% nationally.
- 5.5.2. Turning to dwelling size, Great Brickhill had a smaller proportion of smaller 1-2 bedroom dwellings than Buckinghamshire and England. The greatest proportion of households in the NA lived in 4+ bedroom dwellings, at 52.5%, compared to 32.0% across the local authority and 21.1% nationally, potentially indicating a lack of mid-sized family housing as well as smaller housing options.

Population characteristics

- 5.5.3. Between 2011 and 2021 the population of Great Brickhill grew by 6.1%. The greatest proportion of the population in both years was aged 45-64. The proportion aged 65-84 increased from 19.2% to 22.3% over the decade whilst the number of people aged 85+ increased by 92.3%, highlighting the aging population. The proportion of young adults (15-24) and children decreased between 2011 and 2021.
- 5.5.4. The NA had a greater proportion of family households than Buckinghamshire and England. Great Brickhill had the largest proportion of family households aged 66 and over. The greatest proportion of family households in Great Brickhill had no children, with the NA having the smallest proportion of households with dependent children, at

20.3% of households compared to 29.1% across Buckinghamshire and 25.8% nationally.

Future population and size needs

- 5.5.5. Population growth can be expected to be driven by the oldest households, with households with a reference person aged 65 and over projected to increase by 56% between 2011 and 2035. There is also projected to be an increase in households with a reference person aged 55 to 64, but a decrease in those aged 54 and under.
- 5.5.6. AECOM modelling suggests that in order to reach the suggested mix of housing by 2035, around half of future housing is delivered as 3-bedroom dwellings, with the rest provided as 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom dwellings. It may however not be appropriate to prohibit the delivery of larger dwellings over the Neighbourhood Plan period but the modelling provides a starting point for thinking about dwelling mix in policy and on sites that may come forward in the future.
- 5.5.7. It is important to remember that other factors should be considered in determining the dwelling mix that is desirable in the NA or on any particular site. These include the specific characteristics of the nearby stock of housing (such as its condition and design), the role of the NA or site within the wider housing market area (linked to any Local Authority strategies or plans) and site-specific factors.

6. Specialist housing for older people

6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. It is relatively common for neighbourhood plans in areas with aging populations to include policies relating to specialist housing for older people. This chapter considers in detail the specialist housing needs of older people in Great Brickhill. It focuses on specialist forms of provision but recognises that the majority of older people will live in the mainstream housing stock. The approach is as follows:

- To review the **current provision** of specialist housing in the NA;
- To estimate the **potential demand** for this form of accommodation with reference to the projected growth in the older population and current rates of mobility limitation; and
- To discuss the potential for meeting this need through adaptations to the mainstream stock and other **additional considerations**.

6.1.2. Because of the wide variation in the level of support needed, as well as the financial capabilities of those affected, the estimates of need presented here should be viewed with caution – as an idea of the broad scale of potential need rather than an obligatory target that must be met.

6.1.3. It is important to note that the need for housing for particular groups of people may well exceed, or be proportionally high in relation to, the total housing need or requirement. This is because the needs of particular groups will often be calculated having consideration to the whole population of an area as opposed to the projected new households which form the baseline for estimating housing need overall.¹¹

6.1.4. This study covers the need for housing, i.e. buildings that the planning system classifies as Use Class C3 (private dwellings).¹² Residences that fall into Use Class C2 (institutions including prisons, boarding schools and some care homes for older people) are largely beyond the scope of this research. However, it is possible to estimate the likely need for residential and nursing care over the Neighbourhood Plan period.

6.1.5. The distinction between care homes for older people that fall into use class C2 and those where accommodation is counted as C3 is blurred. As such, the findings of this chapter may justify the provision of extra-care C3 housing and/or C2 care home units, but it is not possible to state definitively how much of each would be required. C3 specialist accommodation is typically self-contained with its own front door, made available on an individual basis with support provided in the home or not at all if the resident does not require it, and offered for sale or rent on the open market.

¹¹ See Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 2a-017-20190220, at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessments>)

¹² For a full description of Planning Use Classes, please refer to https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/9/change_of_use

Definitions

- **Older people:** people over retirement age, ranging from the active newly retired to the very frail elderly. Their housing needs tend to encompass accessible and adaptable general needs housing as well as the full spectrum of retirement and specialised housing offering additional care.
- **Specialist housing for older people:** a wide range of housing types specifically aimed at older people, which may often be restricted to those in certain older age groups. This could include residential institutions, sheltered housing, extra care housing, retirement housing and a range of other potential types of housing which has been designed and built to serve the needs of older people, including often providing care or other additional services.
- **Sheltered Housing**¹³: self-contained flats or bungalows where all the residents are older people. Schemes on the whole provide independent, self-contained homes, either to rent or buy. Properties in most schemes have features like raised electric sockets, lowered worktops, walk-in showers, and so on, as well as being linked to an emergency alarm service. Some will be designed to accommodate wheelchair users. Managed schemes will also usually have some shared or communal facilities such as a lounge for residents to meet, a laundry, guest flats and gardens.
- **Extra Care Housing:** housing which usually consists of purpose-built or adapted flats or bungalows with a medium to high level of care available if required. Residents are able to live independently with 24-hour access to support services and staff, and meals are often also available. In some cases, these developments are included in retirement communities or villages - the intention is for residents to benefit from varying levels of care as time progresses.
- **Category M4(2):** accessible and adaptable dwellings.
- **Category M4(3):** wheelchair user dwellings.

6.2. Specialist housing for older people

6.2.1. There are currently no units of specialist accommodation in the NA at present. It is relevant to note that the national average provision for England is 136 units per 1,000 of the 75+ population¹⁴.

Demographic characteristics

6.2.2. The starting point for estimating the need for specialist housing for older people is to project how the overall number of older people in Great Brickhill is likely to change in future. This is calculated by extrapolating population projections from the ONS Sub-National Population Projections for Buckinghamshire. The results are set out in Table 6-1. It shows that in 2021 there were 76 individuals aged 75+ in Great Brickhill,

¹³ See <http://www.housingcare.org/jargon-sheltered-housing.aspx>

¹⁴ Table 22, 'More Choice Greater Voice' (2008), published by Housing LIN for CLG (now MHCLG) and the Care Services Improvement Partnership

accounting for 8.8% of the population. This is projected to increase to 105 by the end of the plan period, 11.8% of the population, compared to 12.1% across Buckinghamshire in 2035.

- 6.2.3. A key assumption for the estimate given at the end of this section is that the older people living in the NA currently are already suitably accommodated, either because they occupy the existing stock of specialist accommodation, have made appropriate adaptations to their own homes or do not require support or adaptations. This is unlikely to be completely true, but it is not possible to determine how many such individuals are inadequately housed without evidence from a household survey (which itself may not give a complete picture). As such, the growth in the older population rather than the total at the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period is the key output of this calculation.

Table 6-1: Modelled projection of older population in Great Brickhill by end of Plan period

Age group	2021		2035	
	Great Brickhill	Buckinghamshire	Great Brickhill	Buckinghamshire
All ages	867	553,078	892	569,203
75+	76	49,812	105	68,847
%	8.8%	9.0%	11.8%	12.1%

Source: ONS SNPP 2020, AECOM Calculations

- 6.2.4. The next step is to consider the need for different tenures of dwelling for older people. It is assumed that those currently occupying their own home will wish to do so for as long as practicably possible in future, even where downsizing or moving into specialist accommodation. Equally, those who currently rent, either in the private or social sectors, are projected to need affordable rented specialist accommodation.
- 6.2.5. The 2011 55-75 age bracket is considered the best proxy for the group likely to fall into need for specialist accommodation during the Neighbourhood Plan period to 2035. The top row in Table 6-2 outlines the tenure mix among households aged 55-75 at Local Authority level, which indicates that the majority of these households owned their own home, at 83.0% of households, with the remaining 17.0% renting. Of those households renting, the greatest proportion lived in social rented dwellings, at 11.2% of all households aged 55-75.
- 6.2.6. The expected growth in the 75+ population in the NA is 29 additional individuals by the end of the plan period. This can be converted into 20 households based on the average number of people per household aged 75+ at Local Authority scale. Multiplying this figure by the percentages of 55-75 year olds occupying each tenure gives a breakdown of which tenures Great Brickhill households are likely to need in 2035, and is shown in the bottom row of Table 6-2.

Table 6-2: Tenure of households aged 55-75 in Buckinghamshire (2011) and projected aged 75+ in Great Brickhill (2035)

	All owned	Owned outright	Owned (mortgage) or Shared Ownership	All Rented	Social rented	Private rented	Living rent free
Buckinghamshire (2011 mix)	83.0%	57.2%	25.8%	17.0%	11.2%	4.7%	1.1%
Great Brickhill (2035 projection)	17	12	5	3	2	1	0

Source: Census 2011

6.2.7. It is also important to consider rates of disability by tenure. The tendency for people in rented housing to have higher disability levels is well established. It arises partly because people with more limiting disabilities tend to have lower incomes. It also reflects the fact that as people develop support and care needs they may find that the only suitable and affordable option to them is available in the social rented sector. Table E-1 in Appendix E presents this data for Great Brickhill from the 2011 Census.

Future needs for specialist accommodation and adaptations

6.2.8. Based on the evidence outlined above, the number of households falling into potential need for specialist accommodation over the Neighbourhood Plan period is calculated to be 8.

6.2.9. AECOM’s modelling, summarised in Table 6-3, is based on the assumption that those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot may need housing with care (e.g. extra care housing, with significant on-site services, including potentially medical services), while those with their day to day activities limited only a little may simply need adaptations to their existing homes, or alternatively sheltered or retirement living that can provide some degree of oversight or additional services. However, it is important to note that, even those people who have high support or care needs can often be supported to live in their own homes. This is often reflected in policy of local authorities, with explicit aim to reduce the need to commission increasing numbers of care home beds.

6.2.10. It is also useful to look at the breakdown in tenure and level of care. Table 6-3 shows that there is a greater need for market provision (75%) than affordable (25%), with a greater need for sheltered housing (62.5%) for older people than extra-care (37.5%). The greatest sub-category of need is therefore for sheltered market housing. Some of this need could potentially be met through at home adaptations or ensuring that new housing that comes forward is adaptable and accessible.

Table 6-3: AECOM estimate of specialist housing for older people need in Great Brickhill by the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period

Type	Affordable	Market	Total
Housing with care	2 (25.0%)	1 (12.5%)	3 (37.5%)
Adaptations, sheltered, or retirement living	0 (0.0%)	5 (62.5%)	5 (62.5%)
Total	2 (25.0%)	6 (75.0%)	8

Source: Census 2011, AECOM Calculations

6.2.11. It is worth comparing these findings with the recommendations of the Housing Learning and Improvement Network (HLIN), one of the simplest and widely used models estimating for the housing needs of older people. HLIN calculations

6.2.12. TaE-2 in Appendix E reproduces the key assumptions of HLIN's Strategic Housing for Older People (SHOP) toolkit. Applying those assumptions to the growth in the older population of Great Brickhill results in a total of 7 specialist dwellings that might be required to the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period. This is set out in Table 6-4.

Table 6-4: HLIN estimate of specialist housing for older people need in Great Brickhill by the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period

Type	Affordable	Market	Total
Housing with care	1 (14.3%)	1 (14.3%)	2 (28.6%)
Adaptations, sheltered, or retirement living	2 (28.6%)	3 (42.9%)	5 (71.4%)
Total	3 (42.9%)	4 (57.1%)	7

Source: Housing LIN, AECOM calculations

Further considerations

6.2.13. The above estimates suggest that potential need for specialist accommodation could be in the range of 7-8 units over the Neighbourhood Plan period. However, it may not be possible or appropriate to deliver this scale of new accommodation. It is proportionally high in relation to the overall housing delivery expectation in the NA, and therefore should not necessarily be prioritised to the exclusion of other groups, such as those in need of Affordable Housing.

6.2.14. In addition, specialist housing for older people should only be provided in sustainable, accessible locations that offer services and facilities, public transport options, and the necessary workforce of carers and others.

6.2.15. Alongside the need for specialist housing to be provided in accessible locations, another important requirement is for cost effectiveness and economies of scale. This can be achieved by serving the specialist older persons housing needs arising from a

number of different locations and/or Neighbourhood Areas from a single, centralised point (i.e. what is sometimes referred to as a 'hub-and-spoke' model).

- 6.2.16. It is considered that Great Brickhill's position in the settlement hierarchy makes it a relatively less suitable location for specialist accommodation on the basis of the accessibility criteria and the considerations of cost-effectiveness above. As such, noting that there is no specific requirement or obligation to provide the specialist accommodation need arising from Great Brickhill entirely within the Neighbourhood Area boundaries, it is recommended it could be provided in a 'hub and spoke' model. In the case of Great Brickhill, Bletchley or Leighton Buzzard could be considered to have potential to accommodate the specialist housing need arising from the Neighbourhood Area (i.e. to be the hub in the hub-and-spoke model).
- 6.2.17. It is also important to emphasise that the potential need for specialist housing for older people overlaps with the need for care home bedspaces and the need for adaptations to mainstream housing. These topics are considered in the sections below.

6.3. Care homes

- 6.3.1. Residential and nursing care homes are not defined as housing because they do not provide self-contained accommodation where an older person can live independently. Care home accommodation is defined as institutional accommodation rather than housing.
- 6.3.2. However, residents of care homes may be similar in terms of their care and support needs as those living in specialist housing, or even mainstream housing with appropriate care and support delivered in their homes. There may be some scope for older people who would otherwise have been accommodated in care homes to meet their needs within specialist or mainstream housing if sufficient appropriate accommodation can be provided. Nevertheless, there is likely to be continued need for care home accommodation to meet more acute and severe needs, and to offer choice to some older people and their families about how they are cared for and supported.
- 6.3.3. Given the overlap between people who might enter care home accommodation and those who might take up specialist housing or care and support in their own home if available, estimates of the future need for care home accommodation, as with estimates of the need for specialist housing above, are uncertain and depend on both local and national policies, delivery, and the appetite of private developers.
- 6.3.4. AECOM has estimated the likely need for care home accommodation over the plan period, based on the HLIN SHOP toolkit prevalence rates for residential and nursing care homes for older people (aged 75+). This estimate applied the prevalence rates in the 'More Choice, Greater Voice' 2008 report which informed the development of the HLIN toolkit. This report suggested that 65 residential care beds per 1,000 people aged 75+ was an appropriate rate. For nursing care beds this is an extra 45 care beds per 1,000 people aged 75+. Based on these rates, applied to the growth in the older population for consistency with the calculations above, it is estimated that in 2035

there would be a need for 2 residential care beds and 1 nursing care bed in the NA, an increase of 3 from present levels.

- 6.3.5. It is important to note that as these estimates relate to care homes (or the population in institutions) rather than independent housing, these figures are in addition to the overall need for housing in the NA. However, as discussed in this section, some of the need for care home beds might be met by independent housing accommodation and vice versa.

6.4. The Role of Mainstream Housing

- 6.4.1. The majority of older people live in mainstream housing and will continue to do so all of their lives. It is estimated that all households in the NA live in the mainstream housing stock.
- 6.4.2. It is not possible to be precise about how well older people are accommodated within mainstream housing, in terms of whether their accommodation is suitable to their needs and whether adequate care or support is provided within the home when they need.
- 6.4.3. However, given that there is unlikely to be a large volume of additional specialist supply during the Neighbourhood Plan period, another key avenue to addressing those with relevant needs is to discuss the standards of accessibility and adaptability in new development to be met in the Local Plan with Buckinghamshire Council.
- 6.4.4. It is relatively common for Local Plans to require that all or a majority of new housing meets Category M4(2) standards in response to the demographic shifts being observed nationwide. Government is considering mandating M4(2) on newly erected dwellings¹⁵, although changes to Building Regulations have not yet been made.
- 6.4.5. The current adopted Local Plan policy (H6b) provides explicit encouragement for development to accommodate specific groups such as older people. Local Plan policy H6c outlines that all development should meet national standards for accessibility and adaptability (Category M4(2)), with 15% of Affordable Housing to meet the needs of wheelchair users (Category M4(3)). The evidence gathered here justifies the Parish Council aligning with the LPA's approach to accessibility and adaptability.
- 6.4.6. The proportion of new housing that might accommodate those using wheelchairs is harder to define at small scales. Typically, at Local Authority scale, this might be set with reference to the proportion of Affordable Housing applicants in the Local Authority area falling into this category or to wider data from surveys and other sources where available.
- 6.4.7. Table 6-5 sets out the proportion of wheelchair users in England as a whole, either using a wheelchair all of the time (0.6% of the population) or part of the time (3% of the population). As a crude estimate, these percentages could be applied to the future housing delivery in Great Brickhill to suggest the number that might be encouraged to be wheelchair friendly or adaptable. It is worth noting that these national figures are

¹⁵ See [Raising accessibility standards for new homes: summary of consultation responses and government response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/raising-accessibility-standards-for-new-homes)

for all age categories, not just older persons, although it is likely that a significant proportion of households using a wheelchair will be older persons.

Table 6-5: Wheelchair use Nationally

	Percentage in England
Households using wheelchair all the time	0.6%
Households using wheelchair either indoors or outdoors	3.0%

Source: Survey of English Housing 2018/19

6.5. Conclusions- Specialist Housing for Older People

- 6.5.1. There are currently no units of specialist housing for older people in Great Brickhill. The national average supply for England is 136 units per 1,000 of the 75+ population.
- 6.5.2. 2021 Census data shows that at this time there were 76 individuals aged 75+ in Great Brickhill. It is projected that by the end of the plan period this will increase to 105, with the 75+ population accounting for 11.8% of the population by 2035, slightly below the Buckinghamshire proportion of 12.1%.

Specialist housing for older people

- 6.5.3. The potential need for specialist housing with some form of additional care for older people can be estimated by bringing together data on population projections, rates of disability, and what tenure of housing the current 55-75 cohort occupy in the NA. This can be sense-checked using a toolkit based on national research and assumptions.
- 6.5.4. These two methods of estimating the future need in Great Brickhill produce a range of 7 to 8 specialist accommodation units that might be required during the Neighbourhood Plan period. These estimates are based on the projected growth of the older population, thereby assuming that today's older households are already well accommodated. If this is found not to be the case, it would justify aspiring to exceed the range identified here.
- 6.5.5. It is helpful to look at the breakdown in tenure and care within the need for specialist housing for older people. In Great Brickhill it is identified that there is a greater need for market provision (75%) than affordable (25%), and a greater need for sheltered housing than extra-care. The greatest sub-category of need is for market sheltered housing, with some of this need potentially met through at home adaptation or ensuing that new housing that comes forward is accessible and adaptable.
- 6.5.6. It is considered that Great Brickhill is a relatively less suitable location for specialist accommodation. Larger nearby settlements such as Leighton Buzzard and Bletchley may have potential to accommodate the specialist housing need arising from the Neighbourhood Area.

Care homes

- 6.5.7. AECOM has estimated the likely need for care home accommodation over the plan period, based on the HLIN SHOP toolkit prevalence rates for residential and nursing

care homes for older people (aged 75+). Based on these rates, applied to the projected growth of the older population, it is estimated that in 2035 there would be a need for 2 residential care beds and 1 nursing care bed in Great Brickhill to meet the needs of this increase in older population.

Adaptable and accessible housing

- 6.5.8. Another key avenue to addressing those with relevant needs is to discuss the standards of accessibility and adaptability in new development.
- 6.5.9. The current adopted Local Plan policy H6c outlines that all development should meet national standards for accessibility and adaptability (Category M4(2)), with 15% of Affordable Housing to meet the needs of wheelchair users (Category M4(3)). The evidence gathered here justifies the Parish Council aligning with the LPA's approach to accessibility and adaptability.

7. Next Steps

7.1. Recommendations for next steps

- 7.1.1. This Neighbourhood Plan housing needs assessment aims to provide Great Brickhill Parish Council with evidence on a range of housing trends and issues from a range of relevant sources. We recommend that the neighbourhood planners should, as a next step, discuss the contents and conclusions with Buckinghamshire Council with a view to agreeing and formulating draft housing policies, bearing the following in mind:
- All Neighbourhood Planning Basic Conditions, but in particular Condition E, which is the need for the Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan;
 - The views of Buckinghamshire Council;
 - The views of local residents;
 - The views of other relevant local stakeholders, including housing developers and estate agents; and
 - The numerous supply-side considerations, including local environmental constraints, the location and characteristics of suitable land, and any capacity work carried out by Buckinghamshire Council.
- 7.1.2. This assessment has been provided in good faith by AECOM consultants on the basis of housing data, national guidance and other relevant and available information current at the time of writing.
- 7.1.3. Bearing this in mind, it is recommended that the Parish Council should monitor carefully strategies and documents with an impact on housing policy produced by the Government, Buckinghamshire Council, or any other relevant party and review the Neighbourhood Plan accordingly to ensure that general conformity is maintained.
- 7.1.4. At the same time, monitoring on-going demographic or other trends over the Neighbourhood Plan period will help ensure the continued relevance and credibility of its policies.

Appendix A : Assessment geography

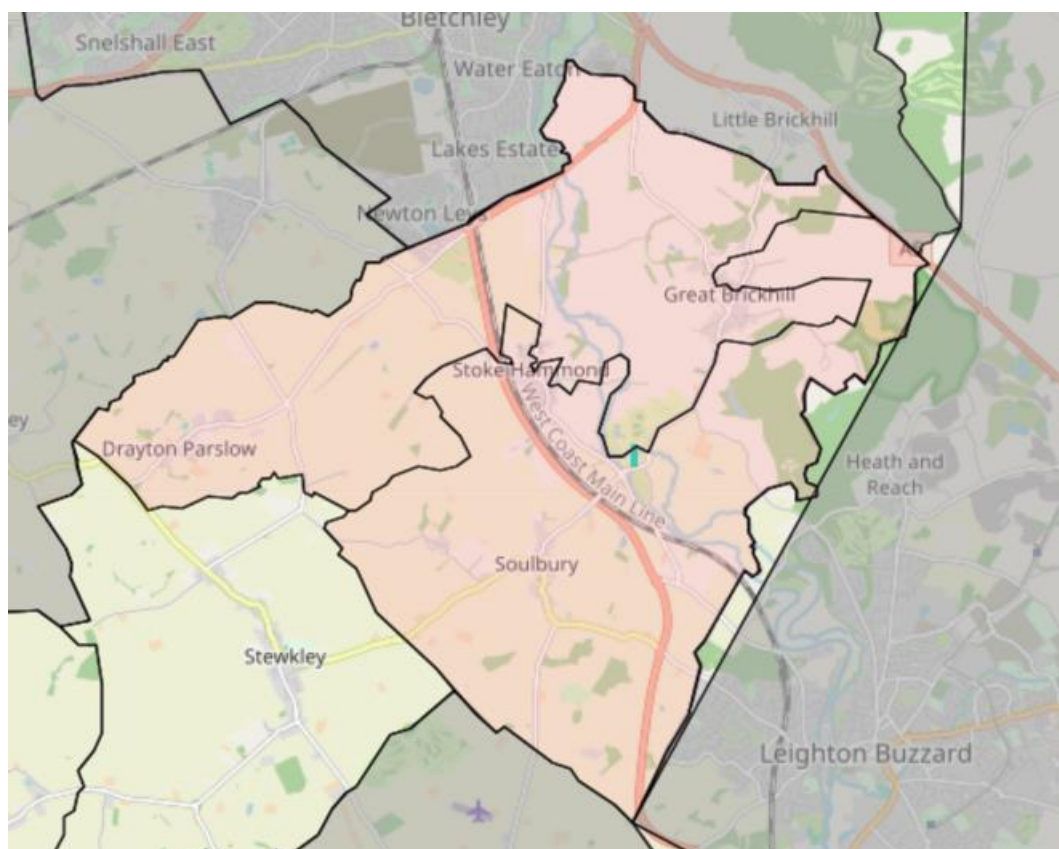
A.1 For Census purposes, the whole of England is divided into statistical units of similar population size called Output Areas (OAs) and their larger equivalents. OAs are the smallest units. They make up Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), which in turn make up Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs). The NA equates to the following combination of OAs:

- OA E00089187;
- OA E00089188; and
- OA E00089189.

A.2 Many other datasets besides the Census itself make use of OAs, but not necessarily down to the same level of detail. For example, Valuation Office Agency (VOA) data, which can be used to understand the type and size mix of housing, is only available down to the scale of LSOAs. The most relevant combination of LSOAs in this case, which will need to be used as a proxy for the NA, is:

- LSOA E01017669; and
- LSOA E01017670.

Figure A-1: Map of LSOA for VOA Data



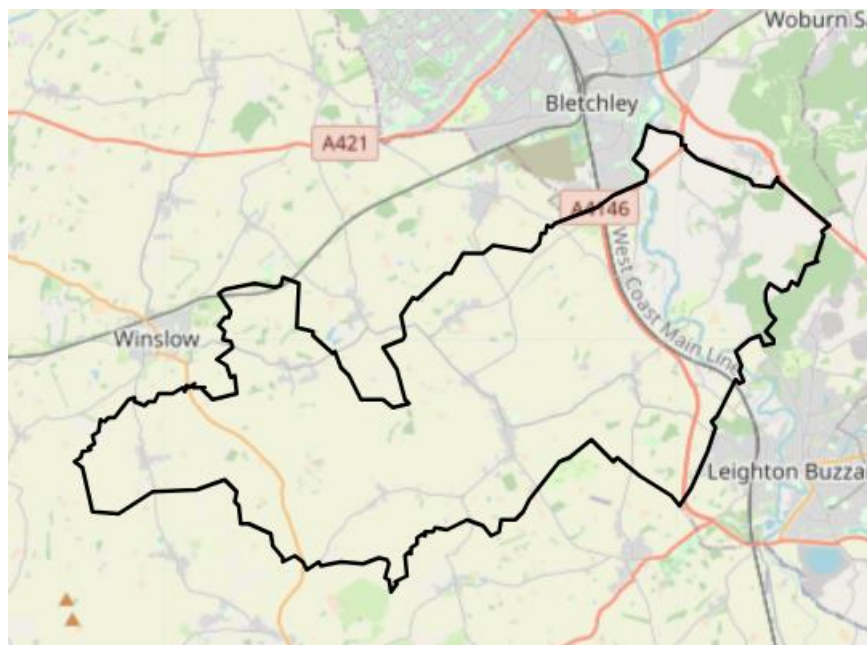
Source: NOMIS

A.3 Finally, as noted in the analysis of affordability in the main body of the report, household income data for small areas is only provided down to the scale of MSOAs.

The relevant MSOA, in which the NA is located and which will need to serve as a proxy for it, is:

- MSOA E02003657.

Figure A-2: Map of MSOA for Income Data



Source: NOMIS

Appendix B : Local Plan context

Policies in the adopted local plan

B.1 Table B-1 below summarises adopted Local Plan policies that are relevant to housing need and delivery in Great Brickhill.

Table B-1: Summary of relevant adopted policies in the adopted Local Plan for the Vale of Aylesbury

Policy	Provisions
S2 – Spatial Strategy for Growth	<p>The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan will make provision for the delivery of at least 28,600 new homes in the period to 2033.</p> <p>At smaller villages (including Great Brickhill) there will be more limited housing growth coming forward through either ‘windfall’ applications or neighbourhood plan allocations rather than allocations in the Plan.</p>
S3 – Settlement Hierarchy and Cohesive Development	<p>The scale and distribution of development should accord with the settlement hierarchy, the site allocation policies that arise from it, and the requirements of Policy S1.</p> <p>In considering applications for building in the countryside the Council will have regard to maintaining the individual identity of villages and avoiding extensions to built-up areas that might lead to further coalescence between settlements.</p> <p>Outside of the policy (Table 2), the settlement hierarchy is outlined as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic settlements 2. North east Aylesbury Vale 3. Larger villages 4. Medium villages 5. Smaller villages (including Great Brickhill) 6. Other settlements. <p>There are no housing allocations in the smaller villages. It is expected that some small scale development could be accommodation at smaller villages without causing unreasonable harm. Sites at smaller villages will come forward either through neighbourhood plans or by individual ‘windfall’ planning applications.</p>
D4 – Housing Development at Smaller Villages	<p>Where there is no made neighbourhood plan in place, new housing development at smaller villages will be supported where it contributes to the sustainability of that village and is in accordance with all applicable policies in the Local Plan, provided that the proposed development fulfils the criteria in the full policy.</p>

Policy	Provisions
H1 – Affordable Housing	<p>Residential developments of 11 or more dwellings gross or sites of 0.3ha or more will be required to provide a minimum of 25% affordable homes on site.</p> <p>The type, size, tenure, and location of affordable housing will be agreed with the council, taking account of the council’s most up-to-date evidence on housing need and any available evidence regarding local market conditions.</p>
H2 – Rural Exception Sites	<p>In rural areas, small-scale developments for affordable housing may exceptionally be permitted, provided that the proposal meets the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The number, mix, and design of dwellings is appropriate to meet local housing needs established through a housing need survey; b. It is located on a site within or adjoining the existing developed footprint of the settlement; c. Developments must be appropriate in scale, design, and character to the locality; and d. Dwellings permitted in accordance with this policy will be reserved in perpetuity for those in affordable local need with a valid local connection by planning obligation or conditions. <p>Where an independently assessed open book viability assessment can demonstrate that 100% affordable housing cannot be delivered on an exception site, the council may agree to a proportion of some market homes within the site.</p>
H6a – Housing Mix	<p>New residential development will be expected to provide a mix of homes to meet current and expected future requirements in the interests of meeting housing need and creating socially mixed and inclusive communities. The housing mix will be negotiated having regard to the council’s most up to date evidence on housing need, available evidence from developers on market conditions, and shall be in general conformity with the council’s latest evidence and Neighbourhood Development Plan evidence where applicable for the relevant area.</p>
H6b – Housing for Older People	<p>Class C2 older persons’ provision will be met through allocated sites between 2020 and 2025.</p> <p>None of these sites are located in Great Brickhill.</p> <p>Proposals for C2 older people accommodation will be granted permission provided the following criteria are met:</p>

Policy	Provisions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The proposal is in a sustainable location for amenities and services;b. There is an identified package of care provision on site;c. Minimum Clinical Commissioning Group inspected space standards are met or exceeded;d. Facilities for social and recreational activity are provided;e. Guest accommodation is provided (unless the proposal is for Extra Care Sheltered accommodation).
H6c – Accessibility	<p>All development will be required to meet and maintain high standards of accessibility so all users can use them safely and easily. Development will need to meet at least category 2 accessible and adaptable dwellings standards unless it is unviable to do so.</p> <p>A minimum of 15% of Affordable Housing provided on housing sites will be required to be nominated by the LPA for M4(3) wheelchair accessible housing.</p>

Source: Buckinghamshire Council

Appendix C : Affordability calculations

- C.1 This section outlines how the affordability thresholds discussed in the Affordability and Affordable Housing have been calculated.

Market housing

- C.2 Market housing is not subsidised and tends to be primarily accessible to people on higher incomes.

Market sales

- C.3 The starting point for calculating the affordability of a dwelling for sale from the perspective of a specific household is the loan to income ratio which most mortgage companies are prepared to agree. This ratio is conservatively estimated to be 3.5. In practice this can be highly variable. Multipliers up to 4.5 or even above 5 times income increasingly available, although the actual average in practice tends to be lower, particularly where applicants are dual earning. The Financial Conduct Authority uses 3.5 or more as its standard assumption for single applicants and 2.75 or more for dual applicants.

- C.4 To produce a more accurate assessment of affordability, the savings required for a deposit should be taken into account in addition to the costs of servicing a mortgage. However, unlike for incomes, data is not available for the savings available to households in Great Brickhill, and the precise deposit a mortgage provider will require of any buyer will be determined by their individual circumstances and the state of the mortgage market. An assumption is therefore made that a 10% purchase deposit is required and is available to the prospective buyer. In reality it is possible that the cost of the deposit is a greater barrier to home ownership than the mortgage costs.

- C.5 The calculation for the purchase threshold for market housing is as follows:

- Value of a median NA house price (2023) = £744,000;
- Purchase deposit at 10% of value = £74,400;
- Value of dwelling for mortgage purposes = £669,600;
- Divided by loan to income ratio of 3.5 = purchase threshold of £191,314.

- C.6 The purchase threshold for an entry-level dwelling is a better representation of affordability to those with lower incomes or savings, such as first-time buyers. To determine this threshold, the same calculation is repeated but with reference to the lower quartile rather than the median house price. The lower quartile average in 2023 was £490,000, and the purchase threshold is therefore £126,000.

- C.7 It is also worth assessing the purchase threshold for new build homes, since this most closely represents the cost of the new housing that will come forward in future. The Land Registry recorded no sales of new build properties in the NA in 2023. It is, however, important to understand the likely cost of new housing because new housing

is where the Neighbourhood Plan has most influence and is the appropriate benchmark for understanding the costs of affordable home ownership tenures (considered below).

- C.8 Therefore an estimate has been calculated by determining the uplift between all house prices in 2023 across Buckinghamshire and new build house prices in 2023 in the same area. This percentage uplift (or 'new build premium') is then applied to the 2023 lower quartile house price in the NA to give an estimated NA new build entry-level house price of £497,157 and purchase threshold of £127,840.
- C.9 In order to provide a comparison with the wider local authority area, it is helpful to also look at the cost of new build housing across Buckinghamshire in 2023. The median cost of new build dwellings in Buckinghamshire was £451,500, with a purchase threshold of £116,100.

Private Rented Sector (PRS)

- C.10 It is assumed here that rented housing is affordable if the annual rent does not exceed 30% of the household's gross annual income. The percentage of income to be spent on rent before the property is considered affordable varies considerably for individuals, and it is increasingly common for households to dedicate a larger proportion of their earnings to rent. When considering affordability it is considered good practice to be conservative, and the 30% benchmark is used as ONS's current standard assumption.
- C.11 This is an important assumption because it is possible that a household will be able to afford tenures that are deemed not affordable in this report if they are willing or able to dedicate a higher proportion of their income to housing costs. It is becoming increasingly necessary for households to do so. However, for the purpose of planning it is considered more appropriate to use this conservative lower benchmark for affordability on the understanding that additional households may be willing or able to access housing this way than to use a higher benchmark which assumes that all households can afford to do so when their individual circumstances may well prevent it.
- C.12 The property website Rightmove.co.uk shows rental values for property in the Neighbourhood Area. The best available data is derived from properties available for rent within the area shown in Figure A-3, which shows a wider geography but excludes large settlements which may skew prices.
- C.13 According to Rightmove.co.uk, there were 22 properties for rent at the time of search in November 2024, with an average monthly rent of £1,747. There were 4 2-bedroom properties listed, with an average price of £1,163 per calendar month.
- C.14 The calculation for the private rent income threshold for entry-level (2-bedroom) dwellings is as follows:
- Annual rent = £1,163 x 12 = £13,950;

- Multiplied by 3.33 (so that no more than 30% of income is spent on rent) = income threshold of £46,500.

C.15 The calculation is repeated for the overall average to give an income threshold of £69,875.

Affordable Housing

C.16 There are a range of tenures that constitute the definition of Affordable Housing within the NPPF 2023: social rent and affordable rent, discounted market sales housing, and other affordable routes to home ownership. The new First Homes was introduced in 2021 but is not yet included in the NPPF. Each of the affordable housing tenures are considered below.

Social rent

C.17 Rents in socially rented properties reflect a formula based on property values and average earnings in each area, resulting in substantial discounts to market rents. As such, this tenure is suitable for the needs of those on the lowest incomes and is subject to strict eligibility criteria.

C.18 To determine social rent levels, 2021 data and statistical return from Homes England is used. This data is only available at Local Authority scale so must act as a proxy for Great Brickhill. This data provides information about rents and the size and type of stock owned and managed by private registered providers and local authorities and is presented for Buckinghamshire in Table C-1.

C.19 To determine the income needed, it is assumed that no more than 30% of income should be spent on rent. This is an assumption only for what might generally make housing affordable or unaffordable – it is unrelated to the eligibility criteria of Affordable Housing policy at Local Authority level. The overall average across all property sizes is taken forward as the income threshold for social rent.

Table C-1: Social rent levels (£)

Size	1 bed	2 beds	3 beds	4 beds	All
Average social rent per week	£95.85	£109.41	£123.42	£139.21	£111.74
Annual average	£4,984	£5,689	£6,418	£7,239	£5,810
Income needed	£16,614	£18,964	£21,393	£24,130	£19,368

Source: Homes England, AECOM Calculations

Affordable rent

C.20 Affordable rent is controlled at no more than 80% of the local market rent. However, registered providers who own and manage affordable rented housing may also apply a cap to the rent to ensure that it is affordable to those on housing benefit (where under Universal Credit the total received in all benefits to working age households is £20,000).

- C.21 Even a 20% discount on the market rent may not be sufficient to ensure that households can afford this tenure, particularly when they are dependent on benefits. Registered Providers in some areas have applied caps to larger properties where the higher rents would make them unaffordable to families under Universal Credit. This may mean that the rents are actually 50-60% of market levels rather than 80%.
- C.22 Data on the most realistic local affordable rent costs is obtained from the same source as social rent levels for Buckinghamshire. Again it is assumed that no more than 30% of income should be spent on rent, and the overall average is taken forward.
- C.23 Comparing this result with the average 2-bedroom annual private rent above indicates that affordable rents in the NA are actually closer to 60% of market rates than the maximum of 80%, a feature that is necessary to make them achievable to those in need.

Table C-2: Affordable rent levels (£)

Size	1 bed	2 beds	3 beds	4 beds	All
Average affordable rent per week	£133.96	£163.74	£190.55	£235.36	£165.94
Annual average	£6,966	£8,514	£9,909	£12,239	£8,629
Income needed	£23,220	£28,382	£33,029	£40,796	£28,763

Source: Homes England, AECOM Calculations

Affordable home ownership

- C.24 Affordable home ownership tenures include products for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels. The three most widely available are discounted market housing (a subset of which is the new First Homes product), shared ownership, and Rent to Buy. These are considered in turn below.

Discounted Market Sale/First Homes

- C.25 Discounted market sale homes are affordable home ownership products which offer a discount of at least 20% on market values.
- C.26 First Homes should be available to buy with a minimum discount of 30% below their full market value (i.e. the value of an equivalent new home);
- The discount level can be set higher than 30% – at 40% or 50% – where this can be suitably evidenced. The setting and justifying of discount levels can happen at neighbourhood as well as local authority scale;
 - After the discount is applied the initial sale price must not exceed £250,000 (or £420,000 in Greater London), and lower caps can be set locally;
 - Purchasers must be first-time buyers with an income less than £80,000 (or £90,000 in Greater London), and First Homes can be prioritised for local people and/or key workers;
 - They will be subject to legal restrictions ensuring the discount is retained for future occupants, and renting out or sub-letting will not normally be permitted;

- In addition to setting the discount level, local authorities and neighbourhood planning groups can apply additional criteria, such as a lower income cap, local connection test or prioritisation for key workers through adopted plans, emerging policy or Supplementary Planning Documents.
- C.27 The starting point for considering whether Discounted Market Sale/First Homes are affordable is the estimated cost of new build entry-level housing in the NA noted above of £497,157.
- C.28 For the minimum discount of 30% the purchase threshold can be calculated as follows:
- Value of a new home (estimated NA new build entry-level) = £497,157;
 - Discounted by 30% = £348,010;
 - Purchase deposit at 10% of value = £34,801;
 - Value of dwelling for mortgage purposes = £313,209;
 - Divided by loan to income ratio of 3.5 = purchase threshold of £89,488.
- C.29 The income thresholds analysis in the Affordability and Affordable Housing chapter also compares local incomes with the costs of a 40% and 50% discounted First Home. This would require an income threshold of £76,704 and £63,920 respectively.
- C.30 Only the income thresholds for First Homes at 40% and 50% discount are below the cap of £80,000 above which households are not eligible. Only at a 50% discount is the discounted price below the £250,000 cap. First Homes would need to be delivered at a 50% discount in Great Brickhill in order to meet the criteria.
- C.31 Note that discounted market sale homes may be unviable to develop if the discounted price is close to (or below) build costs. Build costs vary across the country but as an illustration, the build cost for a 2 bedroom home (assuming 70 sq. m and a build cost of £1,750 per sq. m¹⁶) would be around £122,500. This cost excludes any land value or developer profit. This would not appear to be an issue in Great Brickhill.
- C.32 Table C-3 shows the discount required for Discounted Market Sale/First Homes to be affordable to the three income groups. The cost of a typical First Home is calculated using an estimate for new build entry-level housing in the NA. However, it is worth thinking about First Homes in relation to the cost of new build prices in the wider area, as well as median and entry-level existing prices locally to get a more complete picture. The discount levels required for these alternative benchmarks are given below.

¹⁶ It is estimated that in 2022, build costs for a house are between £1,750 and £3,000 per square metre - <https://urbanistarchitecture.co.uk/cost-to-build-a-house-uk/>

Table C-3: Discount on sale price required for households to afford First Homes

House price benchmark	Mean household income	Single LQ earner	Dual LQ earning household
NA median house price	68%	89%	78%
NA estimated new build entry-level house price	53%	83%	67%
NA entry-level house price	52%	83%	66%
LA median new build house price	48%	82%	63%

Source: Land Registry PPD; ONS MSOA total household income

Shared ownership

- C.33 Shared ownership involves the purchaser buying an initial share in a property, typically of between 25% and 75% (but now set at a minimum of 10%), and paying rent on the share retained by the provider. Shared ownership is flexible in two respects, in the share which can be purchased and in the rent payable on the share retained by the provider. Both of these are variable. The share owned by the occupant can be increased over time through a process known as 'staircasing'.
- C.34 In exceptional circumstances (for example, as a result of financial difficulties, and where the alternative is repossession), and at the discretion of the provider, shared owners may staircase down, thereby reducing the share they own. Shared equity is available to first-time buyers, people who have owned a home previously and council and housing association tenants with a good credit rating whose annual household income does not exceed £80,000.
- C.35 To determine the affordability of shared ownership, calculations are again based on the estimated costs of new build housing as discussed above. The deposit available to the prospective purchaser is assumed to be 10% of the value of the dwelling, and the standard loan to income ratio of 3.5 is used to calculate the income required to obtain a mortgage. The rental component is estimated at 2.5% of the value of the remaining (unsold) portion of the price. The income required to cover the rental component of the dwelling is based on the assumption that a household spends no more than 30% of the income on rent (as for the income threshold for the private rental sector).
- C.36 The affordability threshold for a 25% equity share is calculated as follows:
- A 25% equity share of £497,157 is £124,289;
 - A 10% deposit of £12,429 is deducted, leaving a mortgage value of £111,860;
 - This is divided by the loan to value ratio of 3.5 to give a purchase threshold of £31,960;
 - Rent is charged on the remaining 75% shared ownership equity, i.e. the unsold value of £372,868;
 - The estimated annual rent at 2.5% of the unsold value is £9,322;

- This requires an income of £31,072 (annual rent multiplied by 3.33 so that no more than 30% of income is spent on rent).
- The total income required is £63,032 (£31,960 plus £31,072).

C.37 The same calculation is repeated for equity shares of 10% and 50% producing affordability thresholds of £50,071 and £84,635 respectively.

C.38 The income thresholds for shared ownership at 10% and 25% equity are below the £80,000 cap for eligible households.

Rent to Buy

C.39 Rent to Buy is a relatively new and less common tenure, which through subsidy allows the occupant to save a portion of their rent, which is intended to be used to build up a deposit to eventually purchase the home. It is therefore estimated to cost the same as private rents – the difference being that the occupant builds up savings with a portion of the rent.

Appendix D : Affordable Housing need and policy

Affordable Housing estimates

- D.1 In Table D-1 AECOM has calculated, using PPG as a starting point,¹⁷ an estimate of the total need for affordable rented housing in Great Brickhill over the Neighbourhood Plan period. It should, however, be noted that the accuracy of the findings generated by the model is only as strong as the evidence available. However, given the test of proportionality for evidence supporting neighbourhood plans, and the need to be in conformity with Local Authority strategic policies, the calculations set out here are considered a reasonable basis for understanding and planning for neighbourhood-level affordable housing need.
- D.2 It should also be noted that figures in Table D-1 are largely dependent on information provided by Buckinghamshire Council in its capacity as manager of the local housing waiting list.

¹⁷ Paragraphs 024-026 Reference ID: 2a-026-20140306, at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment>

Table D-1: Estimate of need for Affordable Housing for rent in Great Brickhill

Stage and Step in Calculation	Total	Description
STAGE 1: CURRENT NEED		
1.1 Current households in need	20.0	Buckinghamshire Housing Register – Households with a local connection to Great Brickhill
1.2 Per annum	1.8	Step 1.1 divided by the plan period to produce an annualised figure.
STAGE 2: NEWLY ARISING NEED		
2.1 New household formation	20.7	MHCLG 2018-based household projections for the LA between start and end of plan period. % increase applied to NA.
2.2 Proportion of new households unable to rent in the market	18.3%	(Steps 1.1 + 2.2.1 + 2.2.2) divided by number of households in NA.
2.2.1 Current number of social renters in NA	35.0	2021 Census social rented occupancy
2.2.2 Number of private renters on housing benefits	9.4	Housing benefit caseload May 2018. Pro rata for NA.
2.3 New households unable to rent	3.8	Step 2.1 x Step 2.2.
2.4 Per annum	0.3	Step 2.3 divided by plan period.
STAGE 3: TURNOVER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING		
3.1 Supply of social/affordable re-lets (including transfers) %	3.0%	Assumed proportion of stock re-let each year.
3.2 Supply of social/affordable re-lets (including transfers)	1.1	Step 3.1 x NA social rented stock (2.2.1).
NET SHORTFALL OF RENTED UNITS PER ANNUM		
Overall shortfall per annum	1.1	Step 1.2 + Step 2.4 - Step 3.2
Overall shortfall over plan period	12.2	Above * plan period

Source: AECOM model, using Census 2021, English Housing Survey 2018, MHCLG 2018 based household projections and net additions to affordable housing stock. 2018 is the latest reliable data for some datasets so is used throughout for consistency. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

- D.3 Turning to Affordable Housing providing a route to home ownership, Table D-2 estimates the potential demand in Great Brickhill. This model aims to estimate the number of households that might wish to own their own home but cannot afford to. The model is consistent with methods used at Local Authority scale in taking as its starting point households currently living in or expected to enter the private rented sector who are not on housing benefit.
- D.4 There may be other barriers to these households accessing home ownership on the open market, including being unable to save for a deposit, or being unable to afford a home of the right type/size or in the right location. The model also discounts 25% of households potentially in need, assuming a proportion will be renting out of choice. This assumption is based on consistent results for surveys and polls at the national level which demonstrate that most households (typically 80% or more) aspire to home

ownership.¹⁸ No robust indicator exists for this area or a wider scale to suggest aspirations may be higher or lower in the NA.

Table D-2: Estimate of the potential demand for affordable housing for sale in Great Brickhill

Stage and Step in Calculation	Total	Description
STAGE 1: CURRENT NEED		
1.1 Current number of renters in NA	35.0	Census 2021 private rented occupancy.
1.2 Percentage renters on housing benefit in LA	26.9%	% of renters in 2021 on Housing Benefit / Universal Credit with housing entitlement
1.3 Number of renters on housing benefits in the NA	9.4	Step 1.1 x Step 1.2.
1.4 Current need (households)	19.2	Current renters minus those on housing benefit and minus 25% assumed to rent by choice. ¹⁹
1.5 Per annum	1.7	Step 1.4 divided by plan period.
STAGE 2: NEWLY ARISING NEED		
2.1 New household formation	20.7	LA household projections for plan period (2018 based) pro rated to NA.
2.2 % of households unable to buy but able to rent	5.4%	(Step 1.4 + Step 3.1) divided by number of households in NA.
2.3 Total newly arising need	1.1	Step 2.1 x Step 2.2.
2.4 Total newly arising need per annum	0.1	Step 2.3 divided by plan period.
STAGE 3: SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING		
3.1 Supply of affordable housing	0.0	Number of shared ownership homes in the NA (Census 2021).
3.2 Supply - intermediate resales	0.0	Step 3.1 x 5% (assumed rate of re-sale).
NET SHORTFALL PER ANNUM		
Overall shortfall per annum	1.8	(Step 1.5 + Step 2.4) - Step 3.2.
Overall shortfall over plan period	20.3	Above * plan period

Source: AECOM model, using Census 2021, English Housing Survey 2018, MHCLG 2018 based household projections and net additions to affordable housing stock. 2018 is the latest reliable data for some datasets so is used throughout for consistency.

¹⁸ <http://www.ipsos-mori-generations.com/housing.html>

¹⁹ The assumption of approximately 25% preferring to rent and 75% preferring to buy is AECOM's judgement, based on national level polls which consistently reveal that most households who prefer home ownership eg <http://www.ipsos-mori-generations.com/housing.html> and informed by our experience across numerous neighbourhood level HNAs. The assumption is based on the fact that some households choose to rent at certain stages in their life (e.g. when young, when needing flexibility in employment market, or when new migrants move into an area). While most households prefer the added security and independence of owning their own home, private renting is nevertheless a tenure of choice at a certain points in many households' journey through the housing market. The actual percentage of preference will differ between areas, being higher in large metropolitan areas with younger households and more new migrants, but lower in other areas. 25% is used as a reasonable proxy and for consistency across HNAs and similar assumptions are used in some larger scale assessments such as LHNAs and SHMAs. If the neighbourhood planning group feel this is not an appropriate assumption in their particular locality they could use the results of a local residents survey to refine or confirm this calculation.

- D.5 There is no policy or legal obligation on the part either of the Local Authority or Neighbourhood Plan to meet affordable housing needs in full, though there are tools available to the Parish Council that can help ensure that it is met to a greater extent if resources permit (e.g. the ability to allocate sites for affordable housing).
- D.6 It is also important to remember that even after the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, the assessment of need for Affordable Housing, the allocation of affordable rented housing to those in need, and the management of the housing waiting list all remain the responsibility of the Local Authority rather than the neighbourhood planning group.

Affordable housing policy

- D.7 The following table reviews the relevant factors in developing a policy on the Affordable Housing tenure mix, which inform the recommendation given in the main body of the report.

Table D-3: Wider considerations in developing Affordable Housing mix policy

Consideration	Local Evidence
<p>A. Evidence of need for Affordable Housing:</p> <p>The need for affordable rent and affordable home ownership is not directly equivalent: the former expresses the identified need of a group with acute needs and no alternative options; the latter expresses potential demand from a group who are generally adequately housed in rented accommodation and may not be able to afford the deposit to transition to ownership.</p>	<p>This HNA suggests that the NA requires around 12 units of affordable rented housing and 20 units of affordable home ownership homes per annum over the Neighbourhood Plan period. Both forms of Affordable Housing appear to be valuable in meeting the needs of people on various incomes.</p> <p>The relationship between these figures suggests that there is greater need for affordable home ownership products, but as the most acute need, affordable rented housing should be prioritised.</p>
<p>B. Can Affordable Housing needs be met in full?</p> <p>How far the more urgently needed affordable rented housing should be prioritised in the tenure mix depends on the quantity of overall housing delivery expected.</p>	<p>If the Local Plan target of 25% were achieved on every site, assuming the delivery of the NA's housing commitments for 6 homes overall, no units of Affordable Housing would be expected in the NA over Neighbourhood Plan period as the requirement only applies on developments of 11 or more dwellings.</p> <p>In this circumstance the needs identified would not be met. Therefore, if any Affordable Housing delivery does take place, the more urgent and acute need for affordable/social rented housing should be prioritised.</p>

<p>C. Government policy (e.g. NPPF) requirements:</p> <p>There is no required tenure mix set out in national policy (NPPF 2024) but local authorities are required to set out the minimum proportion of Social Rented housing needed in their areas as part of their Affordable Housing requirements.</p>	<p>Implicit prioritisation of Social Rented homes within Affordable Housing policy at the nation level but local authorities have flexibility to set out the proportion needed in their areas. Local Plan tenure mix provides the starting point.</p>
<p>D. Local Plan policy:</p>	<p>The adopted Local Plan does not specify a tenure split within Affordable Housing.</p>
<p>E. Viability:</p>	<p>HNAs cannot take into consideration the factors which affect viability in the neighbourhood area or at the site-specific level. Viability issues are recognised in the Local Plan and it is acknowledged that this may affect the provision of affordable housing, the mix of tenures provided and the discounts that can be sought on First Homes properties.</p>
<p>F. Funding:</p> <p>The availability of funding to support the delivery of different forms of Affordable Housing may also influence what it is appropriate to provide at a particular point in time or on any one site.</p>	<p>The Parish Council may wish to keep this in mind so that it can take up any opportunities to secure funding if they become available.</p>
<p>G. Existing tenure mix in Great Brickhill:</p> <p>The current stock of homes in an area, in terms of balance between ownership, rented and affordable provision may be a consideration in the mix of tenures provided on new development sites.</p>	<p>2021 Census data shows that at this time 10.0% of households in Great Brickhill lived in Affordable Housing, all of which resided in social/affordable rented housing, with no households living in shared ownership dwellings. This highlights a potential lack of affordable home ownership options. Across Buckinghamshire 14.2% of households lived in Affordable Housing (1.3% in shared ownership and 13.0% in social/affordable rented housing). Both geographies are below national levels of 18.1%.</p>
<p>H. Views of registered providers:</p>	<p>It is not within the scope of this HNA to investigate whether it would be viable for housing associations (registered providers) to</p>

	<p>deliver and manage affordable rented homes in the NA. The funding arrangements available to housing associations will determine rent levels.</p>
<p>I. Wider policy objectives:</p>	<p>The Parish Council may wish to take account of broader policy objectives for Great Brickhill and/or the wider local authority. These could include, but are not restricted to, policies to attract younger households, families or working age people to the NA. These wider considerations may influence the mix of Affordable Housing provided.</p>

Appendix E : Specialist housing for older people

Background data tables

Table E-1: Tenure and mobility limitations of those aged 65+ in Great Brickhill, 2011 (65+ is the closest proxy for 75+ in this data)

Tenure	Day-to-day activities limited a lot		Day-to-day activities limited a little		Day-to-day activities not limited	
All categories	22	12.9%	47	27.6%	101	59.4%
<i>Owned Total</i>	13	8.7%	45	30.0%	92	61.3%
Owned outright	9	7.4%	38	31.1%	75	61.5%
Owned (mortgage) or shared ownership	4	14.3%	7	25.0%	17	60.7%
<i>Rented Total</i>	9	45.0%	2	10.0%	9	45.0%
Social rented	7	41.2%	2	11.8%	8	47.1%
Private rented or living rent free	2	66.7%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%

Source: DC3408EW Health status

HLIN calculations

Table E-2: Recommended provision of specialist housing for older people from the HLIN SHOP toolkit

FORM OF PROVISION	ESTIMATE OF DEMAND PER THOUSAND OF THE RELEVANT 75+ POPULATION
Conventional sheltered housing to rent	60
Leasehold sheltered housing	120
Enhanced sheltered housing (divided 50:50 between that for rent and that for sale) ³⁶	20
Extra care housing for rent	15
Extra care housing for sale	30
Housing based provision for dementia	6

Source: Housing LIN SHOP Toolkit

E.1 As Table 6-1 in the main report shows, Great Brickhill is forecast to see an increase of 29 individuals aged 75+ by the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period. According to the HLIN tool, this translates into need as follows:

- Conventional sheltered housing to rent = $60 \times 0.029 = 2$
- Leasehold sheltered housing = $120 \times 0.029 = 3$
- Enhanced sheltered housing (divided 50:50 between that for rent and that for sale)
= $20 \times 0.029 = 0.6$
- Extra care housing for rent = $15 \times 0.029 = 0.4$
- Extra care housing for sale = $30 \times 0.029 = 0.9$
- Housing based provision for dementia = $6 \times 0.029 = 0.2$

Appendix F : Housing Needs Assessment

Glossary

Adoption

This refers to the final confirmation of a local plan by a local planning authority.

Affordability

The terms 'affordability' and 'affordable housing' have different meanings. 'Affordability' is a measure of whether housing may be afforded by certain groups of households. 'Affordable housing' refers to particular products outside the main housing market.

Affordability Ratio

Assessing affordability involves comparing housing costs against the ability to pay. The ratio between lower quartile house prices and the lower quartile income or earnings can be used to assess the relative affordability of housing. The Ministry for Housing, Community and Local Governments publishes quarterly the ratio of lower quartile house price to lower quartile earnings by local authority (LQAR) as well as median house price to median earnings by local authority (MAR) e.g. income = £25,000, house price = £200,000. House price: income ratio = $\text{£}200,000/\text{£}25,000 = 8$, (the house price is 8 times income).

Affordable Housing (NPPF Definition)

Affordable housing: housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions:

a) Social Rent: meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Social Rent; (b) the landlord is a registered provider; and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

b) Other affordable housing for rent: meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).

c) Discounted market sales housing: is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.

d) Other affordable routes to home ownership: is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision, or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

Affordable rented housing

Rented housing let by registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is not subject to the national rent regime but is subject to other rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable). The national rent regime is the regime under which the social rents of tenants of social housing are set, with particular reference to the Guide to Social Rent Reforms (March 2001) and the Rent Influencing Regime Guidance (October 2001). Local market rents are calculated using the Royal Institution for Chartered Surveyors (RICS) approved valuation methods²⁰.

Age-Restricted General Market Housing

A type of housing which is generally for people aged 55 and over and active older people. It may include some shared amenities such as communal gardens but does not include support or care services.

Annual Monitoring Report

A report submitted to the Government by local planning authorities assessing progress with and the effectiveness of a Local Development Framework.

Basic Conditions

The Basic Conditions are the legal tests that are considered at the examination stage of neighbourhood development plans. They need to be met before a plan can progress to referendum.

Backlog need

The backlog need constitutes those households who are eligible for Affordable Housing, on account of homelessness, over-crowding, concealment or affordability, but who are yet to be offered a home suited to their needs.

Bedroom Standard²¹

The bedroom standard is a measure of occupancy (whether a property is overcrowded or under-occupied, based on the number of bedrooms in a property and the type of household in residence). The Census overcrowding data is based on occupancy rating (overcrowding by number of rooms not including bathrooms and hallways). This tends to produce higher levels

²⁰ The Tenant Services Authority has issued an explanatory note on these methods at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1918430.pdf>

²¹ See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2011-to-2012-household-report>

of overcrowding/ under occupation. A detailed definition of the standard is given in the Glossary of the EHS Household Report.

Co-living

Co-living denotes people who do not have family ties sharing either a self-contained dwelling (i.e., a 'house share') or new development akin to student housing in which people have a bedroom and bathroom to themselves, but share living and kitchen space with others. In co-living schemes each individual represents a separate 'household'.

Community-led developments (NPPF definition)

A development taken forward by, or with, a not-for-profit organisation, that is primarily for the purpose of meeting the needs of its members or the wider local community, rather than being a primarily commercial enterprise. The organisation should be created, managed and democratically controlled by its members, and membership of the organisation should be open to all beneficiaries and prospective beneficiaries of that organisation. It may take any one of various legal forms including a co-operative society, community benefit society and company limited by guarantee. The organisation should own, manage or steward the development in a manner consistent with its purpose, potentially through a mutually supported arrangement with a Registered Provider of Social Housing. The benefits of the development to the community should be clearly defined and consideration given to how those benefits can be protected over time, including in the event of the organisation being wound up.

Community Right to Build Order

A community right to build order is a special kind of neighbourhood development order, granting planning permission for small community development schemes, such as housing or new community facilities. Local community organisations that meet certain requirements or parish/town councils are able to prepare community right to build orders. The NPPF 2024 specifically defines it as follows: An Order made by the local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) that grants planning permission for a site-specific development proposal or classes of development.

Concealed Families (Census definition)²²

The 2011 Census defined a concealed family as one with young adults living with a partner and/or child/children in the same household as their parents, older couples living with an adult child and their family or unrelated families sharing a household. A single person cannot be a concealed family; therefore one older parent living with their adult child and family or an adult child returning to the parental home is not a concealed family; the latter are reported in an ONS analysis on increasing numbers of young adults living with parents.

Equity Loans/Shared Equity

An equity loan which acts as a second charge on a property. For example, a household buys a £200,000 property with a 10% equity loan (£20,000). They pay a small amount for the loan and when the property is sold e.g. for £250,000 the lender receives 10% of the sale cost

²² See http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160107160832/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_350282.pdf

(£25,000). Some equity loans were available for the purchase of existing stock. The current scheme is to assist people to buy new build.

Extra Care Housing or Housing-With-Care

Housing which usually consists of purpose-built or adapted flats or bungalows with a medium to high level of care available if required, through an onsite care agency registered through the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Residents are able to live independently with 24 hour access to support services and staff, and meals are also available. There are often extensive communal areas, such as space to socialise or a wellbeing centre. In some cases, these developments are included in retirement communities or villages - the intention is for residents to benefit from varying levels of care as time progresses.

Fair Share

'Fair share' is an approach to determining housing need within a given geographical area based on a proportional split according to the size of the area, the number of homes in it, or its population.

First Homes

First Homes is another form of discounted market housing which will provide a discount of at least 30% on the price of new homes, introduced in 2021. These homes are available to first time buyers as a priority but other households will be eligible depending on agreed criteria. A more detailed explanation of First Homes and its implications is provided in the main body of the HNA.

Habitable Rooms

The number of habitable rooms in a home is the total number of rooms, excluding bathrooms, toilets and halls.

Household Reference Person (HRP)

The concept of a Household Reference Person (HRP) was introduced in the 2001 Census (in common with other government surveys in 2001/2) to replace the traditional concept of the head of the household. HRPs provide an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to characteristics of the chosen reference person.

Housing Market Area

A housing market area is a geographical area defined by household demand and preferences for all types of housing, reflecting the key functional linkages between places where people live and work. It might be the case that housing market areas overlap.

The extent of the housing market areas identified will vary, and many will in practice cut across various local planning authority administrative boundaries. Local planning authorities should work with all the other constituent authorities under the duty to cooperate.

Housing Need (NPPG 2024 definition)

Housing need is an unconstrained assessment of the minimum number of homes needed in an area. Assessing housing need is the first step in the process of deciding how many homes need to be planned for. It should be undertaken separately from assessing land availability, establishing a housing requirement figure and preparing policies to address this such as site allocations.

Housing Needs Assessment

A Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) is an assessment of housing needs at the Neighbourhood Area level.

Housing Products

Housing products simply refers to different types of housing as they are produced by developers of various kinds (including councils and housing associations). Housing products usually refers to specific tenures and types of new build housing.

Housing Requirement (NPPF 2024 Definition)

The housing requirement is the minimum number of homes that a plan seeks to provide during the plan period. Once local housing need has been assessed, as set out in this guidance, authorities should then make an assessment of the amount of new homes that can be provided in their area. This should be justified by evidence on land availability, constraints on development and any other relevant matters.

Housing Size (Census Definition)

Housing size can be referred to either in terms of the number of bedrooms in a home (a bedroom is defined as any room that was intended to be used as a bedroom when the property was built, any rooms permanently converted for use as bedrooms); or in terms of the number of rooms, excluding bathrooms, toilets halls or landings, or rooms that can only be used for storage. All other rooms, for example, kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, utility rooms, studies and conservatories are counted. If two rooms have been converted into one they are counted as one room. Rooms shared between more than one household, for example a shared kitchen, are not counted.

Housing Type (Census Definition)

This refers to the type of accommodation used or available for use by an individual household (i.e. detached, semi-detached, terraced including end of terraced, and flats). Flats are broken down into those in a purpose-built block of flats, in parts of a converted or shared house, or in a commercial building.

Housing Tenure (Census Definition)

Tenure provides information about whether a household rents or owns the accommodation that it occupies and, if rented, combines this with information about the type of landlord who owns or manages the accommodation.

Income Threshold

Income thresholds are derived as a result of the annualisation of the monthly rental cost and then asserting this cost should not exceed 35% of annual household income.

Intercensal Period

This means the period between the last two Censuses, i.e. between years 2001 and 2011.

Intermediate Housing

Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low-cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing. Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as 'low-cost market' housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.

Life Stage modelling

Life Stage modelling is forecasting need for dwellings of different sizes by the end of the Neighbourhood Plan period on the basis of changes in the distribution of household types and key age brackets (life stages) within the NA. Given the shared behavioural patterns associated with these metrics, they provide a helpful way of understanding and predicting future community need. This data is not available at neighbourhood level so LPA level data is employed on the basis of the NA falling within its defined Housing Market Area.

Life-time Homes

Dwellings constructed to make them more flexible, convenient adaptable and accessible than most 'normal' houses, usually according to the Lifetime Homes Standard, 16 design criteria that can be applied to new homes at minimal cost: <http://www.lifetimehomes.org.uk/>. Lifetime Homes standards have been broadly wrapped up into the M4(2) optional building regulations standards which relate to accessibility and adaptability of dwellings.

Life-time Neighbourhoods

Lifetime neighbourhoods extend the principles of Lifetime Homes into the wider neighbourhood to ensure the public realm is designed in such a way to be as inclusive as possible and designed to address the needs of older people, for example providing more greenery and more walkable, better connected places.

Local Development Order

An Order made by a local planning authority (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) that grants planning permission for a specific development proposal or classes of development.

Local Enterprise Partnership

A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, established for the purpose of creating or improving the conditions for economic growth in an area.

Local housing need (NPPF definition)

The number of homes identified as being needed through the application of the standard method set out in national planning guidance (or, in the context of preparing strategic policies only, this may be calculated using a justified alternative approach as provided for in paragraph 60 of this Framework).

Local Planning Authority

The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area. All references to local planning authority apply to the District Council, London Borough Council, County Council, Broads Authority, National Park Authority or the Greater London Authority, to the extent appropriate to their responsibilities.

Local Plan

This is the plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies form part of the Local Plan and are known as 'Development Plan Documents' (DPDs).

Lower Quartile

The bottom 25% value, i.e. of all the properties sold, 25% were cheaper than this value and 75% were more expensive. The lower quartile price is used as an entry level price and is the recommended level used to evaluate affordability; for example for first time buyers.

Lower Quartile Affordability Ratio

The Lower Quartile Affordability Ratio reflects the relationship between Lower Quartile Household Incomes and Lower Quartile House Prices, and is a key indicator of affordability of market housing for people on relatively low incomes.

Market Housing

Market housing is housing which is built by developers (which may be private companies or housing associations, or Private Registered Providers), for the purposes of sale (or rent) on the open market.

Mean (Average)

The mean or the average is, mathematically, the sum of all values divided by the total number of values. This is the more commonly used "average" measure as it includes all values, unlike the median.

Median

The middle value, i.e. of all the properties sold, half were cheaper and half were more expensive. This is sometimes used instead of the mean average as it is not subject to skew by very large or very small statistical outliers.

Median Affordability Ratio

The Lower Quartile Affordability Ratio reflects the relationship between Median Household Incomes and Median House Prices and is a key indicator of affordability of market housing for people on middle-range incomes.

Mortgage Ratio

The mortgage ratio is the ratio of mortgage value to income which is typically deemed acceptable by banks. Approximately 75% of all mortgage lending ratios fell below 4 in recent years²³, i.e. the total value of the mortgage was less than 4 times the annual income of the person who was granted the mortgage.

Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO)

An NDO will grant planning permission for a particular type of development in a particular area. This could be either a particular development, or a particular class of development (for example retail or housing). A number of types of development will be excluded from NDOs, however. These are minerals and waste development, types of development that, regardless of scale, always need Environmental Impact Assessment, and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

Neighbourhood plan

A plan prepared by a Parish or Town Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

Older People

People over retirement age, including the active, newly-retired through to very frail older people, whose housing needs can encompass accessible, adaptable general needs housing for those looking to downsize from family housing and the full range of retirement and specialised housing for those with support or care needs.

Output Area/Lower Super Output Area/Middle Super Output Area

An output area is the lowest level of geography for publishing statistics, and is the core geography from which statistics for other geographies are built. Output areas were created for England and Wales from the 2001 Census data, by grouping a number of households and populations together so that each output area's population is roughly the same. 175,434 output areas were created from the 2001 Census data, each containing a minimum of 100 persons with an average of 300 persons. Lower Super Output Areas consist of higher geographies of between 1,000-1,500 persons (made up of a number of individual Output Areas) and Middle Super Output Areas are higher than this, containing between 5,000 and 7,200 people, and made up of individual Lower Layer Super Output Areas. Some statistics are only available down to Middle Layer Super Output Area level, meaning that they are not available for individual Output Areas or parishes.

²³ See <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2017/08/how-your-income-affects-your-mortgage-chances/>

Overcrowding

There is no single agreed definition of overcrowding, however, utilising the Government's bedroom standard, overcrowding is deemed to be in households where there is more than one person in the household per room (excluding kitchens, bathrooms, halls and storage areas). As such, a home with one bedroom and one living room and one kitchen would be deemed overcrowded if three adults were living there.

Planning Condition

A condition imposed on a grant of planning permission (in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) or a condition included in a Local Development Order or Neighbourhood Development Order.

Planning Obligation

A legally enforceable obligation entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal.

Purchase Threshold

Purchase thresholds are calculated by netting 10% off the entry house price to reflect purchase deposit. The resulting cost is divided by 4 to reflect the standard household income requirement to access mortgage products.

Proportionate and Robust Evidence

Proportionate and robust evidence is evidence which is deemed appropriate in scale, scope and depth for the purposes of neighbourhood planning, sufficient so as to meet the Basic Conditions, as well as robust enough to withstand legal challenge. It is referred to a number of times in the PPG and its definition and interpretation relies on the judgement of professionals such as Neighbourhood Plan Examiners.

Private Rented

The Census tenure private rented includes a range of different living situations in practice, such as private rented/ other including households living "rent free". Around 20% of the private rented sector are in this category, which will have included some benefit claimants whose housing benefit at the time was paid directly to their landlord. This could mean people whose rent is paid by their employer, including some people in the armed forces. Some housing association tenants may also have been counted as living in the private rented sector because of confusion about what a housing association is.

Retirement Living or Sheltered Housing

Housing for older people which usually consists of purpose-built flats or bungalows with limited communal facilities such as a lounge, laundry room and guest room. It does not generally provide care services, but provides some support to enable residents to live independently. This can include 24 hour on-site assistance (alarm) and a warden or house manager.

Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes

Housing for older people comprising of individual rooms within a residential building and provide a high level of care meeting all activities of daily living. They do not usually include support services for independent living. This type of housing can also include dementia care homes.

Rightsizing

Households who wish to move into a property that is a more appropriate size for their needs can be said to be rightsizing. This is often used to refer to older households who may be living in large family homes but whose children have left, and who intend to rightsize to a smaller dwelling. The popularity of this trend is debatable as ties to existing communities and the home itself may outweigh issues of space. Other factors, including wealth, health, status and family circumstance also need to be taken into consideration, and it should not be assumed that all older households in large dwellings wish to rightsize.

Rural Exception Sites

Small sites used for affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing. Rural exception sites seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. Small numbers of market homes may be allowed at the local authority's discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of affordable dwellings without grant funding.

Shared Ownership

Housing where a purchaser part buys and part rents from a housing association or local authority. Typical purchase share is between 25% and 75% (though this was lowered in 2021 to a minimum of 10%), and buyers are encouraged to buy the largest share they can afford. Generally applies to new build properties, but re-sales occasionally become available. There may be an opportunity to rent at intermediate rent level before purchasing a share in order to save/increase the deposit level

Sheltered Housing²⁴

Sheltered housing (also known as retirement housing) means having your own flat or bungalow in a block, or on a small estate, where all the other residents are older people (usually over 55). With a few exceptions, all developments (or 'schemes') provide independent, self-contained homes with their own front doors. There are many different types of scheme, both to rent and to buy. They usually contain between 15 and 40 properties, and range in size from studio flats (or 'bedsits') through to 2 and 3 bed roomed. Properties in most schemes are designed to make life a little easier for older people - with features like raised electric sockets, lowered worktops, walk-in showers, and so on. Some will usually be designed to accommodate wheelchair users. And they are usually linked to an emergency alarm service (sometimes called 'community alarm service') to call help if needed. Many schemes also have their own 'manager' or 'warden', either living on-site or nearby, whose job is to manage the

²⁴ See <http://www.housingcare.org/jargon-sheltered-housing.aspx>

scheme and help arrange any services residents need. Managed schemes will also usually have some shared or communal facilities such as a lounge for residents to meet, a laundry, a guest flat and a garden.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

A Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is a document prepared by one or more local planning authorities to establish realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability and the likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the Neighbourhood Plan period. SHLAAs are sometimes also called LAAs (Land Availability Assessments) or HELAAs (Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessments) so as to integrate the need to balance assessed housing and economic needs as described below.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (NPPF Definition)

A Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) is a document prepared by one or more local planning authorities to assess their housing needs under the 2012 version of the NPPF, usually across administrative boundaries to encompass the whole housing market area. The NPPF makes clear that SHMAs should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures the local population is likely to need over the Neighbourhood Plan period. Sometimes SHMAs are combined with Economic Development Needs Assessments to create documents known as HEDNAs (Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessments).

Specialist Housing for Older People

Specialist housing for Older People, sometimes known as specialist accommodation for older people, encompasses a wide range of housing types specifically aimed at older people, which may often be restricted to those in certain older age groups (usually 55+ or 65+). This could include residential institutions, sometimes known as care homes, sheltered housing, extra care housing, retirement housing and a range of other potential types of housing which has been designed and built to serve the needs of older people, including often providing care or other additional services. This housing can be provided in a range of tenures (often on a rented or leasehold basis).

Social Rented Housing

Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in Section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.). Guideline target rents for this tenure are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with Homes England.²⁵

²⁵ See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/doc/1980960.doc#Housing>

