

Oxford
City
Council
Local
Plan
2036

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Water Cycle Study
Site Assessments –
Addendum Note

Background
Paper

Background Paper

Water Cycle Study Site Assessments – Addendum Note

A Water Cycle Study was commissioned by Oxford City Council to support the Oxford Local Plan 2036. A Water Cycle Study is an important piece of the evidence base as it assesses the implications of the development proposed in the Oxford Local Plan 2036 on the water environment.

The purpose of a Water Cycle Study is to identify in a holistic sense, and if possible to quantify, the capacity of all water related infrastructure and the wider environment within the city to support new housing and commercial developments. This generally encompasses a wide range of factors which can be designated into four key areas: namely:

- Environmentally, economically and licenced availability of water resources for abstraction and use
- Flood risk arising from further development
- Sewerage treatment and disposal (subdivided into environmental and infrastructural capacity)
- Other environmental considerations and constraints to development.

This addendum note demonstrates that additional sites allocated in the Local Plan and not assessed in the Water Cycle Study do not, in absolute terms, impact the overall conclusions from the study. It also provides an assessment of the potential impact of those additional sites on the Foul and Surface Water Sewer capacity in the city.

The Water Cycle Study assessed two distinct scenarios for growth in Oxford. The lower growth scenario assessed 8,000 dwellings and the higher growth scenario assessed 12,000 dwellings throughout the plan period. Given the range of growth in Oxford are based on broader dwelling projections rather than sewer pressures at existing sites, any additional sites in Oxford, would only be likely to have an impact on the conclusions of the Water Cycle Study if they resulted in dwelling numbers far in excess of the higher growth scenario – 12,000 dwellings.

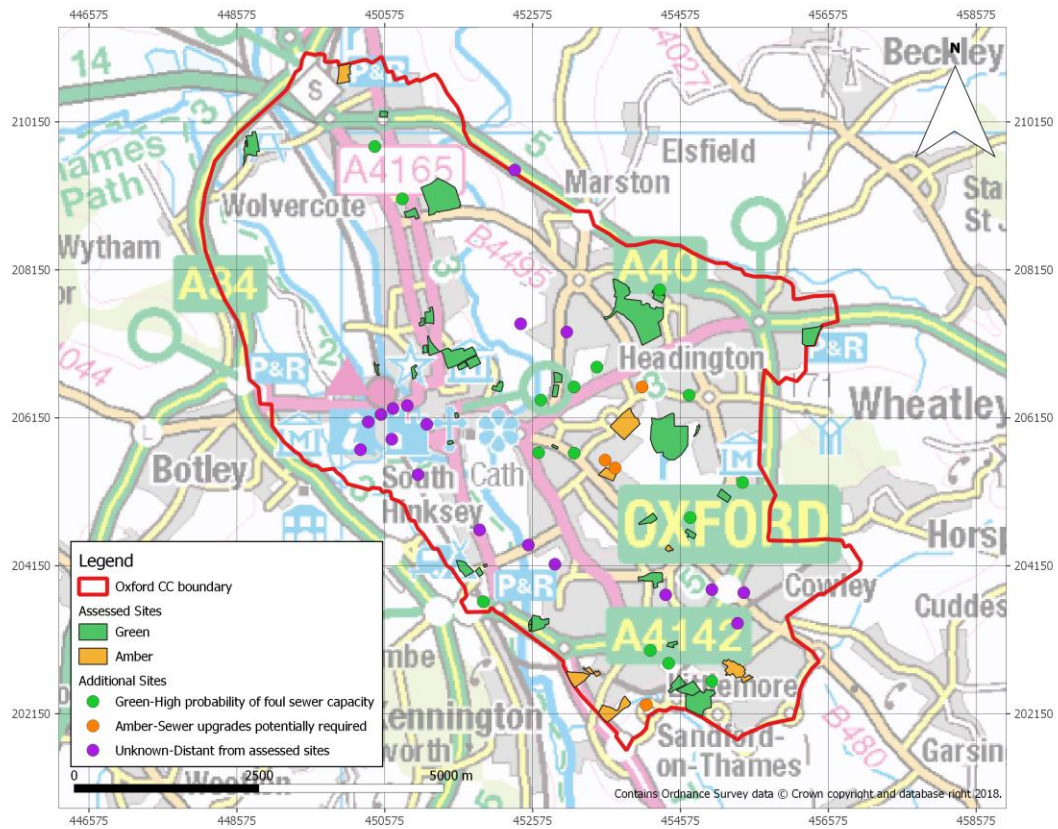
Oxford's overall housing growth as set out in Policy H1 is 8671. This is within the range of dwellings that were assessed as part of the Water Cycle Study and as such the additional sites will not affect the overall conclusions of the study.

In terms of the analysis of the potential impact of additional sites on the sewer network, the consultants plotted the new sites in relative to those which had previously been assessed. The RAG scores for particular sites in Thames Water's assessments seemed to indicate that while some areas of Oxford have capacity, others may require upgrades. Using this

assumption, the consultants used their professional judgement to give an indicative score for the remaining sites where there was sufficient data available.

The maps below show the implications for proposed developments in Oxford using the above rationale on the Foul and Surface Water Sewage network.

Map showing implications of sites in Oxford on the Foul Water Network



Map showing implications of sites in Oxford on the Surface Water Network

