



Your Test Valley

Environment Action Plan

2009 - 2011



Test Valley
PARTNERSHIP

1. Introduction

About Test Valley

- 1.1 The Borough is approximately 628 square kilometres (approximately 62,760 hectares) in area and is predominantly rural. The Borough has high quality natural and built environments. Part of the Borough to the north of Andover is within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There are over 2,000 listed buildings within the Borough, along with 36 Conservation Areas and 105 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 1.2 Test Valley is covered by a series of statutory and non statutory designations related to habitats and species, with just over 11% of the land area subject to one or more wildlife designation, some of which are of international importance. There are 25 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Borough. The Council adopted a Biodiversity Action Plan in 2008.
- 1.3 The 2001 Census identified that the population of the Borough was 109,801 people; with the Small Area Population Forecast data produced by Hampshire County Council suggesting the population of the Borough for 2008 to be 113,025 people. The population of the Borough is predicted to increase by approximately 4% between 2008 and 2015. Test Valley is a predominantly affluent area; however the Borough does contain some pockets of relative deprivation.

Sustainability and Test Valley

- 1.4 There are many definitions of sustainability and sustainable development; however the most regularly used and internationally accepted is that put forward by the Brundtland Commission, which states:

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”¹
- 1.5 The UK’s Sustainable Development Strategy² identifies four priorities, namely, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities. In relation to climate change, legislation is now in place stating that there is a duty to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline³.
- 1.6 From the national dataset for National Indicator 186, it was reported that for 2007 carbon dioxide emissions for Test Valley were 9.3 tonnes per capita. The majority of the emissions are from transport sources. In relation to National Indicator 192, 35.14% of household waste in Test Valley was sent for reuse, recycling and composting in 2008/09.
- 1.7 Based on the Water Framework Directive classifications, stretches of the River Test and its tributaries within the Borough are predominantly in good or moderate status,

¹ Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987, Part I, Chapter 2.

² Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy, HM Government, 2005

³ Climate Change Act 2008 (Section 1(1)).

however there are sections classified as being of poor quality (e.g. parts of the Blackwater). In parts of the Borough, growth in housing has the potential to impact on water quality if not managed appropriately. In relation to demand for water, Test Valley falls within an area of serious water stress – on this basis the management of water resources is important. Parts of the Borough are also subject to flood risk from a variety of sources, including from watercourses and groundwater.

- 1.8 Test Valley Biodiversity Action Plan provides a record of the habitats and key species found within the Borough, which include chalk downland, chalk rivers, woodland and farmland. Action plans are included within the document identifying ways to protect and enhance biodiversity within the Borough. The Test Valley Partnership has a role in delivering and monitoring the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 1.9 Population growth within the Borough and surrounding area, and the implications of climate change, have the potential to put pressure on both the built and natural environment of the Borough. Green Infrastructure has the potential to have both mitigation and adaptation functions in relation to these matters.

Test Valley Partnership

- 1.10 The Test Valley Partnership was formed in April 2002 and has developed in line with Government guidance. It brings together a wide range of groups and organisations drawn from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors, sharing the single aim of working together to improve quality of life for the people of Test Valley. The Partnership has agreed the following statement of purpose:

‘By working together we will use our combined resources to better effect to bring about a sustained and measurable improvement in the quality of life of the people of Test Valley, especially those in most need.’

- 1.11 The Test Valley Partnership produced its first Community Plan in 2003 and this was reviewed and updated in 2008. The Community Plan sets out the desired outcomes for Test Valley based around eight themes:
- Community Safety
 - Education and Lifelong Learning
 - The Environment
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Leisure and Culture
 - The Local Economy
 - Local Communities
 - Transport
- 1.12 The Environment theme considers both the built and natural environment, with previous work focusing on improving the quality of the urban environment. Climate change and biodiversity have also been key areas of interest. This theme is considered by the Environment Action Group.

Environment Action Group

1.13 As stated within the Community Plan, the aim of the Environment Action Group:

“Is to enable everyone to play their part in ensuring that we maintain a high quality and sustainable environment”⁴

1.14 As identified in the Test Valley Partnership Community Plan, the outcomes we will achieve are:

- Improved understanding of climate change and appropriate actions to reduce its impact
- Support for local producers and businesses through people buying locally
- Individuals, businesses and other organisations taking action to reduce their impact on the environment, re-using materials and recycling wherever possible
- Sustainable management of water, waste and energy
- Protected and enhanced quality of life of the natural and built environment

⁴ Test Valley Partnership Community Plan, January 2008

2. Joint Areas of Focus

- 2.1 In 2009 the Test Valley Partnership identified a number of Joint Areas of Focus to support the delivery of the proposed outcomes of the Community Plan across all the themes. The Joint Areas of Focus (JAFs) have been identified on the basis of issues currently affecting the area, which will require a Partnership approach in the short to medium term. The effect of tackling them at this time will directly contribute to the Partnership meeting the longer term outcomes it has set itself on behalf of residents.
- 2.2 For the Environment theme, to achieve our outcomes, our Joint Areas of Focus for 2009-11 are:

JAF 8	New Neighbourhoods in Test Valley
JAF 12	Support businesses, organisations and communities in Test Valley to act sustainably and to reduce their carbon emissions

- 2.3 These Joint Areas of Focus are discussed below in relation to the Environment Action Group's commitments to action and objectives for the next 12 months.

JAF 12: Support businesses, organisations and communities in Test Valley to act sustainably and to reduce their carbon emissions.

2.4 Acting in a more sustainable way and subsequently reducing emissions will contribute to tackling the issues associated with climate change. Climate change will affect social, economic and environmental cohesion and have a number of wider health impacts. Businesses and public organisations have a leading role to play in reducing carbon emissions and developing more sustainable approaches both through the policies and practices they adopt but by also in shaping collaborative initiatives across the Borough and supporting local communities to develop more sustainable practices.

Commitment to action:

Over the next 12 months we will:

- Promote community initiatives within the Borough
- Support the work of local community groups in promoting the sustainability of the Borough
- Produce a leaflet for the public on sustainability
- Support the review of the Biodiversity Action Plan with other key partners to develop streamlined action plan
- Meet the milestones for National Indicator 188 (Adapting to climate change)
- Meet the targets for National Indicators 191 (Residual household waste per household) and National Indicator 192 (Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting)
- Support the work of partners to seek the conservation of water resources
- Develop longer term actions and proposals for the Environment Action Group

Objectives:

- Support the community to enhance its sustainability and reduce carbon dioxide emissions
- Engage with business representatives to promote sustainable business practices
- Work collaboratively with partners to adapt to climate change

We will measure success by:

Indicators of Success
National Indicators
National Indicator 186 (carbon dioxide emissions for the Borough) – see a

reduction in emissions
National Indicator 191 (Residual household waste per household) – see a reduction in waste generated – target of 546kg per household for 2010/11
National Indicator 192 (Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting) – see an increase in the percentage reused, recycled or composted – target of 36.5% for 2010/11
National Indicator 197 (Improved Local Biodiversity) – aim to increase the proportion of sites in positive management
Other Indicators
Change in areas of biodiversity importance (Core Indicator) – seek to avoid any loss in areas of biodiversity importance and ideally increase the areas of biodiversity importance within the Borough

JAF 8: Coordinating the delivery of new neighbourhoods in Test Valley

- 2.5 Within the Borough, three large new neighbourhoods will be developed. The implications of these “new neighbourhoods” are significant not only in creating new communities but also in relation to existing ones. It is essential that partners consider the service delivery implications in relation to the new neighbourhoods across Test Valley, in order to ensure all residents receive appropriate and high quality services. It is also important to coordinate community development activity, to ensure integration between new and existing communities.
- 2.6 The first residents have moved in to Augusta Park, the first of the new neighbourhoods in Andover, and work to develop the community has commenced.

Commitment to Action

Over the next 12 months we will:

- Respond to recommendations and evidence made by the new neighbourhood Delivery Groups, in relation to environmental issues
- Contribute to community events and activities that build links between new and existing communities.
- Work to support the implementation of the legal agreements for the new neighbourhoods

Objectives for this priority:

- Lead in discussions regarding environmental issues relating to the new neighbourhoods (and particularly Augusta Park)
- Help build a sense of ‘community’ in the new neighbourhoods and develop links between new and existing communities

We will measure success by:

Indicators of Success
Perceptions of community satisfaction in new neighbourhoods
Recommendations responded to from Delivery Group