

The logo for 'place services' is located in the top left corner. It consists of a solid blue square with the words 'place' and 'services' stacked vertically in white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

**Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

**Environmental Report: Annex B – Baseline Information**

**September 2015**



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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background

Uttlesford District Council, on behalf of the Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, commissioned Place Services of Essex County Council to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan.

Place Services are acting as consultants for this work; therefore the content of the SEA should not be interpreted or otherwise represented as the formal view of Essex County Council.

This Annex presents a baseline information profile of the plan area and has been used as a basis for the assessed impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 1.2. Sustainability Baseline Information

The SEA Directive requires the production of the following information:

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;” Annex 1(b);

“the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;” Annex 1(c); and

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

The baseline information identifies current sustainability issues and problems in the district which should be addressed and provides a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of implementing the document.

To ensure the data collected was relevant and captured the full range of sustainability issues it was categorised under 12 thematic topics. They cover all the topics referred to in Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive and follow the order of:

- Economy and Employment
- Housing and Population
- Health
- Transport
- Cultural Heritage
- Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
- Landscapes
- Water Environment
- Climate, Air and Noise
- Sport and Open Space

Summaries of each topic have been included within the main Environmental Report document. This annex contains the detailed baseline information.

## 2. Economy and Employment

### 2.1. Economy

**Table 1: Economic activity and job density**

	Uttlesford	Essex	East of England	England
Number of economically active	42,473	719,430	3,038,090	27,181,134
Percentage of economically active against population	74.4%	71.1%	71.6%	69.9%
Job density	0.90	0.75	0.77	0.78

Source: Nomis, Table ID QS601EW, Census 2011, and ONS Job density

The district has the highest rate of economic activity at 74.4% compared to the county, region and country. Despite this, there are wide variations in this theme across rural and urban areas.

**Table 2: Local business stock and employment size**

	Uttlesford	Essex	East of England	England
Local based businesses	5,130	61,770	256,130	2,234,345
0 to 4 employed persons	74.5%	70.8%	70.1%	69.1%
5 to 9 employed persons	13.2%	13.8%	14.1%	14.4%
10 to 19 employed persons	6.5%	7.6%	7.9%	8.3%
20 or more employed persons	6.1%	7.9%	8.4%	8.9%

Source: ONS, Dec 2013 data

In general, local based businesses are more prevalent within the district than in the county and comparatively more when compared to the national figure. Nearly three quarters of all local businesses within the district employ 4 or less people and approximately 6% employ more than 20 people. This data is important to the Neighbourhood Plan in determining what scale of employment development is likely to be relevant to the Plan Area.

**Table 3: Location of businesses**

	Uttlesford	Essex	East of England	England
Urban based businesses	15.4%	63.2%	62.8%	74.3%
Rural based businesses	84.6%	36.8%	37.2%	25.7%

Source: ONS, 2011 data

Uttlesford District is predominantly rural in nature and as such a significant proportion of businesses are based within rural locations with only 15% defined as being urban based. This is in total contrast to county and national business compositions which recorded the highest proportions

within urban areas. This date has implications for the Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Area; encompassing a town within a predominantly rural wider area.

**Table 4: Proportion of businesses by industry type**

Industry	Uttlesford	Essex	East of England	England
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	7.3%	3.7%	4.8%	4.4%
Production	7.0%	6.5%	6.2%	5.9%
Construction	12.2%	15.4%	12.6%	10.2%
Motor Trades	2.9%	3.3%	3.4%	3.0%
Wholesale	4.8%	5.0%	5.0%	4.9%
Retail	7.4%	9.6%	9.8%	10.7%
Transport & Storage (Including Postal)	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	3.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	4.4%	5.1%	5.6%	6.2%
Information & Communication	7.0%	6.2%	6.9%	7.1%
Finance & Insurance	2.4%	2.3%	2.2%	2.6%
Property	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.7%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	16.6%	14.1%	14.6%	15.3%
Business Administration & Support Services	8.0%	7.1%	7.0%	7.0%
Public Administration & Defence	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%
Education	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%	2.5%
Health	3.6%	4.9%	5.1%	5.7%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Services	5.8%	6.2%	6.3%	6.8%

Source: ONS, 2013 data

There are comparatively more businesses within agriculture, forestry and fishing within the district than the county but noticeable fewer businesses within construction, retail and health. Other industries with proportionately higher business numbers than the county and national levels are transport and storage; information and communication; professional, scientific and technical; and business administration and support services. The Neighbourhood Plan should be mindful of these statistics regarding any housing allocations and their relationship with local employment opportunities.

## 2.2. Employment

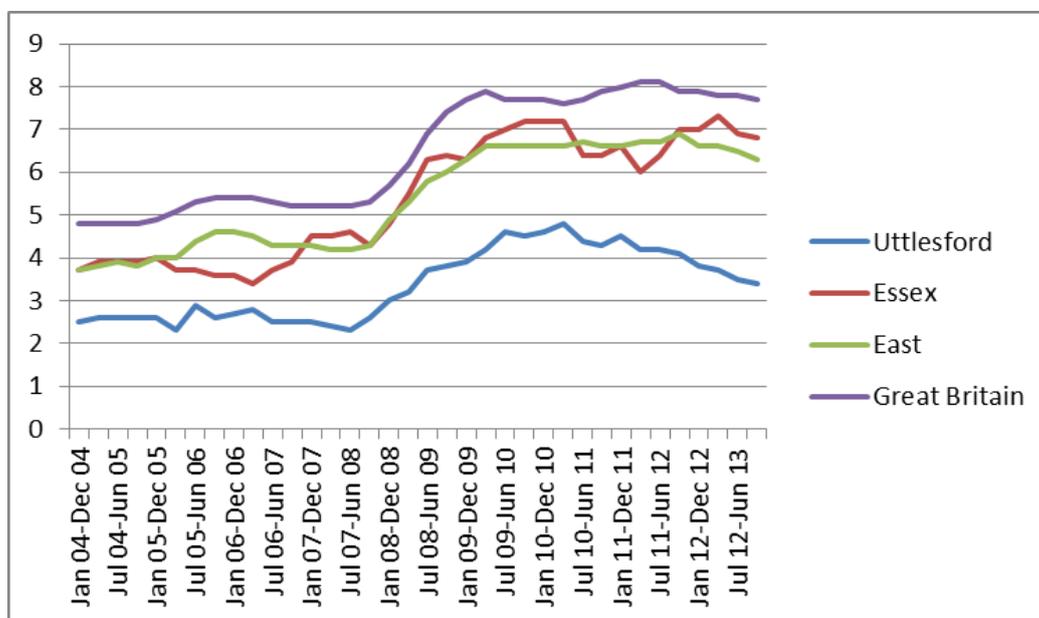
**Table 5: Employment and unemployment**

	Uttlesford	Essex	East of England	Great Britain
In employment	43,400 (80.9%)	74.6%	75.1%	71.2%
Unemployed	1,500 (3.4%)	6.8%	6.3%	7.7%

Source: Nomis, Oct 2012 – Sept 2013 data

A total of 80.9% of the working population in Uttlesford District are in employment which is higher than sub-national and national employment levels. The proportion of the District's working population who are economically active but unemployed is 3.4% which is below sub-national and national unemployment figures.

**Figure 1: Proportion of economically active population unemployed**



Source: Nomis, trend data 2013

The level of unemployment has increased nationally since 2007/08. Unemployment within Uttlesford District had also risen but below that of county, regional and national levels and has been in decline since January 2011. During July 2007 and June 2008 around 2.3% of the working age population was unemployed in Uttlesford after which time unemployment had increased and doubled to 4.6% during January 2010 and December 2010. Although unemployment in the District has declined in recent years, it has not returned to 2007 levels. This information is useful in the wider context outside the Neighbourhood Plan Area, where increased travelling distances to jobs may become more prevalent with an increase in households.

**Table 6: Employment by industry**

	Uttlesford	Essex	East of England	UK
Manufacturing	10	10.4	10.3	10.2
Construction	5.3	6.3	5.4	4.8
Services	82.2	82.7	82.5	83.5
- Distribution, hotels & restaurants	23.1	24.9	25	23.4
- Transport & communications	21	6.5	6	5.8
- Finance, IT, other business activities	16.5	19.8	21.4	22
- Public admin, education & health	17.5	26	25.3	27

	Uttlesford	Essex	East of England	UK
- Other services	4.1	5.4	4.8	5.3
Tourism-related	9.3	7.9	7.7	8.2

Note: Tourism consists of industries that are also part of the services industry (see the definitions section)

Source: Nomis, 2008 data

The majority of jobs within the district and across all areas are in the service industry. For the district this accounts for 82.2% of all employee jobs and in contrast to the other areas a large proportion of these are in the transport and communication sector. This is due in large part to location of Stansted Airport within the district's boundary. The other industry in the district which provides a higher proportion of employee jobs compared to the sub-national and national equivalent is tourism. Placed on a key A-road (A120) with an ease of access to Stansted, this information is important to the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 2.3. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – The High Street and Town Centre / The Economy

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below.

**Table 7: Proportion of units on primary and secondary retail frontages in Great Dunmow**

	Frontages		
	Primary	Secondary	Total
Comparison shopping	30%	32%	31%
Convenience shopping	7%	3%	6%
Pubs / Cafes	19%	6%	14%
Takeaways	9%	6%	7%
Service (Finance)	11%	3%	8%
Service (hairdresser / launderette)	9%	18%	12%
Service (health)	7%	9%	7%
Business (inc. Estate Agents)	9%	26%	15%
Total (units)	70	38	108

Source: Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan 2015

- Only 20 percent of employees working in Great Dunmow actually reside in the town. Over half travel to Great Dunmow from further than 5 miles away, coming from as far afield as Braintree and Brentwood.
- According to the 2011 census, 68 percent of the population (6,000 people) in Great Dunmow are of working age. There are a further 10,500 people of working age in the surrounding villages. According to the Great Dunmow Business Survey there are about 306 job-creating enterprises with a physical presence in the town, and 90 percent of these have been trading for 3 years or more. There are currently 8 commercial or industrial centres employing about 120 employees. With 2,486 new residential units expected for the town

(source: UDC Housing Trajectory and Statement of 5 Year Land Supply), the Plan Area might reasonably expect the population to grow by 5,643 (based on an average of 2.27 people per household; source: 2011 Census), adding perhaps 3,837 working age people to the town (68% of the additional population).

- The 2011 Employment Land Study reports that there is a shortage of commercial floor space of the right type in Great Dunmow, including both office space and warehousing. Briefing Paper 4 describes the situation succinctly: “The Employment Land Study states clearly that there is demand for good commercial floor-space and that there will be demand at some point for industrial space. In addition it makes clear that the corridor along the A120 is attractive to business and hence investors”.
- The 2005 District Local Plan allocated about 16ha of land for employment but only 18 percent (3.5ha) has been taken up. At the same time, there has been an overall decline in the amount of industrial floor-space and an increase in warehousing and offices. The Employment Land Study predicts that this trend will continue and that factory space will decrease in the district by a further 11.5ha by 2028 while warehousing will expand by 5.7ha and offices by 4.1ha. The planning permission now existing for this site enacts the recommendation that flows from these conclusions, releasing the Smith’s Farm site for warehousing alongside residential development.

### 3. Housing and Population

The reform of the planning system by the new Government has led to significant changes in the way housing targets are devised which will impact on future housing supply. The revocation of Regional Strategies (including the East of England Plan) has given local planning authorities the responsibility of setting their own housing targets based on housing land supply, need and robust supporting evidence. The District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, in which the District's objectively assessed housing need will be set out in conjunction with a new Spatial (distribution) Strategy for growth. This Local Plan is at an early stage, with an Issues and Options consultation scheduled later in 2015.

The district-wide information below can be considered broadly indicative of the corresponding specifics of Great Dunmow.

#### 3.1. Housing Supply

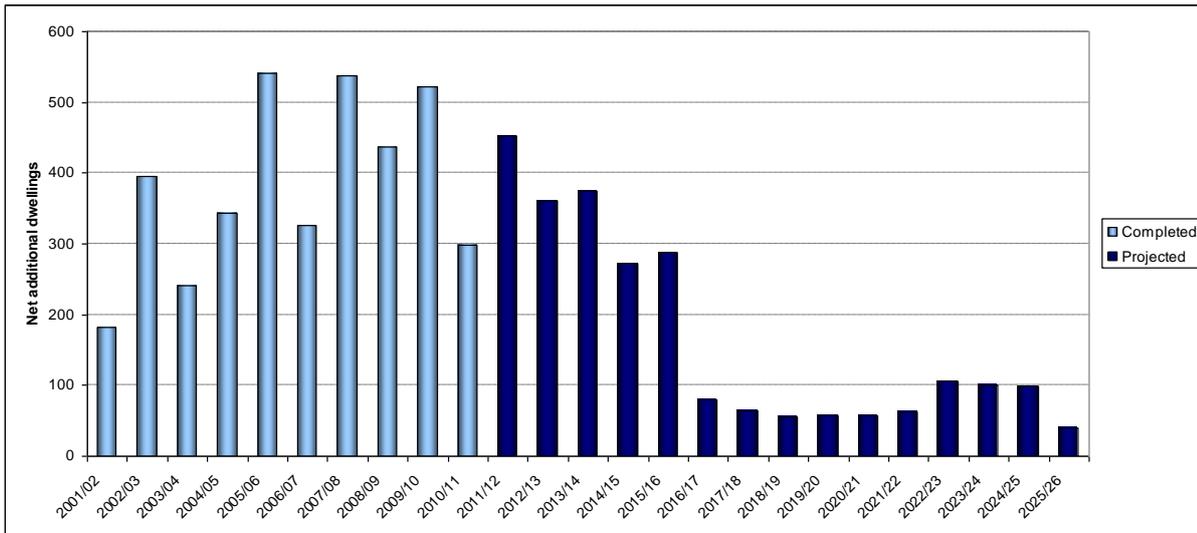
**Table 8: Housing Completions in Uttlesford District**

Date	Gross Dwelling Completions (units)	Net Dwelling Completions (units)
2001/02	209	182
2002/03	411	396
2003/04	263	241
2004/05	380	344
2005/06	576	541
2006/07	363	326
2007/08	574	538
2008/09	465	437
2009/10	542	522
2010/11	316	298
2011/12	543	521
2012/13	430	Not yet available
Total	5,029	4,346

Source: DCLG (May 2013) and Uttlesford AMR (2013)

Since 2001, 5,029 new dwellings have been built within the district. In 2012/13 there were 430 dwellings completed within the district.

**Figure 2: Housing Trajectory in Uttlesford District**

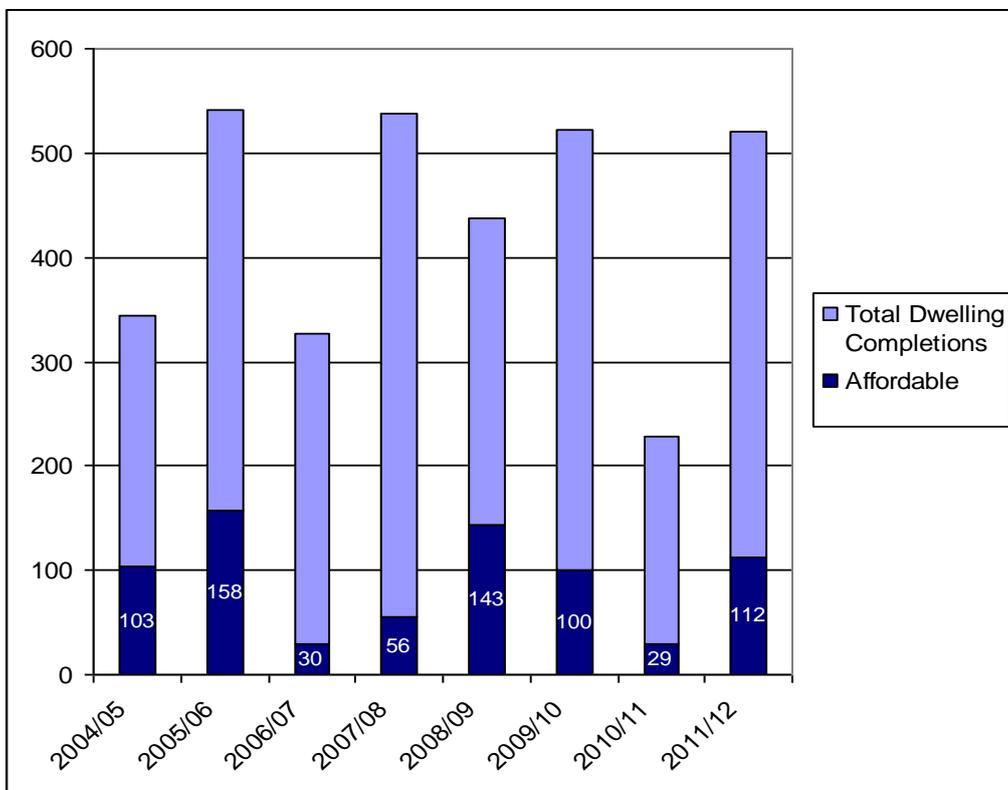


Source: Housing Trajectory and Statement of 5-Year Land Supply (2011)

The current trajectory shows that by 2027 there will be 6,293 completions (since 2001). Annual completion rates will fall significantly from 2015. As stated in Housing Trajectory and Statement of 5-Year Land Supply (2011) this reflects the fact that the sites identified in the Adopted Local Plan have been completed.

Current national policy<sup>1</sup> requires local planning authorities to provide a 5-year land supply of deliverable sites which excludes the reporting year.

**Figure 3: Affordable Housing Supply in Uttlesford District (net)**



Source: DCLG (2013) and Uttlesford Housing Supply Statement (2012).

<sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

In 2011/12, 21.5% of the net dwelling completions, which accounts for 112 dwellings, were affordable within the District. To date, the highest proportion of affordable housing achieved within the District was in 2008/09 at 30.8% which accounted for 143 of the total number of dwellings completed.

### 3.2. Existing Housing Stock

**Table 9: Dwelling Stock by Tenure**

	Local Authority (incl. owned by other LAs)	Housing Association	Other public sector	Private sector	Total
Uttlesford	8.5%	4.1%	0.7%	86.8%	33,380
Essex	6.8%	7.3%	0.3%	85.6%	607,870
East of England	6.1%	9.4%	0.3%	84.2%	2,329,370
England	7.3%	10.2%	0.3%	82.2%	23,111,000

Source: DCLG (April 2013)

There are 33,380 dwellings within Uttlesford District which is the third smallest of all local authority areas in Essex. The composition of dwelling stock was similar to that of Essex, East of England and England with the majority of dwellings being in the private sector. The District reported the highest proportion of stock within the private sector at 86.8% as well as a larger proportion of Local Authority owned dwellings at 8.5%. In contrast there were proportionately fewer dwellings owned by Housing Associations in Uttlesford.

**Table 10: Mean Dwelling Prices (£)**

	Average Dwelling Price
Uttlesford	£327,303
Essex	£243,441
East of England	£237,668
England	£240,033

Source: 2011 Land Registry Data, DCLG (2012)

The average dwelling price within Uttlesford District is £327,303. This is significantly higher than the county, regional and national averages. The average dwelling prices for the District and Essex are both above the national average while the regional average is lower.

Dwelling prices within the District have increased by 71% since 2001, despite declining slightly in 2011. The average dwelling price within Uttlesford District has continuously been higher than the sub-national and national averages and the price gap has widened in recent years between the District average and the national average. In 2001 the average dwelling price in the District was £191,252 which was £69,483 more than the national average of £121,769. In 2011 the difference was £91,909.

### 3.3. Population

**Table 11: Population**

	2001	2011	% change
Uttlesford	69,000	79,443	15.13%
Essex	1,312,600	1,393,587	6.16%
East of England	5,400,500	5,846,965	8.26%
England	49,449,700	53,012,456	7.20%

Source: ONS, 2013 (Census 2011)

Uttlesford District has an estimated population of 79,443. Since 2001 the population has grown at a higher rate than that of the county, the region and the country. At 15.13% it is considerably above the national population growth rate of 7.20%. The 2011 census data indicates a population of 8,800 in Great Dunmow.

**Table 12: Population age structure**

	Uttlesford	East of England	England
Persons aged 0-4	5.81%	6.28%	6.34%
Persons aged 5-14	12.80%	11.48%	11.39%
Persons aged 15-19	6.32%	6.05%	6.14%
Persons aged 20-44	28.48%	32.01%	33.94%
Persons aged 45-64	26.00%	25.94%	25.26%
Persons aged 65+	17.93%	18.25%	16.93%

Source: ONS, 2013 (2012 mid-year estimates)

The majority of Uttlesford District's population are adults within the age bands of 20-44 years and 45-64 years. The district has a higher proportion of young persons under the age of 15 at 18.61% compared to the proportion of persons aged 65 and over at 17.93%. The proportion of young persons is also above the national equivalent. The mean average age of Great Dunmow is 41 years of age.

**Table 13: Population Projections**

	2010	2011	2021	2031	Percentage Change (2010-2031)
Uttlesford DC	76,000	79,443	84,600	91,500	20.39%
Essex	1,416,300	1,393,587	1,583,500	1,727,300	21.96%
East of England	5,827,400	5,846,965	6,469,900	7,016,500	20.41%
England	52,198,200	53,012,456	56,432,500	60,070,700	15.08%

Source: ONS (Projections are based on revised 2008 figures)

The population of Uttlesford District is projected to increase to 91,500 by 2031 which represents a 20.39% growth on the 2010 population figures. This percentage change is in line with sub regional growth figures but above the national equivalent. Demographic forecasts, and their relationship with housing need, can be expected to be determined in the District's forthcoming Local Plan (and evidence base).

**Table 14: Population projections for Uttlesford based on broad age groups**

Broad Age Groups	2008	2011	2021	2031
Children	15,400	15,700	17,200	17,700
Working Age	44,500	45,000	47,000	48,000
Older people	14,700	16,000	20,400	25,700

Note: Children (0-15), Working age (16-64M/59F), Older people (65M/60F and over)

Source: ONS (Projections are based on revised 2008 figures)

The population structure within Uttlesford is projected to increase in all age groups but the most significant growth will be the number of older people. Categorised as males aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over, there is projected to be 25,700 older people by 2031. By 2031 the projected number of children is 17,700 meaning that the population will be an aging one which will likely result in a shift in needs of the District's residents. A 70 bed care home is expected to be delivered in 2018/19 within the Plan Area, at land west of Chelmsford Road.

**Table 15: Household Projections**

	2008	2013	2023	2026	Percentage Change (2008-2026)
Uttlesford	30,000	32,000	36,000	37,000	23.3%
Essex	586,000	626,000	712,000	737,000	25.8%
East of England	2,406,000	2,565,000	2,903,000	3,000,000	24.7%
England	21,731,000	22,868,000	25,320,000	26,016,000	19.7%

Source: ONS (Projections are based on revised 2008 figures)

Household projections are 2008 based and are linked to the 2008 based population projections. In 2008 there were estimated to be 30,000 households within Uttlesford and by 2026 this is projected to increase by 23.3% to 37,000. This proportional increase is below the county and regional projected increases but above the national increase of 19.7%. As one of larger settlements in the District, this trend can also be seen as indicative of the specific situation facing Great Dunmow.

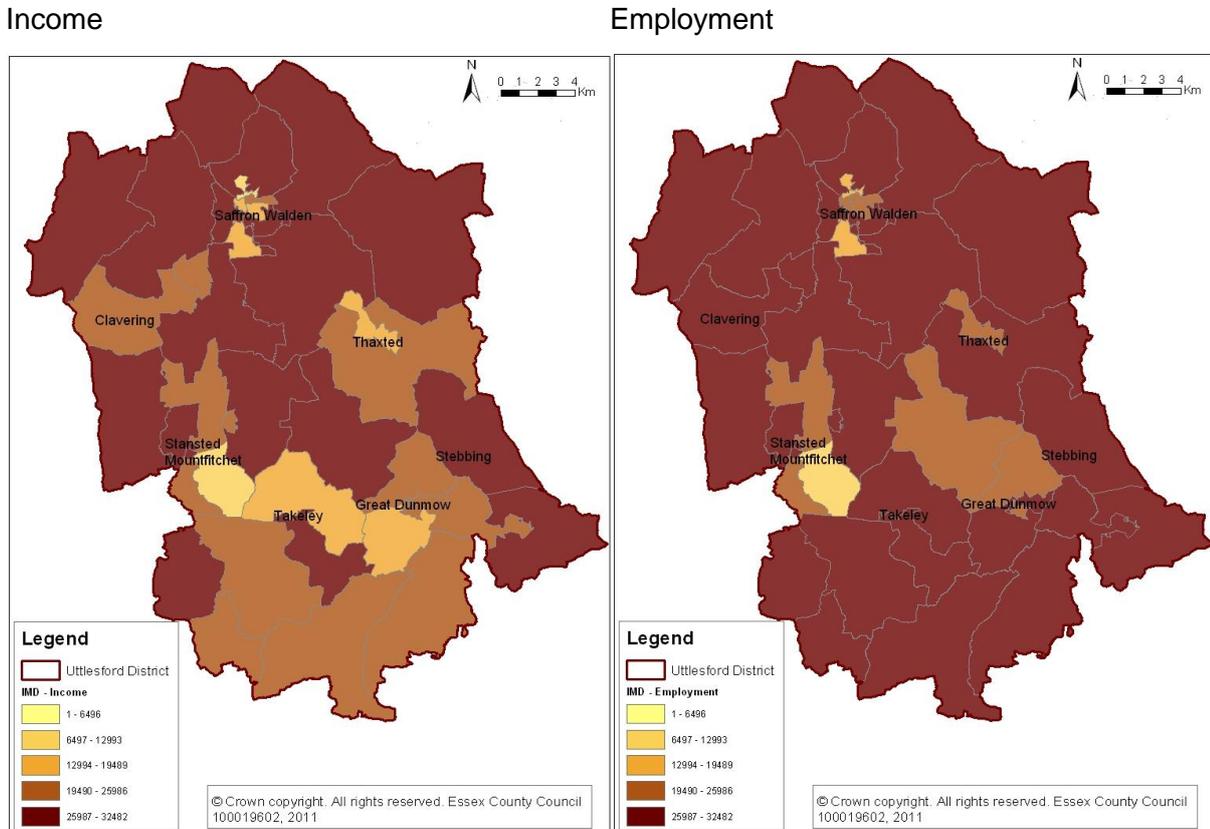
### 3.4. Quality of Life

Uttlesford has the lowest level of deprivation for a local authority within Greater Essex. Of the 326 local authorities within England Uttlesford ranks within the bottom 10% for the four measures – extent, local concentration, average score and average rank.

Deprivation is measured on a small scale with local authorities divided in small areas known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). These have an average of 1,500 people, a minimum of 1,000 and are sub-divisions of wards. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England. Extent is the proportion of a local authority district's population living in the most deprived Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in

the country. Local concentration refers to 'hot spots' of deprivation by reference to a percentage of the local authority districts population. Average Score is the population weighted average of the combined scores for the LSOAs in a local authority district and average Rank is the population weighted average of the combined ranks for the LSOAs in a local authority district.

**Figure 4: IMD 2010 for sub domains Income and Employment**



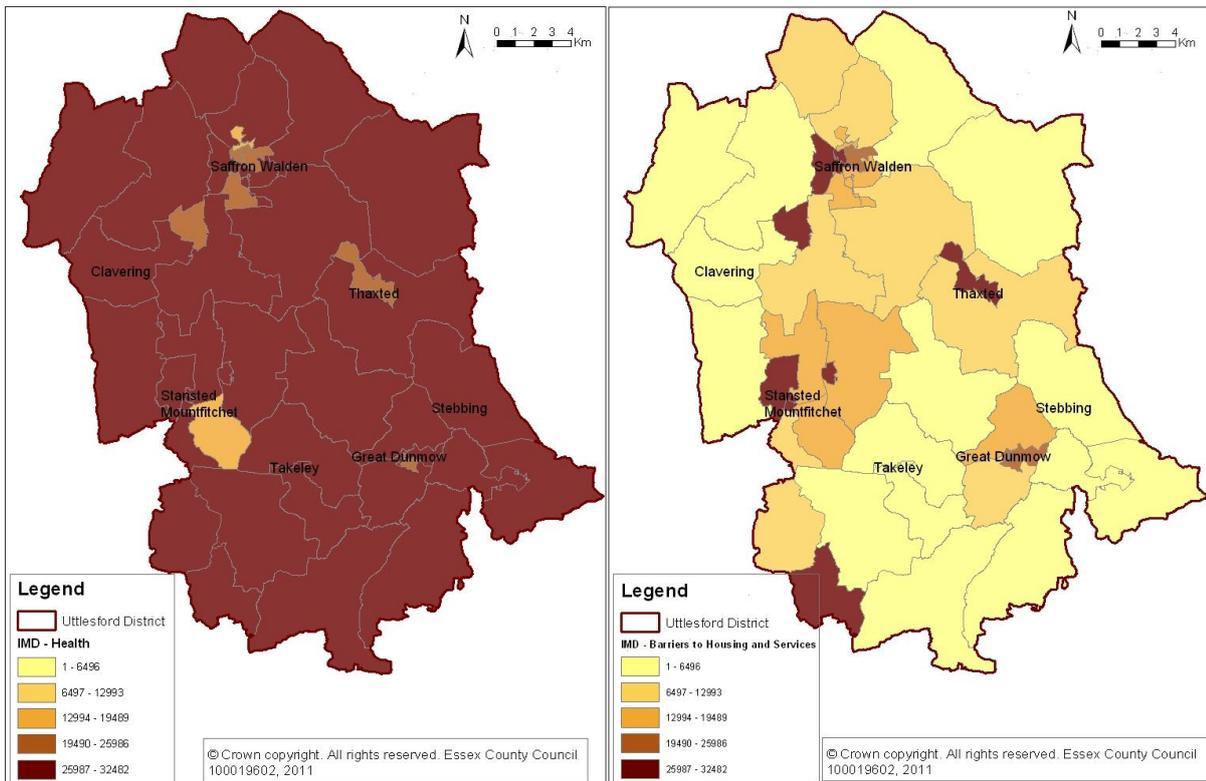
Note: The lightest colour within the legend refers to the 20% most deprived areas nationally while the darker colour refers to the 20% least deprived areas nationally.  
 Source: Essex County Council. IMD 2010 data from DCLG

The District performs well within the Employment domain as the majority of small areas are defined as being in the 20% least deprived areas of England. Great Dunmow however shows higher degrees of income and employment deprivation.

**Figure 5: IMD 2010 for sub domains Health Deprivation and Disability and Barriers to Housing and Services**

Health Deprivation and Disability

Barriers to Housing and Services



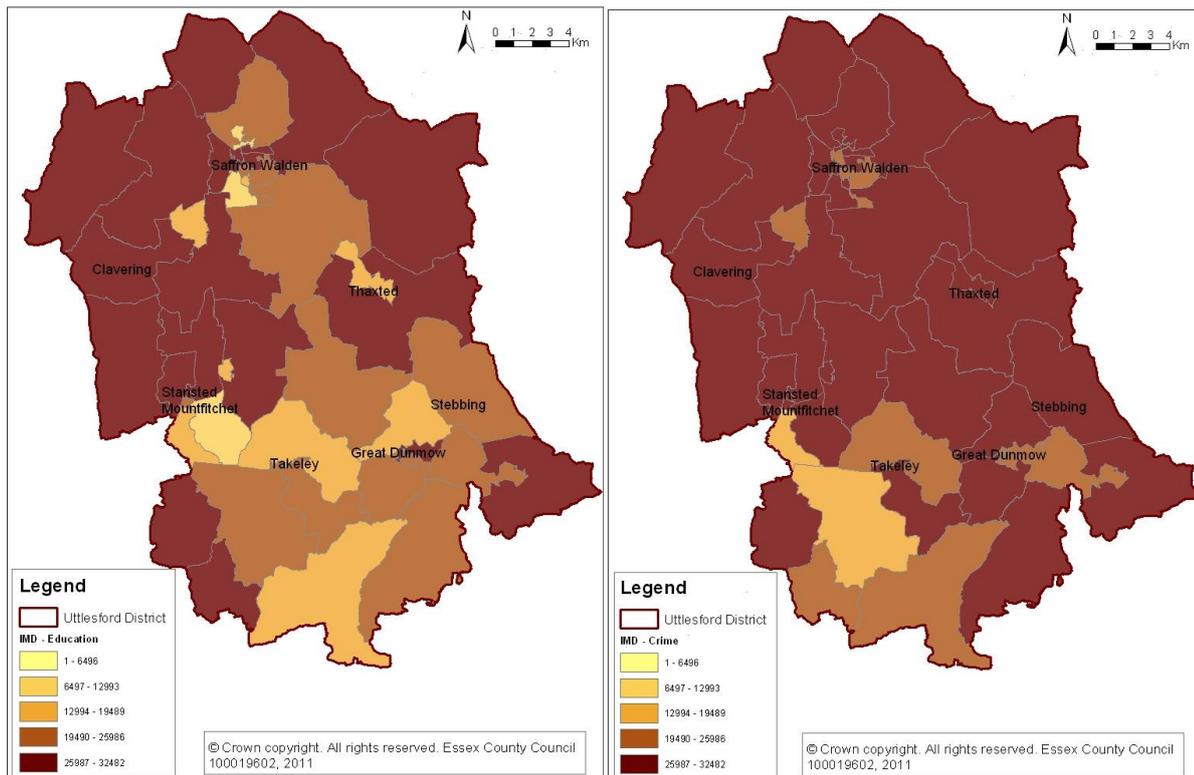
Source: Essex County Council. IMD 2010 data from DCLG

Deprivation in health and disability is low within the District. All areas are recorded as being in the 60% least deprived LSOAs in England. In contrast more than half the area of Uttlesford District experiences high levels of deprivation within regards to barriers to housing and key local services. Deprivation in these two domains is due to significant 'geographical barriers' measured by road distance to a post office, a primary school, a general store and GP premises. Great Dunmow displays a higher level of health deprivation than the majority of the rural district, however has less deprivation regarding barriers to housing and services.

**Figure 6: IMD 2010 for sub domains Education, Skills and Training and Crime**

Education, Skills and Training

Crime



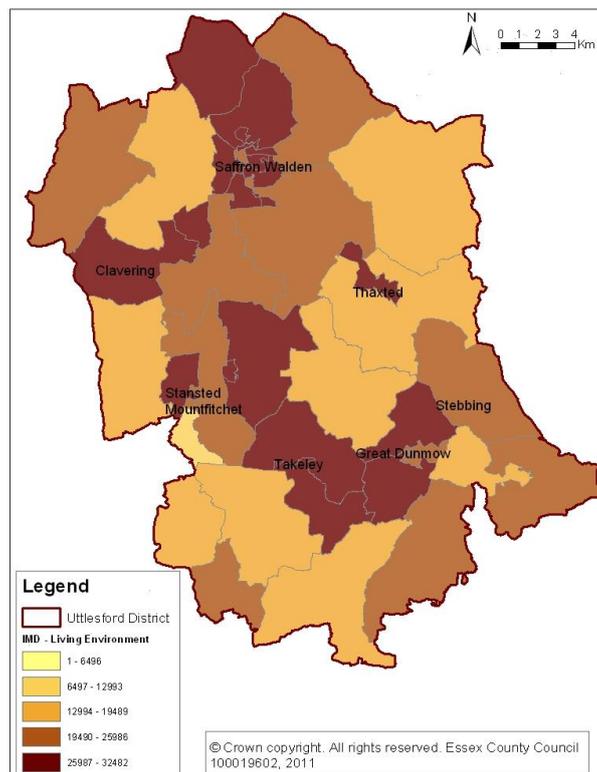
Source: Essex County Council. IMD 2010 data from DCLG

Small areas in Saffron Walden and to the south of Stansted Mountfitchet have the highest levels of deprivation for education, skills and training within the district. Great Dunmow in contrast has low levels of deprivation in this regard. In general Uttlesford District performs well in this domain with a large number of areas classed in the top 20% least deprived areas for education, skills and training.

Uttlesford District performs very well against the sub-domain for crime which measures the incidence of recorded crime within each LSOA. Most of the small areas in the District are ranked in the top 10% least deprived areas across England. Slightly higher incidences of crime are reported in the south of the District and Great Dunmow but there are no areas ranked in the 40% most deprived.

**Figure 7: IMD 2010 for sub domain Living Environment**

Living Environment



Source: Essex County Council. IMD 2010 data from DCLG

Level of deprivation in the living environment varies across the district with the lowest being ranked in the 40% most deprived areas. Living environment is measured by the quality of housing, air quality and road traffic accidents. Great Dunmow does not perform as well as the areas to the immediate west of the town, however outperforms those to the immediate east.

### 3.5. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Housing and Population

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- The parish of Great Dunmow has a population of about 8,800 people with a mean average age of 41 years (2011 census).
- There is a high level of home ownership (71.6%, including mortgaged properties), with correspondingly low proportions of social and private rented housing.
- One bedroom and studio flat apartments make up 14% of housing units in Great Dunmow. This compares to 7% across Uttlesford District (2011 census).
- Four or more bedroom properties make up 28% of housing units in Great Dunmow. This compares to 35% across Uttlesford District (2011 census).
- Consultation with local people has revealed concerns about the affordability of housing in Great Dunmow, particularly for young people and families. People are also concerned about there being a range of housing types available; the perception is that many new developments have a large proportion of larger dwellings.

- Uttlesford District Council's adopted Local Plan (2005) allocates, for the Great Dunmow Parish, development at Woodland's Park and Smith's Farm, and 842 units remain to be built at Woodland's Park. The 2005 Smith's Farm allocation (as employment land) has not been brought forward, and a subsequent planning permission releases the site for mainly residential (with some employment land), and an additional permission releases Land West of Woodside Way for housing. These two sites will contribute 1,140 new homes to the town.
- Uttlesford District Council has also sought to make up for an historic shortfall in housing delivery to satisfy the requirements of its five year land supply, and a number of applications have been permitted on this basis, or have been granted permission on appeal by Her Majesty's Planning Inspectorate.
- Great Dunmow has a total of 2,400 units that are expected to come forward during the Plan period. These sites have planning permission, are included in the UDC Housing Trajectory, and are: Brick Kiln Farm (65 units), Woodland's Park (Sectors 1-3 [842 units]), Perkin's Garage (12 units), Barnetson Court (10 units), South of Ongar Road (100 units), North of Ongar Road (73 units), Woodland's Park (124 units), Land West of Woodside Way (790 units), Land West of Chelmsford Road – Smith's Farm (370 units [incl. 70 bed care home]), Canada Cottages (7 units) and Tower House, St. Edmund's Lane (7 units).
- The Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan proposes the allocation of 500 additional houses across two sites at 'Land South of Stortford Road' (400units) and the 'Helena Romanes School Site' (100units). These two sites are not planned for in the adopted Local Plan (2005) and do not have planning permission. In addition to the 2,400 units otherwise expected to come forward during the Plan period, Great Dunmow will therefore see housing growth of 2,900 units pending the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 4. Health

### 4.1. Life Expectancy and Health

**Table 16: Life Expectancy**

Area	2001 - 2003		2007 - 2009	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Uttlesford	79.2	81.4	80.6	83.8
East of England	77.3	81.4	78.9	82.8
England	76.2	80.7	77.9	82

Source: DCLG, January 2001- December 2003 & January 2007 - December 2009 data

Life expectancy of residents within Uttlesford District is higher than the regional and national averages with men living for an average of 80.6 year and women on average living 83.8 years. In general, life expectancy is increasing within the District and nationwide. The implications of this will mean that as people live longer there will be increased pressure on services for the elderly. This will be an important factor for consideration at all levels of plan-making.

**Table 17: Mortality rates for people under 75 years from circulatory diseases and cancer**

Area	Mortality rate for circulatory diseases		Mortality rate for cancer	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Uttlesford	33.97	50.28	99.88	84.42
Essex	57.86	53.08	107.95	102.94
East of England	60.54	57.25	104.97	102.67
England	70.99	66.1	112.22	109.97

Note: Directly Standardised Mortality Rate based on per 100,000 population

Source: National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD)

Uttlesford District reports a lower mortality rate for people aged 75 or younger for both circulatory diseases and cancer than those reported at the sub-national and national levels. In the District the mortality rate from circulatory diseases is 50.28 which is higher than the previous reporting year. The mortality rate for cancer is 84.42, which is considerably lower than the national rate and an improvement on the mortality rate reported the previous year.

**Table 18: Estimated prevalence of obesity in adults and children**

	Children (aged 4-5)	Adults (> 16 years)
Uttlesford	5.71%	21.72%
Essex	8.24%	24.61%
East of England	8.73%	23.58%
England	9.60%	24.16%

Source: NCHOD. 2008/09 based data for children & 2006-2008 based data for adults

Both adult and child obesity within Uttlesford District are considered by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development to be significantly better than the corresponding national averages. The prevalence of child obesity within the District is 5.71% which is lower than the county average of 8.24% and considerably below the national average of 9.6%. Adult obesity is 21.72% within the

District which is considerably below both the county average of 24.61% and the national average of 24.16%. This has implications for plan-making at the local level in terms of sports provision and access to open space, particularly in regard to new development and the allocation of sites for growth.

#### **4.2. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Health**

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- There are two doctors' surgeries in Great Dunmow, Angel Lane and John Tasker House. John Tasker House has a list size of 13,541 with a capacity of 12,150, while Angel Lane Surgery has a list size of 9,200 with a capacity of 10,000. Neither surgery has official estimates for changes in list size up to 2020, but there is no space for expansion at John Tasker House Surgery and only limited space at Angel Lane Surgery. Great Dunmow caters for a wide catchment area, including Takeley, Barnston and Felsted, as well as the town itself. Primary care is changing rapidly to respond to financial and demographic pressures, and land use patterns need to reflect this.
- A quarter of residents living in the parish are aged over 60. This will put pressure on local services including: social and healthcare (greater likelihood of long term illness); public transport (through decreased mobility); recreational facilities (people are living longer and have more spare time); and changing housing needs (smaller properties, adaptations and a dependence on others to provide care and support).
- The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held a workshop for healthcare professionals on 10th June 2013, with the purpose of giving professionals information about the current planning landscape and hearing their views about the current situation regarding healthcare provision in Great Dunmow. The Assistant Director of Delivery of the West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group was present, and was able to speak about the plans of the CCG for the local area's healthcare strategy. The consensus was that an ageing population is having a great impact on healthcare services, the accessibility of these services, and the requirement for home visiting. There is also increasing demand for mental health facilities. Concerns were also raised about the scarcity of bungalows, and the unacceptability of assuming that old people will, or should, take the route of moving into care homes.

## 5. Transport

### 5.1. Modes and Flows of Travel

**Table 19: Private Vehicle Ownership**

*per household*

	All Households	No car or van	1 car or van	2 cars or vans	3 cars or vans	4 or more cars or vans	Total cars or vans
Uttlesford	27,519	12.17%	36.55%	37.70%	9.58%	3.99%	43,670
Essex	544,699	19.31%	43.30%	28.78%	6.40%	2.21%	707,582
East of England	2,231,974	19.80%	44.10%	28.31%	5.86%	1.93%	2,831,718
England	20,451,427	26.84%	43.69%	23.56%	4.52%	1.39%	22,607,629

Source: 2001 Census, ONS

In general, Uttlesford District has a significantly higher number of cars or vans per household compared to sub-national and national levels. Proportionately more households own 2 cars or vans within in the District while nationally and across the county the largest proportions of households own only 1 car or van. This information has important implications for plan-makers regarding parking provision, the promotion of sustainable transportation, walking and cycling and also relevant infrastructure requirements.

**Table 20: Travel to work methods for the residential population of Uttlesford District**

	Uttlesford		East of England		England	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
All People	49,862	100.00%	3,884,104	100.00%	35,532,091	100.00%
Works mainly at or from home	4,584	9.19%	243,485	6.27%	2,055,224	5.78%
Underground, metro, light rail or tram	158	0.32%	21,688	0.56%	709,386	2.00%
Train	2,670	5.35%	156,054	4.02%	950,023	2.67%
Bus, minibus or coach	369	0.74%	102,838	2.65%	1,685,361	4.74%
Taxi or minicab	111	0.22%	11,693	0.30%	116,503	0.33%
Driving a car or van	21,453	43.02%	1,518,613	39.10%	12,324,166	34.68%
Passenger in a car or van	1,586	3.18%	150,642	3.88%	1,370,685	3.86%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	271	0.54%	28,637	0.74%	249,456	0.70%
Bicycle	519	1.04%	100,193	2.58%	634,588	1.79%

	Uttlesford		East of England		England	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
On foot	3,155	6.33%	233,737	6.02%	2,241,901	6.31%
Other	169	0.34%	11,798	0.30%	104,205	0.29%
Not currently working	14,817	29.72%	1,304,726	33.59%	13,090,593	36.84%

Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010). Census data 2001 from ONS

Uttlesford District has a higher proportion of residents driving to work by either car or van (43.02%) when compared to regional and national levels as well as a larger proportion of residents working from home (9.19%). This is largely related to the District's rural nature. There is also a higher usage of trains as a mode of transport within the District compared to the national trend but fewer residents cycle or travel by bus, minibuss or coach. The proportion of residents who walk to work is comparatively similar to the regional and national levels. In Great Dunmow, the figures towards private vehicle use can be expected to be higher, in consideration of a lack of rail facilities in the area and proximity to the A120.

**Table 21: Travel to work flows in Uttlesford District**

	Work in Uttlesford		Live in Uttlesford		Net Flow
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	
Uttlesford	19,254	55.50%	19,254	54.90%	0
Greater London	858	2.50%	4,402	12.60%	-3,544
East Herts	3,055	8.80%	3,088	8.80%	-33
South Cambs	1,095	3.20%	1,255	3.60%	-160
Cambridge	287	0.80%	1,081	3.10%	-794
Braintree	3,296	9.50%	605	1.70%	2,691
Chelmsford	938	2.70%	822	2.30%	116
Harlow	1,011	2.90%	1,434	4.10%	-423
St Edmundsbury	620	1.80%	117	0.30%	503
Sub-Total	30,414	87.60%	32,058	91.50%	-1,644
Other Areas	4,298	12.40%	2,988	8.50%	1,310
TOTAL	34,712	100.00%	35,046	100.00%	-334

Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010). Census data 2001 from ONS

It can be seen that only 55.5% (19,254) of Uttlesford residents worked in the area, meaning that almost half of all residents travelled to work outside the District. This also indicates that just under half of all the jobs in the area are taken by people living elsewhere, and travelling in.

The major employment destination of Uttlesford residents outside the District was Greater London, with 4,402, or 12.6%, of Uttlesford District residents travelling to that destination for work. The next most popular destinations for employment were the neighbouring authorities of East Hertfordshire (3,088 or 8.8%), Harlow (1,434 or 4.1%), South Cambridgeshire (1,255 or 3.6%) and Cambridge (1,081 or 3.1%).

The largest flows of people travelling to the District to work come from Braintree (9.25% or 3,296), East Hertfordshire (8.8% or 3,055), South Cambridgeshire (3.2% or 1,095) and Harlow (2.9% or 1,011). In total these four external sources provided workers for 8,457 or 24.15%, of jobs in Uttlesford. Together with those who live and work in the District, these areas met 79.65% of the employee needs of Uttlesford businesses.

## 5.2. Accessibility

**Table 22: Proportion of Uttlesford Residents with Access to Services within 15 minutes and 30 minutes (2010)**

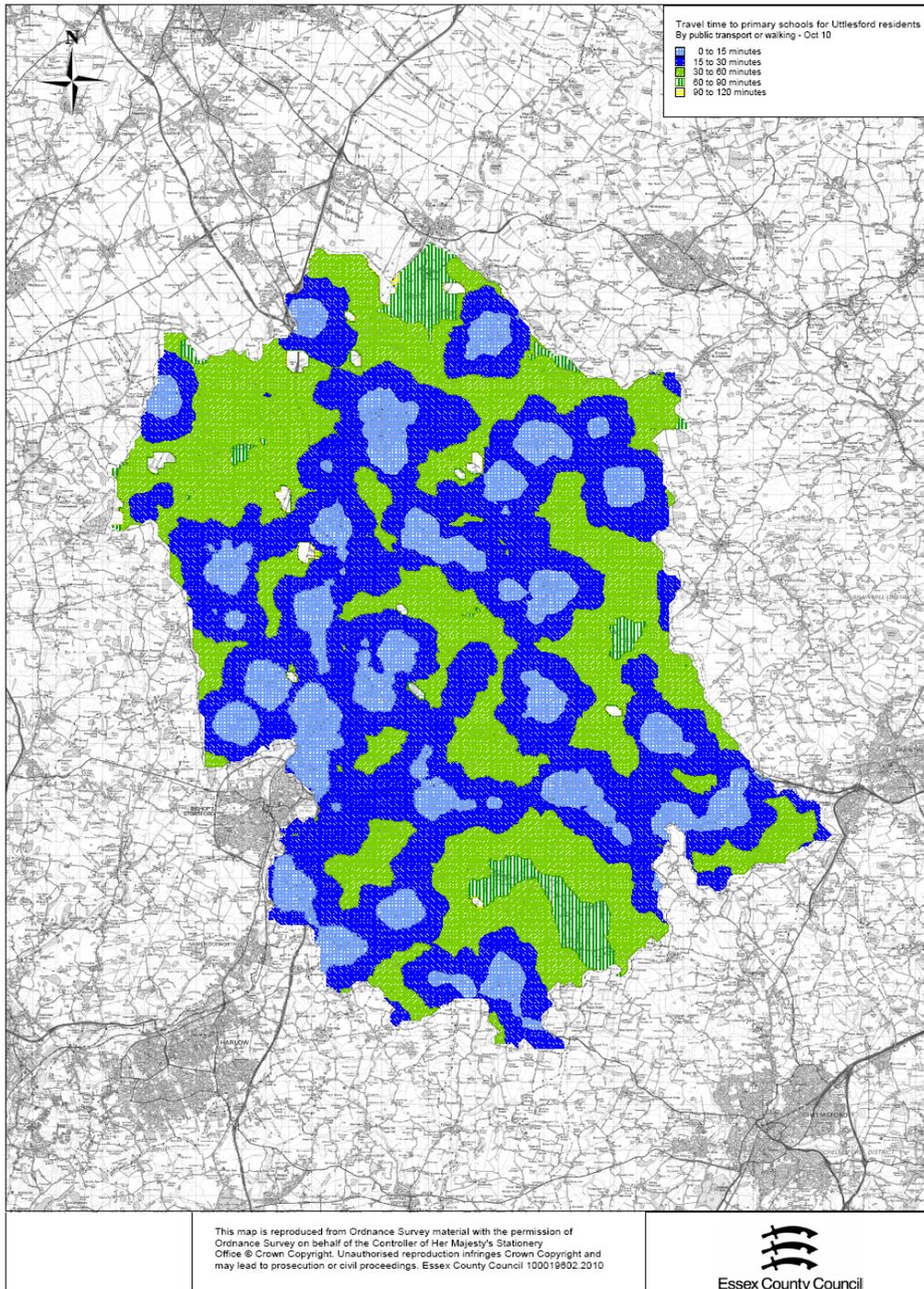
Service	Proportion of resident population with access to service within 15 minutes	Proportion of resident population with access to service within 30 minutes
Primary school	60%	86%
Secondary school	22%	60%
Employment site	36%	76%
Retail centre	38%	69%
GP	50%	80%

Source: Essex County Council, 2011

Accessibility is a general issue within Uttlesford District, with only just over one third of residents being within 15 minutes of an employment site or retail centre and 50% being within 15 minutes of a GP. Over four fifths of the population of Uttlesford District live within 30 minutes of a primary school. The proportion of residents with access to a secondary school within 30 minutes walking or public transport is significantly smaller at 60%.

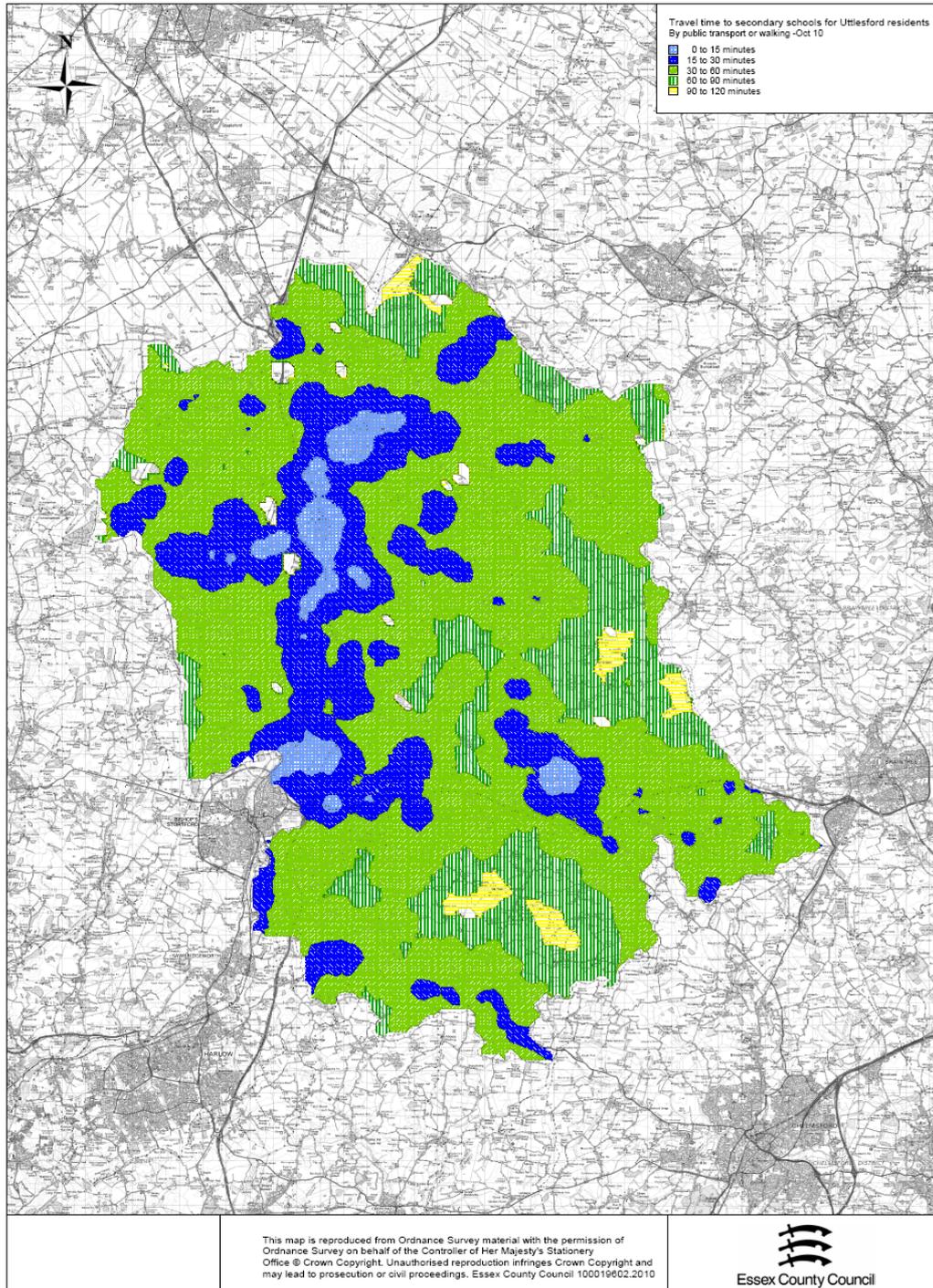
Accession maps, taken from Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010) illustrate spatially the amount of time it takes to access primary schools, secondary schools, retail centres, GPs and employment sites by walking or public transport across Uttlesford District.

**Figure 8: Accessibility of Primary Schools in Uttlesford District (2010)**



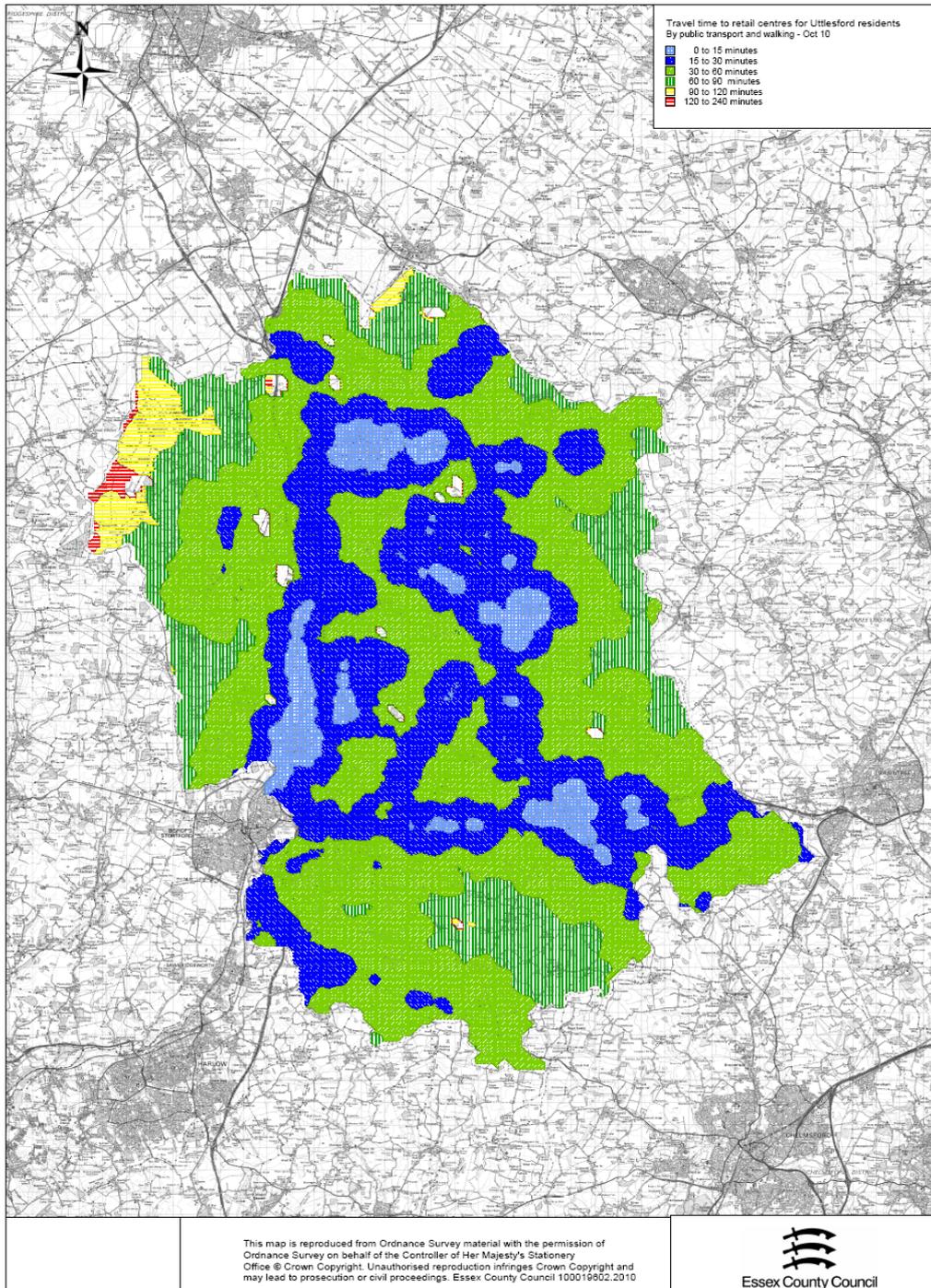
Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

**Figure 9: Accessibility of Secondary Schools in Uttlesford District (2010)**



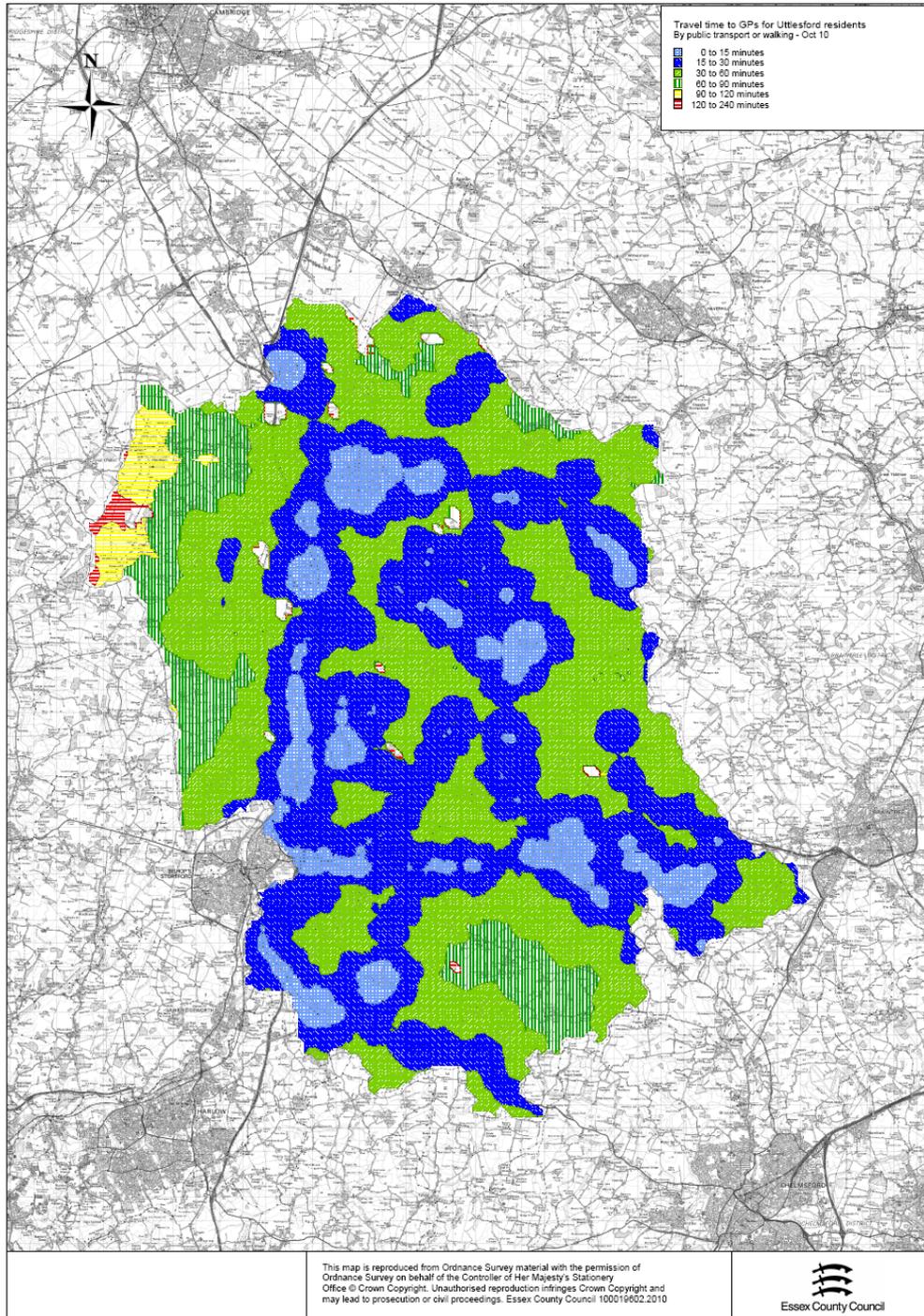
Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

**Figure 10: Accessibility of Retail Centres in Uttlesford District (2010)**



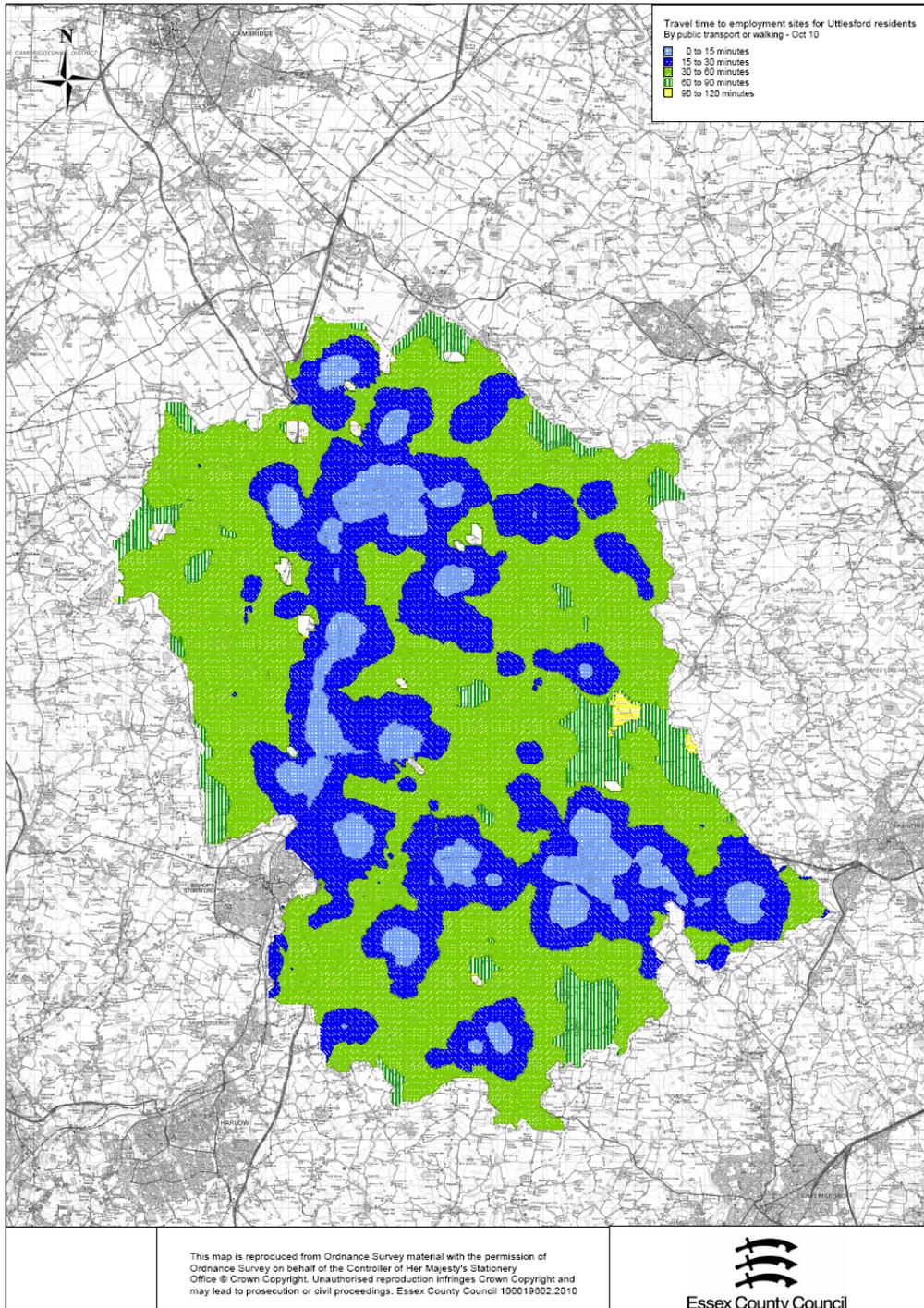
Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

**Figure 11: Accessibility of GP Surgeries in Uttlesford District (2010)**



Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

**Figure 12: Accessibility of Employment Centres in Uttlesford District (2010)**



Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

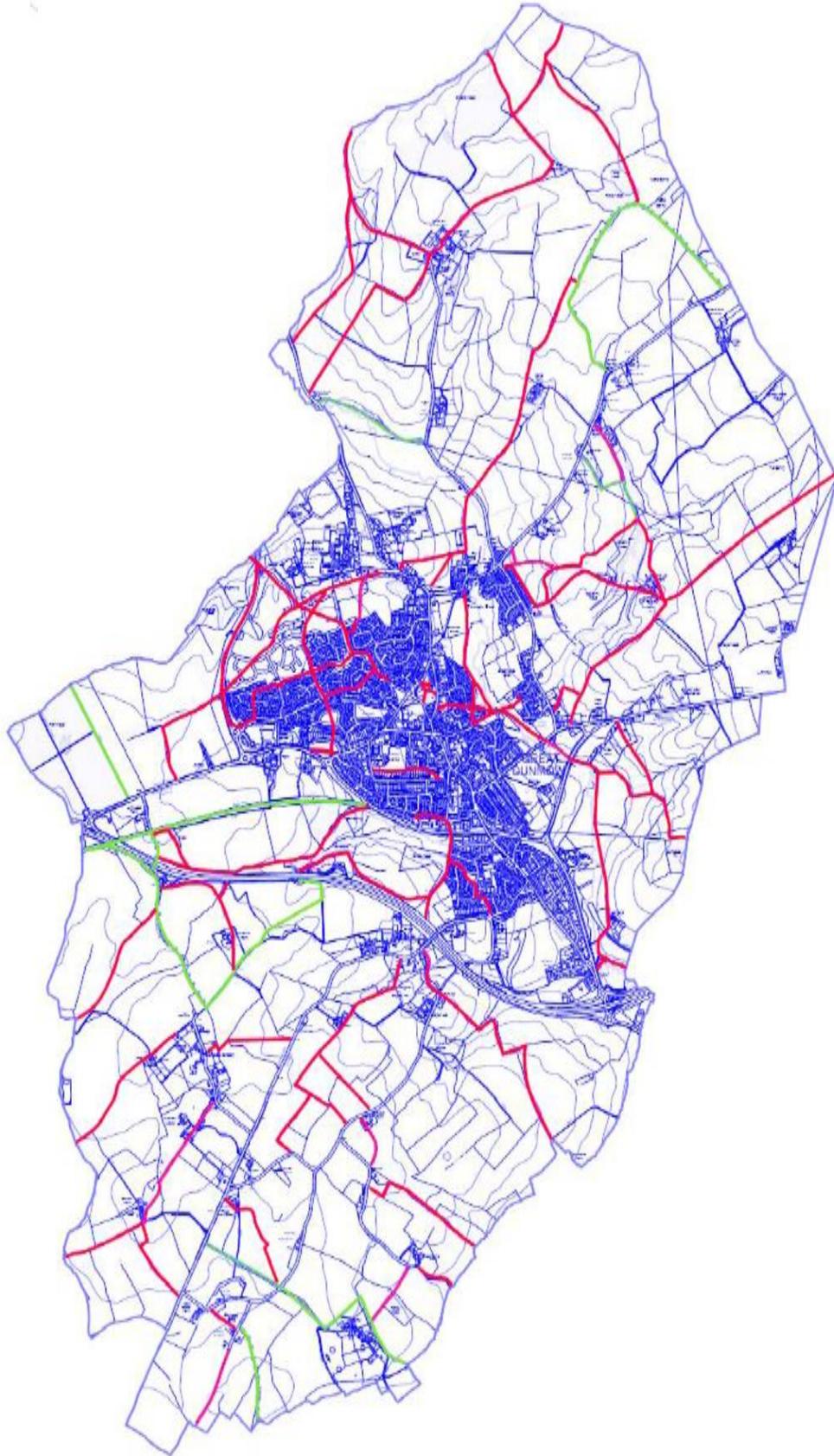
The above figures show that Great Dunmow is well provided with services in comparison to large parts of the District. Most notably, Great Dunmow has a secondary school which serves a large area. It is important that these services remain for the benefit of the District, and that capacities and infrastructure needs are addressed in relevant Plans.

### 5.3. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Transport

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- The Town Centre provides a total of 248 non-season ticket car parking spaces, at White Street (107 spaces), Angel Lane (29 spaces), Chequer's Lane (53 spaces), Foakes Hall (29 spaces for users of the hall), the Recreation Ground (approximately 30 spaces), and New Street (10 spaces). Most of these carry car parking charges, with short-time tickets available. This is seen by local residents and High Street businesses as very damaging to efforts to support the Town Centre. Dunmow Chamber of Trade and the Town Team have been active and vocal in efforts to change this situation.
- The A120 dual carriageway provides a high speed connection to the M11 and the towns surrounding Great Dunmow.
- Bus services and access to them is relatively poor. The nearest railway station is Stansted or Bishop's Stortford, 6.1 miles or 9.8 miles respectively. Car parking at Stansted is expensive, and there are no direct public transport links to Bishop's Stortford.
- Great Dunmow is a highly walkable town, as it is fairly compact. Some pedestrian routes, however, are unattractive.
- As Great Dunmow is walkable, it is also suitable for cycling. However, there are few dedicated cycle routes with most cyclists using streets to get around. In effect, cycling is discouraged by the lack of provision, and evidence from the town's secondary school suggests that a tiny minority (2%) cycle to school.
- The Essex County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan has identified a lack of continuous paths, a lack of bridleways and a lack of byways. The issue of the continuity of paths is of particular significance to Great Dunmow, as the disruption to the progression of the Flitch Way is a matter of long-standing community action and lobbying by residents. The Flitch Way Connection Group and the Ramblers' Association of Great Dunmow – as well as Essex County Council – have been active in seeking improvements to the public rights of way in the parish, and their efforts have been supported by the Town Council.
- An informal ramblers' trail – the Saffron Trail – has been identified and described by the Ramblers' Association. It comes from the south of the town (from Great Waltham), makes use of the Flitch Way, and carries on to north towards Saffron Walden. Details of this trail can be found on the Essex Walks website.
- The Town Design Statement has raised the following issues facing footpaths and bridleways in Great Dunmow: Directness; clear marking and destination information; personal safety (perceived and actual, in terms of lighting); surfacing; connectivity; safety from traffic.
- Resolving these issues forms a priority for the Neighbourhood Plan. There have been a number of missed opportunities with regards to improving the footpath and bridleway network which planning conditions would have been well placed to achieve. For example, the integrity of the Flitch Way could have been more thoroughly considered during both the construction of the original A120 bypass (B1256) and that of the new A120 bypass. Similarly, in written submissions on the applications for the Woodlands Park development, many residents and organisations in the parish put forward a very strong case to provide a bridleway along the whole length of the verge of the north-west bypass. Upgrading the existing footpath and constructing a surfaced track during the construction of the highway could easily have achieved this, but these submissions were ignored and it now appears to be impossible to provide the bridleway in retrospect. This Plan hopes to ensure that such opportunities are not missed in the future.

**Figure 13: Public Rights of Way in Great Dunmow Parish**



Source: HM Stationary Office, Ordnance Survey

## 6. Cultural Heritage

The most complete information relating to the cultural heritage of the District is recorded on the Historic Environment Record maintained jointly by Uttlesford District and Essex County Council.

### 6.1. Recorded Archaeological Sites and Finds in Uttlesford District

The majority of archaeological sites and deposits in Uttlesford District remain buried, hidden and thus preserved. However, the known archaeological resource in the District is very varied and highly significant. There are approximately 4,064 in records of archaeological sites and finds recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) for Uttlesford District as of December 2010. The archaeological deposits range in date from the Palaeolithic, through to structures related to the Cold War. However, it should also be remembered that the EHER records represent only the known deposits with many new sites being identified each year. Archaeological sites (and their setting) constitute a finite, non-renewable resource which is vulnerable to damage.

### 6.2. Listed Buildings

**Table 23: Listed Buildings in Uttlesford District and Great Dunmow**

Type of Listed Building	Uttlesford	Great Dunmow
Grade I	68	2
Grade II*	173	8
Grade II	3,491	238
Total	3,732	248

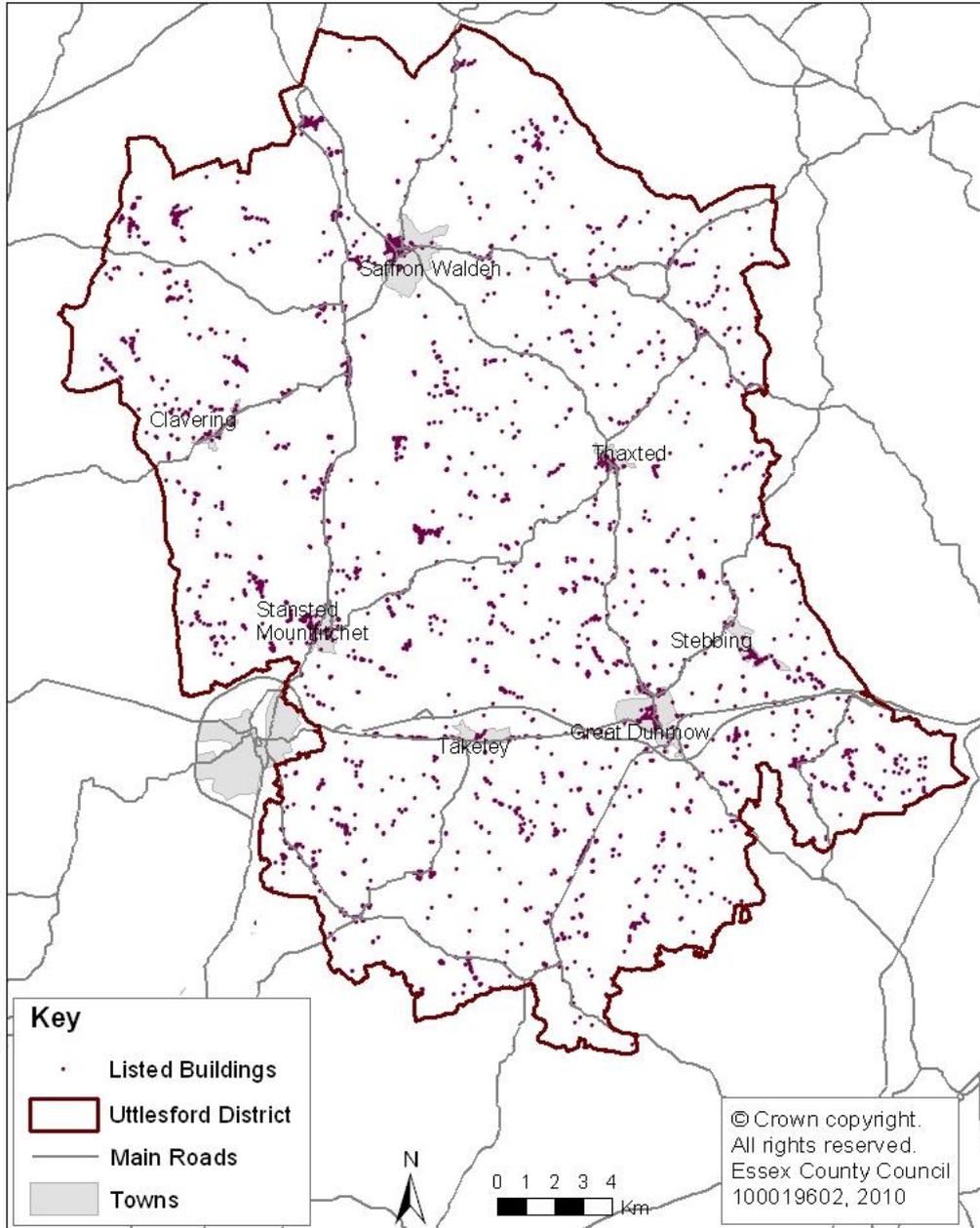
Source: Essex Historic Environment Record, August 2011

There are 3,732 designated listed buildings within the District and the majority of them are grade II listed. This means they are nationally important and of special interest. Around 2% of all the listed buildings are considered to be of exceptional interest and internationally important (grade I) and approximately 5% are classed as particularly important buildings of more than special interest (grade II\*).

The distribution of listed buildings is fairly spread out. There are linear patterns along historic transport routes and clusters of listed buildings in the historic settlements such as Thaxted, Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Stansted Mountfitchet as shown in Figure 14.

Great Dunmow has 248 listed buildings within the Parish. Of these there are 2 which are grade I listed. These are The Clock House and the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. There are 174 designated listed buildings within the Plan Area and the majority of them are grade II listed. This means they are nationally important and of special interest.

**Figure 14: Map of Listed Buildings**



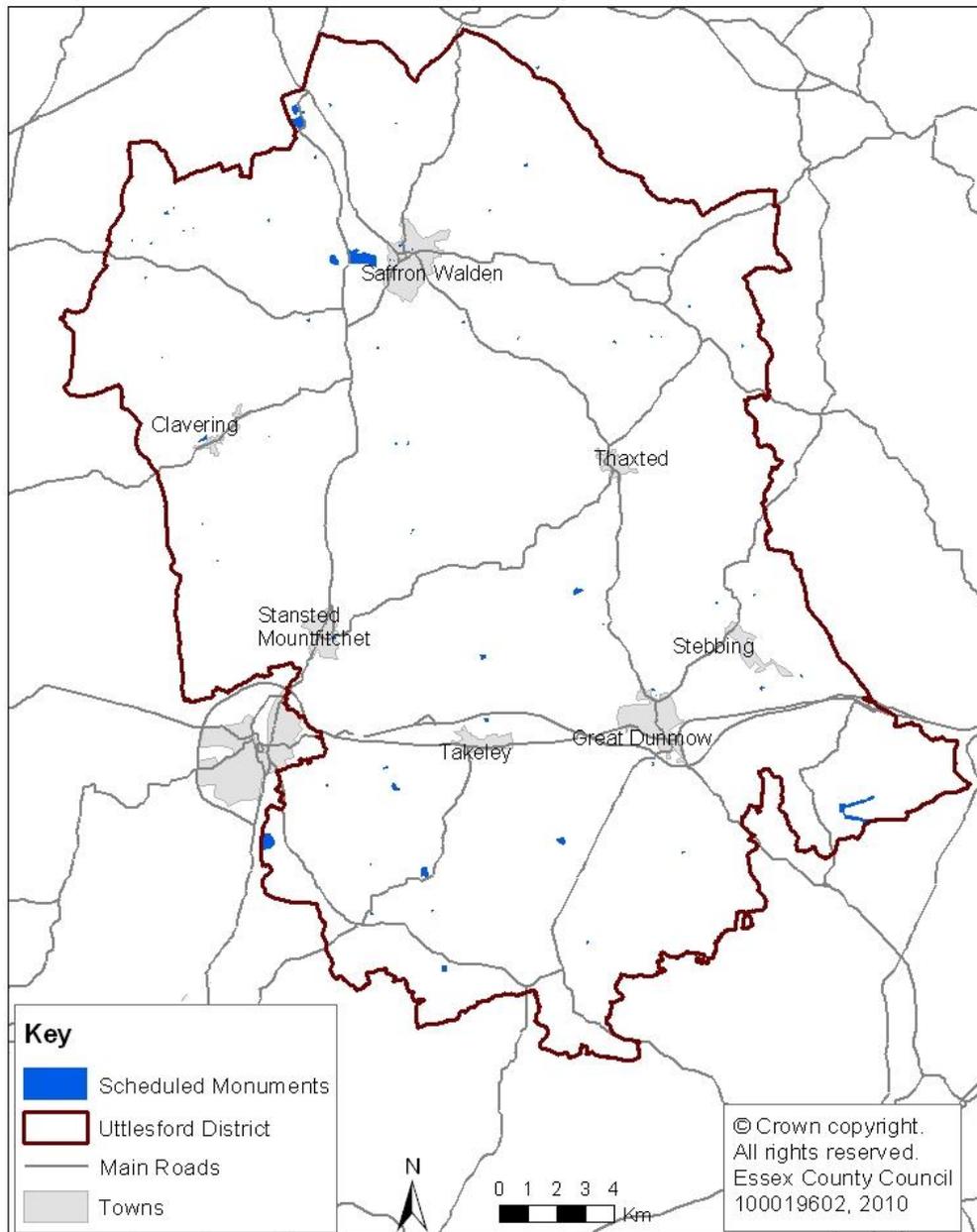
Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

### 6.3. Scheduled Monuments

There are 73 Scheduled Monuments within the District which represents 24.6% of all Scheduled Monuments within Essex. They range from prehistoric burial mounds to unusual examples of World War II defensive structures and have been designated due to their national importance. Audley End located west of Saffron Walden, is designated as a Scheduled Monument, as well as a landscape park and historic house. There are 3 Scheduled Monuments in the neighbourhood Plan Area. These are:

- Clapton Hall moated site and fishpond
- Square and circular barrows 260m south east of Parsonage Farm
- Parsonage Farm moated site

**Figure 15: Map of Scheduled Monuments**



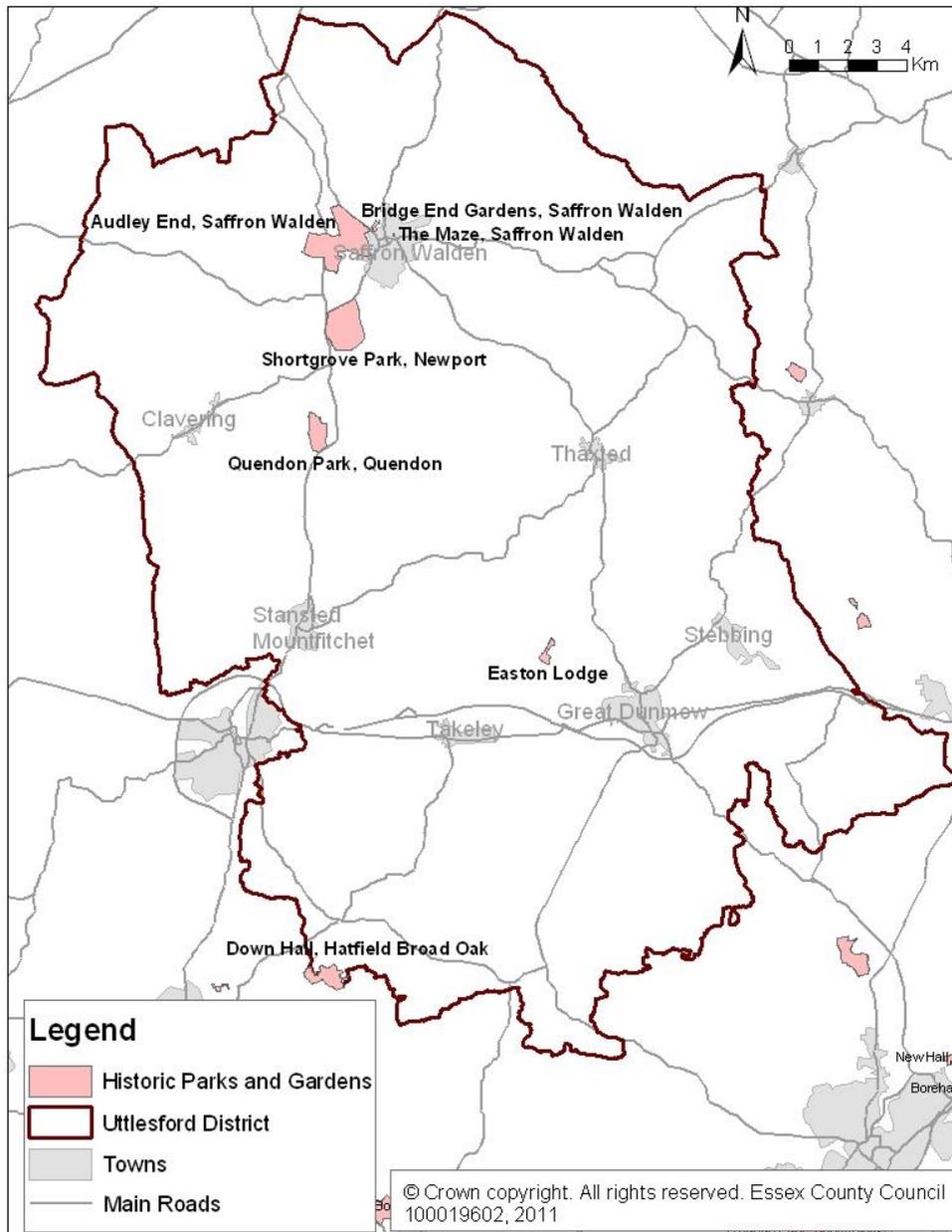
Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

#### 6.4. Historic Parks and Gardens

There are 7 registered parks and gardens within Uttlesford District which have each been designated by English Heritage as being “a park or garden of special historic interest”. None of these are in the Plan Area; however one, at Little Easton, is in relative close proximity. The details of this registered garden are:

- Easton Lodge Gardens, Little Easton (Grade II) - Park around Easton Lodge including gardens designed by Harold Peto in 1902, incorporating a late 17th and early 18th century grove. Site includes an Italian garden, a Japanese garden, formal lawns and flower beds, and a rose walk.

**Figure 16: Map of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens**



Source: Essex County Council, 2011

## 6.5. Conservation Areas

There are 36 conservation areas within Uttlesford District which are defined as historical settlements and buildings having 'special architectural or historical interest, the character of which is desirable to preserve or enhance'. The objective of the Conservation Area designation is to ensure that the character of the defined area is protected from developments which do not preserve or enhance its character.

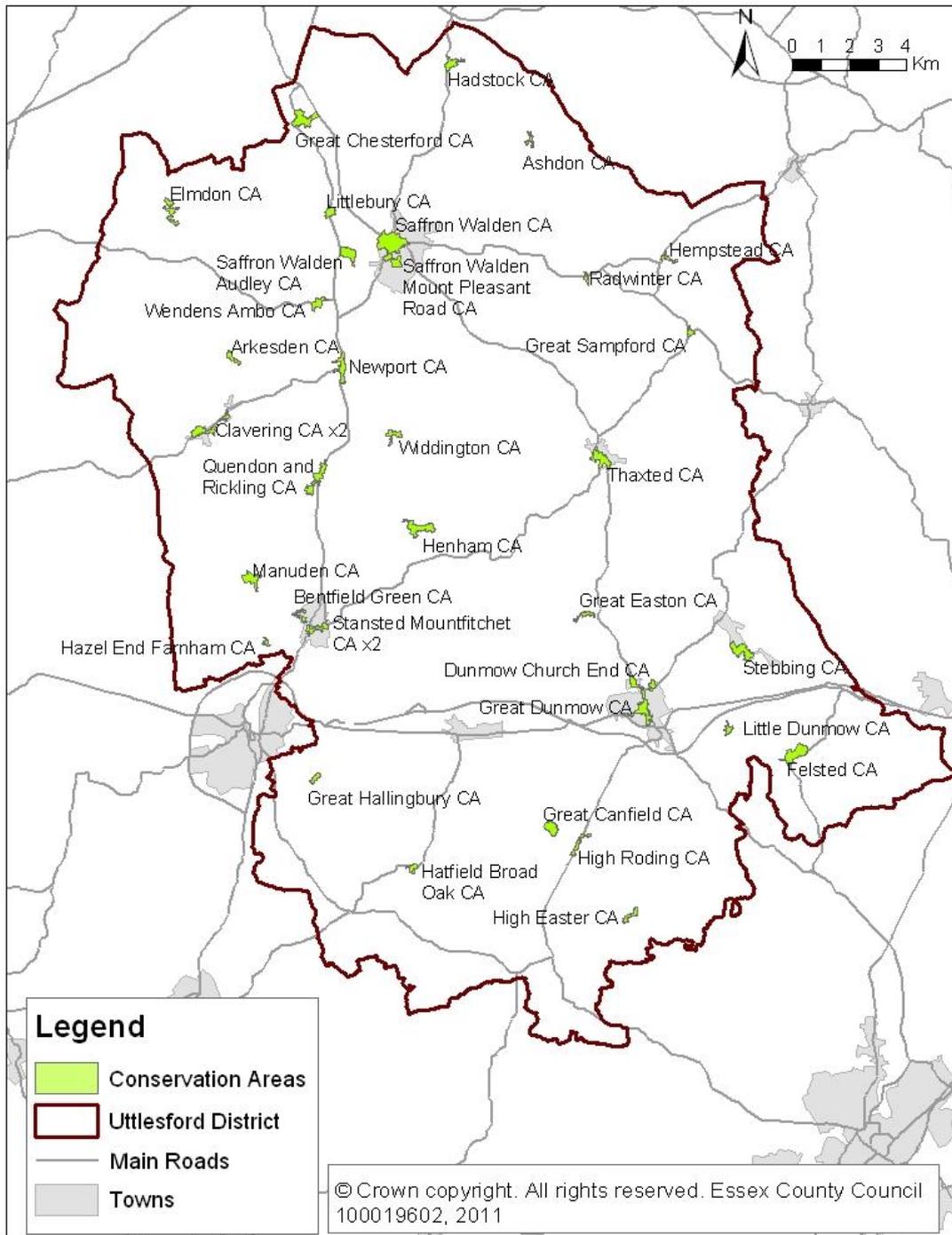
**Table 24: Conservation Areas**

	Conservation Area
1	Arkesden
2	Ashdon
3	Bentfield Green
4	Clavering
5	Clavering - Hill Green
6	Elmdon
7	Felsted
8	Great Canfield
9	Great Chesterford
10	Great Dunmow
11	Great Dunmow – Church End
12	Great Easton
13	Great Hallingbury
14	Great Sampford
15	Hadstock
16	Hatfield Broad Oak
17	Hazel End Farnham
18	Hempstead
19	Henham

	Conservation Area
20	High Easter
21	High Roding
22	Little Dunmow
23	Littlebury
24	Manuden
25	Newport
26	Quenden and Rickling
27	Radwinter
28	Saffron Walden – Audley End
29	Saffron Walden – Mount Pleasant Road
30	Saffron Walden – Town Centre
31	Stansted Mountfichet
32	Stansted Mountfichet
33	Stebbing
34	Thaxted
35	Wendens Ambo
36	Widdington

Source: Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council, 2011

**Figure 17: Map of Conservation Areas**



Source: Essex County Council, 2011 – Data provided by Uttlesford District Council

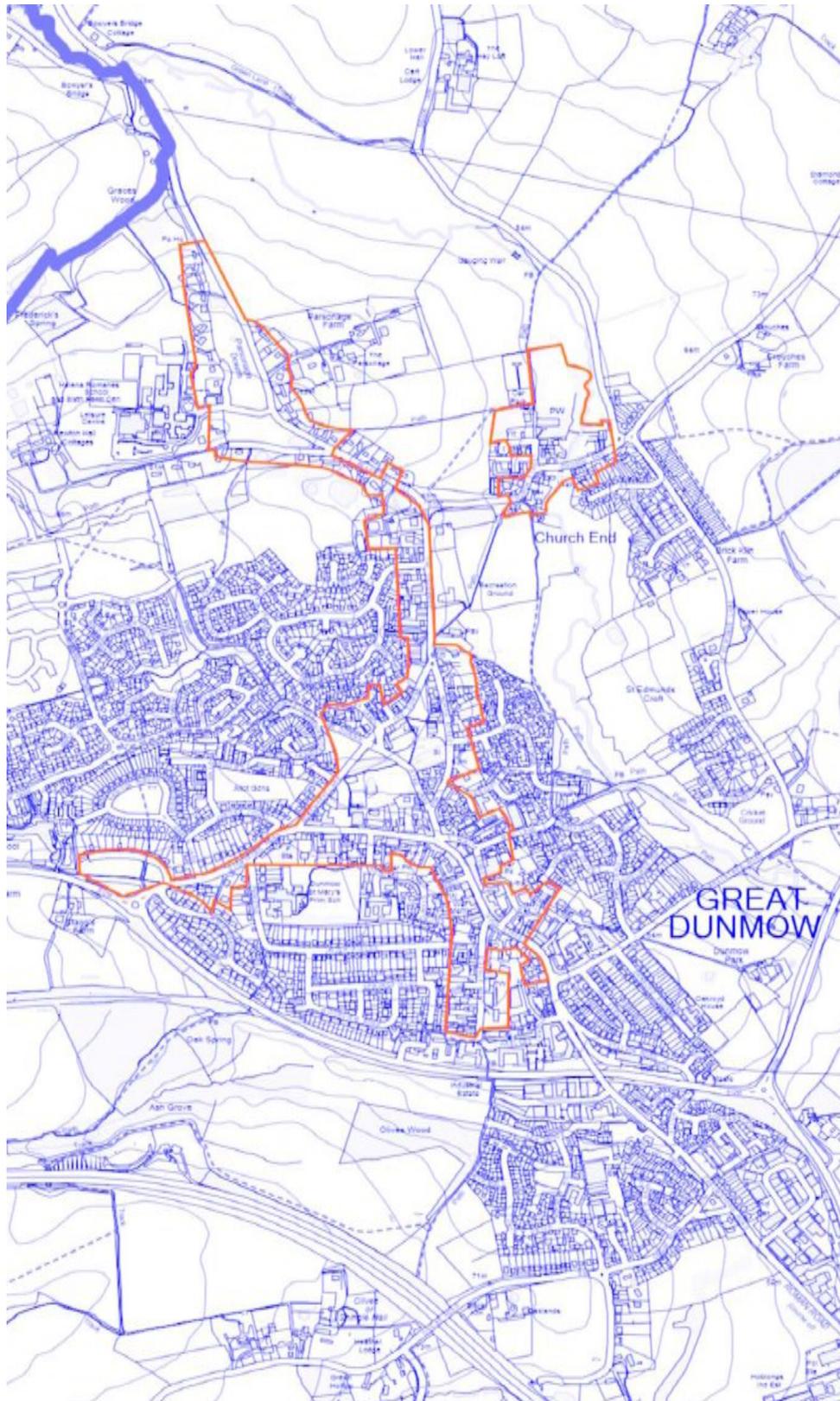
**6.6. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Cultural Heritage**

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- Great Dunmow’s historic core is protected as a designated Conservation Area, and this area has previously been assessed by Uttlesford District Council in the Conservation Area Appraisal.

- The important views within the Conservation Area, as identified by the Conservation Area Appraisal, are primarily of St. Mary's Church, the High Street and Market Place, the War Memorial, and the Doctor's Pond and Talberd's Ley.

**Figure 18: Great Dunmow Conservation Area**



Source: HM Stationary Office, Ordnance Survey / UDC

## 7. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

### 7.1. Biodiversity Action Plan

The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) is currently being updated to a new 2011 EBAP. As the new action plans are not fully available this baseline will look at the previous EBAP produced in 1999. There are 25 species and 10 habitat action plans covering Essex and those which are relevant to Uttlesford are listed below.

<b>Mammals:</b>	Brown hare	<b>Invertebrates:</b>	Desmoulin's whorl snail
	Dormouse	<b>Plants:</b>	Black poplar
	Otter		Oxlip
	Pipistrelle bats	<b>Habitats:</b>	Ancient/species rich
	Water vole		hedgerows and green lanes
<b>Other vertebrates:</b>	Great Crested Newt		Ancient woodland
<b>Birds:</b>	Grey Partridge		Cereal field margin
	Skylark		Heathland
	Song Thrush		Old orchards
	Stone Curlew		Urban areas

In addition to the above, wet woodlands are BAP habitats and will be taken into consideration alongside the listed BAP species and habitats in the SEA of relevant policies and sites in the Plan.

### 7.2. Designated Sites

There are no international or European designated sites within Uttlesford. There are however a number of nationally designated sites, those being 2 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and 12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). There are also over 280 locally important nature conservation areas which are designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LoWSs). A total of 37% of the Local Wildlife Sites in the District are in Positive Conservation Management.

Of the 12 SSSIs in the District, one (High Wiid, Dunmow) is partially within the Plan Area:

- Ashdon Meadows
- Debden Water
- Elsenham Woods
- Garnett Wood / Barnston Lays
- Hales and Shadwell Woods
- Halls Quarry
- Hatfield Forest
- High Wood, Dunmow
- Little Hallingbury Marsh
- Nunn Wood
- Quendon Wood
- West Wood

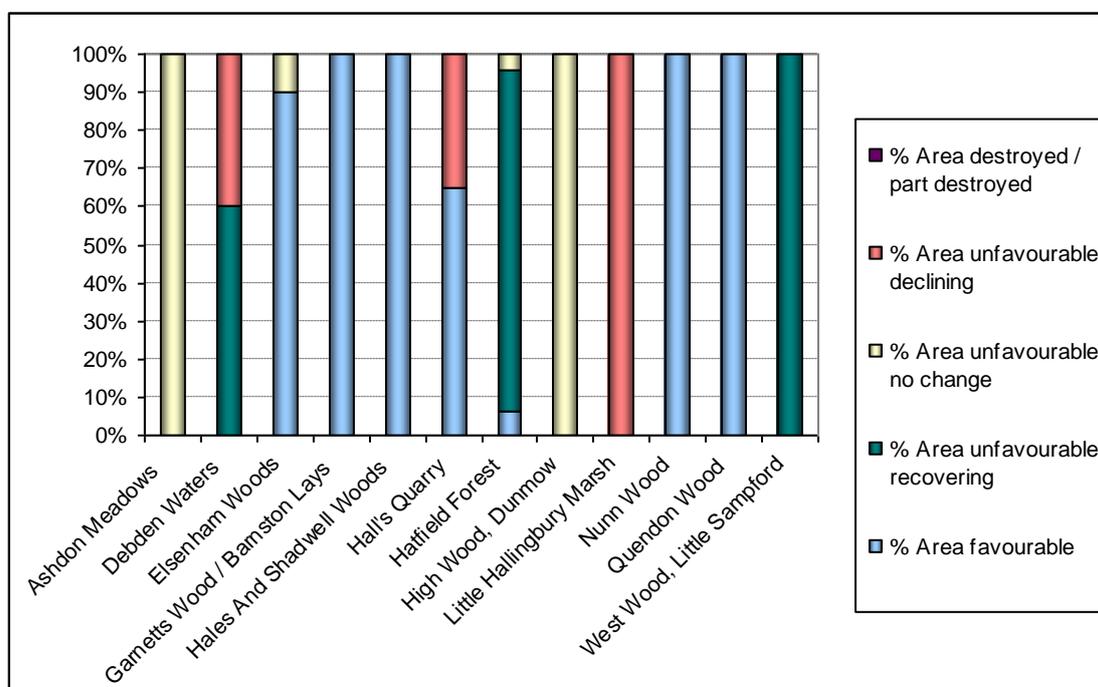
**Table 25: Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

SSSI name:	% Area meeting PSA target
Ashdon Meadows	0.00%
Debden Waters	60.13%
Elsenham Woods	89.98%
Garnetts Wood / Barnston Lays	100%
Hales And Shadwell Woods	100%
Hall's Quarry	64.71%
Hatfield Forest	95.65%
High Wood, Dunmow	0.00%
Little Hallingbury Marsh	0.00%
Nunn Wood	100%
Quendon Wood	100%
West Wood, Little Sampford	100%

Source: Data taken from Natural England, May 2011

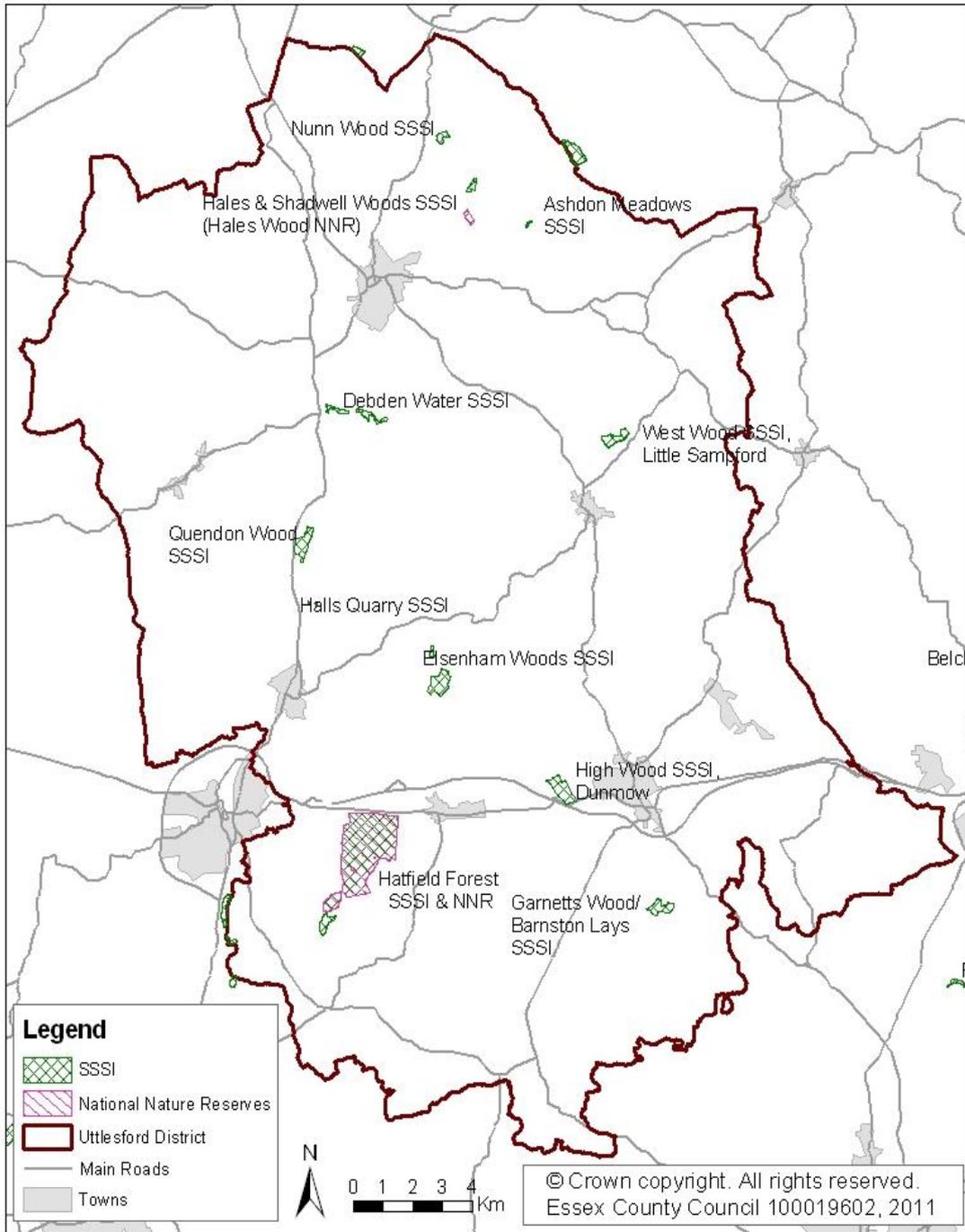
There is a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target of at least 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites being brought into favourable condition. Half of the 12 sites in Uttlesford are meeting this target. High Wood in Dunmow is not meeting this target although is not declining; the SSSI has experienced no change since it was last assessed as being unfavourable.

**Figure 19: Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest**



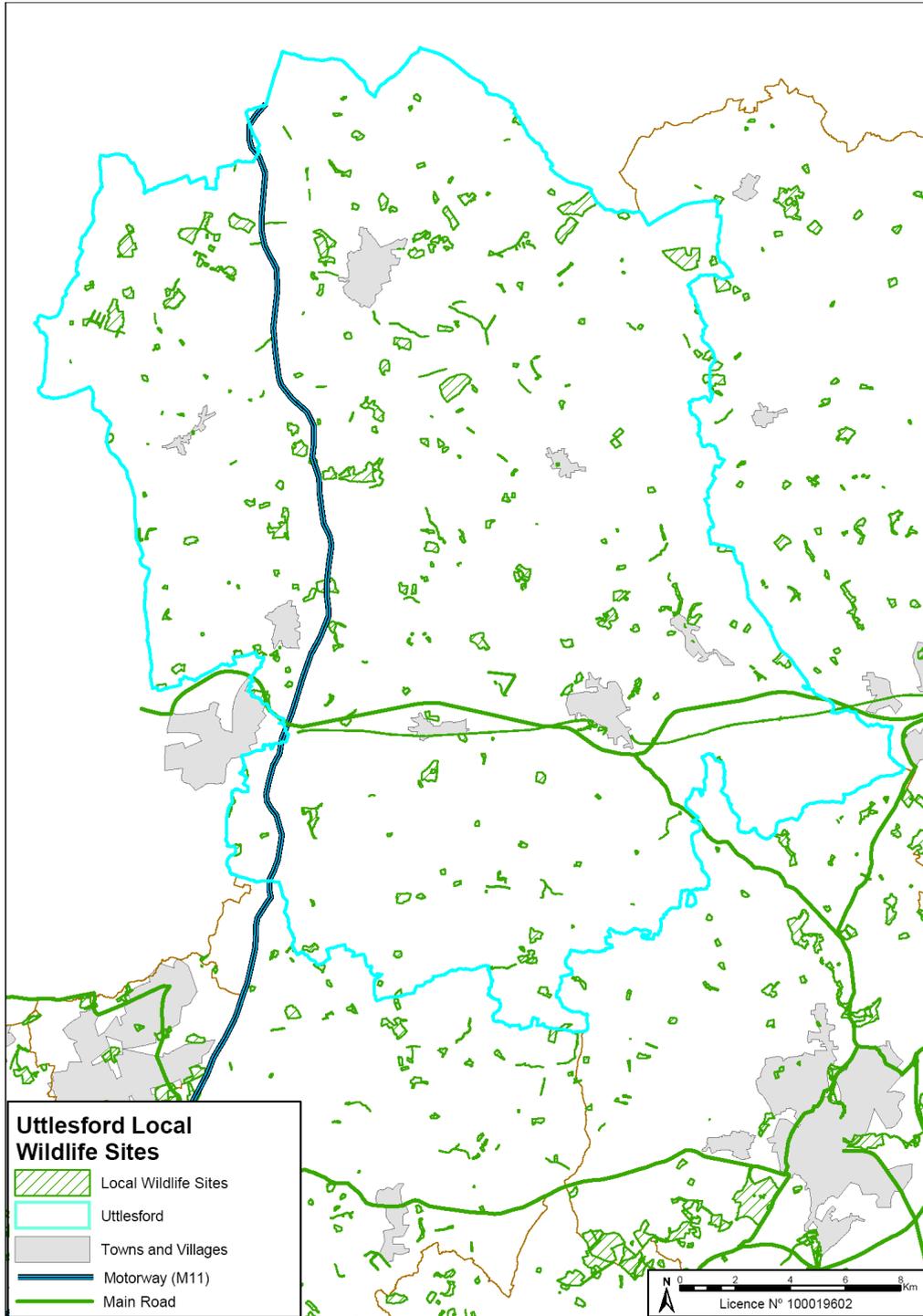
Source: Data taken from Natural England, May 2011

**Figure 20: Location of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves**



Source: Essex County Council, 2011

**Figure 21: Location of Local Wildlife Sites**



Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

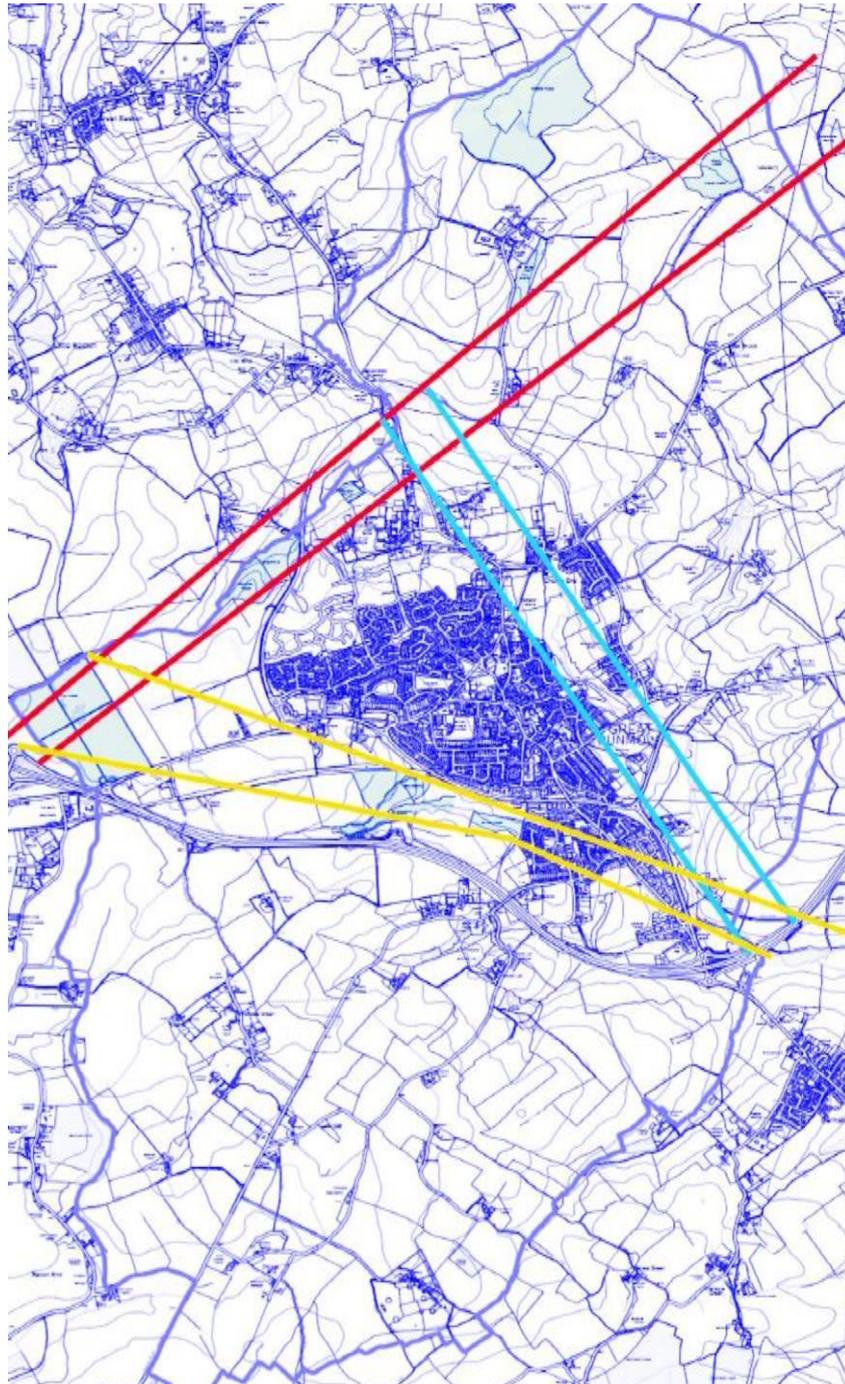
In addition to designated sites, consideration should also be given to non-designated value in regards to ecology on a site-by-site basis in order to protect and enhance species and habitats, including those that are protected. This could include Greenfield sites and areas of habitat considered to enrich appreciably the habitat resource within the context of local areas, such as species-rich hedgerows, municipal parklands or individual veteran trees. This should be of consideration in the allocation of sites in the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 7.3. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- Great Dunmow parish is geographically in possession of extremely high value ecological sites, including the Chelmer Valley, ancient woodlands, and the Flich Way, each of which contributes to important wildlife corridors permitting the migration of animals and insects around the town.

**Figure 22: Wildlife Corridors in Great Dunmow**



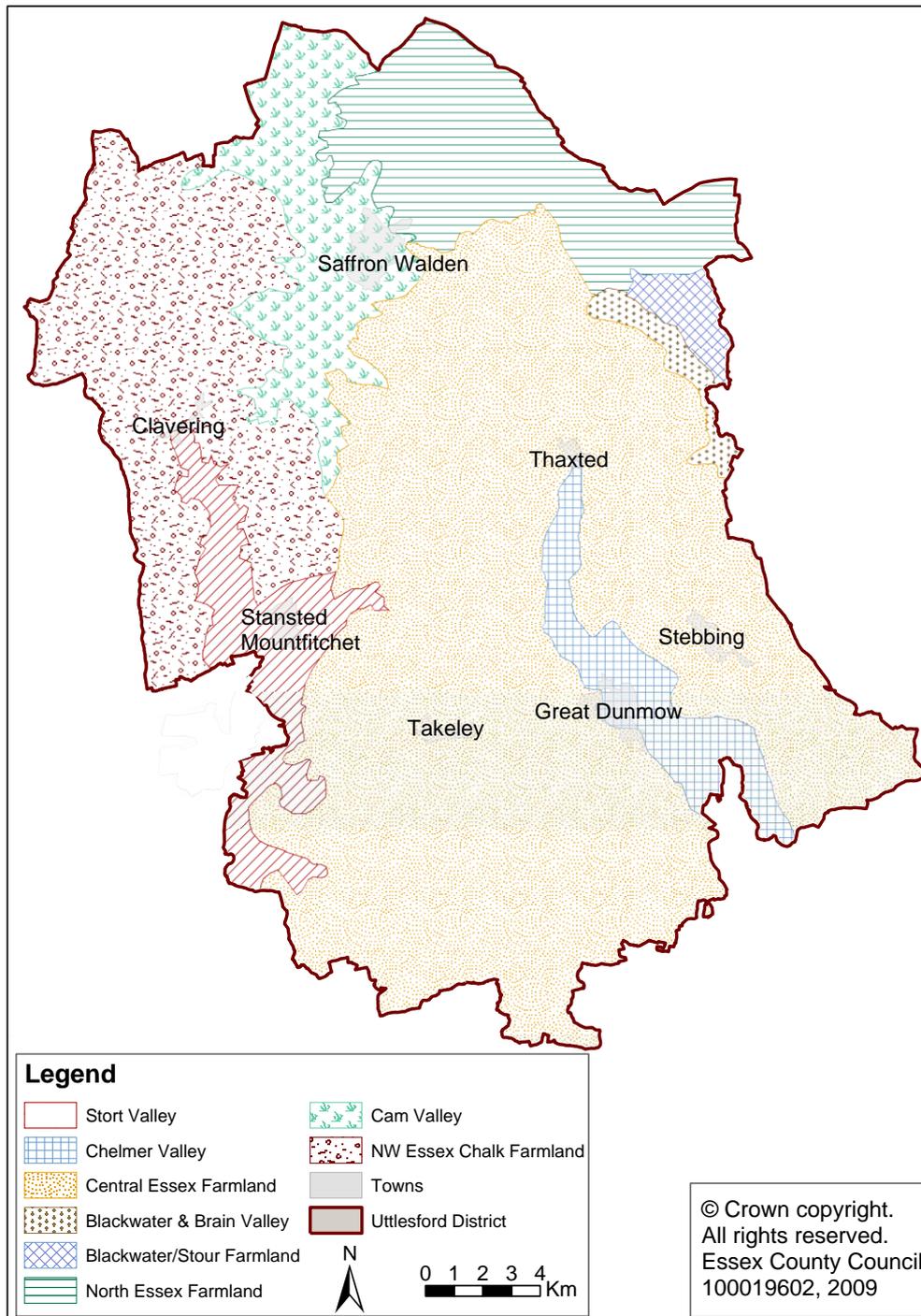
Source: HM Stationary Office, Ordnance Survey / Our Wildlife and Nature Sites

## 8. Landscapes

### 8.1. Landscape Character Areas

There are 8 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Uttlesford District and each one has a recognisable pattern of landscape characteristics (see Figure 23). More detailed landscape character assessment defined 20 smaller local LCAs within the 8 previously defined. With the exception of one they were all identified as being between moderate to highly sensitive of change.

**Figure 23: Eight Landscape Character Areas within Uttlesford District**



Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

## 8.2. Landscape Features

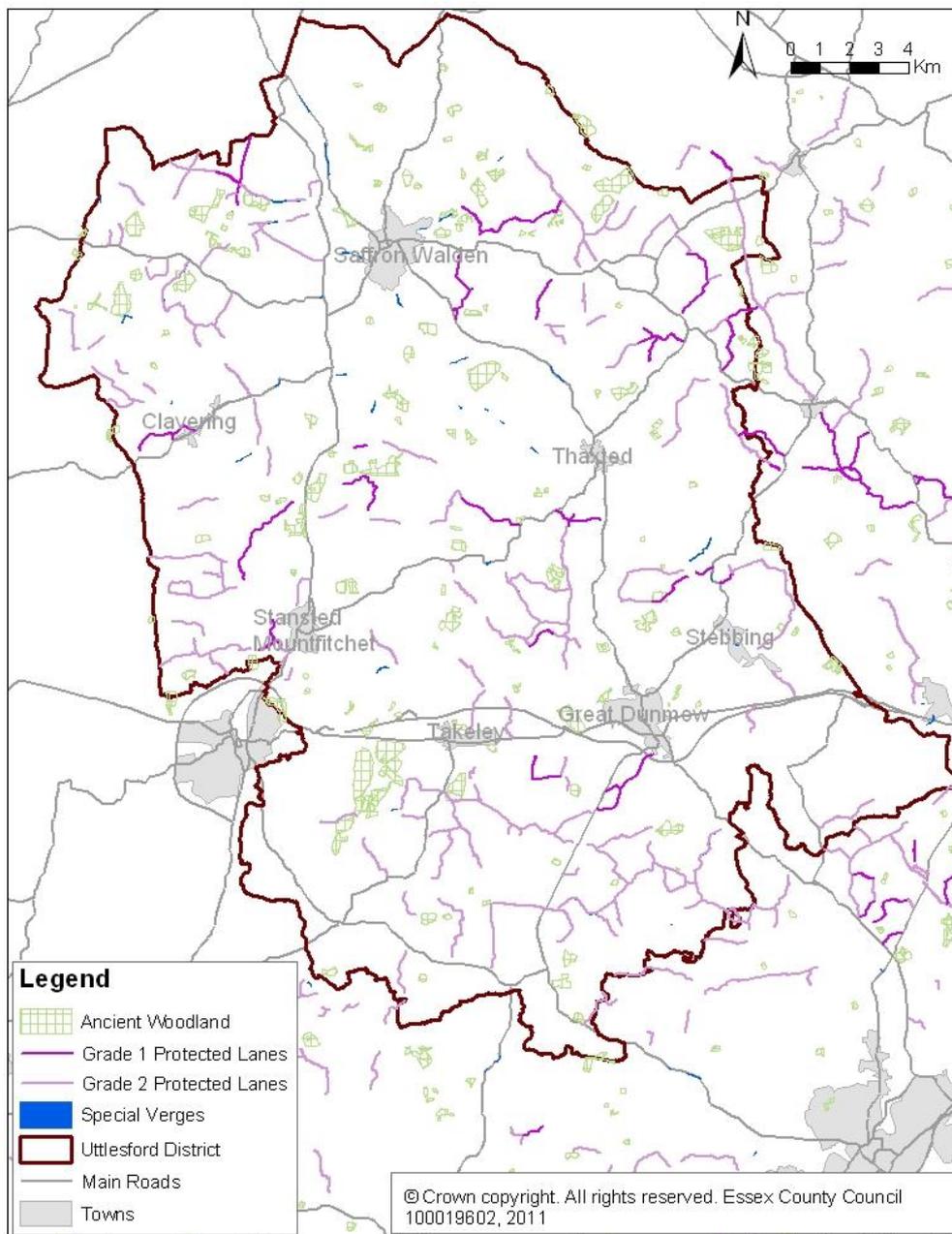
### Ancient Woodland

There is a significant proportion of ancient woodland in the District (see Figure 24) and areas within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Hatfield Forest is an important survival of a medieval forest, comprising a mixture of wood pasture with pollards, coppice woods, timber trees, a warren, lodge and lake.

### Protected Lanes

Protected lanes have significant historic and landscape values and because of their age they often have significant biological value too. There are a number of both grade one and two protected lanes within the District as shown in Figure 24. A protected Lane can be found in the south of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

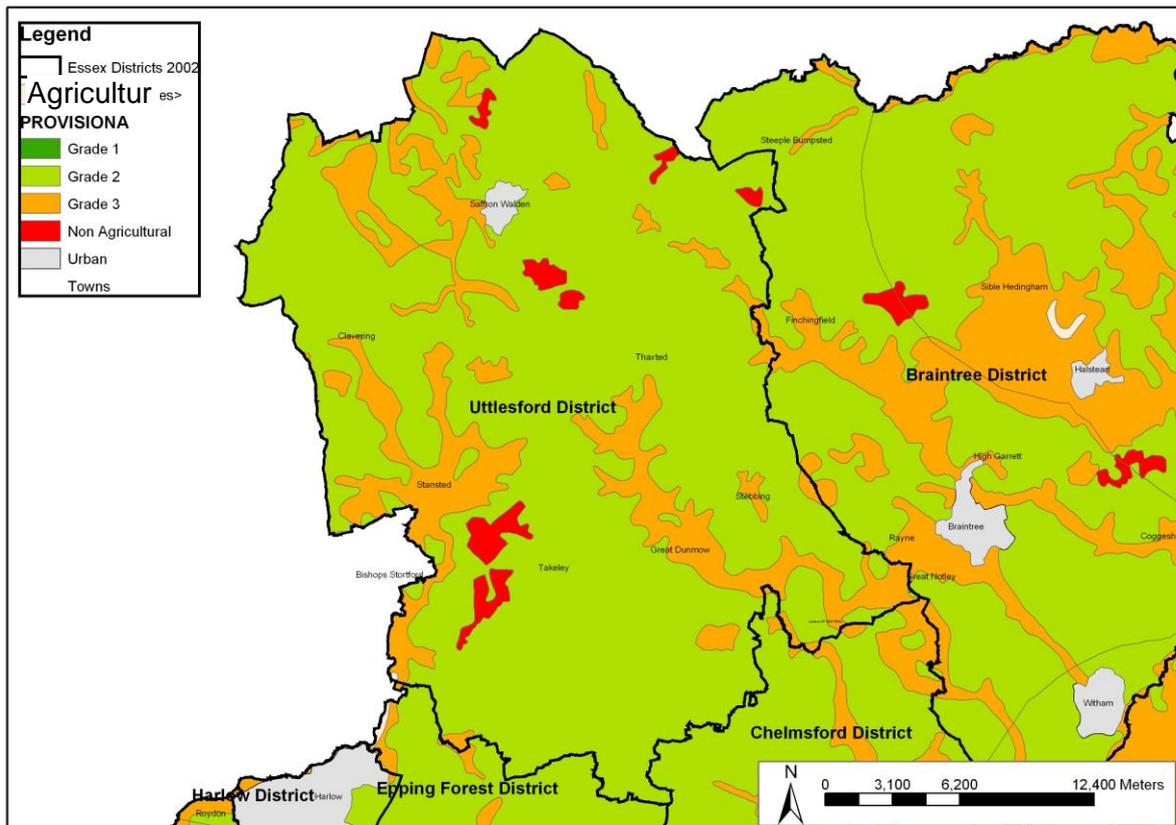
**Figure 24: Location of Ancient Woodland, Historic Parks and Gardens, Protected Lanes and Special Verges**



Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

### 8.3. Agricultural Land Classification

Figure 25: Agricultural Land Classification in Uttlesford District



Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report, November 2010

In Uttlesford District 80.4% (51,568 hectares) of land is classified as grade 2 and 17.1% (10,953 hectares) as grade 3. Both these classifications represent the 'best and most versatile' soils for agriculture in the country. While grade 2 agricultural land is located throughout the District grade 3 classified soils follow the flows of the River Cam, River Chelmer and River Pant. The areas of the Plan Area that are for agricultural use are predominantly Grade 3 (good to moderate) and Grade 2 (very good).

### 8.4. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Landscapes

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- Great Dunmow generally has a high quality environment: an historic town centre forming the heart of a Conservation Area; an attractive landscape surrounding the town; some good open spaces and an attractive riverside.
- The Flitch Trials are supported by having appropriate open spaces on which to accommodate them, and contribute greatly to the character and sense of community and heritage in the town. They are held every 4 years.
- Great Dunmow's landscape setting is rural in nature, and this fact contributes manifestly and positively to the quality of the local area. There are some detracting influences, such as the A120 and poorly integrated development. Of primary interest is the agricultural landscape to the north of the town, the Chelmer Valley, and the rural approach from the east.

- The town has a number of broad character areas that make up the built environment of the town:
  - Character Area 1 (High Street and Causeway): This area is protected by falling within the Town Conservation Area, and is mainly medieval in origin. The Town Design Statement (TDS) writes that the complexity of the High Street and Market Place comes from “the variation in heights, façade materials, features such as windows and doors, roof shapes and roofing materials”. The Causeway has large areas of public open space between urban ribbon development.
  - Character Area 2 (Parsonage Downs): This area is also protected by falling within the Town Conservation Area, and is also mainly medieval in origin. Parsonage Downs is identified as an important open space with biodiversity value. This Character Area is also identified as having “large areas of public open space between the urban ribbon development”. A moated site at Parsonage Farm is listed with English Heritage as a Scheduled Monument.
  - Character Area 3 (Church End): This area again falls within the Conservation Area. It is surrounded by the open fields of the Chelmer Valley and the church tower plays an undeniably central role in creating the setting of Great Dunmow at this end of the town.
  - Character Area 4 (St. Edmund’s Lane): This area is surrounded by countryside, and contributes to one of the most important landscape edges around Dunmow. The TDS identifies the old mill house (the windmill) and the Edwardian detached property on the other side of the road as distinctive and positive features of St. Edmund’s Lane. The TDS points out that “footpaths play an important role connecting St. Edmund’s Lane with the town centre; [but] there are no cycleways”. This issue of connectivity will be dealt with by this Plan elsewhere, as it impacts on character and integration.
  - Character Area 5 (The Avenue and Station Road): This area is one of the primary residential character areas of Great Dunmow, and local estate agents report high demand for properties here because of both their character and their location. The TDS describes The Avenue as a mixture of bay-fronted semi-detached properties from 1907, terraced and semi-detached houses from the 1910s through to the 1930s, with front gardens enclosed by small walls and often topped by the original cast iron railings. “The most notable feature of the road is the near-complete avenue of pairs of pollarded plane trees”. These features should be considered as giving a good standard of character and integration.
  - Character Area 6 (Southern Area): This area is notable for its new developments, which are green and spacious, but lack footpath connectivity. The area includes Ongar Road North and Ongar Road South, at what is a sensitive approach to the town.
  - Character Area 7 (Springfields): This area incorporates High Stile, High Fields, Springfields and Woodview Road. High Stile and Highfields are described in the TDS as “pleasant” and “a really nice development” – with green trees and hedges, door furniture and sash windows reflecting the Victorian style of New Street, which this area backs on to. By contrast, Springfields and Woodview Road are described as “blocks of 1960s housing” – no trees or hedgerows, and a “plain tarmac floorscape”, in “regimented rows with virtually the same plot size and roof height”. Development relating to this Character Area should seek to emulate the successes identified in High Stile and Highfields.
  - Character Area 8 (Tenterfields): This area is considered unfavourably by the TDS: “Building materials are concrete tiled roofs... The floorscape is completely tarmac and there are no trees to speak of”. One good aspect of this development is the “reasonably sized front gardens”.
  - Character Area 9 (Woodland’s Park and Newton Green): This area is largely modern, although “the northern part contains a 19th century house with earlier

open park land” (Newton Hall). Most of this area is covered by the Wickford’s development site. The TDS writes that Woodland’s Park “is generally a modern interpretation of Tudor or Victorian [styles], with finishes of a high quality, mainly in London brick or red brick”. The other part of this Character Area is Newton Green. The TDS remarks on its low density, and the communal green from which it gets its name. The TDS asserts that the area could be improved by planting trees. Trees are an important asset contributing to the character and setting of Great Dunmow.

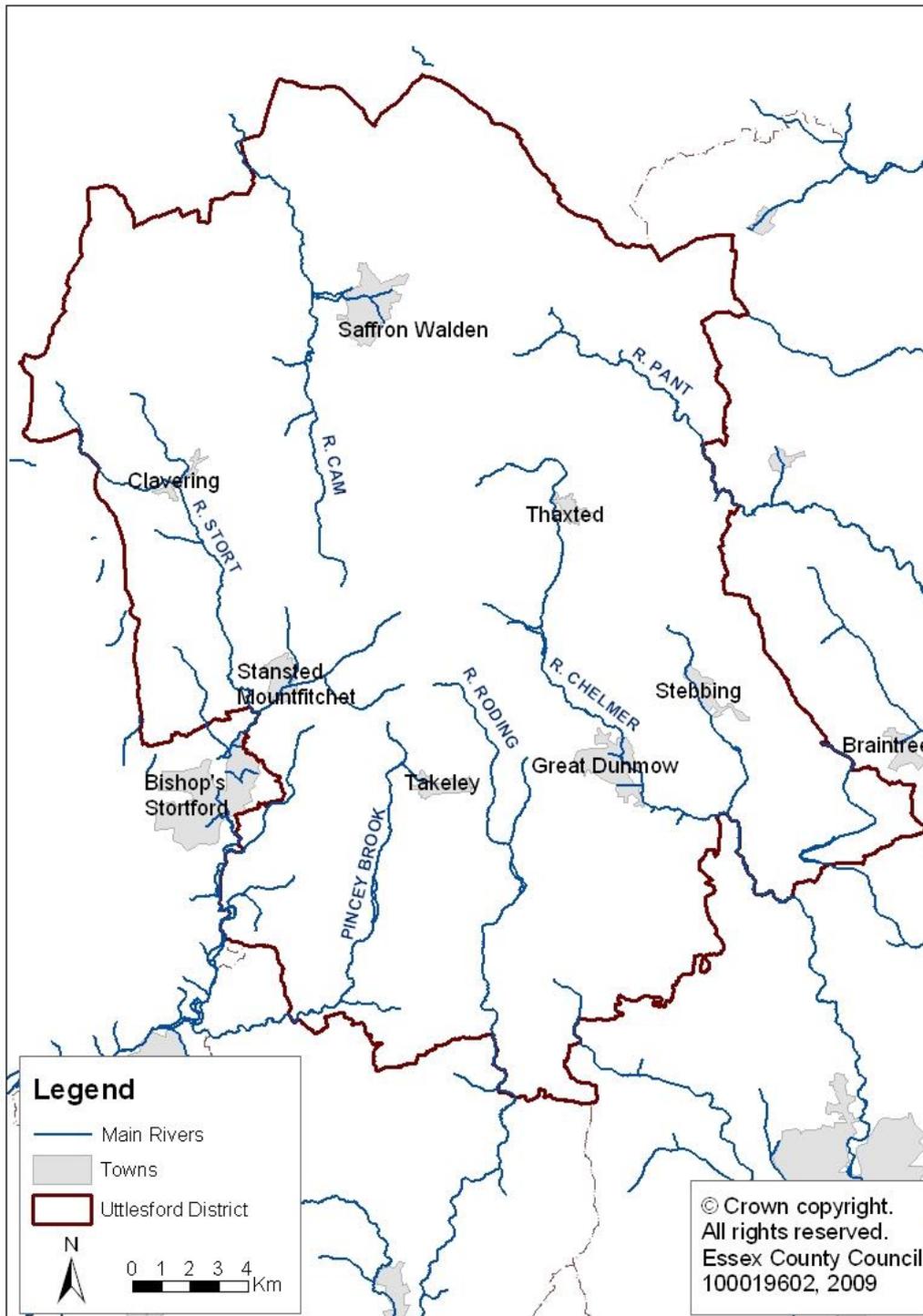
- The quality of the approaches to Great Dunmow is very important to the maintenance of the quality of the town’s landscape, setting and character.
- North East Key Positive Features: the openness of the approach from the Chelmer Valley; the small scale of the buildings on the northern edge of the town; the views of the tower of St. Mary’s Church; the stands of trees on the high ground and around the church; the footpath route around the north east sector; the wide open landscape from the east; the distinct edge of the town at Church End; the views over the town and the features of the church tower and clock house.
- South East Key Positive Features: the setting of the Chelmer and the views of the church tower northwards; the distinct rural edge on the east side of St. Edmund’s Lane; the important tree belts east of St. Edmund’s Lane and the woodland around Merks Hall; the views out to open country south east over the Chelmer; the open landscape of the Chelmer and the slope rising to Dunmow Park.
- South West Key Positive Features: the importance of the landscape fringe to the northern edge of the A120; the value of Olives Wood and Ash Grove for biodiversity landscape and amenity; the hedge screening of the B1256; the role of the Flich Way in biodiversity and recreation; the footpath link over the B1256 into the heart of the town.
- North West Key Positive Features: the importance of Hoglands Wood, Broomhills and Frederick’s Spring in biodiversity and landscape terms; the views to the undulating landscapes north east; the importance of trees in the landscape; the footpath network linking the town to the Eastons.
- The TDS does not come to comfortable conclusions when it considers the impact 20<sup>th</sup> Century development has had on the setting of Great Dunmow. On the South Eastern approach, “the new bowling club is a sudden intrusion into this rural fringe and introduces a hard urban feature with access roads and curbs. The development has not been well integrated into the landscape”.

## 9. Water Environment

### 9.1. Water Courses

Uttlesford District is located at the headwaters of four river catchments – the Cam and Ely Ouse; the Combined Essex (Rivers Can, Chelmer, Ter and Pant, and Stebbing Brook); the Roding, Beam and Ingrebourne; and the Upper Lee (River Stort and Pincey Brook). Figure 26 shows the main rivers. The River Chelmer is the predominant water body in the Plan Area.

**Figure 26: Main Rivers within Uttlesford District**



Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010)

According to the Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies for these four river catchments existing water resource availability in the District is either over abstracted which means abstraction is causing unacceptable damage to the environment at low flows, over licensed which means current actual abstraction is such that no water is available at low flows, or has 'no water available' which means that no water is available for further licensing at low flows. This information is important in the development of the planning documents to ensure there is enough water for people, including public water supply and industry, and a healthy environment.

## **9.2. Flood Risk**

### **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)**

A 2008 SFRA was undertaken to accompany the District's Local Plan. The SFRA is a planning tool that enables the council to select and develop sustainable site allocations away from vulnerable flood risk areas. The SFRA assisted the council to make the spatial planning decisions required to inform the Local Plan and contained the following recommendations:

- When assessing the suitability of land for development the Council will consider both PPS25 and the SFRA and apply the sequential and exception tests.
- The Council should object in principle to new development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 through policy.
- If brownfield floodplain redevelopment is proposed, the Council should push for the removal of buildings and restoration of the natural floodplain. Where this is not practical the site redevelopment must not exceed, and where possible reduce, the overall building footprint. Additionally the land use of the site should be changed to a land use with a less vulnerable classification. Brownfield redevelopments within the functional floodplain must be fully flood resilient to minimise damage and enable quick recovery from flooding.
- SuDS should be applied where appropriate.
- The Council will require a site specific flood risk assessment to be submitted with all planning applications unless they are for developments <1ha located in Flood Zone 1, where there are no existing drainage issues.
- The Council should review their Emergency Plan with respect to flooding and raise awareness amongst residents on the measures which can be taken to mitigate against future flooding events.
- Development proposals adjoining the main rivers, ordinary watercourses and culverts should be set back.
- Opportunities should be sought to restore/decultvert rivers.

### **Fluvial Flooding**

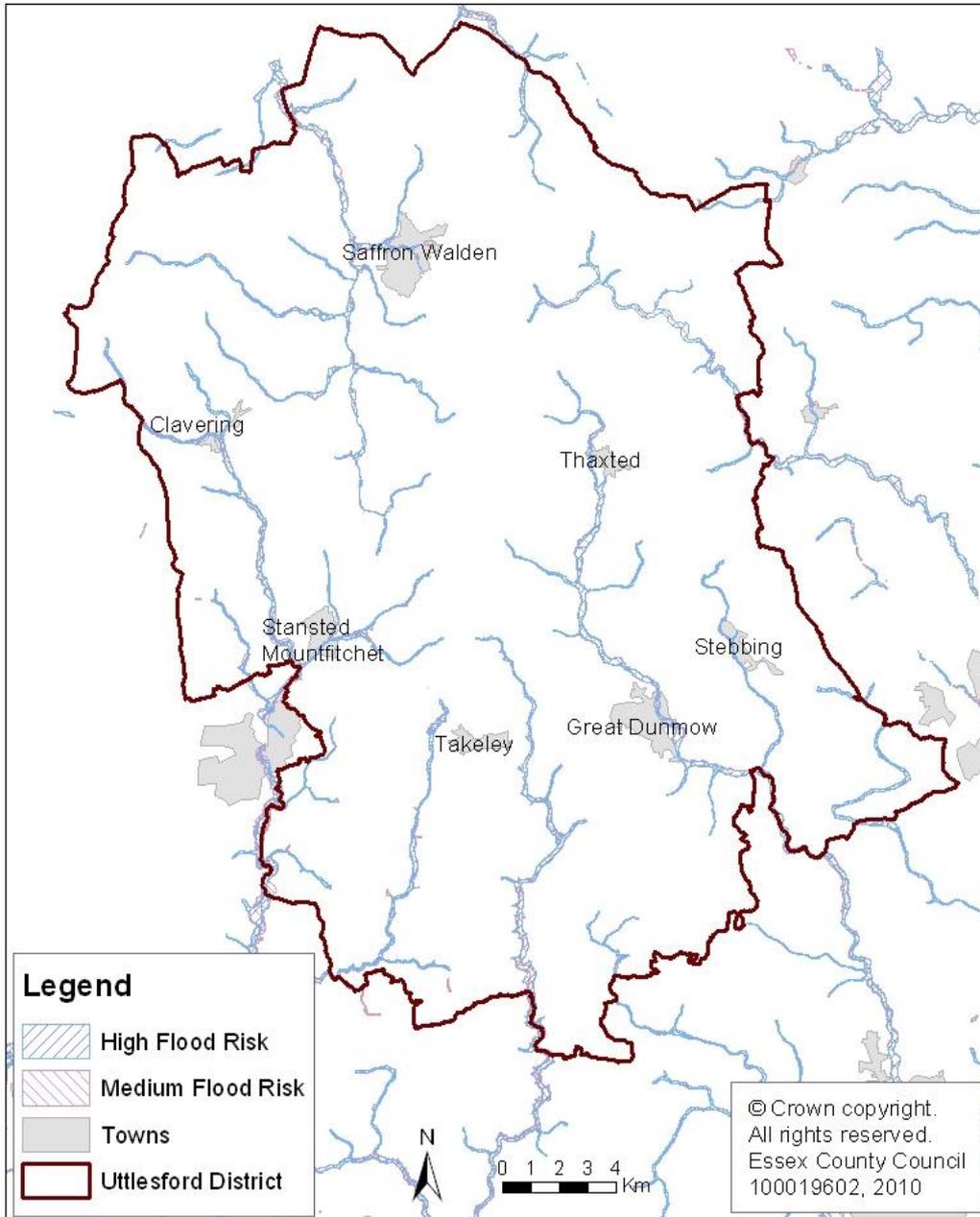
A hierarchy of flood zones are defined as:

- Zone 1 – (Low Probability)
  - Encompasses land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of flooding in any year (<0.1%).
- Zone 2 – (Medium Probability)
  - Comprises land assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding (1% – 0.1%).
- Zone 3a – (High Probability)
  - Covers land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) in any year.
- Zone 3b – (The Functional Floodplain)

- This zone consists of land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. It is land which would flood with an annual probability of 1 in 20 (5%) or greater in any year.

An overview of the areas at risk of fluvial flooding are shown in Figure 27. The SFRA carried out for Uttlesford contains several detailed maps which should be referred to for location assessments.

**Figure 27: Spatial Extent Flood Zones 2 and 3(a and b) in Uttlesford**



Source: Uttlesford SEA Baseline Information Profile Report (November 2010) with data provided by the Environment Agency

**Figure 28: Spatial Extent Flood Zones 2 and 3(a and b) in Great Dunmow Parish**

Flood Risk Zone	Risk	Percentage of the parish falling within this zone
1	Low Risk	96.6%
2	Medium Risk	0.8%
3a	High Risk	0.3%
3b	Functional Floodplain	2.3%

Source: UDC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2008

The majority of the Parish falls within Flood Zone 1, which has a low risk. The plan should ensure that development outside this zone comes forward with appropriate with mitigation, or is restricted.

### **Surface Water Flooding**

Surface water flooding is more likely to occur within urban areas. Modelling of surface water in Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet identified drainage paths and potential areas that may be susceptible to surface water ponding. In numerous locations surface water reaches depths of more than 60 cm.

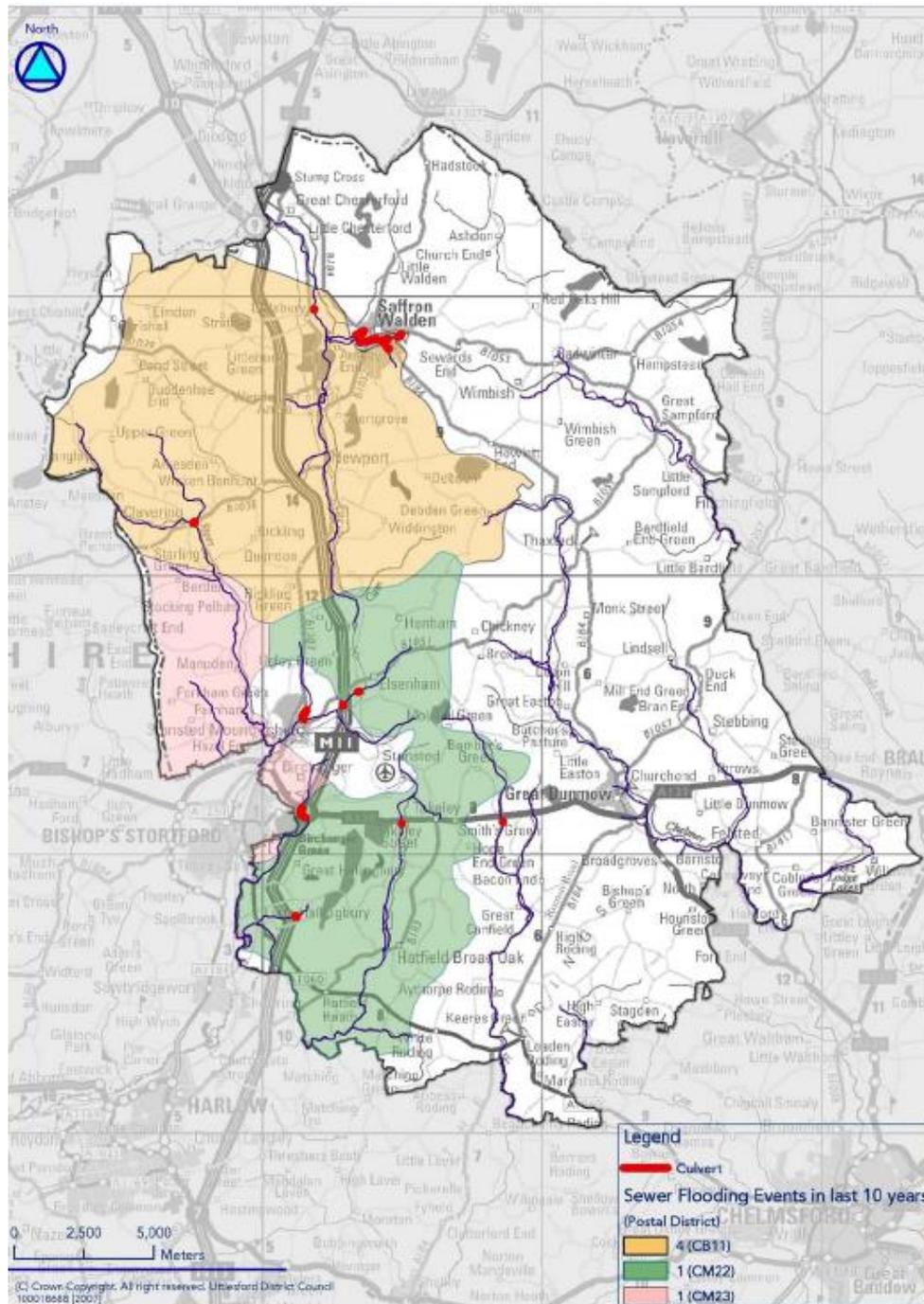
### **Groundwater Flooding**

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Uttlesford District carried out in March 2008 concluded that *“the risk of flooding from groundwater is subject to uncertainty as it is dependent upon conditions at any location for any given time”*. Analysis provided by the British Geological Society on the risk of flooding from groundwater primarily placed Uttlesford within a lower risk area.

### **Sewer Flooding**

Incidences of sewer flooding have been recorded within the District. The locations of these are shown within Figure 29 which is taken from the Uttlesford SFRA.

**Figure 29: Location of culverts and sewer flooding events**



Source: Taken from Uttlesford SFRA, March 2008. Crown Copyright of Uttlesford District Council

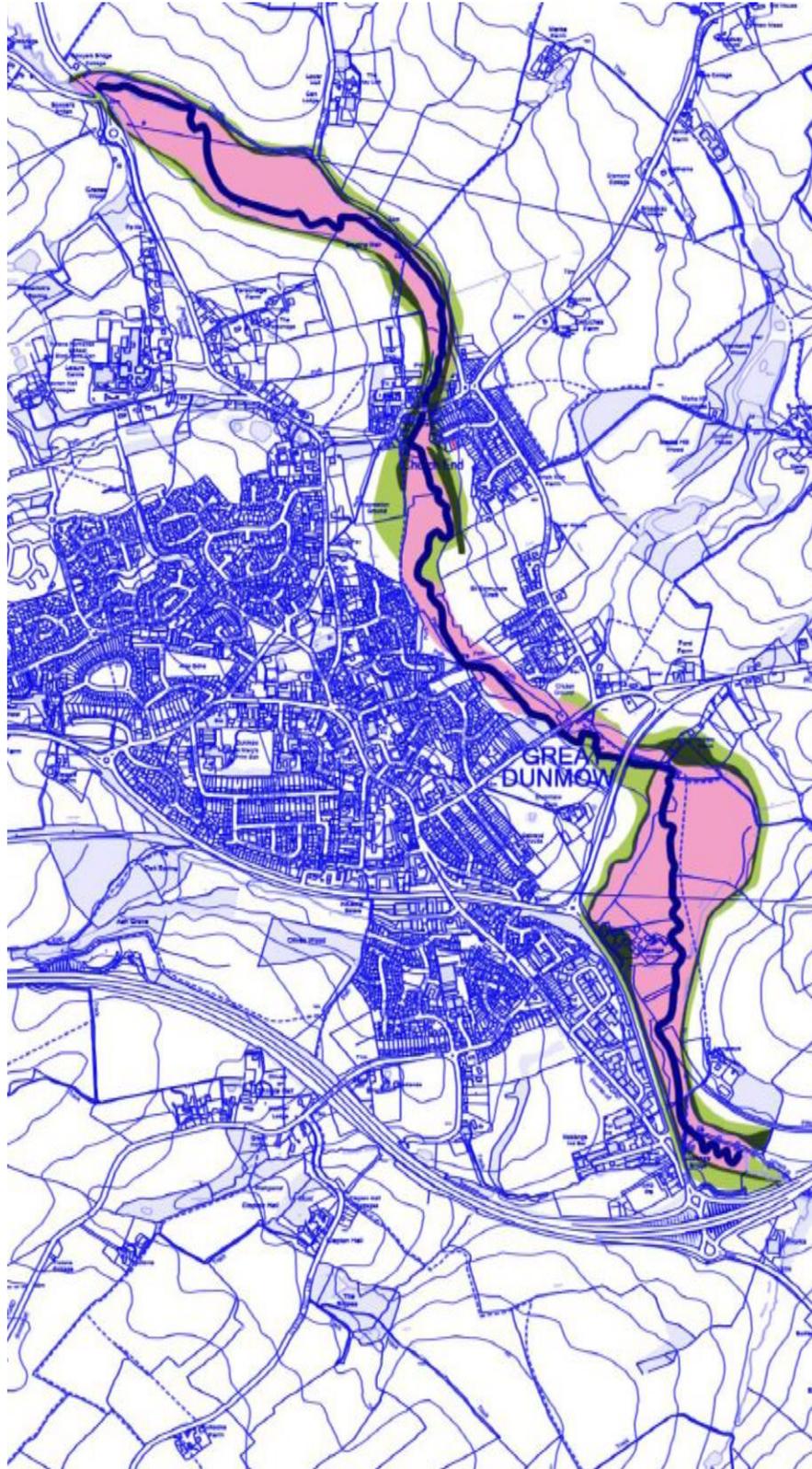
The Plan Area has had no incidences of sewer flooding events in the last 10 years. In addition, there are no culverts, structures that allow water to flow under a road, railroad, trail, or similar obstruction, within the Plan Area.

### 9.3. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Water Environment

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- Zone 3b (Functional Floodplain) includes: the gardens of Ford Cottages on the Braintree Road; Braintree Road; Riverside; Sewerage Treatment Works; Church End.
- Previous planning guidelines suggest that a 10% increase in peak river flows should be expected between 1990 and 2025, and a further 20% increase should be expected between 2025 and 2115. The UDC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is based on a 20% increase in the 100 year event.
- Further, it should be expected that peak rainfall intensity will increase by 5% between 1990 and 2025, and a further 10% by 2055. The UDC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment notes that this “may exacerbate local drainage problems”.
- The existing main drainage paths in Great Dunmow follow the following courses:
  - The tributaries of the River Chelmer (from Canada Cottages, Stortford Road and Ash Grove);
  - Along the parish boundary from Hogland’s Wood;
  - Along Waldgrooms through the Doctor’s Pond;
  - From Merk’s Hill Wood reservoir.

**Figure 30: Fluvial Flood Risk in Great Dunmow**



Source: HM Stationary Office, Ordnance Survey / Essex County Council

## 10. Climate, Air and Noise

### 10.1. Energy Consumption and Emissions

**Table 26: Energy consumption**

Resource (GWh)	Uttlesford	Essex Average
Coal	8.1	15.4
Manufactured Fuels	1.0	0.6
Natural Gas	584.7	945.4
Electricity	408.9	502.5
Petroleum Products	1,605.5	1,032.2
Renewables	2.6	2.9
Total	2,888.5	2,690.1

Source: DECC, 2008 data

Uttlesford District consumes more energy than the county average. More than half the District's 2,888.5GWh energy consumption is from petroleum products which is largely associated with road transport. In contrast only 2.6GWh of energy consumed is from renewable sources. Planning documents should seek to promote transportation by more sustainable means and equally promote renewable energy generation.

**Table 27: Energy consumption from renewable sources**

Local Authority	Proportion of Total Energy Consumption from Renewable Sources	Local Authority	Proportion of Total Energy Consumption from Renewable Sources
Basildon	0.08%	Epping Forest	0.04%
Braintree	0.14%	Harlow	0.17%
Brentwood	0.01%	Maldon	0.33%
Castle Point	0.00%	Rochford	0.02%
Chelmsford	0.20%	Tendring	0.05%
Colchester	0.18%	Uttlesford	0.09%

Source: DECC, 2008 data

A total of 0.09% of Uttlesford District's total energy consumption comes from renewable sources. Uttlesford District consumes the 6<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of renewables against the other districts with Essex.

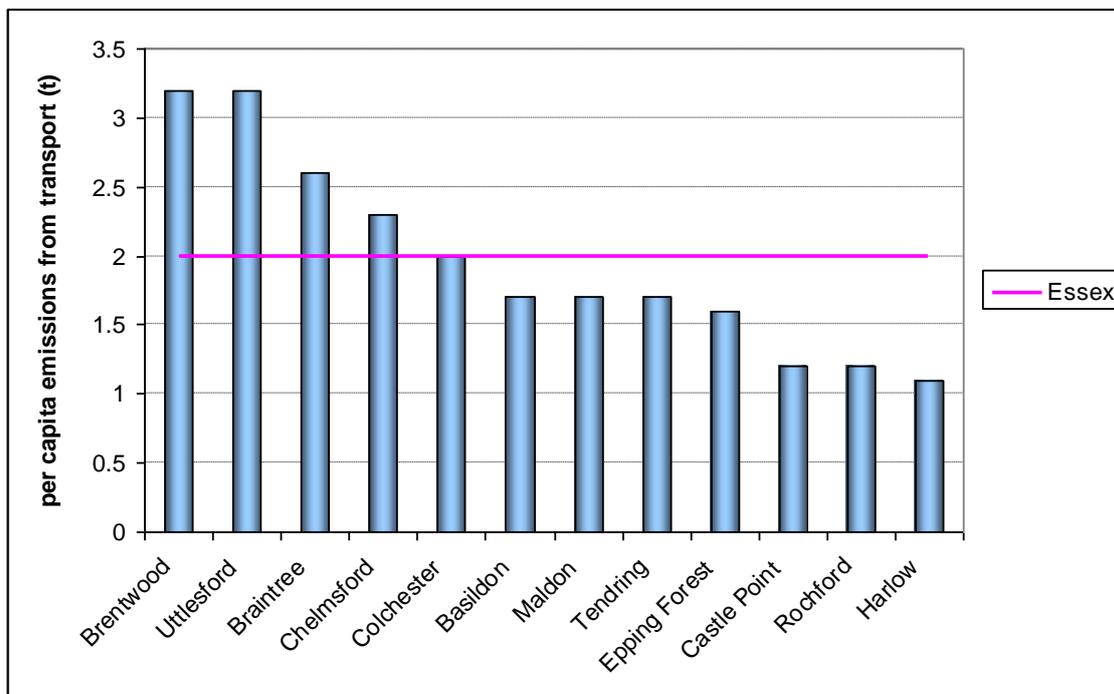
**Table 28: CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions by Source**

	Industry and Commercial (kt)	Domestic (kt)	Road Transport (kt)	Total (kt)
Uttlesford	224.8 (34.5%)	190.7 (29.2%)	236.4 (36.3%)	651.8
Essex	2,868 (32.3%)	3,280.8 (37%)	2,719.9 (30.7%)	8,868.7
East of England	15,879.5 (36.8%)	13,435.8 (31.1%)	13,819.4 (32%)	43,734.1

Source: DECC, 2008 data

Industry, domestic and road transport each produce roughly a third of the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within the district. The domestic sector produces the smallest amount at 29.2% while road transport produces the most at 36.3%. When compared to the East of England proportionately more emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are produced by road transport in the district. Across the East of England region the industry and commercial sector emits the highest proportion of CO<sub>2</sub> at 36.8% with road transport accounting for 32%.

**Figure 31: per Capita Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from Road Transport**



Source: DECC, 2008 data

Road transport in Uttlesford District produces the highest amount of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita across the county alongside the Borough of Brentwood at 3.2 tonnes. This is above the countywide figure of 2 tonnes.

**Table 29: Number of Code for Sustainable Homes Certificates Issued by Local Authority within Essex to Date (up to March 2011)**

Area	Design Stage	Post Construction Stage	Total
Basildon	350	64	414
Braintree	158	166	324
Brentwood	59	16	75
Castle Point	17	0	17
Chelmsford	183	114	297
Colchester	229	47	276
Epping Forest	118	0	118
Harlow	26	21	47
Maldon	129	21	150
Rochford	0	0	0
Tendring	0	0	0
Uttlesford	64	61	125
Essex County Council	116	66	182
Overall Essex Total	1,449	576	2,025
Overall Essex Average	111	44	156

Source: DCLG, 2011

Up to March 2011 Uttlesford District had issued 125 certificates, 64 at the design stage and 61 post construction. This total number is below the Essex average of 156 certificates issued.

## 10.2. Climate Change

### Climate Change Scenarios

According to UK Climate Projections under a medium emission scenario the temperature in the East of England has a 67% likelihood of increasing between 1 and 2°C by 2020. By 2050, the temperature is predicted to increase to between 2 and 3°C across the region. Mean summer precipitation has a 67% likelihood of decreasing by up to 10% across the whole region by 2020 and by 2050 the south of the East of England will see decreases by up to 20%. In contrast the mean winter precipitation is predicted to increase by up to 10% across the region by 2020. By 2050 much of the region is expected to see a mean winter precipitation increase of between 10 and 20% apart from a band in the centre of the region which is expected to witness increases of between 20 and 30%.

## 10.3. Air Quality

The main air quality issues within the District following the first round of air quality assessments in 1998 to 1999 were found to be emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> from vehicles on the M11 and A120. However no air quality management areas (AQMAs) have been declared in Uttlesford for these as national air quality objectives were not predicted to be exceeded. Further assessments found three junctions in Saffron Walden showing NO<sub>2</sub> levels exceeding the objectives which have been

declared AQMAs<sup>2</sup> and two other sites in the District have since reported exceedences in NO<sub>2</sub> levels.

### 10.4. Noise

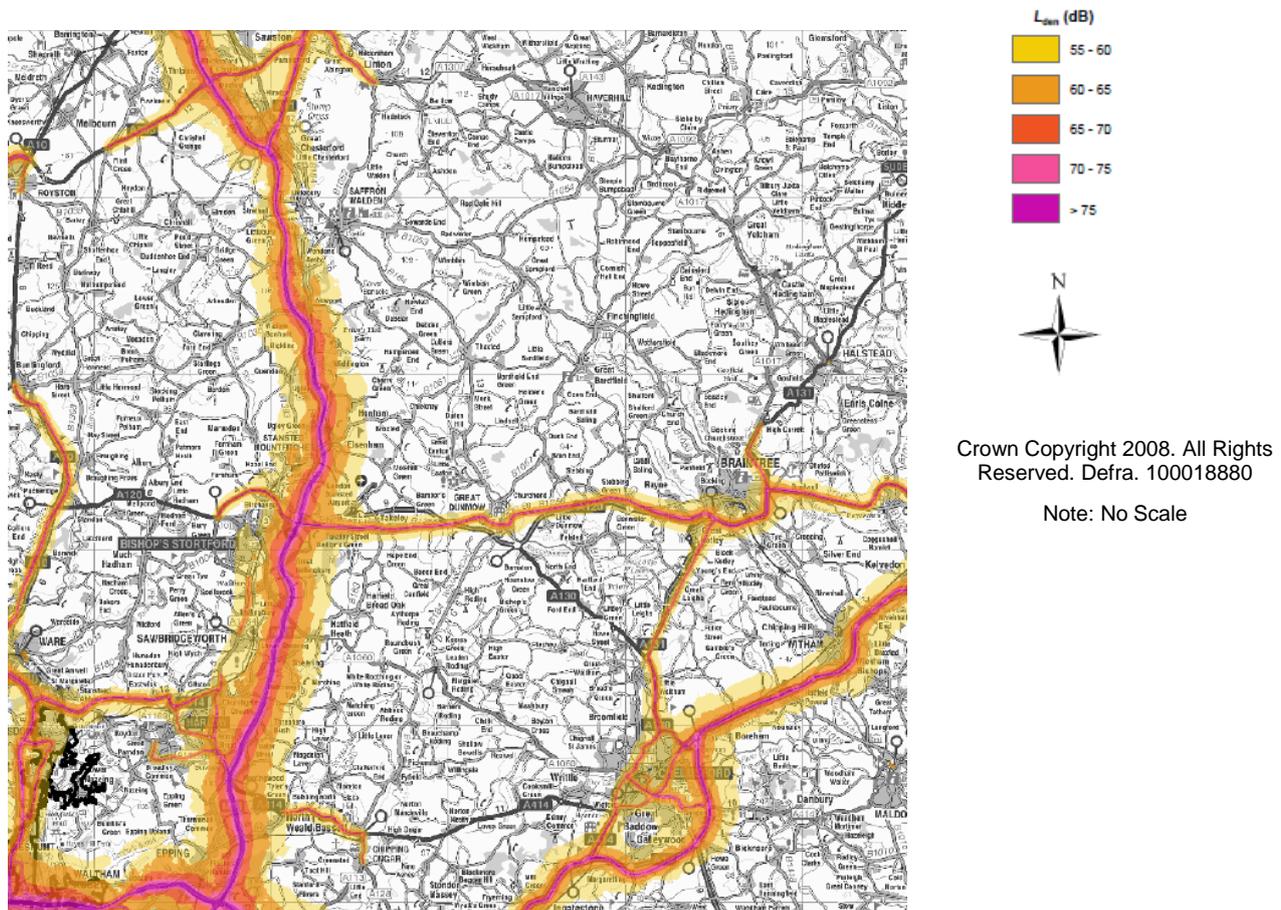
Ambient or environmental noise is defined as noise which is either unwanted or harmful. It is created by human activities and includes noise emitted by transport including road traffic and air traffic, as well as from sites of industrial activity. Britain’s third busiest international airport, Stansted Airport is located within the District and a major motorway, the M11 traverses through it down the eastern side. Both these forms of transportation generate ambient noise which can impact people living or working nearby.

**Table 30: Summary of Terms Used**

Term	Explanation
dB(A)	A unit of sound pressure level, adjusted in accordance with the A weighting scale, a scale which takes into account the increased sensitivity of the human ear at some frequencies.
L <sub>den</sub>	Day-evening-night noise indicator. It is the noise indicator for overall annoyance
L <sub>night</sub>	Night-time noise indicator between the hours of 2300 – 0700 hours. It is the noise indicator for sleep disturbance

Source: Taken from EU Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and Defra

**Figure 32: Noise Level for Major Roads**



<sup>2</sup> 2010 Air Quality Progress Report for Uttlesford District Council  
57  
Place Services at Essex County Council

Source: Taken from the Environmental Noise Regulations (England) 2006 - First Round Major Roads, Lden - Map No. 6, Defra (2006)

Noise level produced on the M11 exceeds 75dB across the day, evening and night at the point of source and dissipates across a considerably large area either side of the motorway as shown in . The B1256 which crosses the District from east to west also creates ambient noise above 75dB but noise levels dissipate across a much smaller distance. Since this map was produced, the new A120 has been constructed which is likely to have increased noise implications, despite alleviating noise levels on the B1256. This is of particular relevant to Great Dunmow located to the immediate north of the A120.

## 11. Sport and Open Space

### 11.1. Physical Activity and Open Space

**Table 31: 1 session a week (at least 4 sessions of at least moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes in the previous 28 days)\***

Area	Active People Survey 4 Oct 2009 - Oct 2010	Active People Survey 5 Oct 2010 - Oct 2011	Active People Survey 6 Oct 2011 - Oct 2012	Active People Survey 7 (Quarter 2) rolling April 2012 - April 2013
Uttlesford	36.7%	39.2%	38.9%	40.6%
Essex	34.9%	35.5%	38.0%	37.1%
England	35.3%	34.8%	36.0%	35.2%

Source: Sport England Active People Survey 7 (April '12-'13)

The proportion of adults participating in 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport a week has decreased in the most recent survey at the county and national levels, however increased within the District. In the District there is a general trend towards healthy lifestyles within the parameters of this indicator.

**Table 32: Proportion of people very or fairly satisfied with sport and leisure facilities and parks and open spaces**

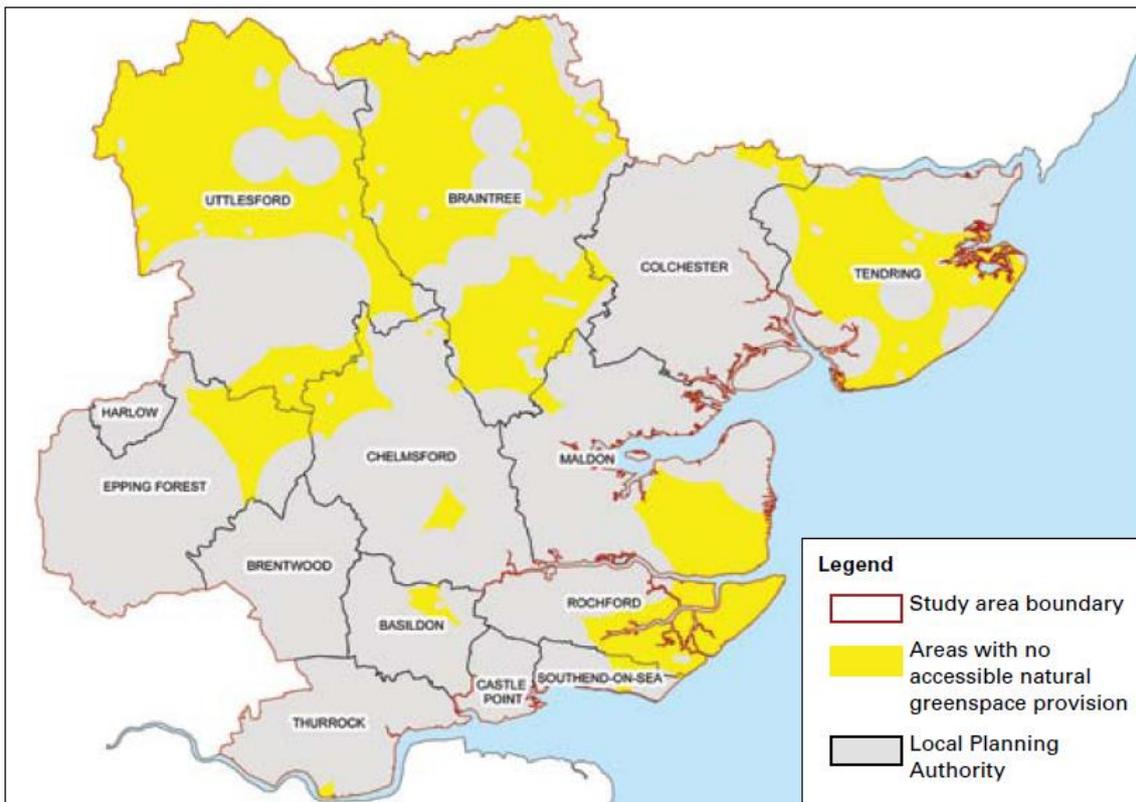
	Sport/ leisure facilities	Parks and open spaces
Uttlesford	42.8%	69.6%
East of England	45.5%	71.0%
England	46.2%	68.5%

Source: Place Survey carried out in 2008

A total of 42.8% of residents surveyed within Uttlesford District were very or fairly satisfied with sports and leisure facilities within their local area. This is below the regional proportion and the 46.2% who were satisfied nationally. 69.6% of residents were very or fairly satisfied with the availability of parks and open spaces in their local area in the District which was slightly below the regional proportion of 71% but above the national percentage of 68.5%.

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) created by Natural England sets out the minimum amount of accessible natural greenspace that any household should be within reach of. Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision for Essex (2009) showed that only 7% of Essex households met all the ANGSt requirements while 14% didn't meet any. According to the report, "the areas that fare the worst according to the ANGSt criteria are the more rural parts of the county; although there may be greenspace surrounding rural inhabitants, there is often limited official public access beyond the footpath network". This is true of households within Uttlesford as 54% of them do not have any access to natural greenspace. The District covers around 64,000ha of land but only 894ha of it is considered to be accessible natural greenspace as shown in Figure 33.

**Figure 33: Accessible Natural Greenspace in Essex**



Source: Diagram taken from Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision for Essex (2009)

The above figure shows that Great Dunmow has some accessible natural greenspace provision; however this does not necessarily mean compliance with all, or many, of the ANGSt requirements.

## 11.2. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Sport and Open Space

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- Great Dunmow has a large recreational area running through the heart of the town, a few minutes' walk from the town centre and many residential areas in the town. This is the Chelmer Valley, which includes the main sports fields in the town: the football pitches on the Recreation Ground. The accessibility of this space is a key feature in the lifestyle of the town.
- Great Dunmow has an active and high-achieving sporting community, but its sports' facilities are chronically overstretched. Swimming, gymnastics, netball and hockey are all faced with inadequate equipment and inadequate availability of facilities. This has a real impact on the ability of the Great Dunmow community to train for, compete in, and host competitions which bring regional and national attention and prestige to the town. The shortages are illustrated in the table below.

**Table 33: Activity in Great Dunmow Clubs (as of July 2014)**

Club name	Total members	Full capacity?	Waiting List?	How many on waiting list?	Adequate Facilities?
Dunmow Atlantis S/C	168	Yes	Yes	5	No
Dunmow Crests Netball	39	No	Close	0	No
Dunmow Junior Netball	50	Yes	Yes	20	No
Dunmow Rhodes FC	200+	Yes	Yes	50	No
Dunmow United FC	108	No	No	0	No
Dunmow Tennis Club	190	Yes	No	0	No
Dunmow Majorettes	20	Yes	No	0	No
Dunmow Bowling Club	138	No	No	0	Yes

Source: Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base (2014)

- Young people and the parents of young people feel the effects of the inadequacy of these facilities most. This community thus represents a large portion of the future of Great Dunmow, and it is necessary that these concerns are addressed as a matter of urgency.
- Great Dunmow has two sites of allotment gardens, one owned and managed by the Town Council, and the other privately. The Town Council facility has 95 plots and a waiting list of 7. Plots only become available on the previous holder's death or the termination of their agreement, either through choice or compulsion.
- Six play space areas currently exist in Great Dunmow: the Recreation Ground Play Area; Woodland's Park Play Area; Oakroyd Avenue Play Area; Lower Mill Field Play Area; Talberd's Ley Play Area; and the Skate Park. Compared to the level of provision expected by UDC's Open Space, Sport Facility, and Playing Field Strategy 2012, Great Dunmow South ward has a 7.3ha deficit, while the North ward has a 2.1ha surplus of play space, meaning an overall 5.2ha deficit. Development proposals for Land West of Woodside Way and Smith's Farm include provisions for play space which will pass into the stewardship of the Town Council in due course.

## 12. Education

### 12.1. Local level school capacity

**Table 34: Number Attending, Capacity and Future Capacity of Schools in Great Dunmow**

School	Dunmow St Mary's primary School	Great Dunmow Primary School	Helena Romanes' School and Sixth Form Centre (Academy – Secondary)
Number on Roll May 2014	406	405	1,294 (January 2014)
Surplus / Deficit 2013/14	26	15	269
Future Net Capacity	432	420	1,563
Forecast Number on Roll 2018/19	417	425	1,370
Forecast Surplus / Deficit 2018/19	15	-5	193
Forecast including adjustment for new housing	508	516	1,511
Forecast Surplus / Deficit including adjustment for new housing	-76	-96	52

Source: School Organisation Plan 2014-2019, ECC, January 2015

The primary school capacity within Great Dunmow is currently acceptable; however there is a forecast deficit when adjustments are made for new housing in the Plan period. There is a forecast surplus of secondary and sixth form places (combined) for the Helena Romanes School.

The School Organisation Plan (2014-2019) makes the following statements regarding Great Dunmow:

- For Dunmow, pupil numbers are forecast to continue to increase over the next 5 years and sites for new schools are currently being negotiated to meet the increased demand for places generated by new housing in the area. Discussions are on-going with the local schools to plan for this growth until new schools can be opened. Feasibility for the opening of a new primary school on the Smith's Farm development to meet demand from new housing is ongoing.
- The total number of pupils is set to rise as a result of the housing developments at Great Dunmow, Little Dunmow, Stansted, Elsenham and Takeley. Demand for secondary school places will be monitored and proposals will be developed with local schools to determine a strategic plan to address the level of predicted growth expected from potential new housing.

## 12.2. Key Stage 4 results in the District

**Table 35: Key Stage 4 – GCSE or equivalent**

	All Pupils at the end of KS4 achieving 5+ A* - C	All Pupils at the end of KS4 achieving 5+ A* - G	All Pupils at the end of KS4 achieving 5+ A* - C Including English and Mathematics	All Pupils at the end of KS4 with any passes
Uttlesford	77.1%	96.9%	64.3%	99.6%
Essex	73.3%	94.0%	54.6%	98.8%
East of England	74.3%	94.6%	56.0%	98.9%
England	75.3%	92.7%	53.4%	99.0%

Source: Department for Education, 2010 data

At 77.1% a higher proportion of pupils within Uttlesford attained five or more A\*-C grades at key stage 4 (KS4) than the county, regional and national equivalent. A total of 64.3% of pupils who gained five or more A\*-C grades did so in English and Mathematics which is considerably more than the national proportion of 53.4%. The proportion of pupils attaining five or more A\*-G grades was also above the national figure and only 0.4% of all pupils in the District didn't receive any passes at KS4.

The educational achievement at KS4 has improved with the proportion of pupils attaining five or more A\*-C grades at KS4 in 2009 (the previous year) being recorded as 71.1% and the proportion including English and Mathematics being 60.8%.

## 12.3. Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base – Education

The Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan is a key source of relevant baseline information specific to the Plan Area. It also corresponds to the most relevant information which has shaped the content of the Neighbourhood Plan. This information, as it appears in the Draft Great Dunmow Neighbourhood Plan, and relevant to this section of the Environmental Report, is presented below:

- There are two local primary schools, St. Mary's and Dunmow Primary School, and both will be at capacity within the next five years.
- There is one secondary school, Helena Romanes' School, an academy, which has a capacity of 1,600 pupils, and which currently has nearly 1,400 pupils. The school will need to expand or relocate to cater for at least 2,000 pupils over the life of the Neighbourhood Plan. Uttlesford District Council are seeking to allocate land south of Stortford Road to enable relocation should that option be pursued.



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