



# A GUIDE TO THE EVIDENCE BASE

**July 2009**

# Introduction

## What is the evidence base?

The evidence base is made up of a set of technical studies either prepared or commissioned by the Council in order to inform the Local Development Framework (LDF). It also includes some policies and strategies produced by the Council and other relevant authorities. It covers a wide variety of topics in accordance with advice from national government.

## What is this guide and how to use it?

This guide offers a summary of the relevant conclusions from each technical study according to topic and location. For each topic there is a summary sheet indicating which studies have relevant conclusions for the different towns and large villages, the Borough as a whole, the countryside and growth areas.

Each topic has a cover page (the topic summary page) with a table showing the places along the top and the technical studies down the side. The boxes of the table are shaded grey to indicate whether each study has relevant conclusions for each place with regards to the particular topic. The boxes are filled white where the study does not have any relevant conclusions for the place, and shaded grey where it does provide relevant conclusions for the place for the topic.

For example, the Social and Communities Facilities Study has relevant conclusions about open space for the Borough, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Kings Langley. Therefore on the Open Space topic summary page the boxes relating to these places and the Social and Communities Facilities Study are shaded in grey, and those relating to the other places and for the study are left white.



There are no relevant conclusions from the technical study for this place under this topic



There are relevant conclusion(s) from the technical study for this place under this topic

The conclusions from all the relevant studies for each relevant place are given after the topic summary page.

## How is this guide organised?

The guide is organised first by topic, and then by location.

The topics are in the following order:

- Cemeteries;
- East of England Plan;
- Employment;
- Energy;
- Gypsies and Travellers;
- Housing;
- Leisure;
- Natural Resources;
- Open Space;
- Population;
- Retail;
- Site Allocations;
- Social and Community Facilities;
- Transport; and
- Urban Design.

The locations are in the following order:

- Borough;
- Hemel Hempstead;
- Berkhamsted;
- Tring;
- Kings Langley;
- Bovingdon;
- Markyate;
- Countryside; and
- Growth Areas.

## What are the technical studies about?

### AMR (Annual Monitoring Report)

Produced every year by the Council in order to monitor the its progress in relation to a set of core and local indicators, and the effectiveness of its planning policies. The conclusions of the AMR in this guide are taken from the 2006/07 AMR.

### Appropriate Assessment

A screening report undertaken for the Core Strategy Issues and Options Development Plan Documents (DPDs) in order to assess the plans' impact(s) on the Special Areas of Conservation within the Borough. This report was published in April 2008 and undertaken by Halcrow Group consultants.

### Consultation about Cemeteries

In 2008 the Council wrote to the churches within the Borough asking about any current or foreseeable capacity issues at cemeteries.

### East of England Plan

i.e. the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England Region; adopted by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in May 2008. Parts of this plan have been the subject of a High Court legal challenge.

### Employment Study

An examination of the quantitative need for employment land over the period to 2021. This study was carried out jointly for Dacorum Borough, Watford Borough and Three Rivers District Councils by consultants Roger Tym & Partners, and published in January 2005.

### Gypsies and Travellers Studies

The Council have commissioned two studies to look at the needs of this group:

1. An assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in South and West Hertfordshire was undertaken by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Birmingham. It was published in April 2005.
2. A study was undertaken by consultants Scott Wilson to identify broad areas for possible sites for Gypsies and Travellers across South and West Hertfordshire. It was published in March 2007.

### Health Profile 2008

Each year the Department of Health provides a Health profile of local authorities which provides information about the health of the area according to a set of indicators.

### **Housing Land Availability Paper**

A report which provides an indication of the type, distribution and timing of housing within the Borough, including the level of greenfield development needed to support housing growth options. The report assesses the outcomes of **the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)** (published September 2008). This report was produced by Dacorum Borough Council and was published in April 2009.

### **Indoor Recreation Facilities**

An assessment of the public, private and voluntary provision of indoor recreation facilities across the Borough. This study was carried out by Knight, Kavanagh and Page consultants, and was published in March 2006.

### **London Arc Employment Study**

A study undertaken by consultants Roger Tym & Partners for the seven local authorities making up the Hertfordshire London Arc examining the future provision of employment land to 2026 (although projections to 2031 are made within the appendices). The study took into account the implications arising from the East of England Plan, and was published in March 2009.

### **Open Space Study**

An analysis of the current provision of open space in the Borough, concentrating on its quality and accessibility, and making recommendations for future provision. This study was carried out by Dacorum Borough Council and was published in March 2008.

### **Outdoor Recreation Facilities**

An assessment of the outdoor recreation facilities across the Borough, and recommendations for future provision. This study was carried out by Knight, Kavanagh and Page consultants, and was published in August 2006.

### **Population Note**

Projections of how the population and dwelling numbers of the Borough as a whole, each of the six main settlements, and the countryside will grow over the period to 2031 according to different scenarios. This work was carried out by Dacorum Borough Council and was published in April 2009.

### **Retail and Leisure Study**

A qualitative and quantitative assessment of retail and leisure facilities within the borough, including a healthcheck of the three town centres and recommendations of how additional floorspace can be accommodated. This study was undertaken by consultants Donaldsons and was published in January 2006.

### **Retail Study Update**

A qualitative and quantitative assessment of retail and leisure facilities within the borough, including a healthcheck of Hemel Hempstead town centres and recommendations of how additional floorspace can be accommodated. This study was undertaken by consultants DTZ and was published in March 2009.

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

The first phase of the SFRA assesses and maps all forms of Flood Risk across the Borough. The second phase investigates the risk of a breach of the Grand Union Canal and failure of the flood relief culvert under Hemel Hempstead town centre. The study was carried out by consultants Halcrow; the first phase was published in August 2007 and the second phase in June 2008.

### **Social and Communities Facilities Study**

An examination of the current provision of social and communities facilities across the Borough, and likely future needs. This study was carried out by Dacorum Borough Council and was published in January 2006.

### **Sustainable Community Strategy**

The Dacorum Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted by the Council in January 2008 and outlines the Council's long and short-term aims in relation to its community and how it intends to meet them.

### **Town Stadium Study**

An investigation into the feasibility of a town stadium complex in or around Hemel Hempstead, including an assessment of the potential size, type and location of the facility. This study was carried out by consultants PMP, and was published in June 2009.

### **Transport Study**

An overview of the policy context for transport including statistics on different modes, progress updates and identification of relevant schemes. The study was

undertaken by Dacorum Borough Council, and was published in August 2006.

### **UDA (Urban Design Assessment)**

A report covering the three towns and three large villages within the Borough providing a strategy plan and set of settlement principles for each. This study was carried out by consultants Urban Practitioners and was published in January 2006.

### **UNCS (Urban and Nature Conservation Study)**

A report identifying the wildlife resources and habitats within and accessible to the main settlements within the Borough. It includes a policy review according to the standards set by English Nature, and recommendations for protection and enhancement of key wildlife areas. The report was carried out by Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre, and was published in March 2006.

This guide will be updated with the conclusions of other technical studies when available.



Borough

Consultation 2008
St Albans Diocesan Office indicated that they are still awaiting a Government decision on reusing existing Cemeteries. This is likely to have an implication on capacity forecasts.

Hemel Hempstead

Consultation 2008
One churchyard open for burials (Holy Trinity, Leverstock Green) which have adequate capacity for the foreseeable future (St Albans Diocesan Office) .
(Woodwells) Five years of burials within existing boundary considering the current rate of 0.5 acres of land (per year). This amounts to approximately 300-400 burials per year. Clear need for future extension.
<div><input type="checkbox"/> Re-use of existing grave space is an option but has limitations.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> The role that the two nearby Crematoria play needs to be made clearer. This is even more relevant when Cremations are favoured over burials by a ratio of about 3:1 or 72%.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Ascertaining future demographics will be important as different religions/communities have specific requirements (Linda Gizzie, Cemeteries Manager DBC).</div>

Berkhamsted

Consultation 2008
Berkhamsted, Tring and rural area - 40 plots left for burial at Sunnyside and 50+ years for ashes (St Albans Diocesan Office).
St Mary’s Northchurch – New Road Cemetery most likely has 8-10 years before full. There is the possibility of an extension and deliberations have been ongoing for the last three years. If extension is made then this would give another 25-30 years (St Albans Diocesan Office).

Tring

Consultation 2008
Berkhamsted, Tring and rural area - 40 plots left for burial at Sunnyside and 50+ years for ashes (St Albans Diocesan Office).

Countryside

Consultation 2008
Potten End Churchyard is full and closed. Nettleden has enough room for the foreseeable future for parishioners only. The Nettleden and Potten End Parish Council are about to open a new cemetery, which will be for civil parishioners only (St Albans Diocesan Office).
St Bartholomew’s Wigginton - open churchyard and I would estimate 6-8 years (St Albans Diocesan Office).
There are no issues at Bourne End or St Peter’s, Great Berkhamsted. All Saints Long Marston, St John the Baptist Aldbury, and St Mary's Puttenham are all fine for the next 25 years and probably the next 50 and maybe even longer depending on which areas are re-used (St Albans Diocesan Office).