

Braintree District Council

**Development Management Plan DPD
&
Site Allocations DPD**

**Sustainability Appraisal
and
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Scoping Report
Annex B - Baseline Information**

February 2012



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Braintree District Council commissioned the Strategic Environmental Assessment Team of Essex County Council to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the Development Management Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) and Site Allocations DPD documents forming part of their Local Development Framework (LDF).

This Annex forms part of the scoping stage of the SA/SEA and includes a comprehensive description of the District without the implementation of the two LDF documents.

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 area which should be addressed and provides a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of implementing the two LDF documents. The baseline may need to be updated during the SA/SEA process as new information emerges and/or as additional issues come to light.

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

- Biodiversity
- Landscape
- Air Quality
- Climatic Factors
- Water Quality
- Flooding
- Cultural Heritage and Townscape
- Health
- Population and Social
- Economy
- Housing
- Transport

The summaries of each topic have been included within the main Scoping Report document while this annex contains the detailed baseline information.

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2 BIODIVERSITY

2.1.1 Essex Biodiversity Action Plan

The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) is currently being re-written at the time of compiling this baseline, and the original 1999 Action Plan is now withdrawn. A sub-group was formed in May 2006 to review the species and habitats of EBAP and to revise the format. The new format will include targets and actions and are intended to be realistic and achievable. Habitat groups have been formed to frame the review process: Lowland Grassland, Lakes and Ponds, Rivers, Wetlands, Coastal, Marine, Urban and Brownfield. Each Group will contain sub-plans for more specific habitats. There will be no Species Action Plans as species will be addressed within the habitats where they are found.

In this transition phase the species and habitats found in Braintree District that were within the revised 1999 EBAP and which are likely to be transferred into the new EBAP have been provided below.

TABLE 1: SPECIES AND HABITATS IN BRAINTREE

	Braintree		
Mammals:	Brown hare Dormouse	European Otter Pipistrelle bats	Water vole
Birds:	Grey Partridge	Song Thrush	Skylark
Other vertebrates:	Great Crested Newt		
Invertebrates:	Shining ramshorn snail	Stag beetle	White clawed crayfish
Plants:	Native Black Poplar	Oxlip	
Habitats:	Ancient/species rich hedgerows and green lanes Ancient woodland	Cereal field margin Heathland	Old orchards Urban areas

Source: Essex Biodiversity Action Plan, 2012¹

Development would be inappropriate in locations where the above species and habitats would be negatively affected by road traffic, noise and vibration, hedgerow, farmland or grassland loss, the potential pollution of groundwater or water courses or where development would require the excessive management of vegetation as a consideration.

¹ Available online: <http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/>

2.2 Biodiversity Designations

2.2.1 International Designations

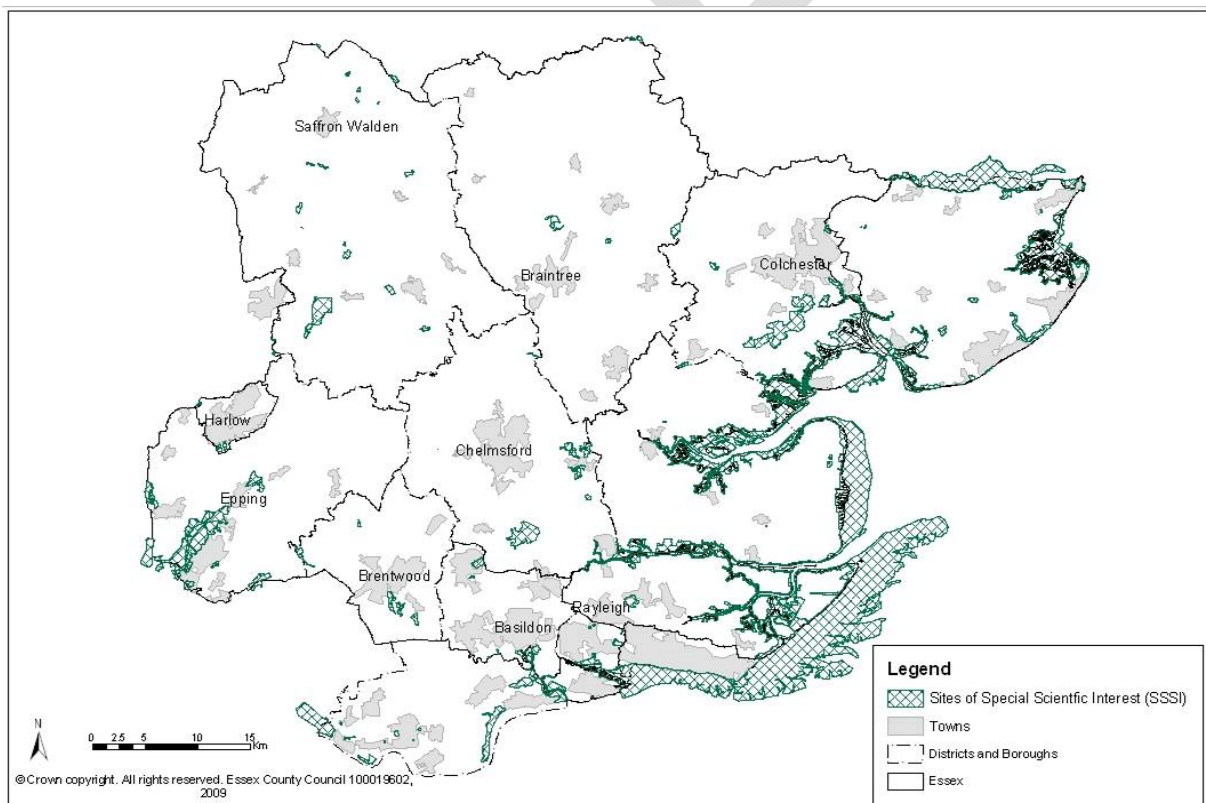
There are no Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), or candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), in Braintree District.

However a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken for the Braintree Core Strategy in order to determine the indirect effects of the Core Strategy on European Sites outside the Braintree District.

2.2.2 Sites of Specific Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated areas of land which are considered to be of special interest due to their fauna, flora, geological and/or physiographical features. There are over 4,000 SSSIs in England. In Essex there are 81 SSSIs covering a total of 36,322 ha, the largest proportion of which are along the coastline as shown in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN ESSEX



Source: Essex County Council, 2010

The success of SSSIs is monitored by Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets in which the SSSIs are put in to one of five categories, ranging from favourable to destroyed. A SSSI is deemed to be meeting the PSA target by Natural England, if 95% of the total area is classed as “Favourable” or “Unfavourable Recovering”.

There are four SSSIs in Braintree District at:

- Belcher's and Broadfield Woods

- Bovingdon Hall Woods
- Chalkney Wood
- Glemsford Pits

TABLE 2: BRAINTREE DISTRICT SITES OF SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Belcher's and Broadfield Woods			
Location:	Earls Colne	Size:	14.4 ha
Habitat Type	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	PSA Target	Currently Meeting
Condition Most recent Assessment 16 Aug 2010	Unfavourable recovering High deer population is having an impact on regeneration of the site but measures are being taken to manage deer populations. Ongoing work on clearing out the ponds has also been successful.		
Bovingdon Hall Woods			
Location:	North of Braintree	Size:	69.4 ha
Habitat Type:	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	PSA Target	Not Currently Meeting
Condition Most recent Assessment 9 Nov 2010	Unit Number 5 - Unfavourable no change Insufficient regeneration of oak and ash which are the main canopy species, probably mainly due to deer browsing. Unit Numbers 6 to 9 – Favourable Regeneration of much of the four units has been successful but deer management needs to be maintained or increased and coppice regeneration monitored carefully.		
Chalkney Wood			
Location:	Earls Colne	Size:	73.72ha
Habitat Type	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	PSA Target	Currently Meeting
Condition Most recent Assessments Unit 1 18 Jul 2011 Unit 2 29 Jul 2011	Unit Number 1- Favourable Currently under good management which includes coppice rotation. An increase in light levels would benefit diversity of ground flora, sapling regeneration and opportunities for standards to become more established. Coppice stools and sapling regeneration would benefit from protection from browsing damage. Unit Number 2 – Favourable There has been no reduction in the extent of the ancient woodland and the conifer plantations have been removed. A program of management by the Forestry Commission has been actively cutting down conifer regrowth and re-establishing broadleaved woodland.		
Glemsford Pits			

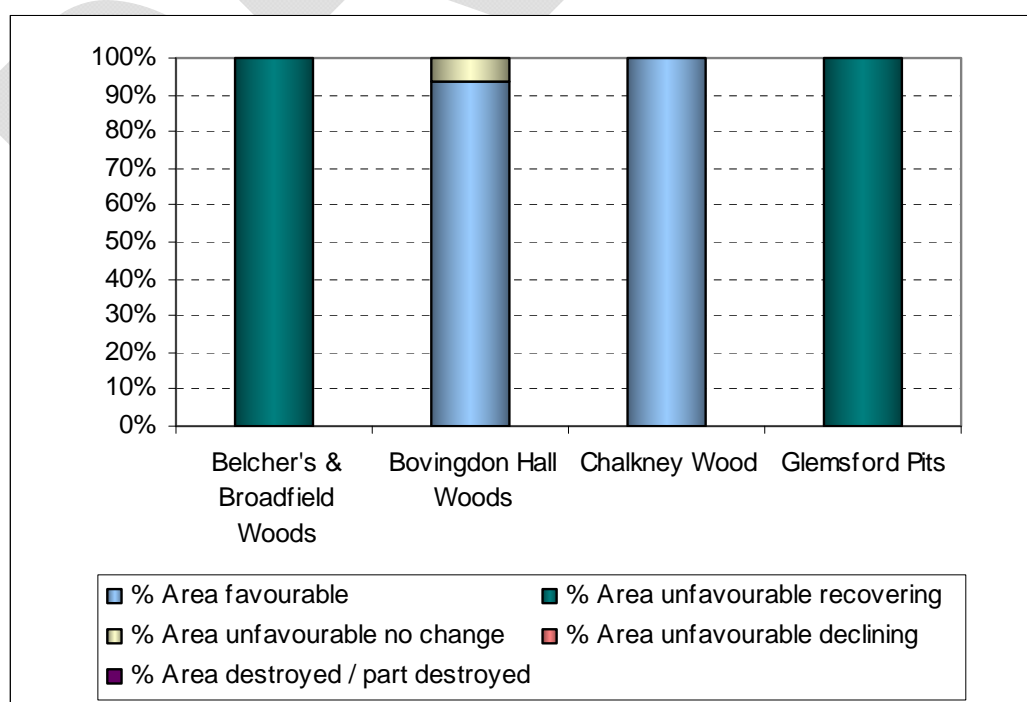
Location:	n/a	Size:	37.5 ha
Habitat Type:	Standing open water and canals	PSA Target	Currently meeting
Condition	Unit 1 - Unfavourable recovering		
Most recent Assessment	Increase in recorded species-richness of breeding Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) since 1988 but habitat requires further management with nutrient enrichment and overshadowing along the water edges present.		
Unit 1			
4 Oct 2010	Unit 2 - Unfavourable recovering (not in Braintree District)		
Unit 2	Increase in recorded species-richness of breeding Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) since 1988 but habitat requires further management with nutrient enrichment and overshadowing along the water edges present.		
4 Oct 2010			
Unit 3	Unit 3 - Unfavourable recovering		
12 Oct 2010	This unit in the site is more sensitive to shading and enrichment than the other two units because it contains many smaller ponds and pits. However it has received more tree and scrub management in the last decade to keep areas of terrestrial and water-edge habitat open		

Source: Adapted from Natural England Data (2012)

- As can be seen from the above table the condition of SSSIs within Braintree District is reasonable.
- On average, Braintree's SSSIs are better than the condition of Essex's total SSSIs since all sites are in 'favourable', 'unfavourable recovering' and 'unfavourable no change' conditions.

Figure 2 identifies the proportion of each SSSI in each of the condition classifications.

FIGURE 2: CONDITION OF SITES OF SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT BASED ON LAST ASSESSMENT



Source: Adapted from Natural England Data (2012)

Chalkney Wood, Belcher's and Broadfield Woods and Bovingdon Hall Woods are currently complying with the PSA target of 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites to be brought into a favourable condition. Of those, Chalkney Wood has 100% of its area in favourable condition while the other two have 100 of their areas in unfavourable recovering conditions. The majority of Glemsford Pits SSSI is also currently complying with the PSA target but 6.7% remain in a condition classed as unfavourable no change.

2.2.3 National Nature Reserves

There are seven National Nature Reserves located in Essex; none of these are in Braintree District.

2.2.4 Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are habitats of local significance which contribute to nature conservation; provide opportunities for the public to see, learn about and enjoy wildlife; comprise a substantial part of the district's identified wildlife habitats and also significantly contribute to the district's biodiversity resource.

Braintree District has a total of 6 LNRs at:

- Bocking Blackwater
- Brickfields / Long Meadow, Earls Colne
- Brockwell Meadows, Kelvedon
- Colne Valley (dismantled Railway)
- Cuckoo Wood, Great Notley
- Whetmead, Witham

There is another LNR located on the border between Essex and Suffolk northern border at Rodbridge Picnic Site, Borley, which is part of the Suffolk County Council LNR at Rodbridge.

2.2.5 Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites, previously known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) are areas of land with significant wildlife value. Together with statutory protected areas, LoWS represent the minimum habitat we need to protect in order to maintain the current levels of wildlife in Essex.

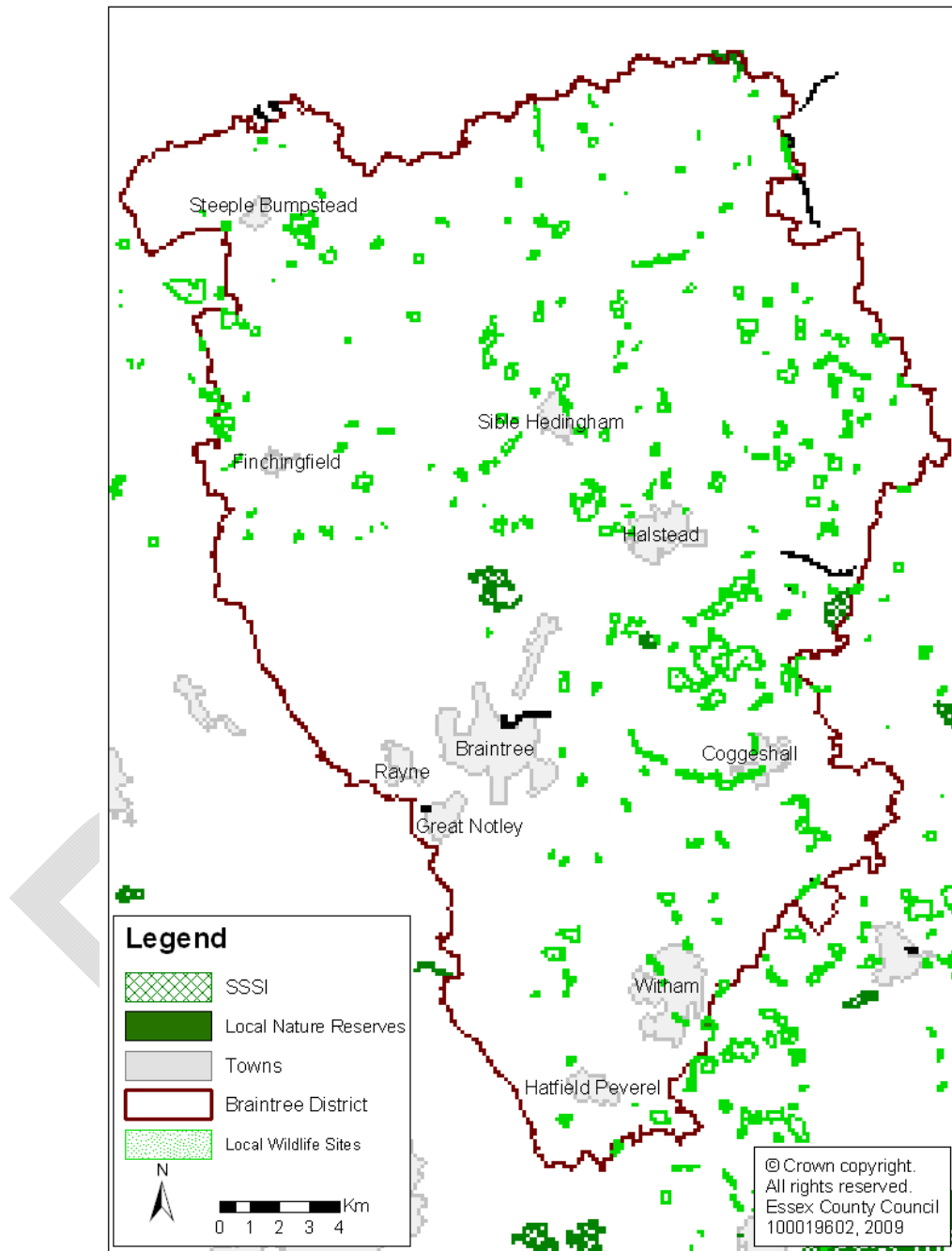
There are 251 LoWSs scattered throughout Braintree District, with many concentrated in the centre of the district. Some of the LoWSs correspond with woodland and river valleys in this area and comprise of a total of 165 woodland habitats, 58 grassland, 25 mosaic, and 3 freshwater sites.

The largest LoWS in the district is the Edgars farm complex, which is split into two units of grassland, Edgars Farm East (173.28 ha) and Edgars Farm Meadow (73.00 ha). Other significant LoWSs include Great Monk Wood, a 6.75 ha site of woodland comprising both Sessile and Pedunculate Oak and Small-Leaved Lime coppice. Other tree species present include Ash, Hornbeam and Birch. The woodland floor and rides display a very rich flora, including Early Purple Orchid, Greater Wood-Rush, Great Butterfly Orchid and Ragged Robin.

Moyns Park (0.71ha), is a LoWS of partially improved grassland and is important due to a varied mix of grasses, such as Sweet Vernal Grass, Crested Dog's-tail, Yellow Oat-grass and Meadow Barley. Throughout the park there are many Cowslips. The scattered tree cover adds to both the wildlife interest and landscape appeal of this site.

The extent and location of LoWSs in Braintree District follows in the next figure:

FIGURE 3: LOCATION OF LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES IN BRAintree DISTRICT



Source: Essex County Council, 2009

2.3 Summary

There are no international biodiversity designations (Ramsar, SPAs, SACs or cSACs) in Braintree District. However a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been

undertaken for the Braintree Core Strategy on European Sites outside the Braintree District.

There are four SSSIs in Braintree District at: Belcher's and Broadfield Woods; Bovingdon Hall Woods; Chalkney Wood and Glemsford Pits. Chalkney Wood, Belcher's and Broadfield Woods and Bovingdon Hall Woods are currently complying with the PSA target of 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites to be brought into a favourable condition. Of those, Chalkney Wood has 100% of its area in a favourable condition while the other two have 100% of their areas in unfavourable recovering conditions. The majority of Glemsford Pits SSSI is also currently complying with the PSA target but 6.7% remain in a condition classed as unfavourable no change.

There are seven National Nature Reserves located in Essex; none of these are in Braintree District. Braintree District has a total of six Local Nature Reserves at: Bocking Blackwater; Brickfields / Long Meadow, Earls Colne; Brockwell Meadows, Kelvedon; Colne Valley (dismantled Railway); Cookoo Wood, Great Notley; Whetmead, Witham. There is a further LNR located on the border between Essex and Suffolk northern border at Rodbridge Picnic Site, Borlet, which is part of the Suffolk County Council LNR at Rodbridge.

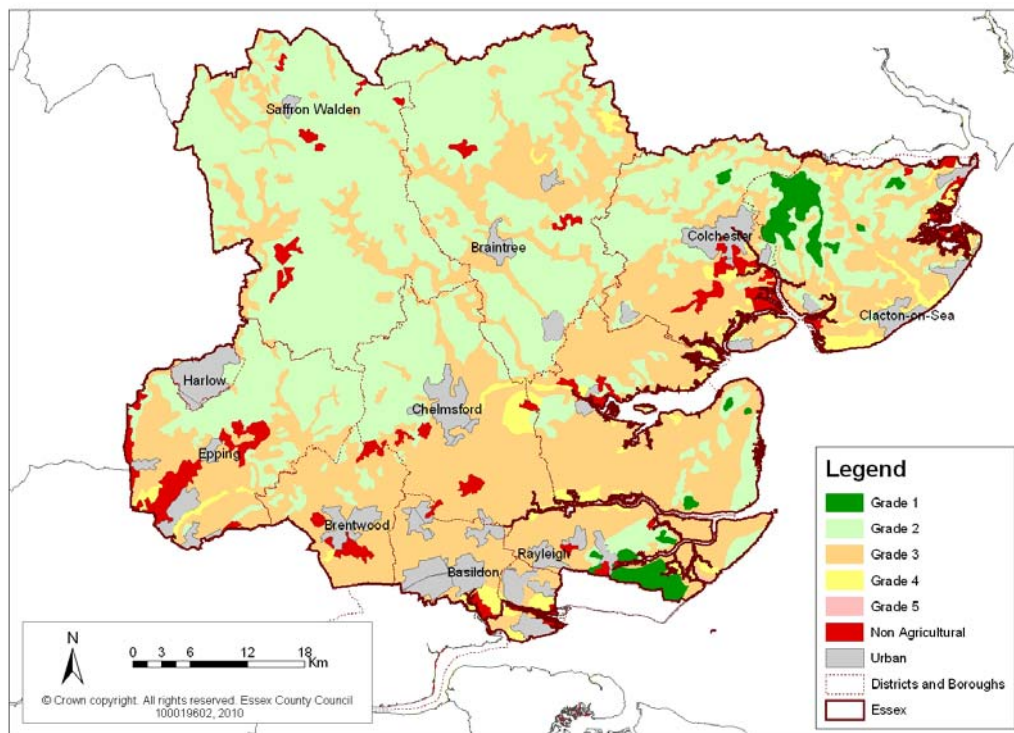
There are 251 LoWSs scattered throughout Braintree District, with many concentrated in the centre of the District.

3 LANDSCAPE

3.1 Agricultural Land

The East of England contains 58% of the country's Grade 1 and 2 land, with 72% of agricultural land in the region under cultivation. This compares to 29% nationally². The East of England contains just 10% of the country's Grade 4 and 5 land.

FIGURE 4: AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION IN ESSEX



Source: Essex County Council, 2010

The majority of agricultural land within Essex can be broadly classified as Grade 2 in the north and Grade 3 to the south, as defined by the Agricultural Land Classification System, published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), now the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This is related to the location of the Essex till, with better quality land located in the north-west of the County.

Agricultural land in Braintree District is classified as Grades 2 and 3, with 65.8% (40,243 hectares) of agricultural land classified as Grade 2 and 29.9% (18,304 hectares) as Grade 3. Strips of Grade 3 soils follow the path of the rivers Brain, Ter, Blackwater and Colne as they flow through the district.

Land classified as Grades 1, 2 and 3 fall into the 'best and most versatile' category in Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (PPS 7), and should therefore be considered a national resource for the future and be given considerable weight when preparing development plans and in exercising development control.

² Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England. East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum, July 2003

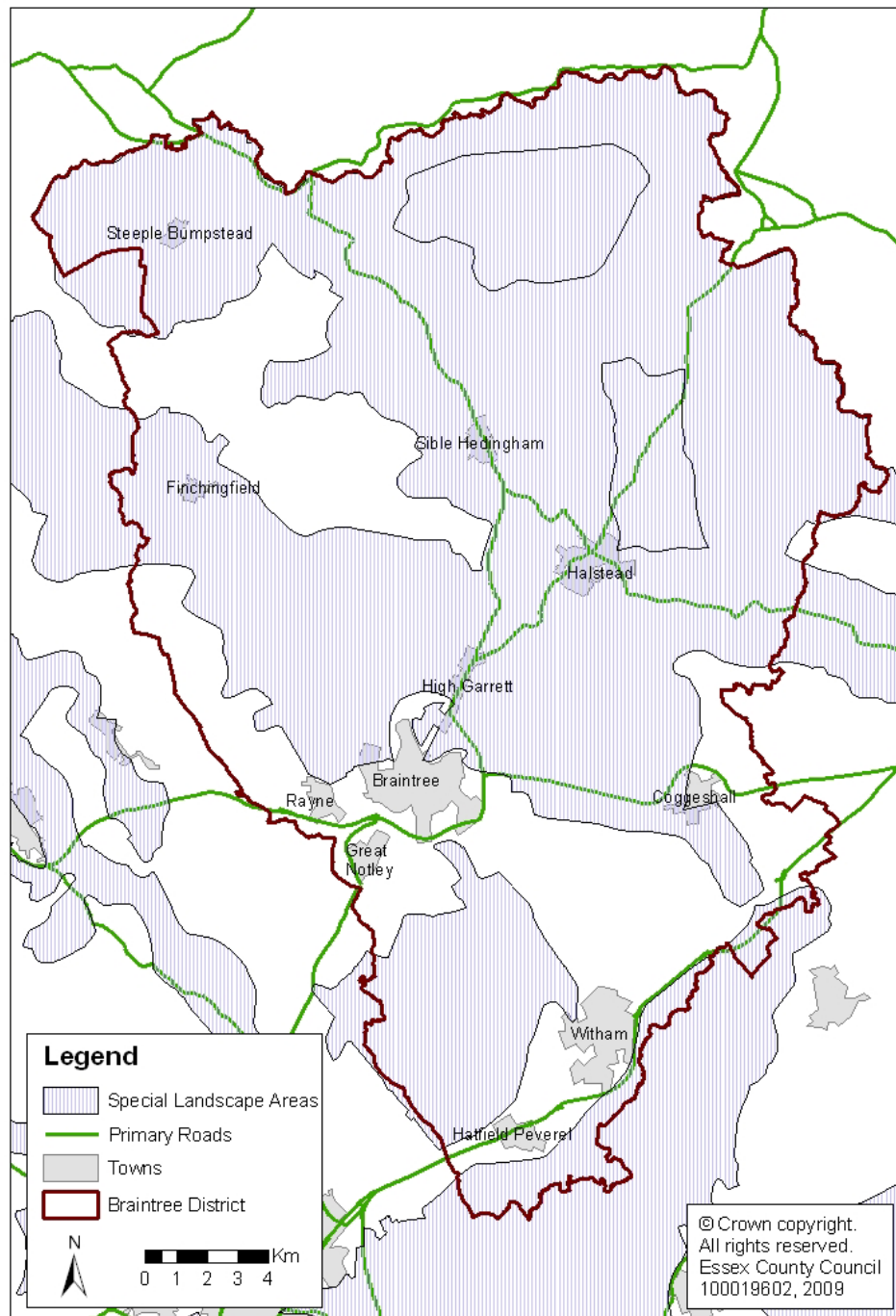
3.2 Special Landscape Areas

Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are defined as areas of distinctive scenic attraction and of great landscape value resulting from a combination of features such as vegetation cover and landform. They are non statutory designations, selected by Essex County Council, which will eventually be replaced by Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) when adopted as part of the evidence base for individual authorities Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). The conservation and maintenance of features important to the local landscape such as trees, hedges, copses, woodlands and ponds are encouraged.

Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) located within the district have been identified on the Proposal Maps of the Braintree District Local Plan Review 2005. These have been implemented to protect the visual quality of important areas. The major SLA is 'North Essex', which incorporates much of the district. However there are some smaller SLAs covering:

- the Stour Valley;
- the Pant Valley,
- the Colne Valley;
- the Upper Blackwater;
- the Chelmer and Blackwater Ridges; and
- Terling

FIGURE 5: LOCATION OF SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT

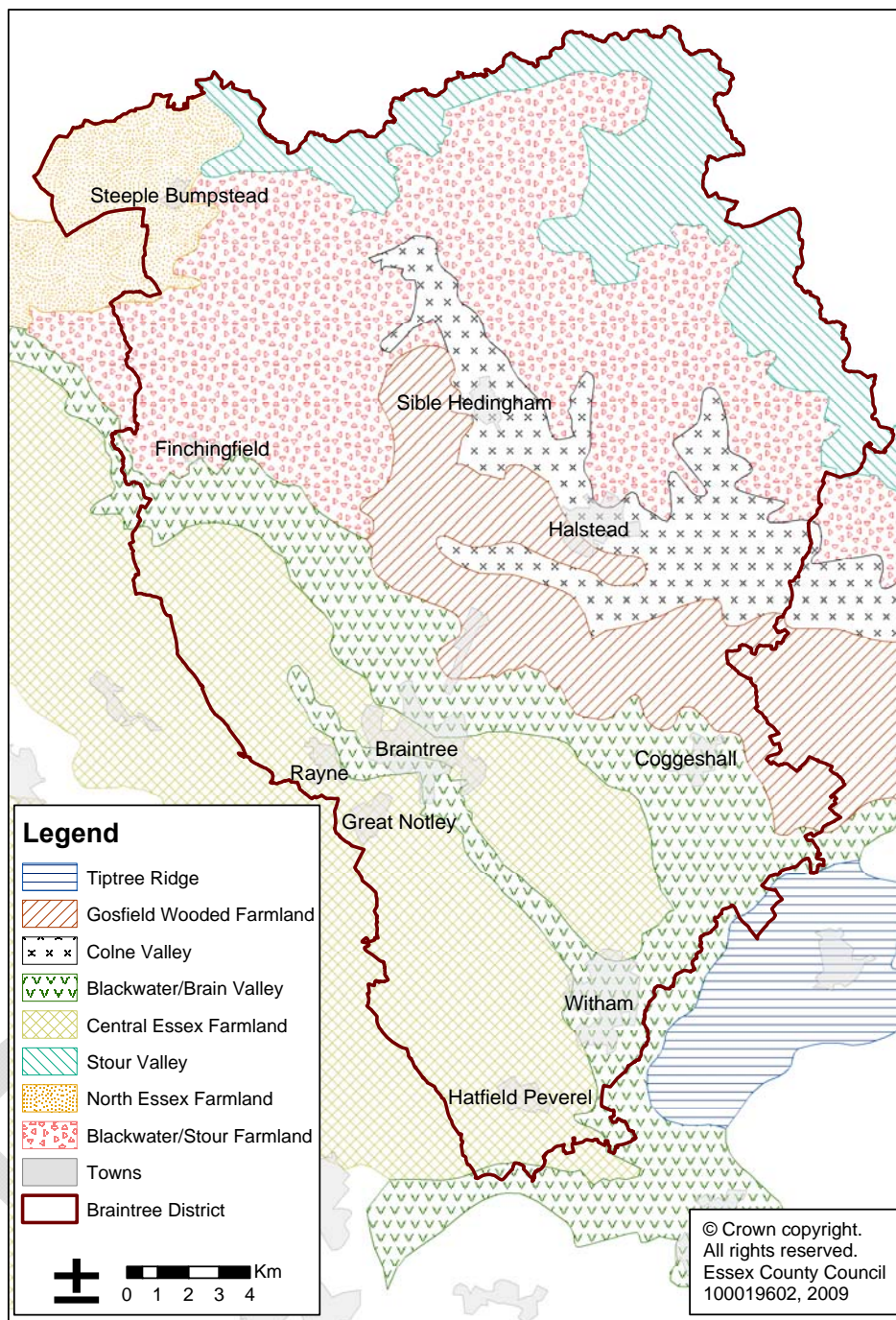


Source: Essex County Council 2009

3.3 Landscape Character Areas

There have been a number of landscape character assessments carried out in Essex. The Essex Landscape Character Assessment (2003) establishes a 'baseline' of the existing landscape character for the whole of the Essex and identifies 35 different 'Landscape Character Areas'. Each area has a recognisable pattern of landscape characteristics, both physical and experiential, which combine to create a distinct sense of place. There are 8 Landscape Character Areas in Braintree District as shown in Figure 6.

FIGURE 6: LOCATION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



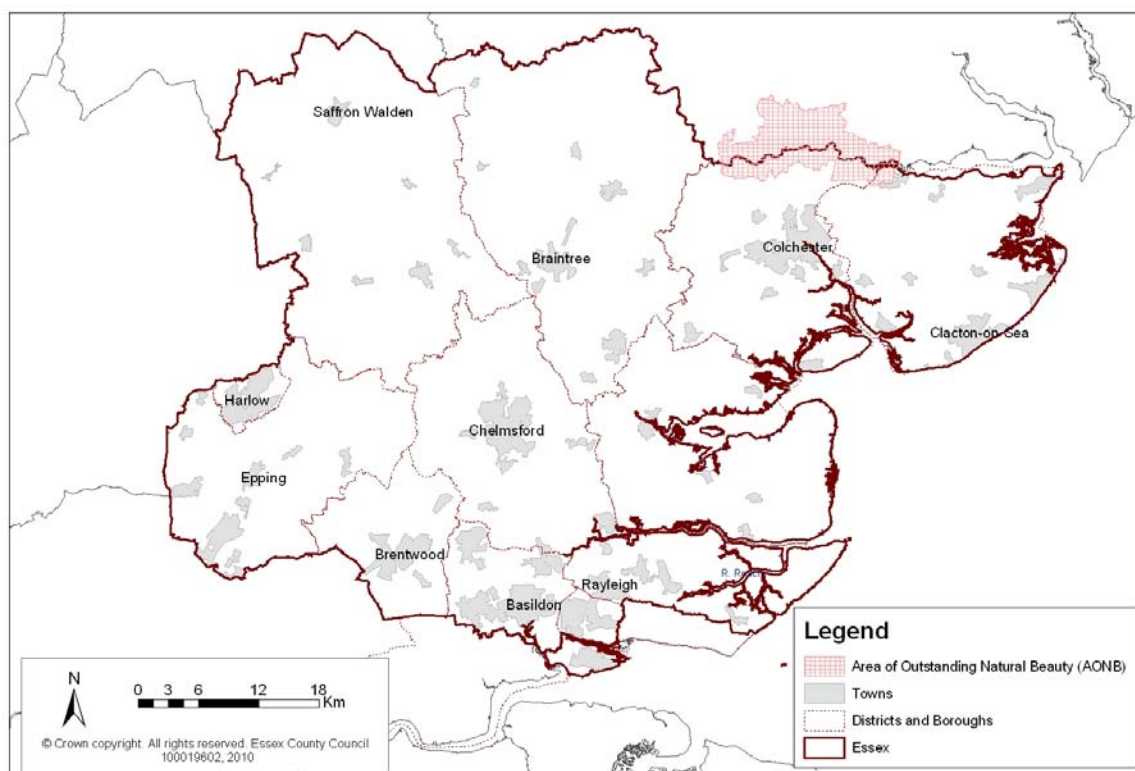
Source: Essex County Council, 2009

A more detailed landscape character assessment was carried out in 2006 for 5 districts in Essex including Braintree. The Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon and Uttlesford Landscape Character Assessment (2006), divides the district's 8 Landscape Character Areas into a further 22 smaller local Landscape Character Areas.

3.4 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are described by Natural England as areas of high scenic quality that have statutory protection in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of their landscapes. There are 36 AONBs in England covering approximately 15% of the country, which have been designated protection. In Essex there is one AONB, Dedham Vale, which lies on the border of Suffolk and Essex covering an area of 90 sq km. Dedham Vale AONB is not located within Braintree District; Figure 7 shows its location.

FIGURE 7: AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



Source: Essex County Council, 2010

3.5 Green Belt

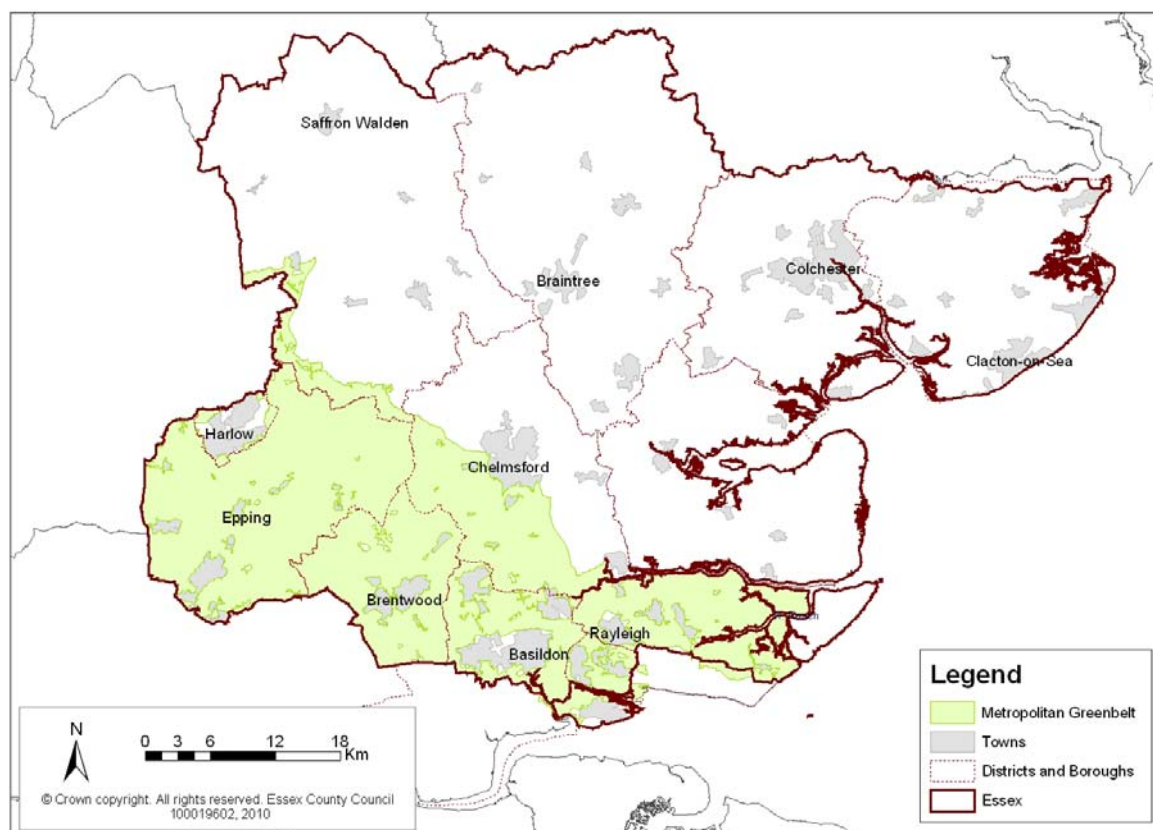
Figure 8 shows the coverage of Green Belt as of 2001 in Essex, which does not extend into Braintree District.

3.6 Protected Lanes

Protected lanes have significant historic and landscape values. They generally originate from pre-historic track ways, which have been in continual (if lighter) use since. Protected lanes are often narrow, sunken and enclosed by a combination of mixed deciduous hedges and mature trees, ditches and raised verges that can be indications of great age.

The volume weights and speed of traffic is often limited to preserve the special character and due to their age and use they also have great biological value. The distribution of Protected Lanes through Essex is shown in Figure 9.

FIGURE 8: METROPOLITAN GREEN BELT COVERAGE IN ESSEX



Source: Essex County Council, 2010

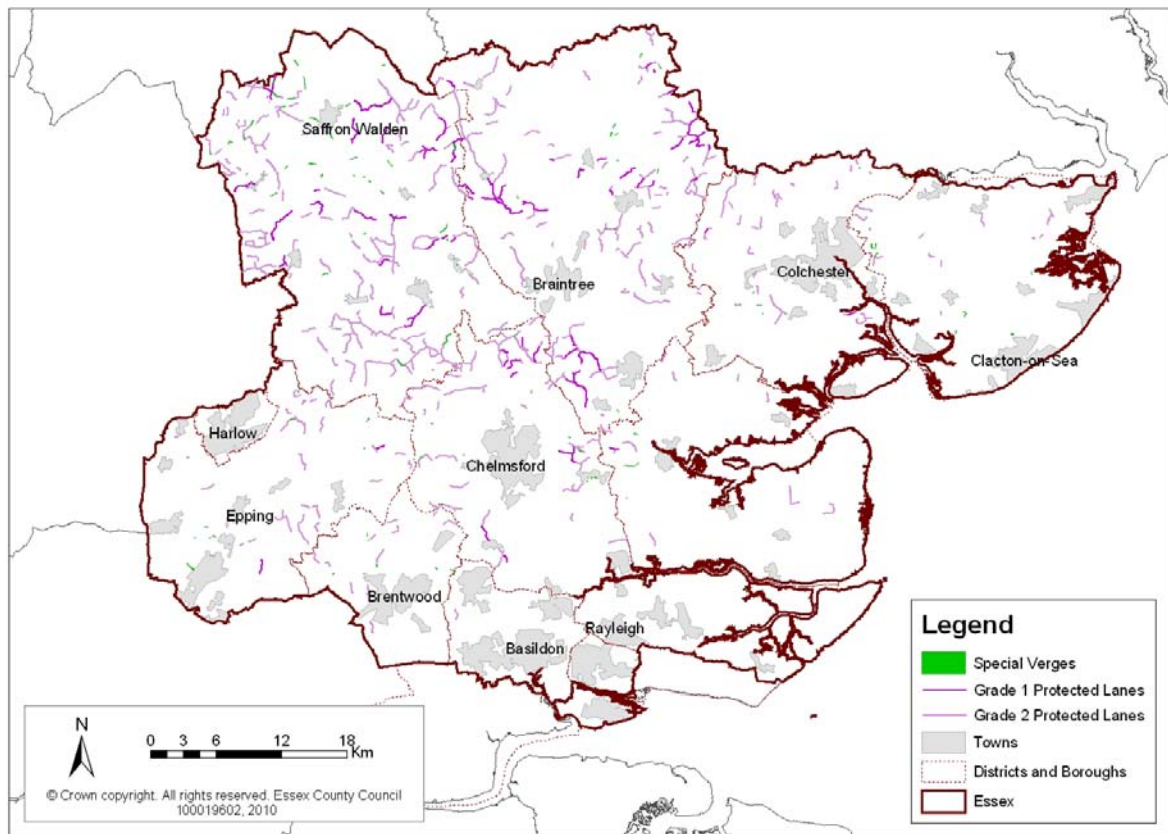
3.7 Special Verges

Roadside Verges are important and if sensitively managed they can increase the biodiversity of the verges themselves and from that the surrounding countryside. The reason for this is that verges can act as corridors interlinking fragmented or isolated habitats. In terms of wildlife value, verges can be split into three broad types:

- Landscaped and intensively managed verges: poorest quality.
- Recently created verges left to colonise naturally: vary in ecological value.
- Ancient verges: often of high ecological value.

With this in mind, in the 1970s, Essex County Council Highways Agency, Nature Conservancy Council and Essex Wildlife Trust identified a number of important verges which were subsequently designated as Special Roadside Nature Reserves. They aim to protect the future of rare and uncommon flowers growing on them. There are over 100 special verges designated in Essex as shown in Figure 9.

FIGURE 9: SPECIAL VERGES AND PROTECTED LANES IN ESSEX



Source: Essex County Council, 2010

3.8 Summary

The majority of agricultural land in Braintree District is classified as Grades 2 and 3, with 65.8% (40,243 hectares) of agricultural land classified as Grade 2 and 29.9% (18,304 hectares) as Grade 3. Strips of Grade 3 soils follow the path of the rivers Brian, Ter, Blackwater and Colne as they flow through the district.

Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) located within the district have been identified on the Proposals Map of the Braintree District Local Plan Review 2005. These have been implemented to protect the visual quality of important areas. The major SLA is 'North Essex', which incorporates much of the district. However there are some smaller SLAs within the district

Braintree is subject to two Landscape Character Assessments; The Essex Landscape Character Assessment (2003) and the Combined Landscape Character Assessment (2006). The information contained within these can be used to determine the sensitivity of certain landscape area to development.

4 AIR QUALITY

4.1 Air Quality Management Areas

Each local authority in the UK has been carrying out reviews and assessments of air quality within their area since December 1997. The aim of reviewing and assessing the information is to ensure that future and current air quality objectives can be achieved by the deadlines set. If a local authority has an area with measurements of air pollution that are unlikely to meet the objectives, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared. The size of this area can vary from a section of one street to a much larger area of the locality.

Air quality in Essex is generally good. Most industrial processes in Essex are concentrated along the Thames Estuary. The air quality in Essex is influenced by its close proximity to mainland Europe. A total of 65 AQMAs have been designated within the East of England region. There are currently 14 AQMAs within Essex; Table 3 highlights the distribution of these AQMAs.

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF AQMAS WITHIN EACH DISTRICT/ BOROUGH IN ESSEX

Local Authority	Number of AQMAS	Local Authority	Number of AQMAS
Basildon	0	Epping Forest	1
Braintree	0	Harlow	0
Brentwood	7	Maldon	0
Castle Point	0	Rochford	0
Chelmsford	1	Tendring	0
Colchester	2	Uttlesford	3
		Total	14

Source: Essex Air Quality Consortium, 2009

All of the aforementioned AQMAs in Essex have been designated as such due to elevated levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).

There are no AQMAs located in Braintree District. The main air quality issues in the district were found to be NO₂ and PM₁₀ emissions from vehicles travelling on the A12 and A120. Frequent monitoring has shown that all air quality objectives will be met by World Health Organisation (WHO) target dates and therefore it has not been necessary to declare any AQMAs for any pollutant.

It should be noted that there are currently 5 potentially significant junctions which had daily flows of more than 10,000 vehicles in 2004 and are as follows:

- Newland Street, Witham
- Cressing Road, Witham
- Head Street, Halstead
- Railway Street, Braintree
- Rayne Road, Braintree

4.2 Nitrogen Dioxide Monitoring in Braintree District

Nitrogen Dioxide is monitored from diffusion tubes at 12 locations around Braintree District. The 2010 results showed that 5 monitoring locations exceeded the annual mean NO₂ objective concentration of 40 g/m³. Three of these were sited along the A12 at Hatfield Peverel, Rivenhall Hotel, and Foxden in Rivenhall while the other two were sited at Bradwell on the A120 and at Chipping Hill in Witham.

Relevant exposure levels which reflect the distances of these points from sensitive receptors were all less than the NO₂ objective level indicating that it is unlikely that there will be any exceedences.

Table 4 shows the latest findings. Figures in bold type represent readings which exceeded the annual mean NO₂ objective.

TABLE 4: BIAS ADJUSTED NITROGEN DIOXIDE DIFFUSION TUBE MONITORING ANNUAL MEAN RESULTS IN µG/M³

Location	Annual mean concentrations (µg/m ³)		2010 Relevant Exposure Level
	2009	2010	
Braintree - London Road	34.9	36.7	
Braintree - Coggeshall Road	25.1	25.8	
Braintree - Beckers Green Road	21.8	22.1	
Halstead - Colchester Road	27.9	31.5	
Hatfield Peverel - A12	44.3	45.6	
Kelvedon - High Street	29.4	30	
Bradwell, The Street	37.8	43.5	32.2
Braintree - Railway Street	29.5	32.4	
Braintree - Stilemans Wood	31.6	32.6	
Witham - Chipping Hill	49.2	50.3	37.3
Foxton, Rivenhall - A12	n/a	50.5	31.8
Hotel, Rivenhall - A12	n/a	55.3	38.5

Source: 2011 Air Quality Progress Report for Braintree District Council (April 2011)

According to the 2011 Progress Report a new local development, the Rivenhall Incinerator, may impact on air quality and will be included in the next Updating and Screening Assessment which is scheduled for 2012.

4.3 Summary

Air Quality in Essex is generally good. There are no AQMAs located in Braintree District. The main air quality issues in the district were found to be nitrogen dioxide and particulate emissions from vehicles travelling on the A12 and A120.

There are currently 5 potentially significant junctions which had daily flows of more than 10,000 vehicles in 2004. They are Newland Street, Witham; Cressing road, Witham; Head Street, Halstead; Railway Street, Braintree; and Rayne Road, Braintree.

Of the 12 passive diffusion NO₂ monitoring tubes located in the district, 5 did exceed the annual mean NO₂ objective concentration of 40 g/m³ but relevant exposure levels did not. Three of these were sited along the A12 at Hatfield Peverel, Rivenhall Hotel, and Foxden in Rivenhall while the other two were sited at Bradwell on the A120 and at Chipping Hill in Witham.

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5 CLIMATIC FACTORS

5.1 Climate Change Projections

The UK Climate Impact Programme has developed the UK Climate Change Projections 2009 (UKCIP09) which models future climate scenarios for the UK.

The key findings from UKCIP09 of how our climate might change in the future are:

- All areas of the UK will get warmer, and the warming is greater in summer than in winter. Across the UK, central estimates of the average regional summer (June, July, August) temperature rise in the 2080s are between 3 and 4°C.
- Across the UK, central estimates of regional average summer precipitation change are projected to be between -17% to -23% in the 2080s.
- Greater sea level rise in the south of the UK than the north. The central estimates for sea level rise (taking into account land movement) show that sea level is projected to rise by 18cm in London by 2040 and 36cm by 2080.
- Across the UK, central estimates of regional average winter precipitation change are projected to be in the region of +14% (NE) to +23% (SW), in the 2080s.
- Reaching a peak in global emissions in 2016 and achieving a 4% decrease per year thereafter, a global temperature rise to 1.8°C by 2050 is expected, which would then stabilise at about 2°C by 2100.

Key findings for the East of England for the 2080s (based on medium (current) emissions scenario) are:

- Under medium emissions, the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 3°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.6°C and is very unlikely to be more than 4.7°C.
- Under medium emissions, the central estimate of increase in summer mean temperature is 3.6°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.9°C and is very unlikely to be more than 5.9°C.
- Under medium emissions, the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 20%; it is very unlikely to be less than 4% and is very unlikely to be more than 44%.
- Under medium emissions, the central estimate of change in summer mean precipitation is -20%; it is very unlikely to be less than -44% and is very unlikely to be more than 6%.

Sea level rise and subsidence will lead to more frequent flooding of coastal areas. Increased temperatures and greater fluctuation in annual precipitation will further increase pressure on water resources. With this in mind it is possible to determine the potential flood risk that development sites can add to water bodies in areas of concern. Essex is already one of the driest areas in the UK.

5.2 Total Energy Consumption

TABLE 5: TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (GWH) IN BRAINTREE AND ESSEX, EXCLUDING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, 2008

	Braintree			Essex Average		
	Industrial & Commercial	Domestic	Total	Industrial & Commercial	Domestic	Total
Coal	7.6	3.8	11.3	14.0	1.4	15.4
Manufactured Fuels	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.6	0.6
Natural Gas	273.6	736.3	1,009.9	242.6	702.7	945.4
Electricity	291.2	292.9	584.1	271.1	231.4	502.5
Renewables	n/a	n/a	4.6	n/a	n/a	2.9
Total Consumption	n/a	n/a	1,611.6	n/a	n/a	1,466.8

Source: DECC, 2010

TABLE 6: CONSUMPTION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (GWH) IN BRAINTREE AND ESSEX, 2008

	Petroleum Products					
	Industrial & Commercial	Domestic	Road Transport	Rail	Total	Percentage of Total Energy Consumption
Braintree	174.8	97.0	1,340.7	5.4	1,617.9	50.1
Essex Average	151.8	39.4	1,029.4	2.8	1,223.4	45.5

Source: DECC, 2010

In 2008 Braintree District consumed more energy than the county average and was the 5th highest consumers amongst all local authorities in the county. A total of 1,346.1 of the District's total 3,229.5GWh energy consumption were from transport related petroleum products. In contrast only 4.6GWh of energy consumed is generated from renewable sources, however this is a higher amount that the local authority average for Essex at 2.9GWh and the 3rd highest amount amongst all local authorities in the county.

5.3 Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The burning of fossil fuels, changes in land use, and various industrial processes are adding heat-trapping gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂), to the atmosphere. There is now roughly 40% more CO₂ in the atmosphere than there was before the

industrial revolution. One of the main causes of increased CO₂ in the atmosphere is through the burning of fossil fuels for electricity and transportation.

Table 7 sets out the CO₂ emissions per capita for the districts within Essex, with the East of England figures for comparison.

TABLE 7: CO₂ EMISSIONS PER CAPITA

Local Authority	Per capita Total CO ₂ (tonnes)				Per Capita Reduction in CO ₂ Emissions (%)
	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Basildon	7.3	7.3	7.2	6.8	1.2
Braintree	7.4	7.2	7.0	6.8	5.3
Brentwood	8.4	8.4	8.0	7.9	5.0
Castle Point	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.1
Chelmsford	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	1.4
Colchester	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.4
Epping Forest	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	2.6
Harlow	7.5	7.4	7.0	6.9	6.0
Maldon	6.8	6.7	6.2	6.2	10.1
Rochford	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.9
Tendring	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.6
Uttlesford	9.1	9.2	9.0	8.7	1.3
Essex Average	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.4	4.6

Source: DECC, 2010

Braintree achieved a 5.3% per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions between 2005 and 2008 which was greater than the Essex average of 4.6%.

5.4 Energy Consumption

TABLE 8: CO₂ EMISSIONS IN KT WITHIN ESSEX 2008

Authority	Industrial & Commercial		Domestic		Transport		Total
Basildon	502.41	42.59%	387.69	32.86%	288.95	24.49%	1179.75
Braintree	264.16	27.44%	330.59	34.34%	374.25	38.87%	962.81
Brentwood	149.96	23.69%	195.31	30.86%	286.68	45.30%	632.90

Castle Point	84.96	20.51%	217.77	52.57%	110.91	26.77%	414.23
Chelmsford	343.81	30.78%	390.36	34.95%	385.12	34.48%	1116.98
Colchester	330.20	31.14%	376.88	35.54%	355.34	33.51%	1060.37
Epping Forest	231.99	19.31%	327.76	27.28%	642.35	53.46%	1201.58
Harlow	366.33	56.83%	172.18	26.71%	106.30	16.49%	644.66
Maldon	128.09	32.70%	158.50	40.46%	103.90	26.52%	391.75
Rochford	121.05	28.25%	200.94	46.89%	102.81	23.99%	428.56
Tendring	202.90	25.91%	332.21	42.43%	245.81	31.40%	782.95
Uttlesford	226.69	26.50%	190.65	22.29%	444.99	52.03%	855.32
Essex	2952.55	30.53%	3280.84	33.92%	3447.41	35.64%	9671.86

Source: DECC, 2010

Industry, domestic and road transport each produced roughly 1/3 of the total CO₂ emissions within the District in 2008. The industrial and commercial sector produces the smallest amount at 27.44% while road transport produces the most at 38.87%. When compared to the county average of 35.64%, proportionately more emissions of CO₂ were produced by road transport in the District.

5.5 Renewable Energy Consumption

TABLE 9: PROPORTION OF ENERGY WHICH IS RENEWABLE 2008

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, 2010

Braintree consumed 0.14% of its total energy from renewable sources in 2008, the 5th highest amount amongst Essex Districts/Boroughs and higher than the District/Borough average of 0.11%.

There are 3 Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plants within Essex County Council administrative boundary located in Basildon, Braintree and Colchester as detailed in Table 10. All 3 facilities have planning permission with conditions and respective legal agreements.

TABLE 10: BIOMASS-USING TECHNOLOGIES

Project	Council	Capacity	Nature	Developer
Rivenhall Airfield	Essex County Council (Braintree DC)	Not known	Recycling AD and composting facility	Gent Fairhead & Company Ltd
Stanway Hall Quarry	Essex County Council (Colchester BC)	Not known	MBT with AD and composting	Cory Environmental Ltd
Courtauld Road, Basildon	Essex County Council (Basildon DC)	3 engines 1.46MW	MRF / MBT facility with AD CHP plant using MSW	Essex County Council

Source: Renewables East, 2008

5.6 Code for Sustainable Homes

TABLE 11: NUMBER OF CODE FOR SUSTAINABLE HOMES CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY WITHIN ESSEX UP TO MARCH 2011

Local Authority	Design Stage	Post Construction Stage	Total
Basildon Borough Council	350	64	414
Braintree District Council	158	166	324
Brentwood Borough Council	59	16	75
Castle Point Borough Council	17	0	17
Chelmsford Borough Council	183	114	297
Colchester Borough Council	229	47	276
Epping Forest District Council	118	0	118
Essex County Council	26	21	47

Harlow Council	129	21	150
Maldon District Council	0	0	0
Rochford District Council	0	0	0
Tendring District Council	64	61	125
Uttlesford District Council	116	66	182
Essex Total	1,449	576	2,025
Essex Average	111	44	156

Source: DCLG, 2011

Up to March 2011 Braintree District had issued 324 certificates related to the Code for Sustainable Homes, the second highest amongst local authorities in Essex and above the local authority average of 156. Of these, 158 certificates were issued at the design stage and 166 post construction.

5.7 Summary

Key findings for the East of England for the 2080s based on medium (current) emissions scenarios are for an increase in winter mean temperature of approximately 3°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of approximately 3.6°C. The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 20%; whilst the central estimate of change in summer mean precipitation is –20%.

In 2008 Braintree District consumed more energy than the county average and was the 5th highest consumers amongst all local authorities in the county. A total of 1,346.1 of the District's total 3,229.5GWh energy consumption were from transport related petroleum products. In contrast only 4.6GWh of energy consumed is generated from renewable sources, however this is a higher amount than the local authority average for Essex at 2.9GWh and the 3rd highest amount amongst all local authorities in the county.

Industry, domestic and road transport each produced roughly 1/3 of the total CO₂ emissions within the District in 2008. The industrial and commercial sector produces the smallest amount at 27% while road transport produces the most at 38%. When compared to the county average proportionately more emissions of CO₂ were produced by road transport in the District.

At 6.8 tonnes in 2008, residents of Braintree District emitted a slightly higher amount of CO₂ per capita than the Essex average, which itself reported a return of 6.4 tonnes, however the District has shown a 5% decrease in emissions since 2005, higher than the Essex average decrease of 5%. Road transport in Braintree District produces the 3rd highest amount of CO₂ per capita across the county's Districts/Boroughs at 2.6 tonnes, compared to the countywide average of 2 tonnes.

Braintree consumed 0.14% of its total energy from renewable sources in 2008, the 5th highest amount amongst Essex Districts/Boroughs and higher than the District/Borough average of 0.11%.

There are 3 Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plants within Essex County Council administrative boundary located in Basildon, Braintree and Colchester. All 3 facilities have planning permission with conditions and respective legal agreements.

Up to March 2011 Braintree District had issued 324 certificates related to the Code for Sustainable Homes, the second highest amongst local authorities in Essex and above the local authority average of 156. Of these, 158 certificates were issued at the design stage and 166 post construction.

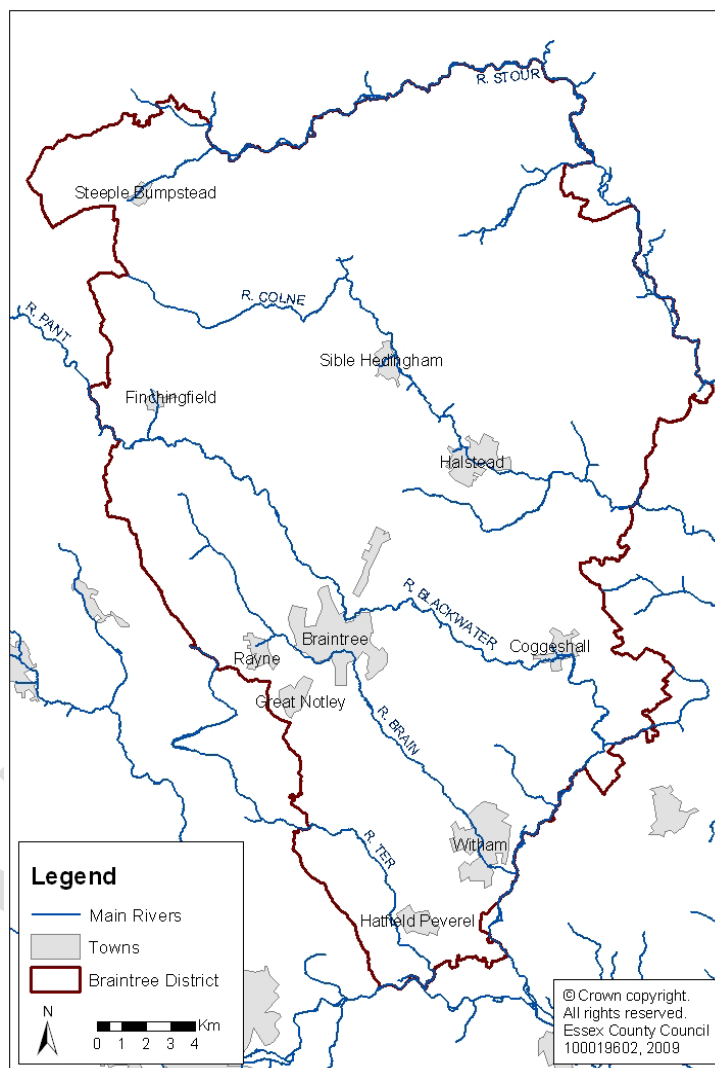
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6 WATER QUALITY

6.1 Key Water Courses in Braintree District

Figure 10 shows that the main water courses running through Braintree District are the rivers Blackwater, Colne, Brain, Pant, Stour and Ter.

FIGURE 10: LOCATION OF MAIN RIVERS WITHIN BRAINTREE DISTRICT

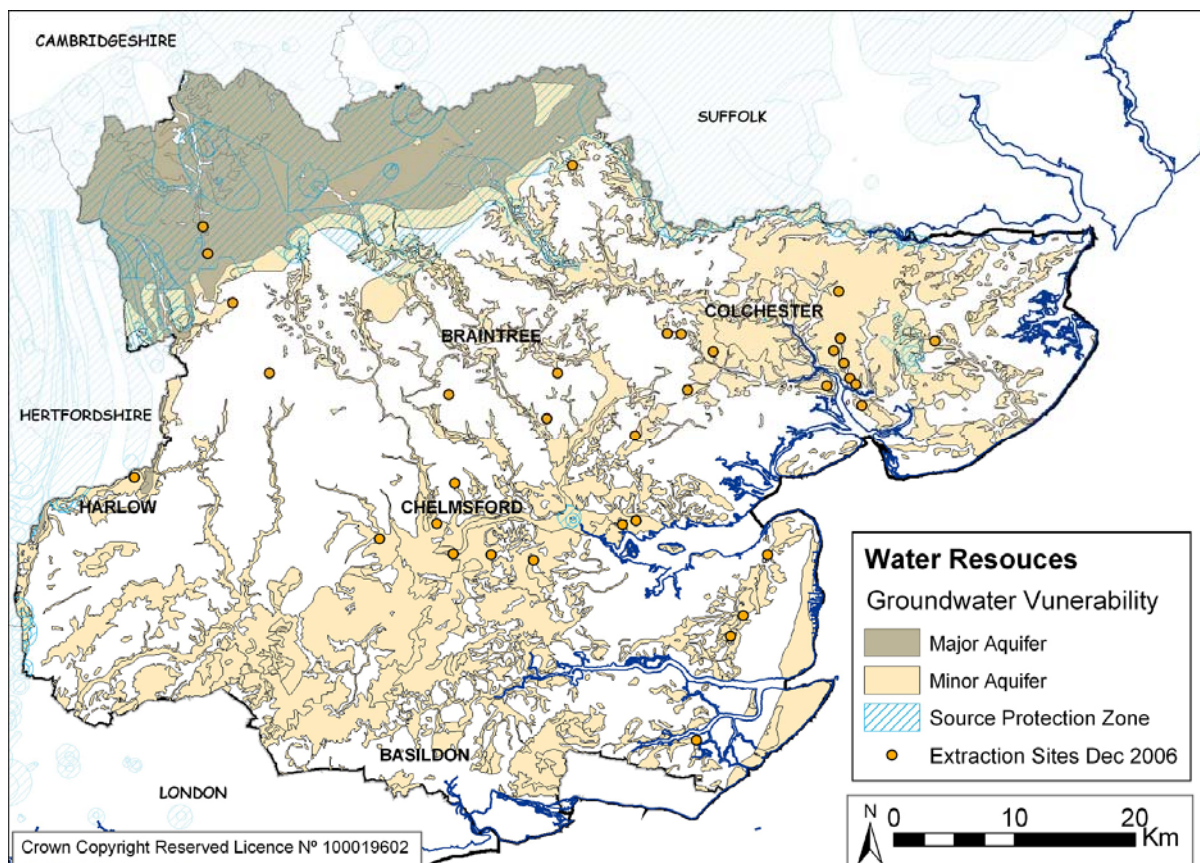


Source: Essex County Council 2009

6.2 Aquifers in Essex County

Figure 11 identifies the water resources within Essex, showing the location of the major and minor aquifers and Source Protection Zones within the county. The Environment Agency (EA) has defined Source Protection Zones (SPZs) for groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply. Braintree contains Source Protection Zones and major aquifers within the northern half of the district, together with scattered minor aquifers in the south of the district.

FIGURE 11: LOCATION OF AQUIFERS IN ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL



Source: Essex County Council 2009

6.3 Water Supply in the East of England

The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for managing water resources in England and Wales. One of the ways that this is done is through licensing water abstraction. The EA developed Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) to:

- inform the public on water resources and licensing practice;
- provide a consistent approach to local water resources management;
- help to balance the needs of water-users and the environment.

Following a national review of CAMS boundaries, water resources in the South Essex CAMS (excluding the Mardyke catchment) are now incorporated with the North Essex CAMS into the Combined Essex CAMS. Some of the issues that the Combined Essex CAMS cover include:

- Are existing water resources adequate to meet future demands?
- Is the current level of abstraction having a significant impact on flows?
- How much water is needed to protect the river environment, including fish?
- What are the most suitable options for managing the rivers?

The Combined Essex CAMS was published in February 2007, and is available at: <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEAN0207BLXJ-E-E.PDF>.

The Combined Essex CAMS document sets out the issues for the whole of Essex. The document splits the county into Water Resource Management Units (WRMU), of which 2 relate to areas which include watercourses within Braintree District. These

are WRMU1 and WRMU2. Figure 12 outlines the resource availability status for WRMU1 and WRMU2. An explanation of the terms is detailed below:

- No water available: No water is available for further licensing at low flows. Water may be available at higher flows with appropriate restrictions.
- Over-licensed: Current actual abstraction is such that no water is available at low flows. If existing licences were used to their full allocation they could cause unacceptable environmental damage at low flows. Water may be available at high flows, with appropriate restrictions.
- Over-abstracted: Existing abstraction is causing unacceptable damage to the environment at low flows. Water may still be available at high flows, with appropriate restrictions.

FIGURE 12: WATER SUPPLY RESOURCE AVAILABILITY STATUS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT

WRMU Name	Associated main river	Resource Availability Status		
		Individual WRMU status	Integrated WRMU status	Target status in 2012
WRMU 1	River Pant / Blackwater	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted
	River Brain	No water available	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted
	Roman River / Layer Brook	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted
	River Chelmer	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted
	River Ter	Over-licensed	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted
	Rivers Wid / Can	No water available	Over-abstracted	Over-abstracted
WRMU 2	Upper Colne	No water available	Over-licensed	No water available
	Lower Colne	Over-licensed	Over-licensed	No water available

Source: Combined Essex CAMs, February 2007 (Environment Agency)

The Combined Essex CAMs Annual Update (March 2008) confirmed that the status of WRMU1 remained at over-abstracted whilst the status of WRMU2 remained at no water available. The March 2008 Annual Update is available at:

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEAN0408BNYP-E-E.PDF>

6.4 River Basin Management Plan

Water in rivers, estuaries, coasts and aquifers will improve under measures set out in River Basin Management Plans, drawn up for river basin districts across England and Wales under the Water Framework Directive. River Basin Management Plans are the plans for protecting and improving the water environment, containing the main

issues for the water environment and the actions to deal with them. On 22 September 2009 the River Basin Management Plans were submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Welsh Ministers for approval. These submission versions are available to view at:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33106.aspx>

Essex falls within the Anglian River Basin District. The Anglian River Basin District is subdivided into catchment areas and the Essex Rivers catchment area lies within the counties of Essex and Suffolk as well as a small part of Cambridgeshire. It encompasses the rivers and tributaries of the Stour, Colne, Pant/Blackwater, Chelmer, Crouch and Roach, along with the smaller catchments of Sixpenny, Tenpenny, Holland and Asheldham Brook. There are 125 river water bodies and 5 lakes in the catchment. Over 33 per cent of rivers and lakes (in excess of 280km of river length) currently achieve at least good biological status. The River Basin Management Plan for the Anglian River Basin District is available at:

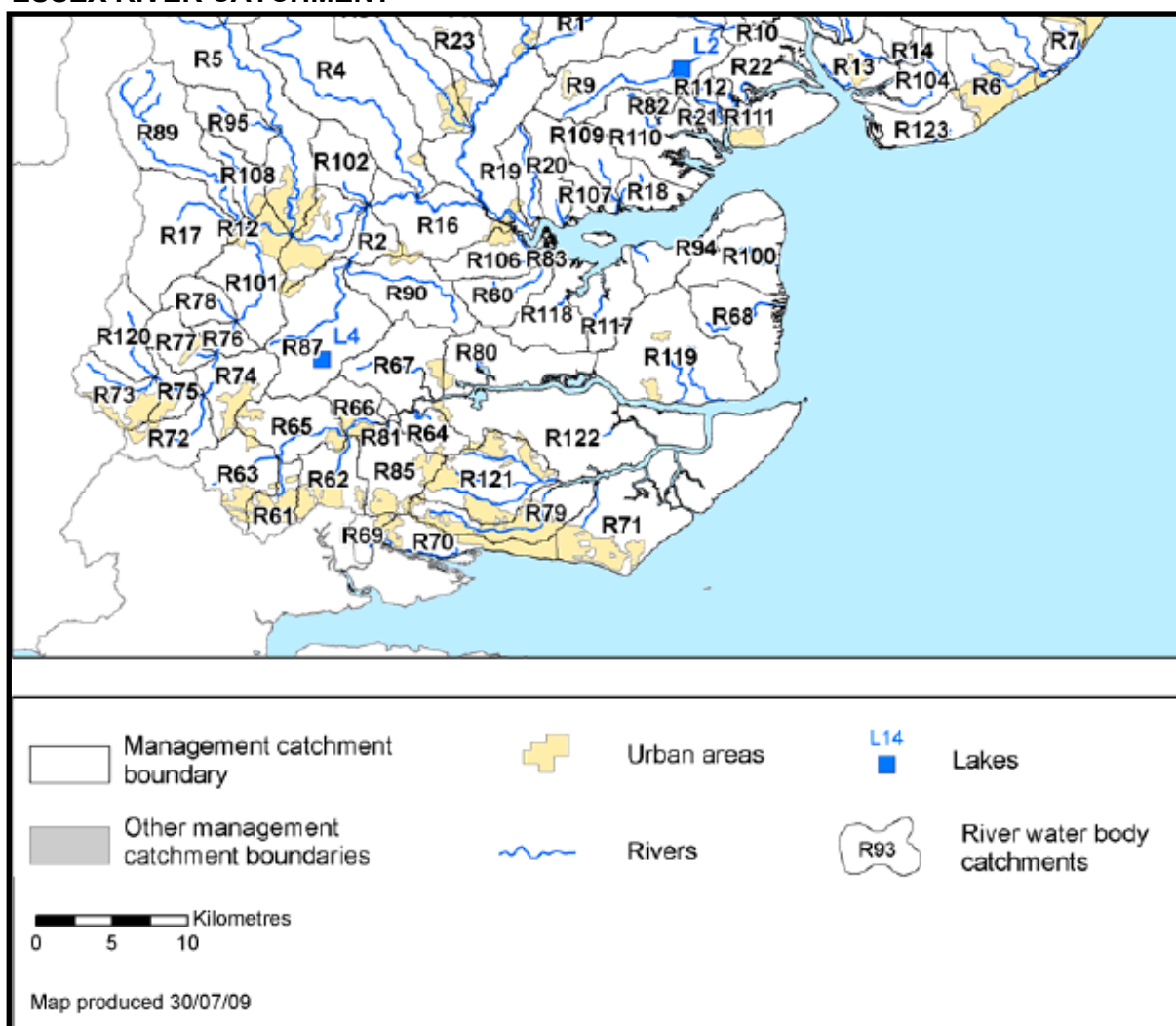
<http://wfdconsultation.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfdcms/en/anglian/Intro.aspx>

As shown in Figure 13 the Essex Rivers catchment area is further subdivided into water body catchment areas. The water bodies which are associated with Braintree District are:

- R1: Doomsey Brook;
- R4: Ter;
- R16: River Chelmer;
- R23: Blackwater Pant;
- R91: Brain
- R102: Boreham Tributary; and
- R115: River Blackwater.

The majority of water bodies within Braintree are given a 'moderate' current overall potential. However the River Blackwater and the River Chelmer are both given a 'poor' current status.

FIGURE 13: LOCATION OF RIVER AND LAKE WATER BODIES IN THE COMBINED ESSEX RIVER CATCHMENT



Source: River Basin Management Plan Anglian River Basin District, December 2009 (submitted for approval), (Environment Agency)

6.5 Planning Permissions Granted Contrary to Environment Agency Advice.

Between the 1st April 2010 and the 31st March 2011 the Environment Agency objected to no major planning applications in Braintree on water quality grounds.

6.6 Summary

The main water courses running through Braintree District are the rivers Blackwater, Colne, Brain, Pant, Stour and Ter. Braintree contains Source Protection Zones and major aquifers within the northern half of the district, together with scattered minor aquifers in the south of the district.

Following a national review of CAMS boundaries, water resources in the South Essex CAMS (excluding the Mardyke catchment) are now incorporated with the North Essex CAMS into the Combined Essex CAMS. The Combined Essex CAMS document sets out the issues for the whole of Essex. The document splits the county into Water Resource Management Units (WRMU), of which 2 relate to areas which include watercourses within Braintree District. There are WRMU1 and WRMU2.

The integrated WRMU status for WRMU 1 was 'over-abstracted' and for WRMU 2 it was 'no water available' at February 2007. The Combined Essex CAMs Annual Update (March 2008) noted that the availability of water within the Roman River / Layer Brook catchment had changed, however the water availability and restrictions for the remainder of WRMU 1 have not changed since the publication of the CAMS in February 2007.

Essex falls within the Anglian River Basin District. The Anglian River Basin District is subdivided into catchment areas and the Essex Rivers catchment area lies within the counties of Essex and Suffolk as well as a small part of Cambridgeshire.

The Combined Essex catchment area is further subdivided into water body catchment areas. The water bodies which are associated with Braintree District are: R1, Doomsey Brook; R4, Ter; R16, River Chelmer; R23, Blackwater Pant; R91, Brain, R102, Boreham Tributary; and R115, River Blackwater.

The majority of water bodies within Braintree are given a 'moderate' current overall potential. However the River Blackwater and the River Chelmer are both given a 'poor' current status.

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7 FLOODING

7.1 Flood Zones

Annex D of PPS 25 sets out a risk-based sequential test to be applied at all stages of the planning process. Its aim is to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding. A hierarchy of flood zones for application of the sequential test is 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

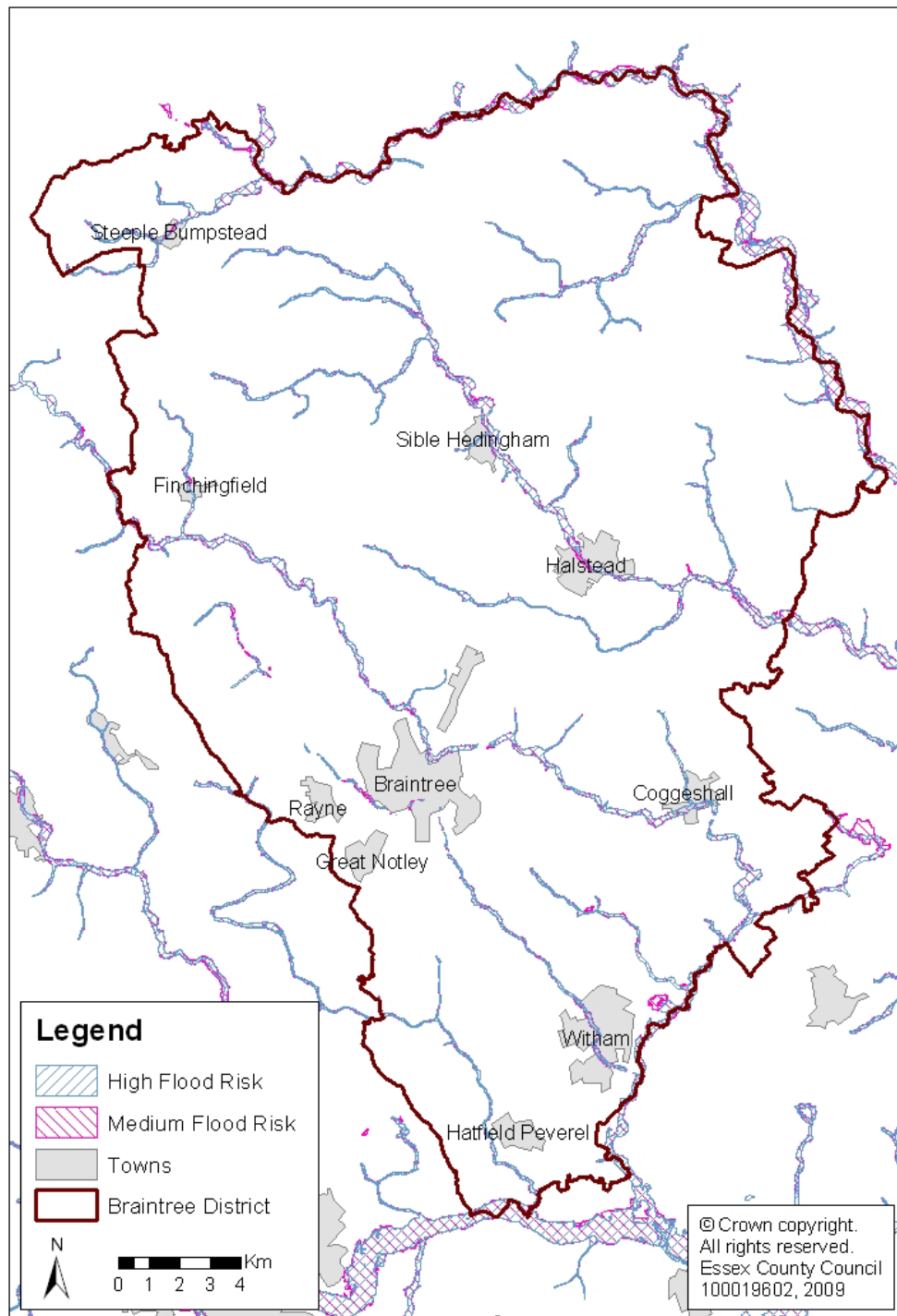
This zone consists of land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. It is land which would flood with an annual probability of 1 in 20 (5%) or greater in any year.

Further information on flood risk zones can be found in PPS25 at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement25.pdf>

Figure 14 shows the extent of land within Braintree that falls within Flood Zone 2 (medium risk) and Flood Zone 3(a and b) (high risk). As can be seen the areas which are most susceptible to flooding are mainly located next to the major waterways within Braintree District: the Blackwater, Stour and Colne.

FIGURE 14: SPATIAL EXTENT OF FLOOD ZONES 2 AND 3 (A AND B) IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



Source: Essex County Council, 2009

7.2 Planning Permissions Granted Contrary to Environment Agency Advice.

Between the April 2010 and the October 2011 the Environment Agency objected to five planning applications on flood risk grounds.

TABLE 12: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS ON FLOOD RISK GROUNDS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT

LPA Reference	Nature of proposed development	Reason for Agency Objection	Decision
BTE/10/305,	Land rear of 40-58 North Street Steeple Bumpstead, erection of 5 dwellings.	EA objected: no sequential test, unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted	Granted May 2010.
BTE/10/309,	Land adjacent Pyghtyle, Greenacres, Coggeshall, erection of 1 dwelling.	EA originally objected: no sequential test, unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted; objection withdrawn May 2010	Granted May 2010.
BTE/10/783,	The Mill Robinsbridge Road Coggeshall, demolition of mill and erection of 12 bedroom residential care home.	EA originally objected: no sequential test PPF25/TAN15 – request for FRA/FCA. EA withdrew objection September 2010	Application refused September 2010.
BTE10/1034,	The Old Forge 32 Church Street Bradwell, change of use from Farriers/Blacksmiths workshop to dwelling.	EA objected: no sequential test	Application withdrawn September 2010.
11/01169/OUT	Westrope Haulage Yard Sturmer Road Birdbrook Halstead Hybrid planning application for redevelopment of site (in part) in two phases: Phase 1: Full planning permission sought for the Erection of 2No. detached buildings for A1 (Retail), A2 (Financial & Professional services) and/or B1 (Business, including Offices, Research and Development and/or Light Industry) or any mix of uses thereof. Phase 2: Outline planning permission sought for B1c (Light Industry), B2 (General Industrial) and/or B8 (Storage or Distribution) or any mix of uses thereof.	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Pending.

Source: Environment Agency and District Website.

Of the five applications which received an objection from the Environment Agency, two were granted; however one of these had previously seen the EA objection withdrawn. One application was refused on the grounds of flood risk on site, one application was withdrawn, and one application for employment development in Halstead is currently pending.

7.3 Flood Risk Assessments

The Mid Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, which covers Braintree District as well as Chelmsford Borough, Colchester Borough and Maldon District, was published in October 2007. This Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is available to view at:

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/DC5AB540-9F6F-41F0-B6AB-E9D87B33EA80/0/00MainReport.pdf>

The SFRA is a planning tool that enables the council to select and develop sustainable site allocations away from vulnerable flood risk areas. Area specific strategies identified within the SFRA are outlined below.

Flood Risk

- Consideration to flooding from overland flow should be given for developments occurring throughout the District, but with particular regard to Bocking, Braintree, Witham and Coggeshall.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- Runoff rates should be restricted for both greenfield and brownfield developments in Bocking, Braintree, Witham and Coggeshall in particular, this is also likely to be appropriate within other settlements to ease surface water flooding and drainage capacity exceedence;
- Infiltration techniques are unlikely to be appropriate where the site is underlain by London Clay, such as in Bocking, Braintree, Witham, Halstead, Coggeshall and Kelvedon. Attenuation techniques should be imposed in these circumstances.

Water Environment

- There is a need for sensitivity near watercourses stating development would not be permitted that would harm the open character, nature conservation importance or recreational importance of the floodplains of the River Stour, Colne, Brain, Pent, Blackwater, Ter Valley and their tributaries and the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation.
- Where appropriate, development proposals adjoining the rivers will be required to incorporate riverside paths and open spaces.
- Any proposals requiring the provision of a new bridge shall ensure a minimum of 2.3 metres headroom above normal water level to allow for river use and provide fauna passages suitable as wildlife corridors.

7.4 Summary

The areas which are most susceptible to flooding are mainly located next to the major waterways within Braintree District: the Blackwater, Stour and Colne.

Between April 2010 and October 2011 five applications which received an objection from the Environment Agency, two were granted; however one of these had previously seen the EA objection withdrawn. One application was refused on the grounds of flood risk on site, one application was withdrawn, and one application for employment development in Halstead is currently pending.

The Mid Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which includes Braintree District was published in October 2007. Area specific strategies identified within the SFRA are outlined below.

Flood Risk

- Consideration to flooding from overland flow should be given for developments occurring throughout the District, but with particular regard to Bocking, Braintree, Witham and Coggeshall.

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- Runoff rates should be restricted for both greenfield and brownfield developments in Bocking, Braintree, Witham and Coggeshall in particular, this is also likely to be appropriate within other settlements to ease surface water flooding and drainage capacity exceedence;
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Water Environment

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8 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOWNSCAPE

8.1 Historic Environment

The historic environment should be effectively protected and valued for its own sake, as an irreplaceable record which contributes to our understanding of both the present and the past. Cultural heritage adds to the quality of life, by enhancing the local scene and sustaining a sense of local distinctiveness, which is an important aspect of the character and appearance of towns, villages and countryside and should not be compromised by the insensitive location of development. It also has an importance for leisure and recreation.

8.2 Listed Buildings

Listed buildings of special architectural or historic interest contribute to the character of the district and are protected under the Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas Act (1990). They are structures that are of national or architectural importance and therefore not limited to older buildings.

There are 377,135 buildings or groups of buildings in England (English Heritage, February 2012) and 14,227 in Essex. Of these 3,192 are within Braintree District. Table 13 outlines the listed building composition for the district.

TABLE 13: LISTED BUILDING COMPOSITION FOR BRAINTREE DISTRICT

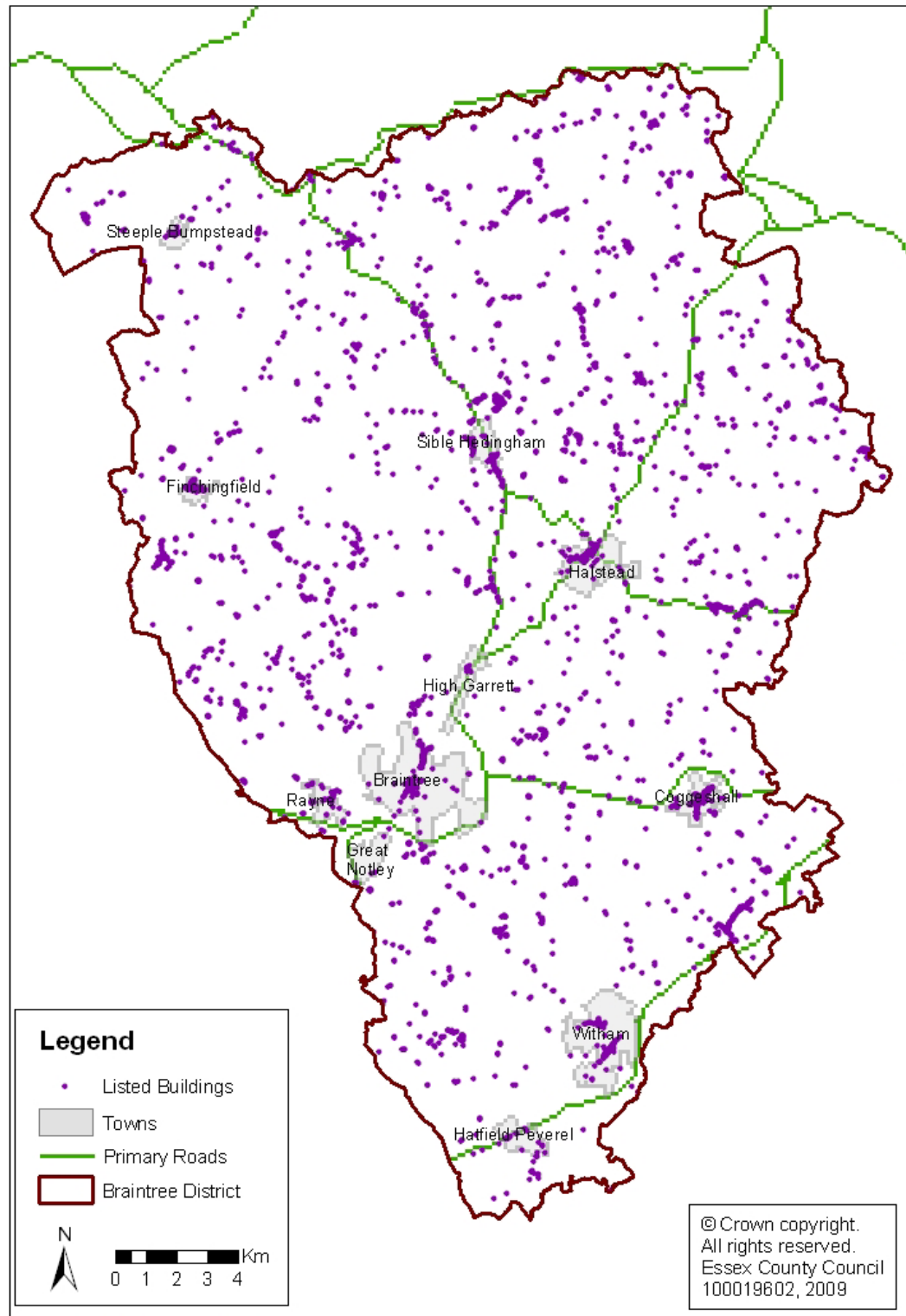
Type of Listed Building	Total Number
Grade I	67
Grade II*	185
Grade II	2,940
Total	3,192

Source: Essex County Council (February 2012)

The majority of listed buildings in the district are grade II listed. There are 67 listed buildings of exceptional interest (grade I) and 185 which are particularly important buildings of more than special interest (grade II*).

The distribution of listed buildings within the district is fairly widely spread. Clusters of listed buildings can be found in the historic settlements such as Coggeshall and linear patterns are identifiable along historic transport routes.

FIGURE 15: SPATIAL EXTENT OF LISTED BUILDINGS WITHIN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



Source: Essex County Council, 2009

8.3 Historic Buildings At Risk Register

The Historic Buildings at Risk Register contains details of buildings known to be 'at risk' through neglect and decay, or vulnerable of becoming so. The objective of the register is to outline the state of repair of these buildings with the intention of instigating action towards securing their long term conservation.

TABLE 14: NUMBER OF BUILDINGS ON THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS AT RISK REGISTER ACROSS ESSEX IN 2009, 2010 AND 2011

Administrative Area	At Risk		
	2011	2010	2009
Basildon	3	4	4
Braintree	22	19	21
Brentwood	8	9	9
Castle Point	0	0	0
Chelmsford	22	25	15
Colchester	41	48	49
Epping Forest	24	23	23
Harlow	4	4	2
Maldon	12	15	10
Rochford	8	8	7
Tendring	35	33	26
Uttlesford	14	18	16
TOTAL	193	206	182

Source: Heritage at Risk in Essex Register 2011, Essex County Council

The register addresses a 'moving target' where some buildings which are repaired are taken off and others which become 'at risk' are added. The Register shows that the annual number of buildings deemed 'at risk' in Braintree District has been similar over the last three years with 21 in 2009 compared to 22 in 2011. The number of buildings 'at risk' in 2011 in the district is the fourth joint highest when compared with all other local authorities within Essex. It is therefore important that district policies promote and facilitate the preservation and maintenance of the listed buildings.

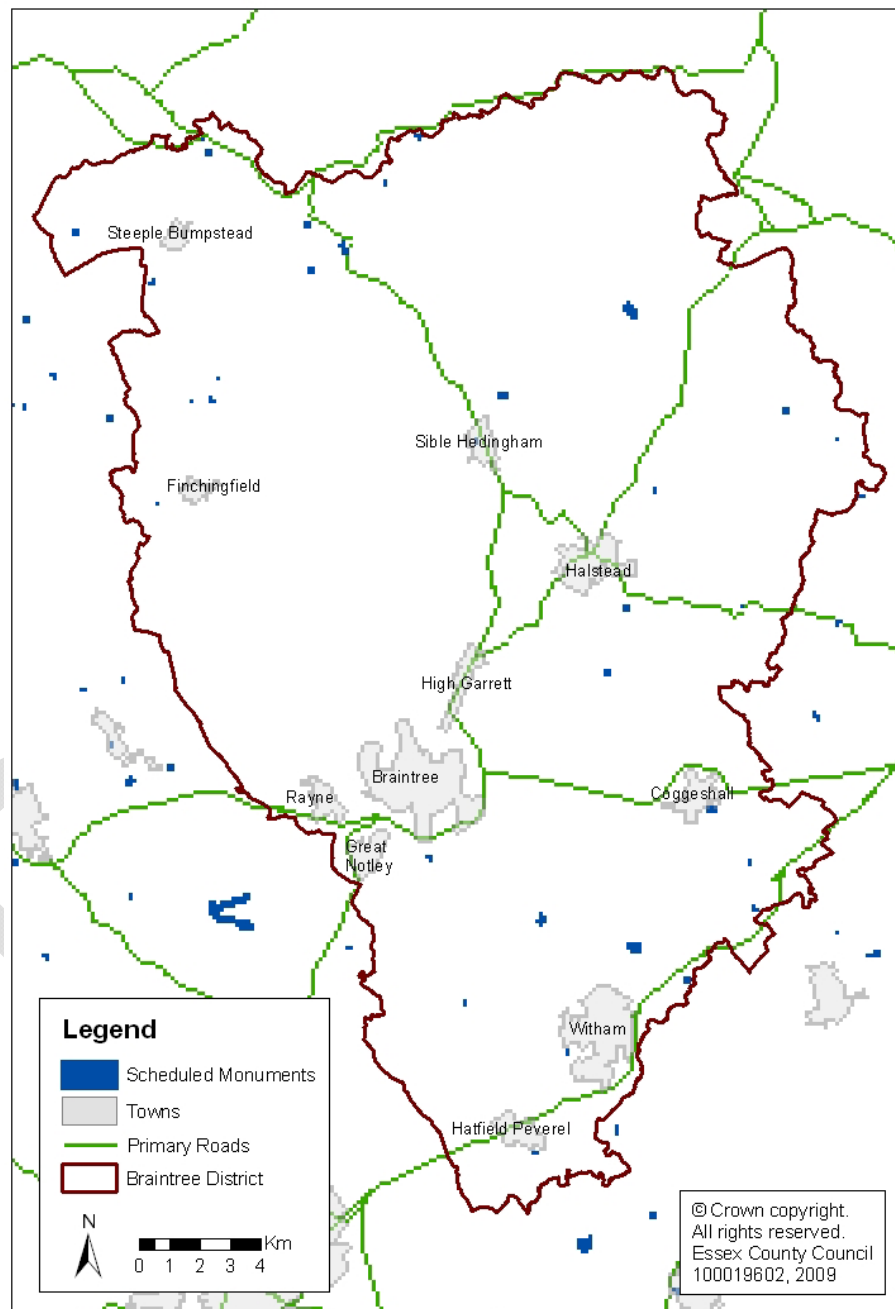
8.4 Archaeology, Recorded Sites and Finds in Braintree District

The majority of archaeological sites and deposits in Braintree District remain buried, hidden and thus preserved. However, the known archaeological resource in the district is very varied and highly significant. There are approximately 3,388 records of archaeological sites and finds, recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) for Braintree District with approximately 23,395 sites and finds listed within the county as a whole. 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 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.

8.5 Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monuments (SMs) are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The purpose of designating SMs is to preserve the monument for the future and protect it from damage, destruction or any unnecessary interference. Throughout Essex there are 315, ranging from prehistoric burial mounds to unusual examples of World War II defensive structures and 40 of these are within Braintree District. The locations of the SMs in the district are shown in the Figure 16.

FIGURE 16: LOCATION OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



Source: Essex County Council, 2009

8.6 Historic Landscapes

In general the fieldscape of Braintree District is ancient, largely comprising irregular fields, many of which are medieval in origin, with extensive areas of meadow pasture along the valley floors. There are numerous areas of ancient woodland and a number of large landscaped parks, some of which are medieval in origin. These include Gosfield Hall, Gosfield Place and Marks Hall Park.

In the southern part of the district the geology becomes more complex, with sands and gravels, brickearths and head deposits. The former extent of Tiptree Heath extended over part of this area. The rural settlement was historically much dispersed, comprising church/hall complexes, manors, farms, moated sites and small hamlets strung out along extensive network of linear and triangular greens, the latter located at road junctions.

The district is notable for the large number of surviving historic buildings and landscape features which add much to its visual attractiveness and give it a definite air of antiquity. The urban areas include the Roman towns of Braintree and Kelvedon, the Roman religious centre and Saxon burh at Witham. These, together with Coggeshall and Halstead, developed into medieval market towns; Braintree, Coggeshall and Halstead also had strong economic links to the textile industry. There is a dense covering of these sites throughout Braintree District, especially in the south.

8.7 Conservation Areas

There are 240 designated Conservation Areas within the county of Essex, 39 of which are within Braintree District. Conservation Areas are defined as historical town centres and buildings having 'special architectural or historical interest, the character of which is desirable to preserve or enhance'. They are protected under the Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas Act (1990). The objective of the Conservation Area designation is to ensure that the character of the defined area is protected from development which would not preserve or enhance its character.

There have been recent amendments to three of the Conservation Areas in the district, namely Bulmer, Cressing and Finchingfield in 2009. All three have extended boundary lines to include additional buildings and curtilage while Finchingfield Conservation Area also excluded areas from within the existing Conservation Area. Properties on The Chase, Mole End, Hill View, and Molen on Brent Hall Road, and Winsey Chase and the adjacent Police House were excluded due to their neutral/negative impact on the Conservation Area. Appraisals are also currently being prepared for Sible Hedingham, Silver End, and Pebmarsh conservation areas. Table 15 details the names of the Conservation Areas in the district and the date of their designation and/or last amendment, while Figure 17 shows their location.

TABLE 15: CONSERVATION AREA AND THE DATE OF DESIGNATION

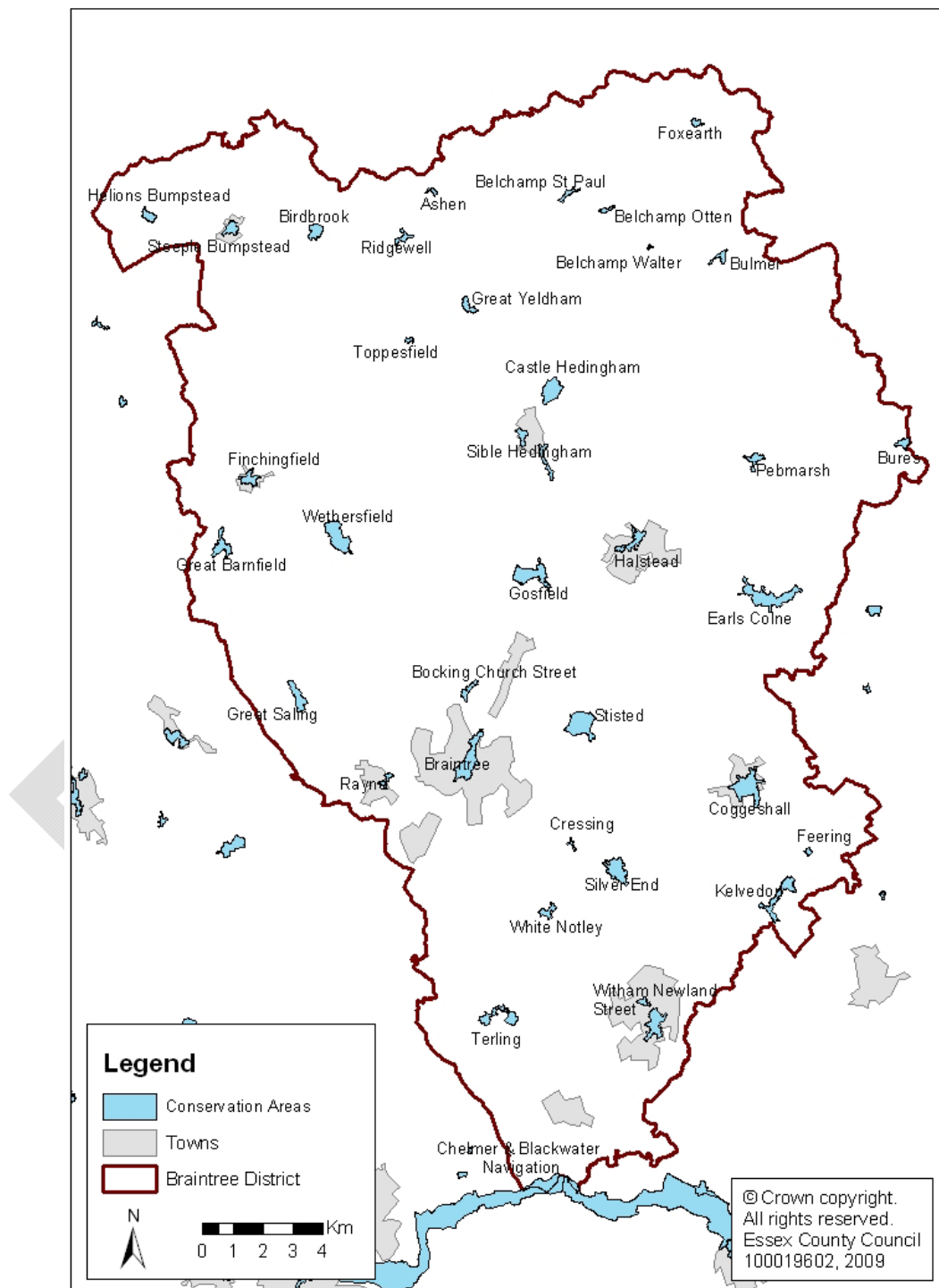
	Conservation Area	Date of Designation		Conservation Area	Date of Designation
1	Ashen	09/11/1989	20	Great Sailing	26/01/1989
2	Belchamp Otten	03/12/1984	21	Great Yeldham	17/10/1985
3	Belchamp St Paul	11/10/1979	22	Halstead Town Centre	07/08/1969, 01/11/1977, 01/05/1986 and

	Conservation Area	Date of Designation		Conservation Area	Date of Designation
					20/11/2007
4	Belchamp Walter	17/07/1980	23	Helions Bumpstead	23/10/1990
5	Birdbrook	30/01/1970	24	Kelvedon	19/06/1969 and 09/11/1989
6	Braintree Town Centre and Bradford Street	19/06/1969, 22/10/1981, 16/05/1985 and 09/11/1989	25	Pebmarsh	09/11/1989
7	Bocking Church Street	22/10/1981	26	Rayne	22/10/1981 and 09/11/1989
8	Bulmer	09/11/1989 and 18/03/2009	27	Ridgewell	02/11/1973, 10/03/1988 and 09/11/1989
9	Bures Hamlet	02/10/1969	28/29	Sible Hedingham (2 separate areas)	27/11/1969
10	Castle Hedingham	19/06/1969	30	Silver End	17/01/1983 and further update
11	Coggeshall	19/12/1968, 17/07/1980 and 09/11/1989	31	Steeple Bumpstead	07/08/1969 and 17/10/1985
12	Cressing	22/10/1981 and 10/03/2009	32	Stisted	02/11/1973 and 22/10/1981
13	Earls Colne and White Colne West/East	27/11/1969, 17/10/1985, 18/09/1990 and 20/11/2007	33	Terling	02/10/1969
14/15	Feering (2 separate areas)	27/05/1976	34	Toppesfield	09/11/1989
16	Finchingfield	02/10/1969 and 10/03/2009	35	Wethersfield	09/11/1973
17	Foxearth	27/05/1976 and 09/11/1989	36	White Notley	10/03/1988
18	Gosfield	05/08/1988	37/38	Witham Town Centre (2 Separate	19/12/1968, 23/01/1984 and

	Conservation Area	Date of Designation		Conservation Area	Date of Designation
				areas)	26/02/2008
19	Great Bardfield	02/10/1969	39	Chelmer and Blackwater	14/01/1992

Source: Braintree District Council 2012

FIGURE 17: LOCATION OF CONSERVATION AREAS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



Source: Essex County Council, 2009

8.8 Summary

There are 3,192 listed buildings within Braintree District, the majority of which (2,940) are Grade II followed by 185 Grade II* and 67 Grade I listed. The distribution of listed buildings within the district is fairly widely spread. Clusters of listed buildings can be found in the historic settlements such as Coggleshall and linear patterns are identifiable along historic transport routes. In 2011 there were 22 listed buildings on the 'at risk' register which is a slight increase from previous year total of 19.

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) contains approximately 3,388 archaeological records relating to Braintree District out of a total of 23,395 for the county. There are 40 Scheduled Monuments within the district. There are 240 designated Conservation Areas within the county of Essex, 39 of which are within Braintree District.

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9 HEALTH

9.1 Health Summary Indicators

TABLE 16: HEALTH SUMMARY INDICATORS, BRAINTREE DISTRICT AND ENGLAND

	Braintree District	England Average
Life expectancy male, at birth 2007-2009	79.6	78.3
Life expectancy female, at birth, 2007-2009	82.9	82.3
Physically active children, %, 2009/2010	54.6	55.1
Obese children, % (Year 6) 2009/2010	13.7	18.7
Tooth decay in children aged 12 years 2008/2009	0.5	0.7
Teenage pregnancy (aged under 18) 2007-2009	30.5	40.2
Physically active adults, % aged 16+, 2009/2010	11.4	11.5
Obese adults, %, 2006-2008 (revised)	25.9	24.2
Hip fracture in over 65s (age standardised rate, per 100,000 population) 2009/2010	520.9	457.6
Early deaths from heart disease and stroke, age standardised rate per 100,000 population aged under 75 2007-2009	59.4	70.5
Road injuries and deaths, rate per 100,000 population 2007-2009	57.6	48.1

Source: Braintree Health profile, 2011 Department of Health

Life expectancy is increasing and residents in Braintree District have higher life expectancies at birth than the national averages with men living for an average of 79.6 years and women on average living 82.9 years. The health of the population in Braintree is generally better than the England average, but is significantly worse than the England average in respect of road injuries and deaths.

Obesity in Year 6 children increased from 7.0% to 13.7% between 2008/09 and 2009/10, which reflected similar changes to the national average. The level of adult obesity at 25.9% is higher than the national average of 24.2% for the period 2006-2008.

9.2 Participation in Sport

The following results have been taken from the Active People Surveys (APS) carried out by Sport England during October 2005/October 2006, October 2007/October 2008, October 2008/October 2009 and October 2009/October 2010. The definition of 'participation' in this instance is a measure of the percentage of the adult population who participate in at least 30 minutes of sport and active recreation of at least moderate intensity at least 3 days a week. Walking and cycling are included in this.

TABLE 17: PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION

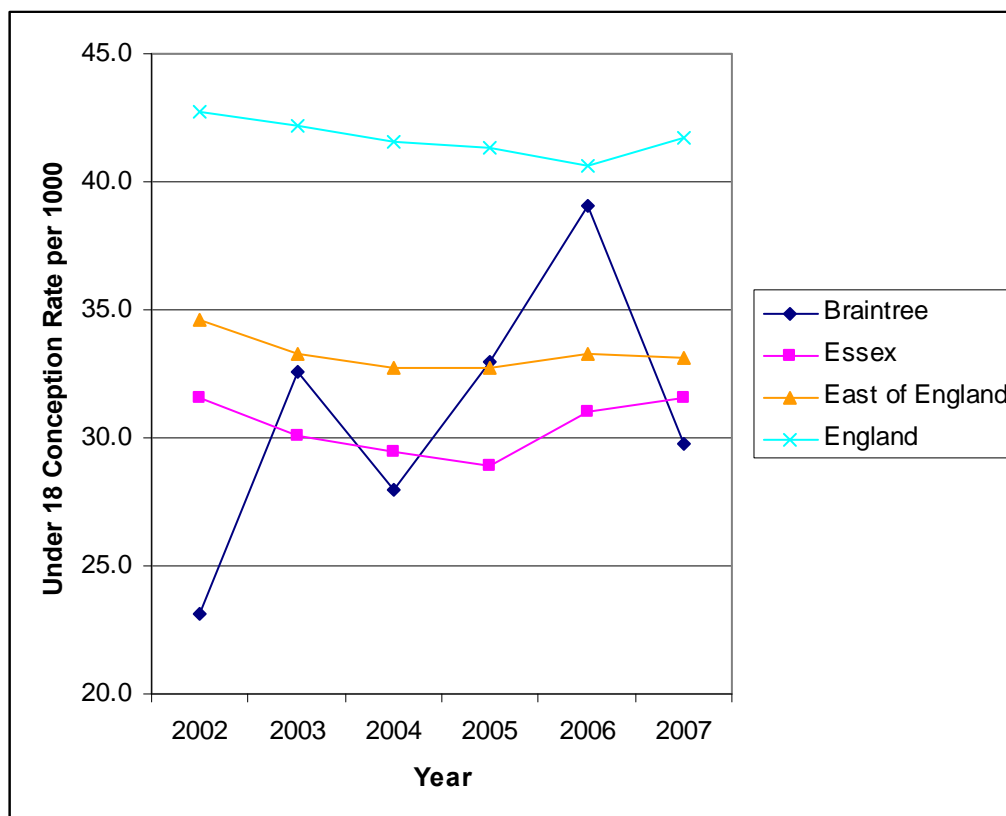
	Active People Survey 1	Active People Survey 2	Active People Survey 3	Active People Survey 4
Braintree	16.3%	15.8%	13.0%	17.7%
Essex	20.2%	21.6%	16.0%	15.0%
East of England	20.5%	21.2%	15.8%	15.7%
England	21.00%	21.32%	16.6%	16.5%

Source: Active People Survey, Sport England, 2011

Participation in sports and active recreation in Braintree District declined between the first Active People Survey from 16.3% to only 13.0% in Active People Survey 3; however the latest period corresponding to Active People Survey 4 saw a rise in sports participation and active recreation in the District above the county, region and national averages for the first time. The most recent survey also ranks Braintree District as having the 3rd highest rate of sports participation in the county.

9.3 Teenage Conception

TABLE 18: TEENAGE CONCEPTION RATES PER 1,000 FEMALES AGED 15 – 17



Source: ONS, 2009

The smaller population of Braintree District compared to the other geographical areas has resulted in greater variance of the rate for the district. However there is an overall rising trend in the rate of teenage pregnancies in the district from 2002. A similar pattern is also reflected at the county level which has seen a rise in the rate per 1000 of teenage conception since 2005, resulting in the 2007 rate of 31.6.

In 2007 Braintree District had a lower rate of teenage conception of 29.8 than the county (31.6) and the region (33.1); all of which were below the teenage conception rate for England of 41.7.

9.4 Incapacity Benefit Claimants

As of May 2011, 2.2% of the working age population of Braintree District claimed benefits. This is a smaller proportion than those claiming benefits in the East of England and in England which were recorded as being 2.3% and 3.0% respectively. Of those receiving benefits in Braintree the majority were seeking incapacity benefits accounting for 82.2% of total claimants however the district did receive a higher proportion of residents claiming severe disablement at 17.8% compared to 13.2% of total claimants in the region and 11.6% in England.

TABLE 19: TOTAL INCAPACITY BENEFIT AND SEVERE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE CLAIMS MAY 2011

	Braintree		East of England		England	
		%		%		%
Total Population	144,032	n/a	5,831,845	n/a	52,234,045	n/a
Total Receiving Benefits	3,210	2.2%	135,910	2.3%	1,586,260	3.0%
Total Incapacity Benefit Claimants	2,640	82.2%	117,920	86.8%	1,402,290	88.4%
Total Severe Disablement Claimants	570	17.8%	17,990	13.2%	183,960	11.6%
Male	1,700	53.0%	74,360	54.7%	897,490	56.6%
Female	1,500	46.7%	61,550	45.3%	688,770	43.4%
Claimants Aged 16-24	120	3.7%	5,200	3.8%	51,380	3.2%
Claimants Aged 25-49	1,510	47.0%	64,770	47.7%	739,610	46.6%
Claimants Aged 50-59	1,050	32.7%	45,590	33.5%	552,070	34.8%
Claimants Aged 60+	530	16.5%	20,340	15.0%	243,130	15.3%

Note: Population figures are from 1 April 2010 estimates published in June 2011
Source: ONS, May 2011

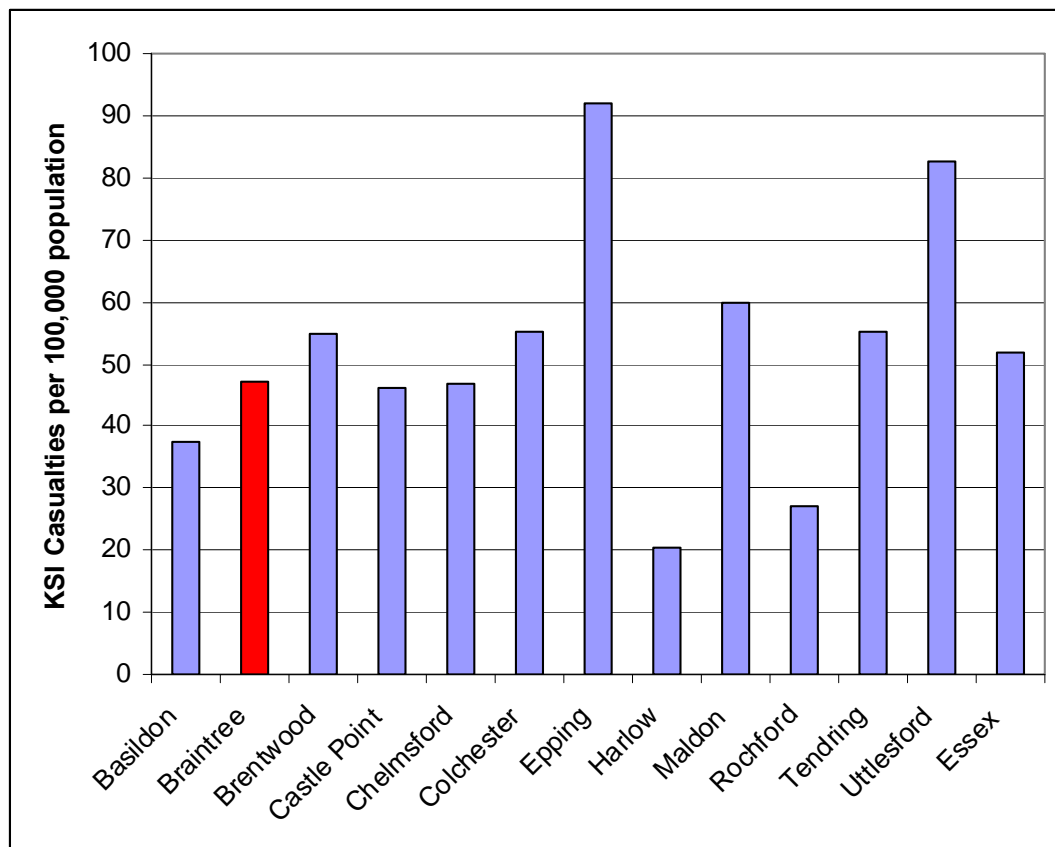
A higher proportion of men claim benefits within the district than women which is similar to the East of England and England. However the proportion of women claiming in the district is slightly higher at 46.7% of the total number of claimants compared to the region at 45.3% and 43.4%.

9.5 Safety

The main indicators of road safety are the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic accidents and the number of children KSI in road traffic accidents. They are collected to assess whether the national casualty reduction target, set by the Public Service Agreement (PSA), is being achieved. This is to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents by 40%, compared with the average for 1994-1998, by 2010. In terms of children killed or seriously injured the target of 50% reduction by 2010 has been set.

9.5.1 Road Traffic Casualties

FIGURE 18: KSI CASUALTIES PER 100,000 POPULATION ACROSS ESSEX, 2008



Source: Driving Casualties Down in Essex, Southend and Thurrock, 2009

There were 47.24 KSI casualties per 100,000 population in Braintree District in 2008, a lower rate than the number in Essex and ranked the 6th lowest figure compared to the other district and boroughs in the county.

TABLE 20: CAUSES OF KSI CASUALTIES, 2008

	All	Drink Drive	Motorcycles	Speeding	Young Drivers
Braintree	66	5	15	13	18
Essex	706	44	178	110	155

Source: Driving Casualties Down in Essex, Southend and Thurrock, 2009

Note: The 4 causes of KSIs in the table above is not an exhaustive list and a KSI can be accounted for in more than one column. As such these columns are not intended to be totalled in any way and simply represent the most common reasons for a KSI incident.

Speeding includes either vehicle involved in a crash considered to be travelling too fast for the conditions

A KSI recorded under the Young Drivers column relates to an incident involving a 17 – 25 year old driver in Vehicle 1 (defined as the driver most likely to be at fault)

In 2008 there were 66 people killed or seriously injured within Braintree District, the 5th highest amongst all districts and boroughs within Essex. Of the 4 main causes young drivers (categorised as being aged between 17 – 25 years old and the driver of the vehicle most likely to be at fault) were classed most responsible causing 18 KSI casualties in the district and drink driving the least. In Essex, the main cause responsible for the highest number of KSI casualties was motorcycles followed by young drivers.

As of 2008 Braintree District is on target for reducing the number of KSI casualties by 40% of the baseline figure by 2010.

9.5.2 Child Road Traffic Casualties

TABLE 21: CHILD KSI CASUALTIES BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITHIN ESSEX 2008

District	Children KSI	District	Children KSI
Basildon	4	Epping	4
Braintree	2	Harlow	5
Brentwood	0	Maldon	2
Castle Point	5	Rochford	1
Chelmsford	5	Tendring	4
Colchester	9	Uttlesford	3
		Essex	44

Source: Essex County Council (2009)

There were 44 children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents in Essex in 2008 of which 2 were in Braintree District. This number was the third lowest in the county with Maldon reporting the same number of children KSI casualties.

As of 2008 Braintree District is on target for reducing the number of Child KSI casualties by 40% of the baseline figure by 2010.

9.6 Summary

Life expectancy is increasing and residents in Braintree District have higher life expectancies at birth than the national averages with men living for an average of 79.6 years and women on average living 82.9 years. The health of the population in Braintree is generally better than the England average, but is significantly worse than the England average in respect of road injuries and deaths.

Obesity in Year 6 children increased from 7.0% to 13.7% between 2008/09 and 2009/10, which reflected similar changes to the national average. The level of adult obesity at 25.9% is higher than the national average of 24.2% for the period 2006-2008.

Participation in sports and active recreation in Braintree District declined between the first Active People Survey from 16.3% to only 13.0% in Active People Survey 3; however the latest period corresponding to Active People Survey 4 saw a rise in sports participation and active recreation in the District above the county, region and national averages for the first time. The most recent survey also ranks Braintree District as having the 3rd highest rate of sports participation in the county.

The smaller population of Braintree District compared to the other geographical areas has resulted in greater variance of the rate for the district. However there is an overall rising trend in the rate of teenage pregnancies in the district from 2002. A similar pattern is also reflected at the county level which has seen a rise in the rate per 1000 of teenage conception since 2005, resulting in the 2007 rate of 31.6.

In 2007 Braintree District had a lower rate of teenage conception of 29.8 than the county (31.6) and the region (33.1); all of which were below the teenage conception rate for England of 41.7.

As of May 2011, 2.2% of the working age population of Braintree District claimed benefits. This is a smaller proportion than those claiming benefits in the East of England and in England which were recorded as being 2.3% and 3.0% respectively. Of those receiving benefits in Braintree the majority were seeking incapacity benefits accounting for 82.2% of total claimants however the district did receive a higher proportion of residents claiming severe disablement at 17.8% compared to 13.2% of total claimants in the region and 11.6% in England.

As of 2008, Braintree was on target to reduce all KSI casualties by 40% of the baseline figure by 2010.

10 POPULATION AND SOCIAL

10.1 Population

TABLE 22: MID-YEAR POPULATION ESTIMATES 2001-2010

	2001	2010	Difference	Percentage Change
Braintree	132,500	144,032	11,532	8.70%
Essex	1,312,600	1,413,025	100,425	7.65%
East of England	5,400,500	5,831,845	431,345	7.99%
England	49,449,700	52,234,045	2,784,345	5.63%

Source: ONS, 2011

As of 2010 the estimated population for the district of Braintree was 144,032 which accounts for approximately 10% of the county's estimated population.

Braintree District has experienced a higher population growth at 8.70% than the county, the region and England as a whole with 7.65%, 7.99% and 5.63% respectively.

10.1.1 Population Structure

In 2010, the largest proportion of the population in Braintree District was aged 25-49. There was approximately the same number of under 16 year olds to those aged 65 plus (males) and 60 plus (females).

TABLE 23: ESTIMATED POPULATION STRUCTURE OF BRAINTREE, 2010

	0-15	16-24	25-49	50-64 (males), 50-59 (females)	65+ (males), 60+ (females)	16-64 (males), 16-59 (females)	Total Population
Braintree	28,463	13,969	49,094	23,362	29,144	86,425	144,032
Essex	263,826	152,206	471,788	220,685	304,520	844,679	1,413,025
East of England	1,099,193	642,035	1,986,534	894,708	1,209,375	3,523,277	5,831,845
England	9,776,314	6,256,870	18,185,832	7,813,842	10,211,187	32,256,544	52,234,045

Source: ONS, 2011

10.1.2 Population Projections

TABLE 24: 2008 BASED POPULATION PROJECTIONS

	2008	2012	2016	2021	2026	2031
Braintree	142,400	148,500	155,000	163,500	171,800	179,200
Essex	1,387,500	1,446,100	1,506,200	1,583,500	1,658,500	1,727,300
East of England	5,717,400	5,942,200	6,172,900	6,469,900	6,755,800	7,016,500

Source: ONS, 2010

The projected population is predicted to increase annually within the district. In 2026 the population is predicted to be 171,800.

10.2 Deprivation

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 ranks all local authorities against a list of criteria for a number of issues including housing, education, income, employment, health, access and child poverty.

TABLE 25: INDICES OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2007 AND 2010

	Braintree	
	IMD 2007	IMD 2010
Rank of Average Score	239 of 354	212 of 354
Rank of Extent	265	238
Rank of Local Concentration	252	232
Rank of Income Scale	165	164
Rank of Employment Scale	179	212

Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010, DCLG, 2011

In 2010, Braintree was ranked as the 212th out of the 354 Local Authorities (LAs) in England (1 being most deprived). This shows a worse level of comparative deprivation across LAs in England than the 2007 rankings.

TABLE 26: PERCENTAGE OF SERIOUSLY DEPRIVED AREAS WITHIN ESSEX

	Income		Employment		Health & Disability		Education, Skills & Training		Barriers to Housing & Services		Living Environment		Crime		No of small areas
	2010	2007	2010	2007	2010	2007	2010	2007	2010	2007	2010	2007	2010	2007	2010
Basildon	0.15	0.16	0.10	0.09	-0.38	-0.02	32.30	31.83	21.80	20.29	10.24	6.28	0.02	0.17	110
Braintree	0.11	0.11	0.07	0.07	-0.77	-0.56	22.73	21.04	25.72	25.99	9.75	9.40	-0.64	-0.58	84
Brentwood	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.06	-1.16	-1.10	10.95	9.10	22.93	21.41	10.83	9.13	-0.48	-0.33	45
Castle Point	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.07	-0.58	-0.57	26.65	24.11	15.09	12.80	14.26	11.01	-0.26	-0.41	57
Chelmsford	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.06	-1.06	-0.97	13.36	11.94	17.31	17.36	12.75	11.05	-0.70	-0.49	104
Colchester	0.11	0.11	0.08	0.07	-0.36	-0.31	19.17	19.07	23.16	26.90	11.45	11.42	-0.35	-0.41	104
Epping	0.11	0.11	0.07	0.07	-0.43	-0.62	18.37	17.52	22.73	26.24	13.71	11.92	0.01	0.01	78
Harlow	0.16	0.16	0.11	0.10	0.34	0.15	30.47	31.85	27.43	24.56	8.82	6.97	0.34	0.37	54
Maldon	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.06	-0.64	-0.49	19.70	18.67	23.45	23.07	10.54	8.68	-0.85	-0.73	41
Rochford	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.06	-1.04	-0.81	17.04	15.66	17.20	13.09	10.21	8.52	-0.90	-0.65	53
Tendring	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.21	32.21	33.78	26.34	24.81	15.54	14.72	-0.39	-0.27	90
Uttlesford	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.04	-1.08	1.27	8.71	7.19	26.41	24.84	9.58	7.87	-0.94	-1.08	43

Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 DCLG

Note: 'Seriously deprived' is represented by areas falling in the 20% most deprived nationally, calculated separately for each domain score.

Table 26 shows the percentage of small areas within each district and borough in Essex that are seriously deprived.

Across Essex, serious deprivation is most prevalent in terms of 'Barriers to housing and services' and 'Education, skills and training'. In Braintree District 25.72 of 84 small areas are seriously deprived with regards to 'Barriers to housing and services', and 22.73 are seriously deprived with regards to 'Education, skills and training', however both of these levels of deprivation show an improvement on 2007 figures.

10.3 Crime

The following table show recorded crime statistics for seven key offences in 2010/11 and the percentage change from 2009/10.

TABLE 27: CRIME OFFENCES IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT AND ENGLAND

	Braintree offences recorded 2010-11	Braintree % change from 2009/10	Essex & change from 2009/10
Violence against the person	1,252	+2%	-1%
Sexual offences	92	+28%	+14%
Robbery offences	31	-	+5%
Burglary offences	313	+6%	-4%
Theft of a motor vehicle	124	-27%	-7%
Theft from a motor vehicle	673	+13%	+2%
Interfering with a motor vehicle	37	-30%	-10%

Source: Home Office Crime in England and Wales 2010/11

There has been a significant percentage increase in sexual offences between 2009/10 and 2010/11 in the District at +28%, twice the percentage increase of the Essex average. There has also been a +13% increase in theft from a motor vehicle offences in comparison to the Essex average of +2%. Despite this, good performance can be seen in theft of a vehicle offences at -27% compared to the county average of -7%, and also in interfering with a motor vehicle offences at -30% compared to the county average of -10%.

10.4 Education, Skills and Training

TABLE 28: GCSE AND EQUIVALENT RESULTS

	achieving 5+ A*-C			achieving 5+ A*-G		
	1997	2009	% points difference	1997	2009	% points difference
Braintree District	44.8	62.4(r)	17.6	91.9	94.2(r)	2.3
Essex	.	68.2(r)	.	.	93.2(r)	.
East of England	45.8	69(r)	23.2	89.7	93.9(r)	4.2
England	45.1	70(r)	24.9	86.4	92.3(r)	5.9

Source: Department for Schools, Children and Families, 2010

In 2009, 62.4% of pupils in Braintree District achieved 5 or more A* to C GCSE grades or equivalent. This is a 17.6% points difference to the 1997 figure indicating improvements in education during this period. However the proportion achieving at least 5 A* to C grades or equivalent in Braintree is lower than the county, regional and national levels of 68.2%, 69% and 70% respectively. In contrast the percentage of pupils in the district achieving 5 or more A*-G grades in 2009 was higher at 94.2% than the county, regional and national levels.

TABLE 29: PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE OF WORKING AGE QUALIFIED TO AT LEAST LEVEL 2

	2000/01	2007/08	% points difference
Braintree District	57.3	64.8	7.5
Essex	60.8	65.7	4.9
East of England Region	63	67	4
England	63.3	68.6	5.3

Source: Department for Schools, Children and Families, 2010

Note: Level 2 qualifications include both vocational, such as City and Guilds Craft, RSA Diplomas and trade apprenticeships; and academic, such as one GCE A-level, five or more GCSEs grades A*-C or equivalent or 2 AS levels.

The proportion of working age people in Braintree District qualified to at least a level 2 has increased between 2000/01 and 2007/08 to a total of 64.8%. However this

figure is below the county, regional and national levels of 65.7%, 67% and 68.6% respectively.

TABLE 30: PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE OF WORKING AGE QUALIFIED TO AT LEAST LEVEL 4

	2000/01	2007/08	% points difference
Braintree District	19.2	22.9	3.7
Essex	18.4	23.6	5.2
East of England Region	22	26.1	4.1
England	23.5	28.7	5.2

Source: Department for Schools, Children and Families, 2010

Note: Level 4 Includes first degree, 'other' degree and sub-degree higher education qualifications such as teaching and nursing certificates, HNC/HNDs, other HE diplomas.

The proportion of working age people in Braintree District qualified to at least a level 4 follows the same trend as those qualified to at least a level 2. Between 2000/01 and 2007/08 the proportion of people qualified to at least a level 4 increased in Braintree from 19.2% to 22.9%. However it is still below the equivalent levels for the other areas. In 2000/01 the proportion of working age people qualified to at least a level 4 in Braintree was higher than in Essex, but a slower percentage increase has lead to Braintree falling below the Essex average in 2007/2008.

TABLE 31: NUMBER ATTENDING SCHOOLS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT 2007-2011

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Primary	11,376	11,375	11,287	11,263	11,318
Secondary	7,874	7,798	7,819	7,980	8,015
Special	211	209	200	216	151
Total	19,461	19,382	19,306	19,459	19,484

Source: Commissioning School Places in Essex 2011-2016

10.5 Summary

As of 2010 the estimated population for the district of Braintree was 144,032 which accounts for approximately 10% of the county's estimated population.

Braintree District has experienced a higher population growth at 8.70% than the county, the region and England as a whole with 7.65%, 7.99% and 5.63% respectively.

In 2010, the largest proportion of the population in Braintree District was aged 25-49. There was approximately the same number of under 16 year olds to those aged 65 plus (males) and 60 plus (females).

The projected population is predicted to increase annually within the district. In 2026 the population is predicted to be 171,800.

In 2010, Braintree was ranked as the 212th out of the 354 Local Authorities (LAs) in England (1 being most deprived). This shows a worse level of comparative deprivation across LAs in England than the 2007 rankings.

Across Essex, serious deprivation is most prevalent in terms of 'Barriers to housing and services' and 'Education, skills and training'. In Braintree District 25.72 of 84 small areas are seriously deprived with regards to 'Barriers to housing and services', and 22.73 are seriously deprived with regards to 'Education, skills and training', however both of these levels of deprivation show an improvement on 2007 figures.

There has been a significant percentage increase in sexual offences between 2009/10 and 2010/11 in the District at +28%, twice the percentage increase of the Essex average. There has also been a +13% increase in theft from a motor vehicle offences in comparison to the Essex average of +2%. Despite this, good performance can be seen in theft of a vehicle offences at -27% compared to the county average of -7%, and also in interfering with a motor vehicle offences at -30% compared to the county average of -10%.

In 2009, 62.4% of pupils in Braintree District achieved 5 or more A* to C GCSE grades or equivalent. This is a 17.6% points difference to the 1997 figure indicating improvements in education during this period. However the proportion achieving at least 5 A* to C grades or equivalent in Braintree is lower than the county, regional and national levels of 68.2%, 69% and 70% respectively. In contrast the percentage of pupils in the district achieving 5 or more A*-G grades in 2009 was higher at 94.2% than the county, regional and national levels.

The proportion of working age people in Braintree District qualified to at least a level 2 has increased between 2000/01 and 2007/08 to a total of 64.8%. However this figure is below the county, regional and national levels of 65.7%, 67% and 68.6% respectively.

The proportion of working age people in Braintree District qualified to at least a level 4 follows the same trend as those qualified to at least a level 2. Between 2000/01 and 2007/08 the proportion of people qualified to at least a level 4 increased in Braintree from 19.2% to 22.9%. However it is still below the equivalent levels for the other areas. In 2000/01 the proportion of working age people qualified to at least a level 4 in Braintree was higher than in Essex, but a slower percentage increase has lead to Braintree falling below the Essex average in 2007/2008.

11 ECONOMY

11.1 Working Age Population

The following table is based on mid-2011 population estimates as at 1st April 2011.

TABLE 32: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION OF WORKING AGE

	16-24	25-49	50-64 (males), 50-59 (females)	% of population of working age
Braintree	9.70%	34.09%	16.22%	60.11%
Essex	10.77%	33.39%	15.62%	59.78%
East of England	11.01%	34.06%	15.34%	60.41%
England	11.98%	34.82%	14.96%	61.76%

Source: ONS, June 2011

At 60.11% of the total population, the percentage of the District population that is of working age is higher than the Essex average. The percentage is in line with the region however lower than that of the country.

11.2 Labour Supply

TABLE 33: LABOUR SUPPLY (APRIL 2010 – MARCH 2011)

	Braintree	Braintree (%)	East (%)	GB (%)
All People				
Economically active	77,100	83.5%	78.7%	76.2%
In employment	71,700	77.6%	73.4%	70.3%
Employees	61,300	67.1%	63.0%	60.8%
Self employed	10,400	10.5%	10.0%	9.0%
Unemployed (model based)	4,800	6.2%	6.6%	7.6%
Males				
Economically active	41,800	90.0%	85.9%	82.5%
In employment	38,000	81.7%	79.8%	75.5%
Employees	31,400	67.8%	65.0%	62.3%
Self employed	6,600	13.9%	14.5%	12.7%
Unemployed (model based)	3,800	9.0%	6.9%	8.4%
Females				

Economically active	35,300	79.9%	71.5%	69.9%
In employment	33,700	73.4%	67.0%	65.1%
Employees	29,900	66.4%	61.0%	59.4%
Self employed	*	*	5.6%	5.3%
Unemployed (model based)	*	*	6.2%	6.7%

* Data unavailable, sample size too small for reliable estimate

Source: Nomis, Braintree District Council Labour Market Profile, Annual Population Survey 2011

The percentages of the District's population that are economically active and in employment are higher at 83.5% and 77.6% than regional and British averages. These figures are mainly due to the high numbers of females economically active and in employment in the District.

11.3 JSA Claimants

TABLE 34: JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE CLAIMANTS APRIL 2011

	Braintree	Braintree %	East %	UK %
All People	2,581	2.8	3.0	3.7
Males	1,698	3.7	4.0	5.1
Females	883	1.9	2.0	2.4

Source: Nomis, 2011

The percentage of job seekers allowance claimants are less than the regional and UK averages.

11.4 Average Earnings

TABLE 35: RESIDENCE BASED EARNINGS - MEDIAN EARNINGS OF FULL TIME EMPLOYEES LIVING IN THE AREA, 2010

	Braintree, £	East, £	GB, £
Gross Weekly Pay:			
All full time workers	535.00	523.30	501.70
Males	596.40	574.10	541.30
Females	423.90	451.60	440.00
Hourly Pay:			
All full time workers	12.75	13.13	12.65
Males	14.30	13.95	13.24

Females	10.74	11.92	11.76
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Source: Nomis, 2011

Residence based earnings in the District are higher than the regional and British averages overall. By gender the average for males is significantly higher than the averages regionally and for Britain, however also considerably lower for females.

TABLE 36: WORKPLACE BASED AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES 2010

	Gross weekly pay by workplace
Braintree District	472.30
Essex	488.20
East of England	488.70
Great Britain	500.30

Source: Nomis, 2011

Workplace based wages are considerably lower than those of the county, regional and GB. There is also a significantly lower wage for those earning in the District, than those residents of the District who travel outside Braintree for work.

11.5 Job Density

TABLE 37: JOB DENSITY 2009

	Braintree	East of England	GB
Job Density	0.65	0.76	0.78

Source: ONS, Nomis

There are fewer available jobs per single person in the district at 0.65 than the regional average of 0.76 and GB at 0.78.

11.6 Employment by Industry Class

TABLE 38: EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY CLASS 2008

	Braintree		East of England	Great Britain
Total employee jobs	49,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Full-time	33,200	67.8	67.2	68.8
Part-time	15,800	32.2	32.8	31.2
Employee jobs by industry				
Manufacturing	6,900	14.1	10.3	10.2
Construction	3,700	7.6	5.4	4.8

Services	37,600	76.7	82.5	83.5
- Distribution, hotels & restaurants	12,300	25.2	25	23.4
- Transport & communications	2,700	5.5	6	5.8
- Finance, IT, other business activities	8,200	16.8	21.4	22
- Public admin, education & health	11,700	23.8	25.3	27
- Other services	2,700	5.5	4.8	5.3
Tourism-related†	3,700	7.5	7.7	7.6

Source: NOMIS 2009

Notes: 1. Tourism-related includes employees also counted as part of the Services Industry Class.

2. Employee jobs excludes self employed, government supported trainees and HM Forces.

† Tourism consists of industries that are also part of the service industry

The above table has split employment into 4 main categories, namely 'Manufacturing', 'Construction', 'Services' and 'Tourism-related'. Braintree District can be seen to have an above average proportion of people employed in the 'Manufacturing' and 'Construction' sectors and a deficit in 'Services'.

The largest proportion of people work in the 'Services' industry for all geographical areas. The proportion is the lowest in Braintree at 76.7%, compared to 82.5% in the East of England and 83.5% in Great Britain.

The general proportion of full-time to part time jobs, at approximately 2:1, is in line with regional and national averages.

11.7 Employment by Occupation

TABLE 39: EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION APRIL 2010/MARCH 2011

Occupation	Number	Percentage
Major Groups 1-3	26,800	37.3%
1 Managers & Senior Officials	9,900	13.8%
2 Professional Occupations	9,600	13.4%
3 Associate Professional & Technical	7,300	10.1%
Major Groups 4-5	14,300	20.0%
4 Administrative & Secretarial	5,400	7.5%
5 Skilled Trades Occupations	8,900	12.4%
Major Groups 6-7	14,300	19.9%
6 Personal Service Occupations	5,800	8.1%

7 Sales & Customer Service Occupations	8,500	11.9%
Major Groups 8-9	16,300	22.8%
8 Process Plant & Machine Operatives	7,500	10.5%
9 Elementary Occupations	8,800	12.3%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, April 2010/March 2011

11.8 New Businesses

TABLE 40: NEW BUSINESS REGISTRATION RATE (PER 10,000 POPULATION AGED 16+) 2002 - 2008

Year	No. of business births, Braintree	Braintree registration rate	Essex registration rate
2002	695	65.5	57.2
2003	720	67.0	61.7
2004	810	74.5	64.8
2005	750	58.0	60.3
2006	700	62.8	57.4
2007	815	72.3	61.7
2008	690	60.6	59.7

Source: BERR, 2010

There were 690 business births in the District in 2008, the 6th highest amongst Essex residents. There were 60.6 births per 10,000 adults in the District compared with an Essex average of 59.7. The business formation rate in 2008 had declined significantly compared to previous years.

TABLE 41: SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH, BRAINTREE AND ESSEX 2002-08

Year	Braintree District, registered businesses with employment <50	Braintree District, No. of small businesses with increase in employment in 2nd year	Braintree District, % of small businesses showing growth	Essex, % of small businesses showing growth
2002/03	4.920	505	10.26	10.11
2003/04	4.980	515	10.34	9.57
2004/05	5.165	585	11.33	10.71
2005/06	5.310	720	13.56	13.21

2006/07	5.485	785	14.31	13.97
2007/08	5.610	790	14.08	13.82

Source: BERR 2010

The proportion of Braintree small business that show growth in the second year has been consistently higher than the Essex average from 2002-2008. the proportion showing growth in the District increased in 2008 from 2002 although in the most recent period (2007/08) there was a slight reduction.

11.9 Floorspace Composition

TABLE 42: INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FLOORSPEACE COMPOSITION BY BULK INDUSTRY CLASS IN M² APRIL 2008

	Braintree District		East of England		England	
All Bulk Classes	1,376	100.0%	56,904	100.0%	561,777	100.0%
Retail Premises	196	14.2%	10,287	18.1%	100,208	17.8%
Commercial Offices	108	7.9%	7,081	12.4%	81,203	14.5%
Other Offices	22	1.6%	1,583	2.8%	16,362	2.9%
Factories	597	43.4%	18,704	32.9%	192,322	34.2%
Warehouses	399	29.0%	17,186	30.2%	152,485	27.1%
Other Bulk Premises	54	3.9%	2,062	3.6%	19,196	3.4%

Source: ONS 2009

Factories and warehouses accounted for the majority of industrial and commercial floorspace. Factory floorspace accounted for a higher proportion in the District than the average for the region and for England, whereas retail and offices accounted for a lower proportion in Braintree than the regional and national averages.

11.10 Summary

At 60.11% of the total population, the percentage of the District population that is of working age is higher than the Essex average. The percentage is in line with the region however lower than that of the country.

The percentages of the District's population that are economically active and in employment are higher at 83.5% and 77.6% than regional and British averages. These figures are mainly due to the high numbers of females economically active and in employment in the District.

The percentage of job seekers allowance claimants are less than the regional and UK averages.

Residence based earnings in the District are higher than the regional and British averages overall. By gender the average for males is significantly higher than the averages regionally and for Britain, however also considerably lower for females.

Workplace based wages are considerably lower than those of the county, regional and GB. There is also a significantly lower wage for those earning in the District, than those residents of the District who travel outside Braintree for work.

There are fewer available jobs per single person in the district at 0.65 than the regional average of 0.76 and GB at 0.78.

The largest proportion of people work in the 'Services' industry for all geographical areas. The proportion is the lowest in Braintree at 76.7%, compared to 82.5% in the East of England and 83.5% in Great Britain.

The general proportion of full-time to part time jobs, at approximately 2:1, is in line with regional and national averages.

There were 690 business births in the District in 2008, the 6th highest amongst Essex residents. There were 60.6 births per 10,000 adults in the District compared with an Essex average of 59.7. The business formation rate in 2008 had declined significantly compared to previous years.

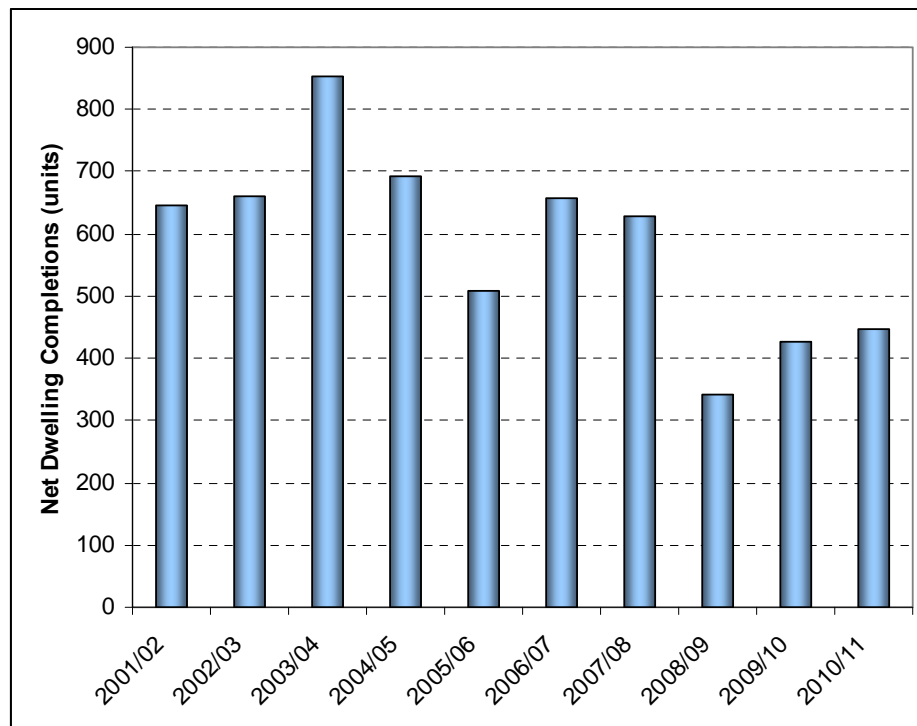
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Factories and warehouses accounted for the majority of industrial and commercial floorspace. Factory floorspace accounted for a higher proportion in the District than the average for the region and for England, whereas retail and offices accounted for a lower proportion in Braintree than the regional and national averages.

89 12 HOUSING

12.1 Housing Supply

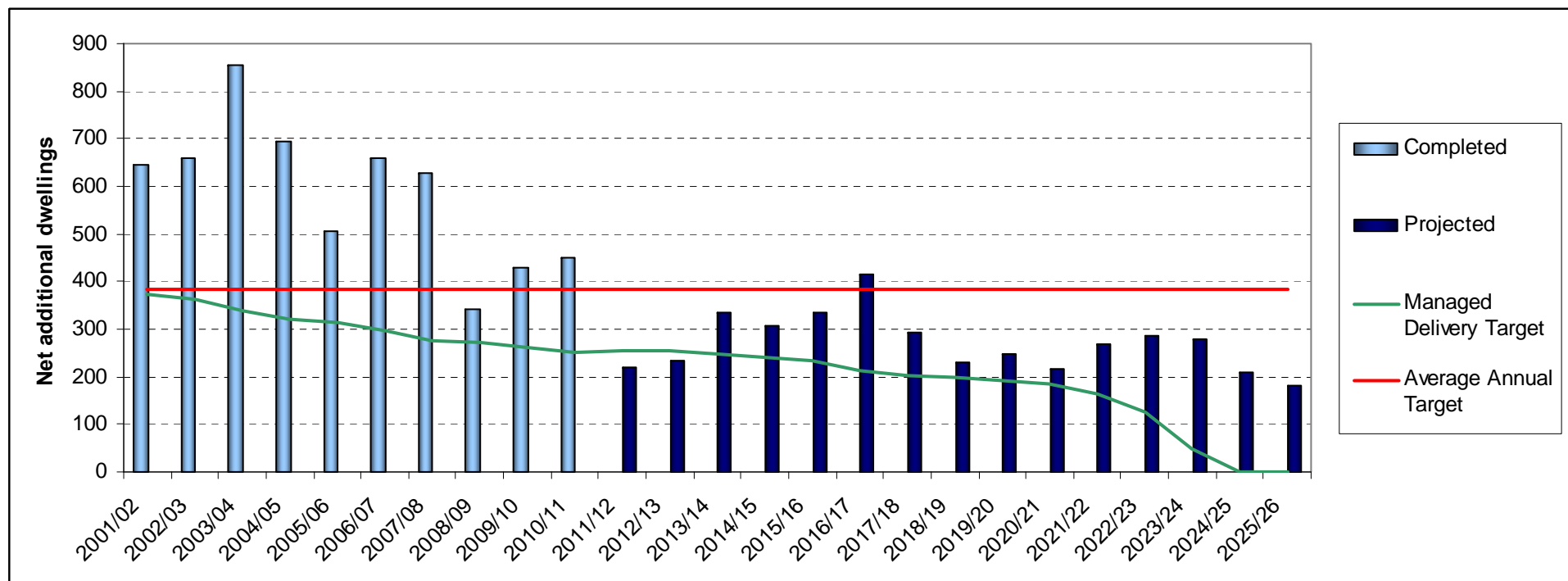
FIGURE 19: HOUSING COMPLETIONS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



Source: Braintree District's 2011 Annual Monitoring Report and Essex County Council

In 2010/2011 there were 448 net additional dwellings (taking into account losses/demolitions) within the district. as at April 2011 the Managed Delivery Target for the district is 251 additional dwelling per annum to meet their minimum total housing requirement of 9,625 dwellings between 2001 and 2026, as set out in the Core Strategy. The most recent annual completion figure is therefore considerably above the target.

FIGURE 20: HOUSING TRAJECTORY IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



Source: Braintree District's 2011 Annual Monitoring Report

The current trajectory shows that by 2026 there will be 9,918 completions across the plan period (since 2001). Projected annual completion figures will be generally lower than the completion rates reported between 2001 and 2011 but Braintree District will still exceed their minimum housing requirement by 103% for the whole plan period. This is due to supply up to 2011 substantially exceeding the annual average required to meet the overall housing requirement.

Current national policy³ requires local planning authorities to provide a 5-year land supply of deliverable sites which excludes the current reporting year.

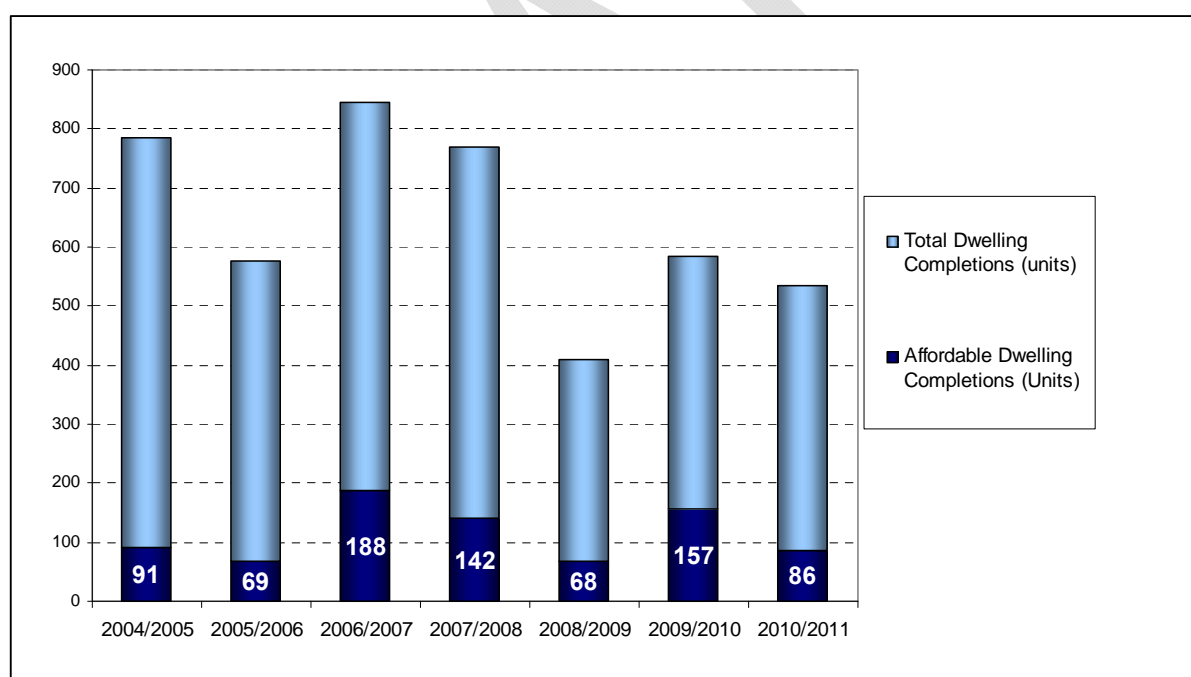
TABLE 43: 5 YEAR HOUSING SUPPLY IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT

2011/12	Year 1: 2012/13	Year 2: 2013/14	Year 3: 2014/15	Year 4: 2015/16	Year 5: 2016/17	Total Supply
221	233	334	307	335	414	1,844

Source: Braintree District's 2011 Annual Monitoring Report

A total of 1,623 dwellings have been identified on deliverable sites over the next five years starting from 2012/13. This value increases to 1,844 when the current year is also included. This equates to an average annual completion rate of 307 which is above the current published target of 251.

FIGURE 21: AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT (NET)

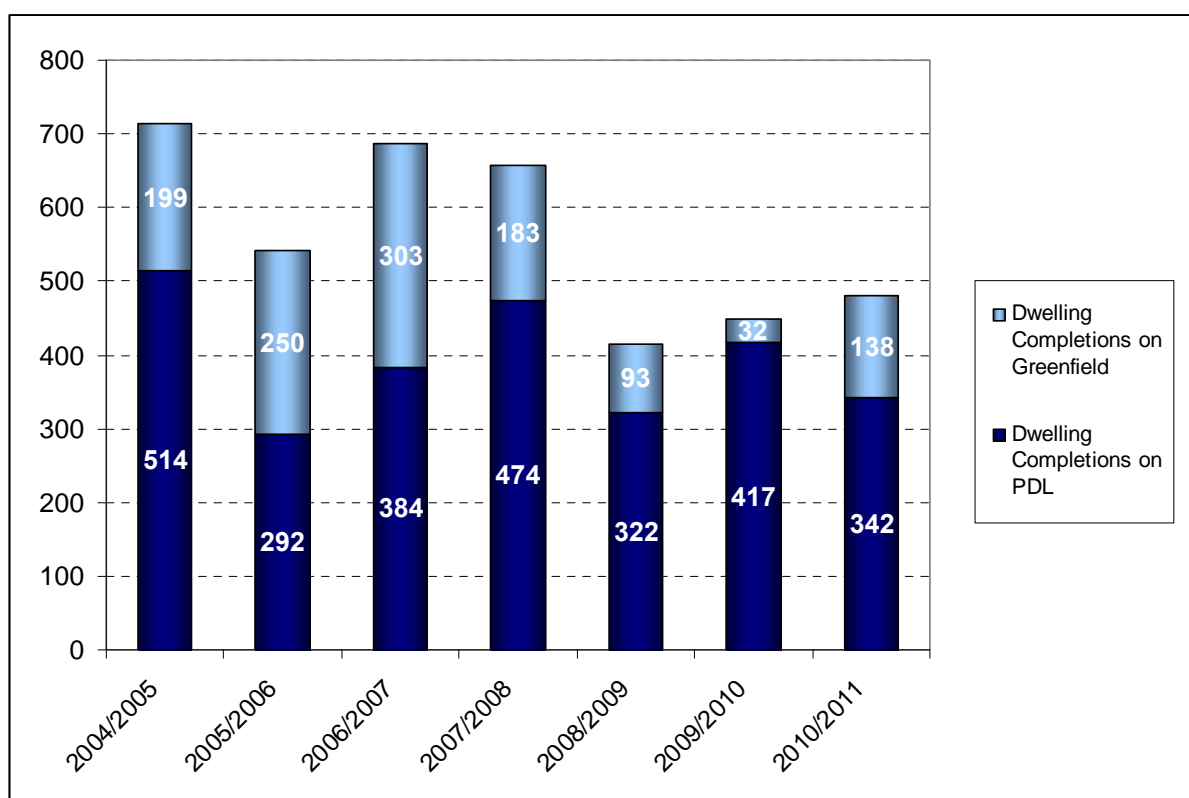


Source: Braintree District's 2011 Annual Monitoring Report and Essex County Council, 2012

In 2010/11, 19.2% of the net dwelling completions, which accounts for 86 dwellings, were affordable within the district. To date, the highest proportion of affordable housing achieved within the district was in 2009/2010 at 36.7% which accounted for 157 of the total number of dwellings completed.

³ Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (June 2011)

FIGURE 22: GROSS DWELLING COMPLETIONS ON PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



Source: Essex County Council, 2009

Of the 480 new gross dwellings built during 2010/11, 342 were built on previously developed land (PDL). Proportionately this was the smallest number of dwellings built on PDL since 2006/07. In 2010/11 this accounted for 71.2% of the total dwelling provision while the previous year dwelling completed on PDL represented 92.9% of the total provision.

12.2 Existing Housing Stock

TABLE 44: DWELLING STOCK BY TENURE

	Local Authority (incl. owned by other LAs)	Housing Association	Other public sector	Private sector	Total
Braintree District	0.1%	16.8%	0.1%	83.0%	61,290
Essex	7.4%	7.3%	0.2%	85.0%	599,360
England	7.6%	10.2%	0.3%	82.0%	22,693,000

Source: 2011 data. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), February 2012

As of 2011, there was a total dwelling stock within Braintree District of 61,290, of which 83% was privately rented or owner occupied (compared with 85% in the county and 82% nationally) and 0.1% are owned by the Local Authority (7.3% in Essex and

7.6% nationally). However the District had proportionately more social housing through housing associations than county and national levels at 16.8% in comparison to 7.3% and 10.2% respectively.

12.3 Dwelling Prices and Property Sales

FIGURE 23: MEAN DWELLING PRICES BASED ON LAND REGISTRY DATA (£)

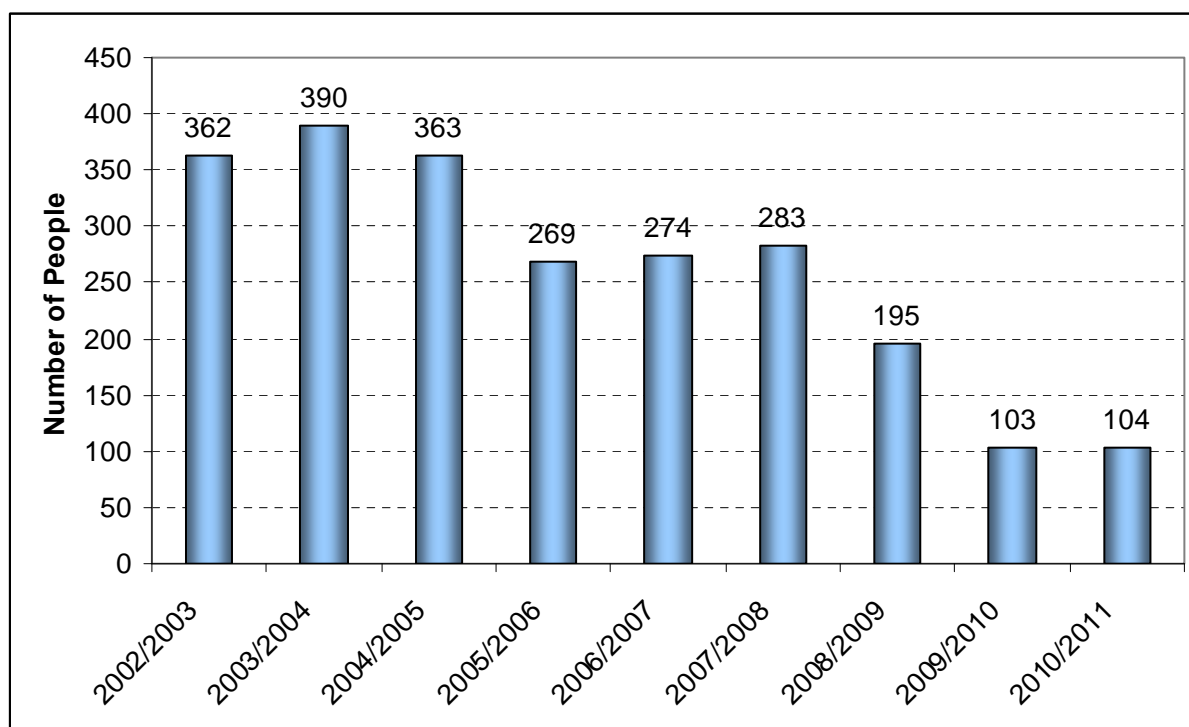


Source: DCLG, 2011

Dwelling prices within the district have increased by 51% since 2001 which is the same increase recorded nationally while dwelling prices within the county have increased by 53%. The average dwelling price within Braintree District has continuously been lower than the county and since 2004 the national averages as well. The difference in dwelling prices between the county and the district is now £21,584. In 2001 the average dwelling price in the District was £115,322 and in 2010 it was £225,478.

12.4 Homelessness

FIGURE 24: NUMBER OF HOMELESS ACCEPTANCES IN PRIORITY NEED IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT



Source: Data provided by DCLG, 2011

The number of homeless people accepted in priority need in Braintree District in 2011/11 was 104. This is the second lowest figure across the study period with the lowest being the previous year (2009/10) at 103 homeless acceptances. Prior to this, numbers were either near to 200 or significantly more.

TABLE 45: ETHNICITY OF HOMELESS ACCEPTANCES IN PRIORITY NEED IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT

	Braintree District	Essex	England
Total (number)	104	1,040	29,540
White	90.4%	83.6%	66.9%
Black or Black British	1.9%	5.1%	14.4%
Asian or Asian British	1.9%	1.2%	6.3%
Mixed	3.8%	1.7%	3.0%
Other Ethnic Origin	1.9%	1.8%	4.3%
Ethnic Origin (Not Known)	0.0%	2.0%	5.1%

Source: Data provided by DCLG, 2011

Of the 104 homeless acceptances in priority need in the district 90% were of white ethnicity. This is a higher proportion than those recorded for the county and country. and results in Braintree District having a different and less diverse ethnic mix of homeless people. The majority of those accepted as homeless were white for the county and country too but these areas they reported higher numbers of people of Black British, Asian/Asian British and other ethnic origins accepted as homeless. In Braintree District there was a comparatively larger proportion of people of mixed ethnicity who were recorded as homeless acceptances in priority need than at the county and national levels.

12.5 Gypsy and Traveller Sites

TABLE 46: COUNT OF GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CARAVANS JULY 2009

	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				Caravan Total
	No. of Caravans Socially Rented	No. of Caravans Private	No. of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land		No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies		
			"Tolerated"	"Not tolerated"	"Tolerated"	"Not tolerated"	
Braintree	51	21	0	31	1	0	104
Essex	250	558	45	217	3	562	1,635
England	6,615	8,108	999	991	598	1,409	18,720

Source: July 2011 data provided by DCLG,

In July 2011 there was a total of 104 caravans sited within the district, of which 72 were located on authorised sites and 32 on unauthorised sites. All but one caravan on the unauthorised sites were situated on land owned by gypsies and these were not tolerated. The caravan not on land owned by gypsies was tolerated. Of the 72 caravans on authorised sites, 21 were private while the remaining 51 caravans were socially rented.

The total number of caravans in Braintree District represents only 6% of the total amount within the county and less than 1% of those within England.

TABLE 47: AUTHORISED GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS SITES IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT

	Total number of pitches	of which are:		Caravan capacity	Date site opened	Date of last site changes	Management
		Residential	Transit				
Sandiacres, Cressing	14	14	0	28	1989	2009	ECC
Ridgewell	12	12	0	24	1995	2009	ECC

Source: July 2011 data provided by DCLG,

There are two authorised Gypsy sites that are managed by Essex County Council in Braintree District at Cressing and Ridgewell. In July 2011 there was a combined total of 26 pitches which provided a total of 52 residential caravans spaces.

12.6 Summary

In 2010/2011 there were 448 net additional dwellings (taking into account losses/demolitions) within the district. As at April 2011 the Managed Delivery Target for the district is 251 additional dwelling per annum to meet their minimum total housing requirement of 9,625 dwellings between 2001 and 2026, as set out in the Core Strategy. The most recent annual completion figure is therefore considerably above the target. A total of 1,623 dwellings have been identified on deliverable sites over the next five years starting from 2012/13. This value increases to 1,844 when the current year is also included. This equates to an average annual completion rate of 307 which is above the current published target of 251.

The current trajectory shows that by 2026 there will be 9,918 completions across the plan period (since 2001). Projected annual completion figures will be generally lower than the completion rates reported between 2001 and 2011 but Braintree District will still exceed their minimum housing requirement by 103% for the whole plan period. This is due to supply up to 2011 substantially exceeding the annual average required to meet the overall housing requirement.

In 2010/11, 19.2% of the net dwelling completions, which accounts for 86 dwellings, were affordable within the district. To date, the highest proportion of affordable housing achieved within the district was in 2009/2010 at 36.7% which accounted for 157 of the total number of dwellings completed. Of the 480 new gross dwellings built during 2010/11, 342 were built on previously developed land (PDL). Proportionately this was the smallest number of dwellings built on PDL since 2006/07. In 2010/11 this accounted for 71.2% of the total dwelling provision while the previous year dwelling completed on PDL represented 92.9% of the total provision.

As of 2011, there was a total dwelling stock within Braintree District of 61,290, of which 83% was privately rented or owner occupied (compared with 85% in the county and 82% nationally) and 0.1% are owned by the Local Authority (7.3% in Essex and 7.6% nationally). However the District had proportionately more social housing through housing associations than county and national levels at 16.8% in comparison to 7.3% and 10.2% respectively.

The average dwelling price in the District is £225,478 which is below the averages for Essex (£247,062) and England (£240,033). The average dwelling price within Braintree District has continuously been lower than the county and since 2004 the national averages as well.

The number of homeless people accepted in priority need in Braintree District in 2011/12 was 104. This is the second lowest figure across the study period with the lowest being the previous year (2010/11) at 103 homeless acceptances. Prior to this, numbers were either near to 200 or significantly more.

As of July 2011 there were 26 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpersons pitches on 2 authorised sites in the District. The total number of caravans in the district was 104, of which 72 were located on authorised sites and 32 on unauthorised sites.

13 TRANSPORT

13.1 Road Network

13.1.1 Car Ownership

TABLE 48: 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
Braintree	54,332	17.56%	41.74%	31.15%	7.05%	2.49%	74,065
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: ONS, Census 2001

Braintree District has a proportionately higher private vehicle ownership compared to the county and England as a whole. Ownership of a single car or van per household is the most common occurrence with 41.74% of households within Braintree District falling within this category. However a greater proportion of households in the district own two or more cars or vans compared to the county or national figures.

13.2 Travel Patterns and Accessibility

Journeys to work represent a high proportion of trips in the peak period and are considered in more detail in Table 49.

13.2.1 Travel to Work

TABLE 49: TRAVEL TO WORK METHOD BY RESIDENCE, 2001

	Braintree		East of England		England	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
All People	94,826	n/a	3,884,104		35,532,091	
Works mainly at or from home	6,696	7.06%	243,485	6.27	2,055,224	5.78
Underground, metro, light rail or tram	117	0.12%	21,688	0.56	709,386	2.00
Train	5,384	5.68%	156,054	4.02	950,023	2.67

	Braintree		East of England		England	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Bus, minibus or coach	1,522	1.61%	102,838	2.65	1,685,361	4.74
Taxi or minicab	249	0.26%	11,693	0.30	116,503	0.33
Driving a car or van	39,823	42.00%	1,518,613	39.10	12,324,166	34.68
Passenger in a car or van	3,892	4.10%	150,642	3.88	1,370,685	3.86
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	634	0.67%	28,637	0.74	249,456	0.70
Bicycle	1,366	1.44%	100,193	2.58	634,588	1.79
On foot	6,164	6.50%	233,737	6.02	2,241,901	6.31
Other	245	0.26%	11,798	0.30	104,205	0.29
Not currently working	28,734	30.30%	1,304,726	33.59	13,090,593	36.84

Source: ONS, Census 2001

Table 49 illustrates that more than 40% of residents of Braintree drive a car or van to get to work. This is higher than the regional and national figures of 39.10% and 34.68% of the population. Private vehicle use is the most popular travel to work method in all three hierarchies.

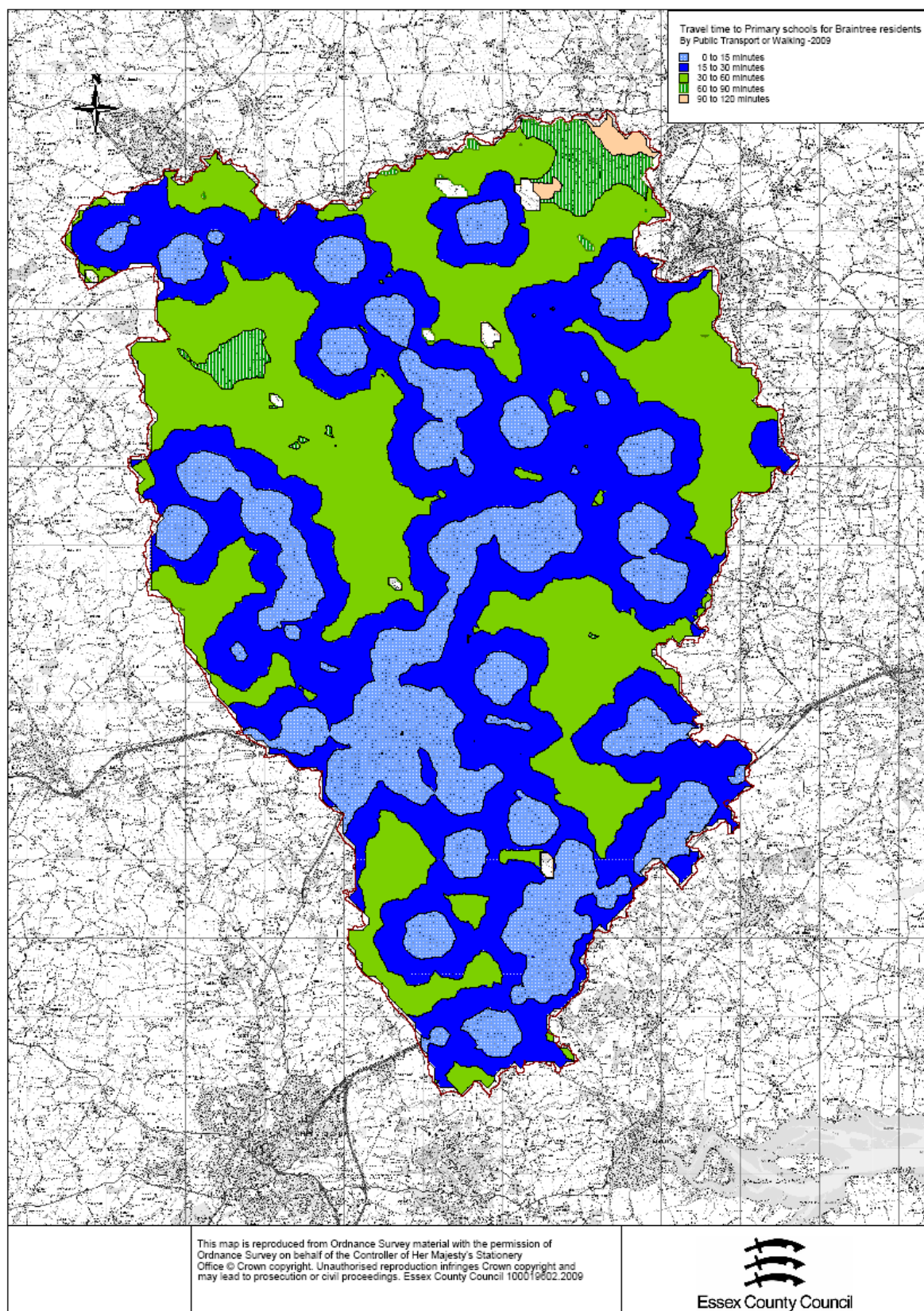
Larger proportions of Braintree's population commute as a passenger in a car or van, by train or on foot than at regional and national levels while fewer Braintree residents cycle or use buses, minibuses or coaches compared to regional and national levels.

A comparatively larger proportion of residents of Braintree work mainly at or from home than both the regional and national proportions.

13.2.2 Accessibility

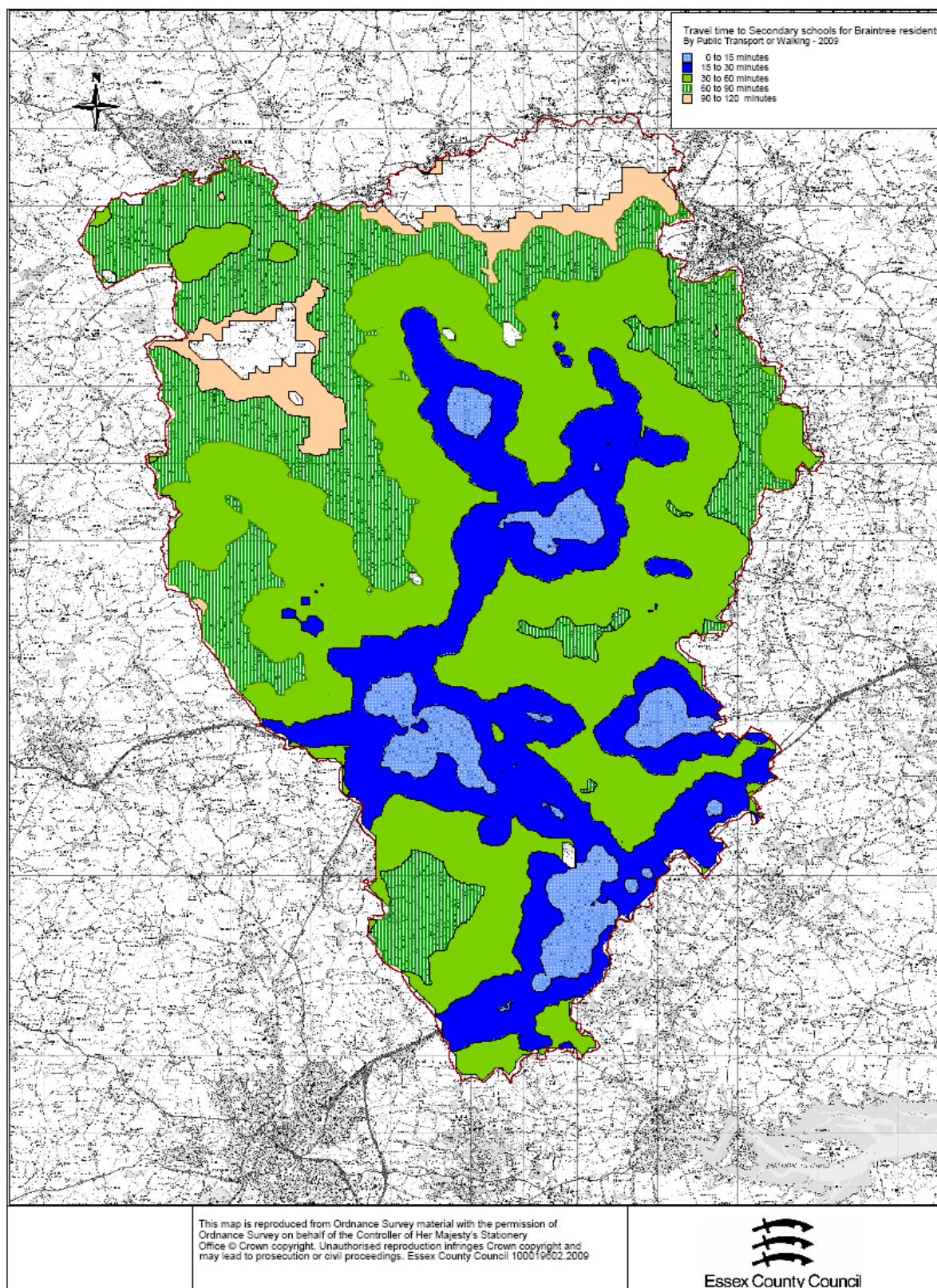
The accessibility maps (Figure 25 to Figure 29) detail the minimum amount of time it takes to access primary schools, secondary schools, retail centres, GPs and employment sites on foot or by public transport. Travel times were calculated on Mondays either between 7am and 9am or 9:30am – 5pm as stated in July 2009.

**FIGURE 25: ACCESSIBILITY OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT
MONDAY 0700 – 0900 JULY 2009**



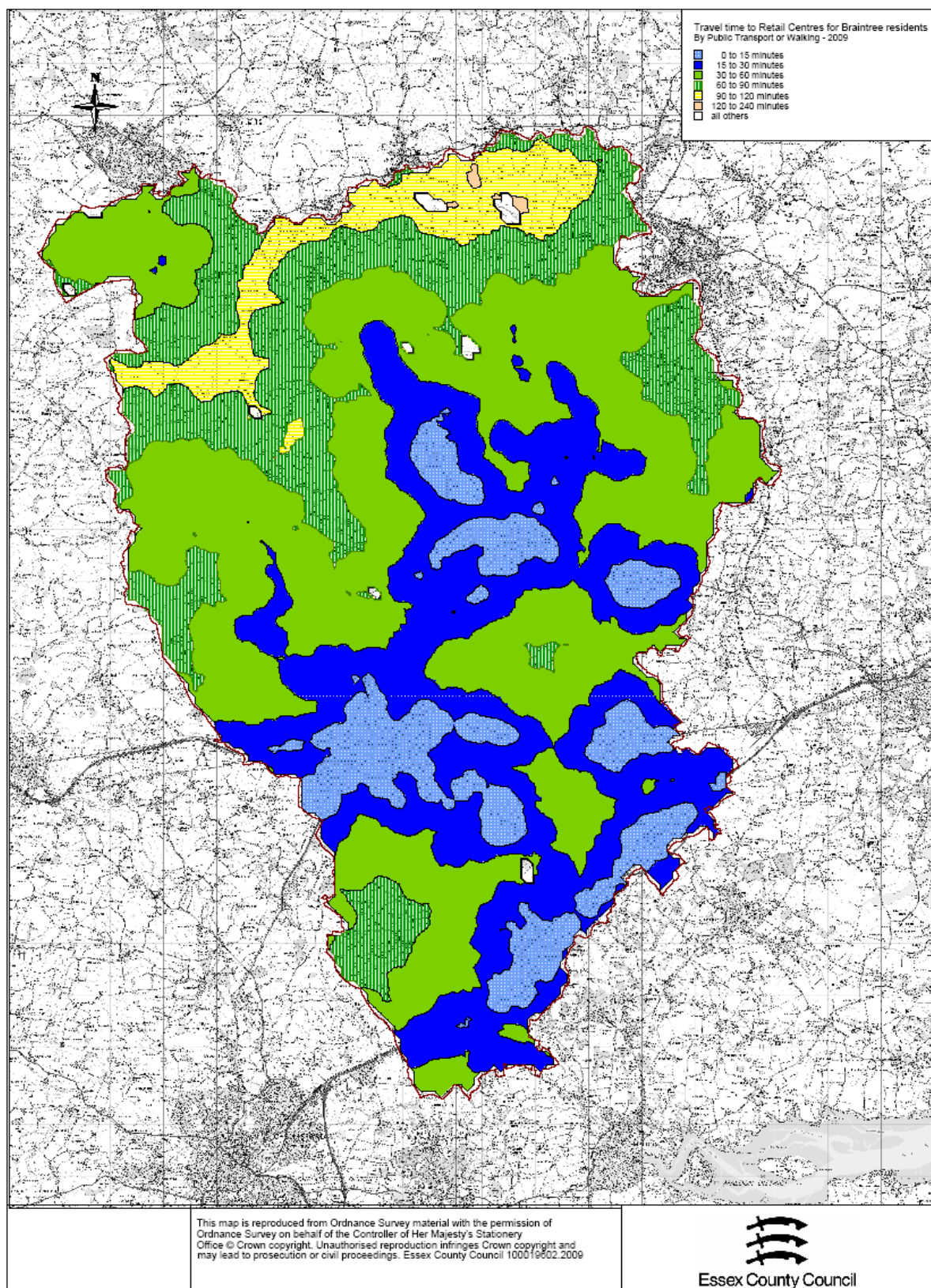
Source: Essex County Council 2009

**FIGURE 26: ACCESSIBILITY OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT
MONDAY 0700 – 0900 JULY 2009**



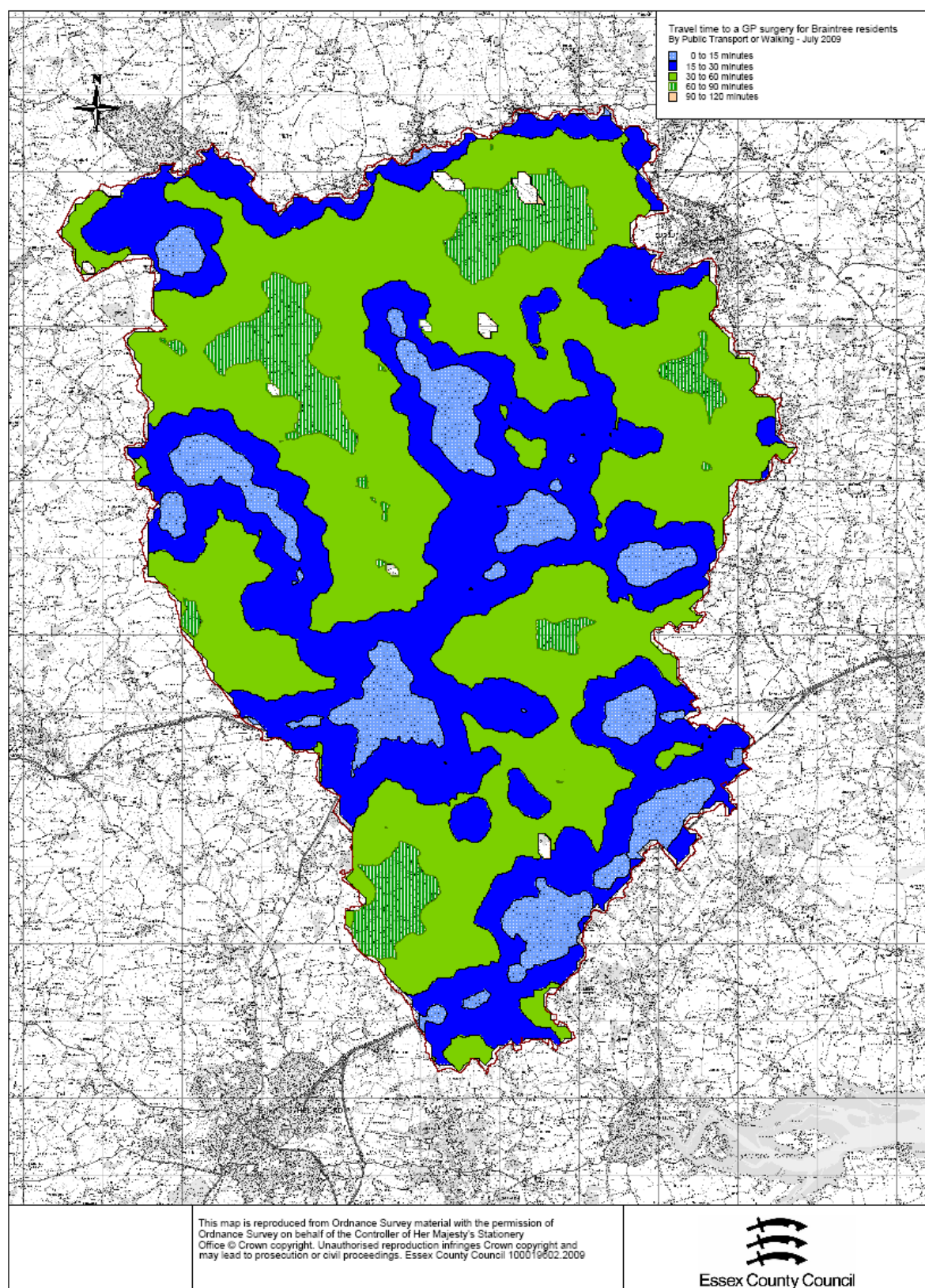
Source: Essex County Council 2009

**FIGURE 27: ACCESSIBILITY OF RETAIL CENTRES IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT
MONDAY 0930 – 1700 JULY 2009**



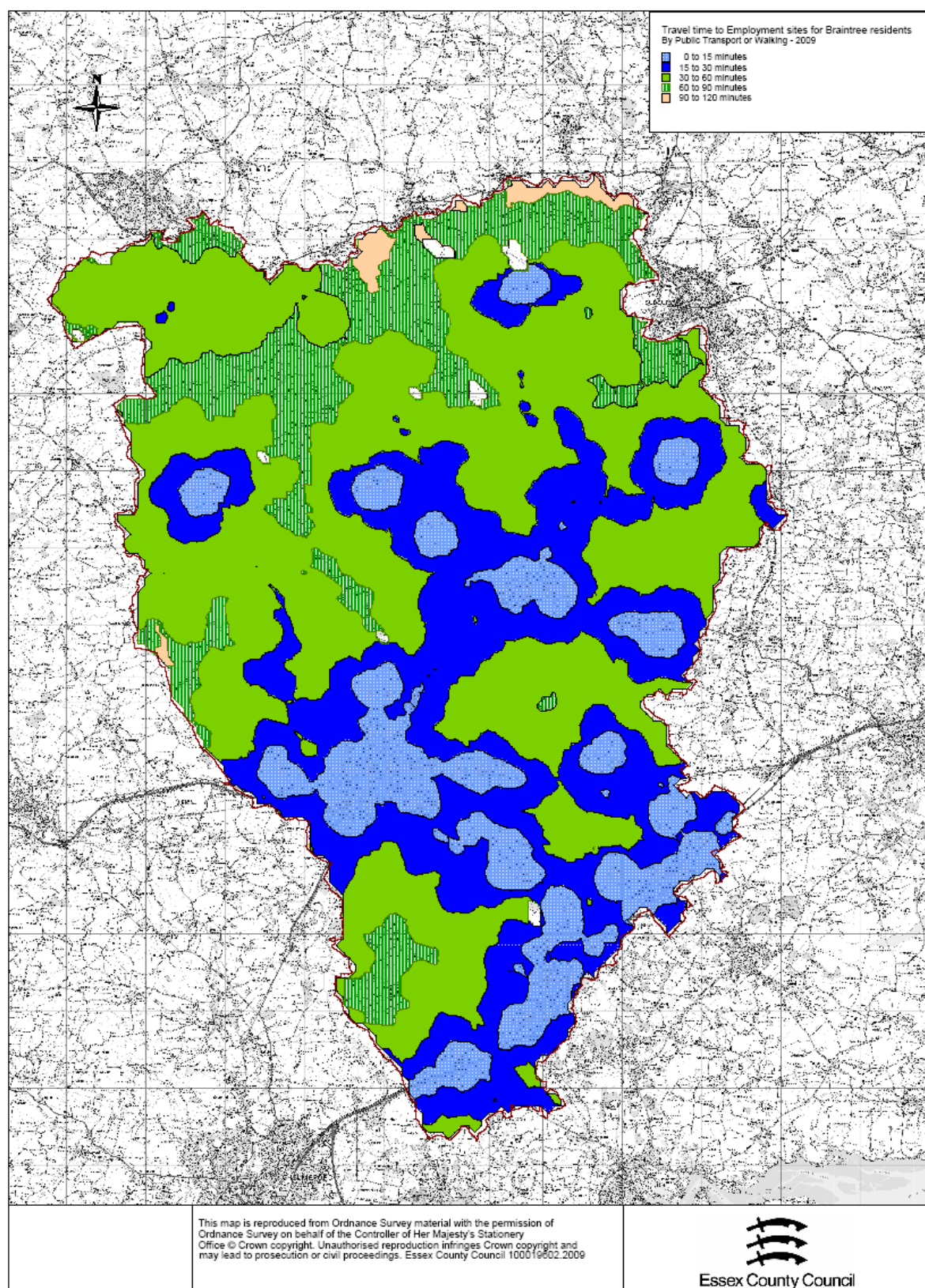
Source: Essex County Council 2009

FIGURE 28: ACCESSIBILITY OF GP SURGERIES IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT MONDAY 0930 – 1700 JULY 2009



Source: Essex County Council 2009

**FIGURE 29: ACCESSIBILITY OF EMPLOYMENT CENTRES IN BRAINTREE DISTRICT
MONDAY 0930 – 1700 JULY 2009**



Source: Essex County Council, 2009

Accessibility by public transport or walking to key services and educational facilities is improved considerably within and in close proximity to the town of Braintree, Halstead and Witham.

TABLE 50: PROPORTION OF BRAINTREE RESIDENTS WITH ACCESS TO SERVICES WITHIN 15 MINUTES AND 30 MINUTES

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	80%	94%
Secondary school	42%	80%
Employment site	57%	86%
Retail centre	62%	85%
GP	56%	89%

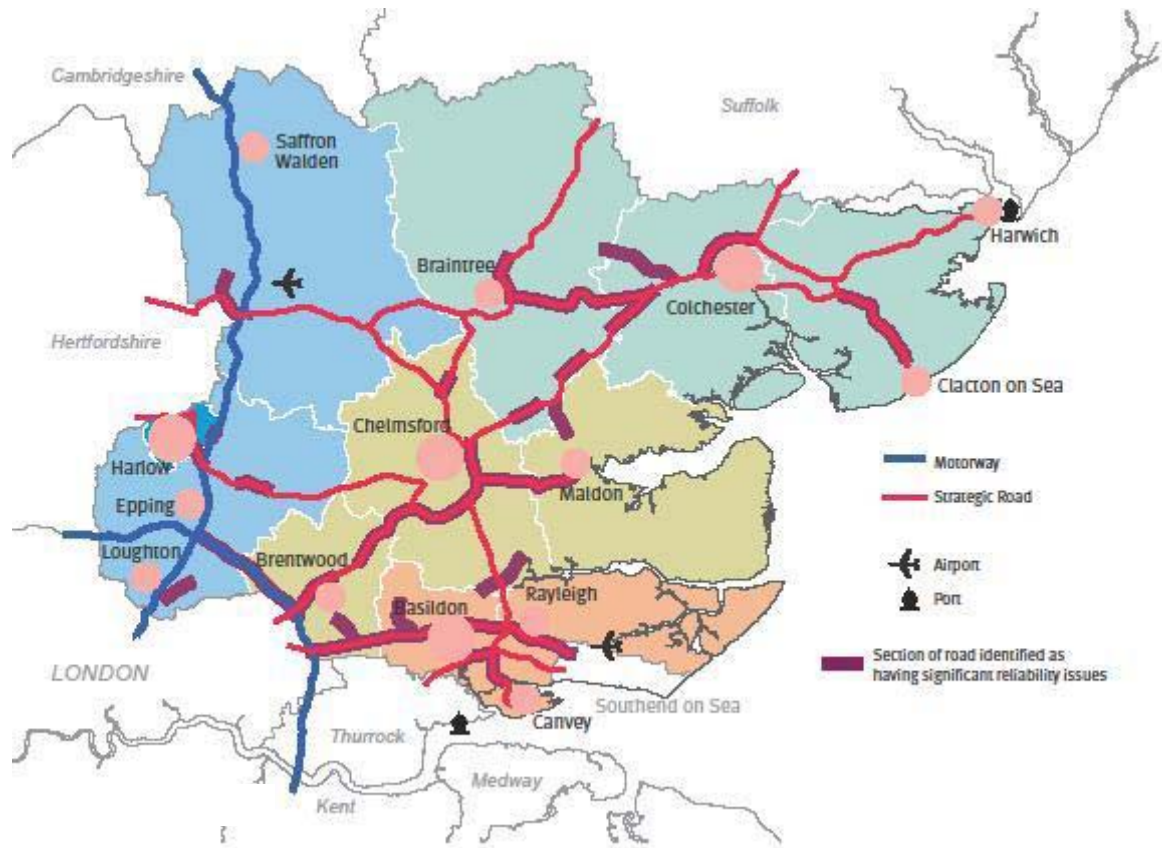
Source: Essex County Council, July 2009

Over four fifths of the population of Braintree District live within 30 minutes of each of the 5 highlighted services. Over four fifths of the population of Braintree District live within 15 minutes access of a primary school. This proportion drops when accessibility to the remaining four services are analysed. With respect to secondary schools, just 42% of residents live within 15 minutes access time.

13.2.3 Network Performance

Tackling congestion is a strategic transport priority in Essex and is referred to in one of the broad outcomes that the Essex Transport Strategy seeks to achieve. Congestion is when the hourly traffic demand exceeds the maximum sustainable hourly throughput of the road. There were three key routes within the boundary of Braintree District that recorded high levels of congestion. These are the A12 through Hatfield Peverel to Marks Tey, the A120 from Marks Tey to Braintree and the A131 just outside of Braintree. They are marked in Figure 30 and are represented by the thick purple lines.

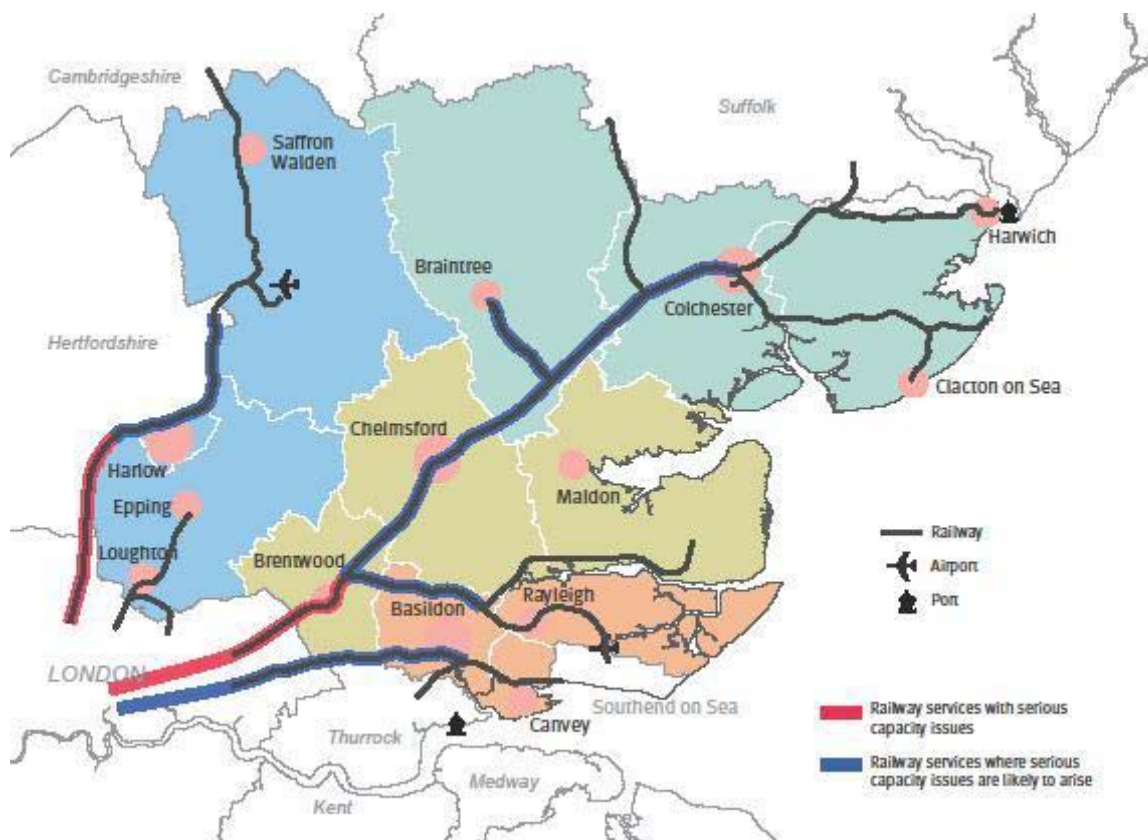
FIGURE 30: ROAD NETWORK PERFORMANCE



Source: Essex Transport Strategy (2011)

The mainline railway network that operates through Braintree District, into London, is Greater Anglia with stations located at Braintree, Braintree Freeport, Cressing, White Notley, Witham and Hatfield Peverel. As shown in Figure 31, the railway service currently running through Braintree District does not have serious capacity issues. However capacity is an issue for those travelling between Brentwood and London which would affect commuters in Braintree District who work in London. By 2031 it is anticipated that capacity will be a problem on most of the railway network including the stretch through Braintree District.

FIGURE 31: RAIL NETWORK PERFORMANCE



Source: Essex Transport Strategy (2011)

13.3 Summary

Braintree District has a proportionately higher private vehicle ownership compared to the county as a whole and the nation. Ownership of a single car or van per household is the most common occurrence with 41.74% of households within Braintree District falling within this category. However a greater proportion of households in the district own two or more cars or vans compared to the county or national figures.

More than 40% of residents of Braintree District drive a car or van to get to work; this is higher than the regional and national figures. Larger proportions of the district's population commute as a passenger in a car or van, by train or on foot than at regional and national levels while fewer Braintree District residents cycle or use buses, minibuses or coaches compared to regional and national levels. A comparatively larger proportion of residents in the district work mainly at or from home than both the regional and national proportions.

Accessibility by public transport or walking to key services and educational facilities is improved considerably within and in close proximity to the town of Braintree, Halstead and Witham. Over four fifths of the population of Braintree District live within 30 minutes of each of the 5 highlighted services. Over four fifths of the population of Braintree District live within 15 minutes access of a primary school. This proportion drops when accessibility to the remaining four services are analysed. With respect to secondary schools, just 42% of residents live within 15 minutes access time.

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