

Appendix 3

Updated Baseline Information

Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.

Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:

(a) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;

(b) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;

(c) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'].

Information has been collected at varying scales to provide the necessary detail for the identification of issues and subsequent monitoring:

- Ward level: monitoring sustainability issues specific to a particular area.
- Borough level: identifying issues and monitoring trends across the area.
- County level: enables issues to be compared against the trends at County level.

As with the review of plans, policies and programmes (see **Chapter 2**), information that was collated in relation to the SA of the Core Strategy has been drawn upon. The baseline information for the SA of the Core Strategy was last updated in 2009⁷ and it has again been updated and revised to provide an appropriate level of detail in relation to Gypsies and Travellers, reflecting the subject of one of the DPDs that this scoping report relates to.

Existing information collected by the Council and other organisations, such as the Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council, has been utilised where possible. Data referred to have been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects.

Social Characteristics

Population

The population of Rugby Borough is approximately 102,500⁸, with around two thirds of those people living in the market town of Rugby with the remainder in the rural areas of the Borough. The villages in Rugby Borough range in size from 20 to 3,000 people⁹.

The Borough's overall population remained steady between 1971 and 2001 but increased by 14.5.1% between 2001 and 2011. The rise in population over that period was largely due to people migrating into the area and increased birth rates but also as a result of people living longer. The population growth that has been experienced in Rugby Borough in recent years is expected to continue with the projected population increase between 2010 and 2035 being 30%, which is the largest projected population increase of all the districts in Warwickshire¹⁰.

Rugby has settled and well-established ethnic minority communities, which make up around 10.3% of the total population. The largest ethnic minority groups in the Borough are Indian and Black Caribbean; however in recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of migrant workers from Eastern Europe, particularly Poland, with over 1,000 new workers arriving in 2008 alone¹¹.

⁷ UE Associates (2009) Sustainability Appraisal of the Rugby Core Strategy: Sustainability Appraisal Report to Accompany the Submission Version of the Core Strategy.

⁸ ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 23/09/2015

⁹ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

¹⁰ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

¹¹ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2011/2012.

The number of people aged over 50 is increasing sharply while the number of young people is in decline. Across Warwickshire as a whole, the highest rates of projected population growth are in the groups aged 65 and over. The rate of growth at these older ages increases with age, with the eldest age group (those aged 85 and over) projected to increase by over 190% by 2035. This trend is reflected across all the districts and boroughs in Warwickshire.¹²

The growth of the local population, and in particular the high level of inward migration and the growth in the proportion of elderly people, will have a strong influence on the level of demand for particular services and facilities in the Borough, as well as for specific types of housing.

Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (2015) measures a range of factors with various weightings to include:

- Income deprivation (22.5%)
- Employment deprivation (22.5%)
- Education, skills and training deprivation (13.5%)
- Health deprivation and disability (13.5%)
- Crime (9.3%)
- Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%)
- Living environment deprivation (9.3%)

The measure has identified that Rugby is the 240th most deprived Local Authority in England out of a total of 326. Rugby is comparable in terms of levels of deprivation displayed with the other Local Authorities in Warwickshire. It has been identified as being less deprived than two of the Local Authorities in the County (Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire) and more deprived than the remaining two Local Authorities in the County (Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick). In the previous production of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation in 2010 Rugby was ranked as the 219th most deprived Local Authority in England and as such relative to the other Local Authorities in England Rugby has become marginally less deprived during this three year period. In 2010 the Super Output Area Brownsover South Lake District North in Rugby was ranked as 7th most deprived area in Warwickshire and ranked in the top 10%-20% of the most deprived areas nationally. The 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation show that the area has improved in terms of deprivation displayed locally given that Brownsover South Lake District North improved its national ranking from 3,314th to 5,627th most deprived. The area is still within the top 10%-20% most deprived areas in England however. Of the individual factors considered for the overall Index of Multiples Deprivation areas in Rugby ranked in the top 10% most deprived in 2015 in terms of education, skills and training development (Brownsover South Lake District North and Newbold on Avon) and barriers to housing and services (Fosse West, Church Lawford, Kings Newnham & Long Lawford North, Wolvey, Fosse East Leam Valley and Princethorpe, Marton, Frankton, Bourton & Draycote).¹³

Crime

Warwickshire Observatory's Quality of Life in Warwickshire Report (2014/15)¹⁴ reports that between April 2013 to March 2014, crime reduced by 4% (1,167 offences) and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has reduced overall by 1% (243 incidents) in Warwickshire. Although all recorded crime has fallen in Warwickshire in the 12 months to March 2014, both vehicle crime and domestic burglary experienced an increase. The report shows that in the 12 months to March 2014, Rugby had a crime rate of 49.16 per 1,000 residents which was the second highest per borough/district in Warwickshire. Figures for the key crime types show that in Rugby, 7.28 people could expect to become victims of violent crime, 7.45 people could expect to become victims of domestic burglary, 4.49 people could expect to become victims of other forms of burglary and

¹² Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

¹³ Department for Communities and Local Government English indices of deprivation 2015

¹⁴ Warwickshire Observatory Quality of Life in Warwickshire 2014/15

7.26 people could expect to become victims of vehicle crime. Rugby Borough is the only district in Warwickshire to see an increase (1%) in recorded crimes in 2013/14 when compared to 2012/13, compared to Warwick District which has seen the largest reduction of 8%¹⁵.

Generally levels of crime in Warwickshire are relatively low and have been reducing over the last ten years, but the fear of crime remains high¹⁶.

¹⁵ Warwickshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Crime and Community Safety

¹⁶ Warwickshire Observatory Quality of Life in Warwickshire 2014/15

Health

47.7 % of residents in Rugby perceive their health to be 'very good', a figure which is slightly higher than the regional average of 45.1%¹⁷. In addition, life expectancy within the Borough is better than regional average, at 78.7 for males and 82.6 for females compared to 77.5 for males and 81.9 for females across the West Midlands¹⁸.

The 2015 Health Profile for Rugby Borough¹⁹ highlights that the health of people in Rugby is varied compared with the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 12.8% (2,400) children live in poverty. In addition life expectancy is 6.2 years lower for men and 4.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Rugby than in the least deprived areas²⁰.

The Health Profile identifies five areas in which Rugby Borough is performing worse than the national average – statutory homelessness, smoking in pregnancy, excess weight in adults, hospital stays for self-harm, and excess winter deaths. hip and road injuries and deaths. It also identifies 10 areas in which the Borough performs significantly better than the national average - including obese children, , drug misuse, people diagnosed with diabetes and smoking related deaths.

Housing

Between 2013-2014, there were around 42,305 households in Rugby Borough and the average household size was 2.34 persons²¹. The majority of sales in Rugby during 2013/2014 were terraced properties, selling for an average price of £142,112. Detached properties sold for an average of £278,268, with semi-detached properties fetching £177,854. Overall, the average cost for a property in Rugby during 2013/2104 was £191,976 which was less than the regional and national averages²².

Affordable housing completions in the Borough during the year 2013/2014 accounted for 22.6% of the total housing completions during the same period, which was down 4.9% on the percentage of affordable homes provided during 2012/2013 (27.5%)²³.

Transport and Communications

Rugby Borough is positioned in a central part of England, within close proximity of key parts of the strategic road network. The principal roads that run through the Borough are the M6, A5, M45 and M69. The M1 and A1 are within close proximity of the eastern boundary of the Borough.

Rugby is on the national rail network, providing access to London, the Midlands, the North West and Scotland, with connections to Coventry and Nuneaton in the west and Milton Keynes and Northampton in the east.

Approximately four miles from Rugby Town Centre is the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal, one of the key rail freight interchanges in Europe.

According to the 2011 census, 64.22% of employed residents travelled to work by car, which is similar to the rate in neighbouring rural authorities²⁴. This shows a slight increase in car use for travel to work since 2001 (63.35%). There was also an increase in the proportion of people that travelled by train (from 1.47% to 2.39%), and those that work mainly from home (from 8.95% to 10.76%). Rugby has a good cycle network with 14% travelling to work on foot or by bike. Overall less than 5% of local residents travel to work by public transport and while bus and train trips have consistently increased year on year it has been at a rate less than that of private car

¹⁷ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

¹⁸ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

¹⁹ PHE, Rugby District Health Profile 2015

²⁰ PHE, Rugby District Health Profile 2015

²¹ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014

²² Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014

²³ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014

²⁴ ONS 2011 <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/interactive/census-map-2-3---method-of-travel/index.html>

trips which has consequences for congestion, pollution, viability of local services and climate change²⁵.

Over the last 10 years there has been a 25% increase in traffic in the urban area of Rugby. The area has experienced slightly higher growth than the other main urban areas of Warwickshire due to recent housing and employment development within the town at Cawston and Coton. Additional growth in vehicular traffic is expected in the urban area as further development comes forward, both in terms of allocated and windfall sites.

A number of specific road improvement schemes are taking place within Rugby Borough. The most significant of these has been the construction of the Rugby Western Relief Road which bypasses the town centre via the A426 Avon Mill roundabout to Potford's Dam and provides a strategic link between the M6/A426 in the north and the A45/M45 in the south.

The local population identifies further expansion of the cycle network and improvement of public transport as one of the top four priorities for improvement in the Borough²⁶.

Gypsies and Travellers

The Rugby Borough Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2014²⁷ reports that in January 2014 there were 119 pitches within Rugby, 88 of which were authorised. In addition the 119 sites contained 18 pitches on one council owned site, 70 pitches on 15 private sites, 29 pitches on five private temporary sites and two pitches on one private unauthorised site. Of these, 94 were occupied and 25 were vacant. The majority of these sites were located in the western part of the Borough, in close proximity to the city of Coventry. As of January 2014, there were no Travelling Showpeople in Rugby Borough. The latest Caravan Count (which is the most reliable source of information on Gypsy and Traveller numbers in Rugby) was used to inform the Accommodation Assessment, and found that there were 168 caravans across the Borough as of January 2014. This was broken down into 24 (14%) on local authority sites, 127 (76%) on private sites and 17 (10%) on unauthorised sites. The Rugby Borough Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment has estimated that over the next five years (2014/15-2018/19), Rugby Borough will need 123 pitches in total to accommodate gypsies and travellers. At the time of the study, this translated into a shortfall of 24 pitches.

Economic Characteristics

Industry and Employment

Between the period of April 2014 and March 2015, the economic activity rate for Rugby Borough was 83.4%, which was higher than the regional and national averages at 75.2% and 77.4% respectively²⁸. The employment rate in the Borough (80.2%) was also higher than the regional and national averages of 70.2% and 72.7% respectively, with only 3.5% of people being unemployed. Moreover, the self-employment rate in Rugby (9.2%) is higher than the regional average (8.3%) but lower than the national average (10.1%)²⁹. ..

The three main employment sectors in Rugby Borough between April 2014 and March 2015 were professional occupations (employing 22.5% of workers), elementary occupations (employing 15.9% of workers) and managers, directors and senior officials (employing 15.1% of workers)³⁰.

The gross weekly pay in Rugby in 2014 was £555.60, which was higher than the regional (£480.60) and national (£520.80) averages. Gender inequality in income is greater in Rugby Borough (gross weekly pay is £146.80 more for male workers) than in the West Midlands (where £96.40 more for male workers) and nationally (£98.5 more for male workers)³¹.

²⁵ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

²⁶ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

²⁷ Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2014: Rugby Borough Council

²⁸ ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 24/09/2015

²⁹ ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 24/09/2015

³⁰ ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 24/09/2015

³¹ ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 24/09/2015

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Rugby as a percentage of the working age resident population as of August 2015 was 0.8%. 54% of these claimants were aged between 25 and 49³².

Of the 4,730 enterprises within East Devon in 2014, 90.1% were considered as 'micro' size (0-9 employees), 8.0% were considered to be 'small' (10-49 employees), 1.5% were considered to be 'medium' (50-249 employees) and 0.5% were considered to be 'large' (250+ employees)³³.

Education

Educational attainment in Rugby Borough is better than the regional average and national averages, with 29.7% of the population having NVQ4 qualifications and above in the period January-December 2014, compared to 29.4% in the West Midlands and 36.0% in the UK³⁴. Rugby also illustrates a significantly lower figure than regional and national averages when comparing the percentage of the population with no qualifications, whereby a figure of 6.2% was seen in comparison to the West Midlands figure of 13.2% and national figure of 8.8%³⁵. In the academic year 2013/14, 60.4% of all 15 year old state-school pupils in Warwickshire attained at least five GCSEs graded A* to C, including English and Mathematics. This compared with a national figure of 53.4%. This figure has decreased notably since the previous year, when 65.3% of state school pupils in Warwickshire and 59.2% nationally achieved at least five GCSEs graded A* to C, including English and Mathematics³⁶.

Rugby's high percentage of highly qualified residents in comparison to the relatively low percentage of residents with no qualifications enables the Borough to support a range of professional and skilled occupations.

Environmental Characteristics

The Borough of Rugby benefits from a diverse environment, which offers considerable benefits but also presents significant challenges. The natural environment is under pressure from a variety of different impacts, which affect the biodiversity and other natural features of the Borough along with the human population.

Biodiversity and Geology

Biodiversity

The Borough Council in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust manage four Nature Areas for the benefit of wildlife. These are Cock Robin Wood, Great Central Walk, Newbold Quarry Park, and Swift Valley Country Park³⁷.

Within Rugby there are seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), three Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and 14 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)³⁸. During the monitoring period 2013/14 there were no losses or additions to these sites of biodiversity importance.

There are no European designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites) within Rugby Borough, although two SACs are located within 20km of the Borough boundary – Ensor's Pool and River Mease SACs.

³² ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 24/09/2015

³³ ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 24/09/2015

³⁴ ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 24/09/2015

³⁵ ONS (2014), Labour Market Profile: Rugby: Accessed on 24/09/2015

³⁶ Department for Education. Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England: 2013 to 2014

, Available [online] at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2013-to-2014>

³⁷ http://www.rugby.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=67&categoryID=200194

³⁸ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

There are approximately 20 areas of woodland in the Borough that contain areas of Ancient Woodland as well as a wide range of undesignated biodiversity assets³⁹.

Geology

The geology of Rugby Borough consists predominantly of sedimentary rocks and is represented by three major geological periods from the older Permian rocks through the Triassic to the younger Jurassic period. The Permian rocks make up less than 0.5% of the geology consisting of some Sherwood Sandstones. The Borough is dominated by Triassic limestone rocks, which make up approximately 60% of the geology. Limestones are impervious and do not allow water to percolate so readily but tend to be indicative of well-drained land due to their common well-jointed characteristics. The remaining 40% of the geology in the Borough is represented by Jurassic argillaceous rocks; clay rich rocks where soils are not so well drained.

There are two sites designated as Local Geological Sites (formerly Regionally Important Geological Sites, RIGS) in the Borough (Parkfield Road Quarry, and Royal Oak Gravel Pit & Cutting). Parkfield Road Quarry was designated as it is a good example of Rugby Limestone, while Royal Oak Gravel Pit & Cutting is a good example of the Hillmorton Member of the Middle Pleistocene Wolston Formation.

Water and Flood Risk

The risk of flooding in the Borough has been determined through the production of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)⁴⁰, which identifies the Main Rivers, ordinary watercourses and flood zones, including the functional floodplains and provides an assessment of the implications of climate change on flood risk. The SFRA identified the following Main Rivers in the Borough:

- River Avon/River Swift
- River Anker/Clifton Brook
- Withy Brook/River Leam
- Millholme Brook/Birdingbury Brook
- River Itchin/Sow Brook,

The River Avon (Upper Avon) flows in a westerly direction across the central area of the Rugby BC administrative area. There are a number of tributaries to the River Avon through the Rugby BC administrative area including the Clifton Brook, River Swift, Sow Brook and Wolston Brook. The Upper River Avon, Clifton Brook, River Swift and Sow Brook pass through the urban area of Rugby. Downstream of Rugby, the River Avon flows alongside the urban areas of Long Lawford, Wolston and Ryton-on-Dunsmore. The River Leam flows in a westerly direction across the southern part of the Rugby BC administrative area. The Birdingbury Brook is a tributary of the River Leam. The River Itchin flows along the administrative border and joins the River Leam at Marton. The Withy Brook originates in the rural area to the west of Coventry and flows in a westerly direction out of the borough. The Withy Brook is a tributary of the Sow Brook. The River Anker originates in the northern part of the Rugby BC administrative area. The Harrow Brook is a tributary of the River Anker and flows in a westerly direction from Hinckley before joining the River Anker. The Sketchley Brook is a tributary of the Harrow Brook and flows across the northern part of the borough in a westerly direction. The SFRA includes a series of Environment Agency Flood Zone Maps to provide an indication of the location of risk from fluvial sources within the Borough. Much of the flood zones in the Borough extend into undeveloped land, however, some of the major rivers in the Borough which are at risk of flooding flow through the town of Rugby and some of the rural villages, including the River Avon and River Swift.

The Environment Agency has produced a number of historic flood outlines for the Borough, which illustrates the extent of the flood events in March 1981, January 1985, September 1992 and April 1998. The January 1985 and April 1998 floods were the largest scale events recorded by the Environment Agency in the Borough. Both events were associated with the Rivers Avon and Leam. The flood events mainly affected the floodplain and few properties were flooded. More recently,

³⁹ Rugby Borough Council (2008) Habitat and Biodiversity Baseline Report.

⁴⁰ Stratford-on-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, North Warwickshire BC & Rugby BC Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Rugby Borough Council have 23 records of flooding resulting from heavy rainfall between the 22nd and 25th November 2012. According to the 2012/13 Warwickshire Quality of Life Report by the Warwickshire Observatory, there were 524 properties in Rugby Borough located in flood zone 3 (highest risk) and 805 properties located in flood zone 2 (medium risk)⁴¹.

A number of canals are located within the Borough of Rugby: the Oxford Canal, the Oxford Canal Brinklow Arm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal and Old Canal (disused). The River Swift acts as a source of water for the Oxford Canal, with a feeder channel at Churchover. There is only one recorded flooding event from a canal in 1963 from the Oxford Canal by Hopsford Aqueduct.

Soil and the Efficient Use of Land

The majority of Rugby Borough comprises grade 3 agricultural land, although there are small areas of grade 2 land in the north and west of the Borough as well as to the south of Rugby town.

During 2013-14 22% of new dwellings were built on previously developed land. This is a big decrease from previous years,, as shown in **Table 1** below⁴².

Table 1: Number of dwellings completed on previously developed land

| Year | Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land |
|-----------|--|
| 2006-7 | 51% |
| 2007-8 | 48% |
| 2008-9 | 68% |
| 2009-10 | 62% |
| 2010-11 | 62% |
| 2011-12 | 38% |
| 2012/2013 | 25% |
| 2013/2014 | 22% |

Air Quality

In 2004 Rugby Borough Council declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the centre of Rugby and Dunchurch due to traffic-related nitrogen dioxide pollution. The declared AQMA remains in place and covers the whole urban area of Rugby⁴³.

Air quality problems in Rugby are directly related to the large number of peak hour vehicles and HGVs travelling through the town centre. It is also possible that exceedances of the NO₂ objective could occur in the centre of the village of Dunchurch. An Air Quality Action Plan to address the AQMA has been prepared by Rugby Borough Council, in conjunction with the County Council. The completed Rugby western relief road has also provided a new north-south route which helps to alleviate traffic flows in the town.

Climatic Factors

CO₂ emissions within the Borough have fallen from 24.4 tonnes per capita in 2005 to 19.8 tonnes in 2013, but the level of emissions is still the highest of any district in Warwickshire (which had an overall per capita level of emissions of 11.0 tonnes of CO₂ in 2013⁴⁴). The rate in Rugby Borough is also higher than most other authorities within England.

Landscape

The landscape of Rugby Borough is a gently undulating lowland of hills and vales traversed by the rivers of the Avon and Leam. A plateau rises to the north and ironstone fringe hills lie to the south east. Outside the urban area of Rugby the area is a generally well-settled rural landscape with major roads running through it, with associated large-scale commercial development. The area includes three national character areas- the Leicester Vales to the north, Dunsmore and

⁴¹ Warwickshire Observatory: Quality of Life Report 2012/13

⁴² Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

⁴³ http://aqma.defra.gov.uk/aqma-details.php?aqma_id=267

⁴⁴ DECC: Local and regional CO₂ emissions estimates for 2005-2010 – Full dataset

Feldon to the south and the Northamptonshire Uplands covering the eastern fringes. The Borough lies outside designated landscape areas at a national or local level⁴⁵.

The most recent landscape character assessment for Rugby Borough was carried out in 2006. It found that the landscape in the north of Rugby is in particularly weak condition. To the south of the town the southern escarpment is of particular importance being highly sensitive and in strong condition. There are a number of sites of local significance around the urban fringe whose condition is in decline. These areas would benefit from further protection and enhancement measures to ensure their long-term benefit to future generations. These include Hillmorton Locks, Newbold, Cosford, Newton and the River Avon corridor. There are large areas to the east of the town where the condition of the landscape is also in decline but which are in less sensitive locations. There is no landscape located within the urban fringe that is of low sensitivity⁴⁶.

Much of the west of the Borough, around Coventry, is Green Belt.

Cultural Heritage

Within Rugby Borough there are 19 Conservation Areas which are located in a number of the villages throughout the Borough and within the urban area. A Conservation Area covers a larger part of Rugby Town Centre with an additional designation covering the Rugby School grounds and adjoining residential/commercial areas. Beyond the urban area there is a large Conservation Area covering Coombe Abbey Registered Park and Garden and Listed Buildings. The remaining conservation areas are found in the following villages throughout the Borough:

- Brandon.
- Brinklow.
- Churchover.
- Clifton upon Dunsmore.
- Dunchurch.
- Easenhall.
- Leamington Hastings.
- Monks Kirby.
- Stretton-on-Dunsmore.
- Thurlaston.
- Wolston.

There are six Grade I Listed Buildings, 30 Grade II* Listed Buildings and 460 Grade II Listed Buildings in the Borough. In addition, there are 26 Scheduled Monuments and five Registered Gardens at Bilton Grange (Grade II), Coombe Abbey (Grade II*), Ryton House (Grade II), Newnham Paddox (Grade II) and Dunchurch Lodge (Grade II)⁴⁷.

There are 11 heritage assets which are classed as being 'at Risk' within the Borough, including one listed places of worship, 9 scheduled monuments and the Registered Garden at Ryton House⁴⁸.

Historic Landscapes

The dominating landscape feature of Rugby Borough is the town of Rugby, despite being a largely rural District with almost 80% of the landscape being fields. The development of the town has historically shaped the settlement pattern of the Borough⁴⁹. The town expanded rapidly in the late 19th and early 20th century due to its position on a canal and the crossroads of a number of main railways. Industrial sites sprang up close to the town centre, the canal and the railways.

⁴⁵ White Consultants (March 2011) Rugby Borough Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments

⁴⁶ Landscape Assessment of the borough of Rugby 2006

⁴⁷ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

⁴⁸ English Heritage (2015) Heritage at Risk Register

⁴⁹ Warwickshire County Council (2010) Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

One of the dominating industrial sites at Rugby is the cement works. In production since 1860, it is visible from miles around and has had a large impact on the town. Other extraction works include the large sand and gravel works at Ling Hall on Dunsmore Heath and smaller scale works elsewhere in the Borough. Despite this urban and industrial impact, fields make up most of the Borough. There is little coherent pattern in the mix of planned and irregular fields interspersed with very large post-war fields.

Another characteristic of the Borough is that it has little unimproved land. Most is scrub formed on disused 20th century extractive works. However in the medieval/post-medieval period there were some very large areas of common/heathland with Wolvey Heath in the north and Dunsmore Heath in the south, the later possibly forming an area over 3,700 hectares in extent and probably much larger.

Green Spaces

Rugby Borough Council is responsible for over 230 hectares of greenspace within the Borough. This includes a diverse portfolio including the Green Flag Award winning Caldecott Park, the newly created Diamond Jubilee Wood at Ashlawn Road and wildlife areas at Newbold Quarry Park^{50, 51}. An audit of open spaces within Rugby was carried out in 2008 as part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework, and it was found that access to green space overall within the urban area of Rugby is excellent, although there were a number of deficiencies highlighted in certain typologies including allotments and community gardens in the north and central part of the town. In the rural parts of the Borough it was concluded that accessibility is reasonable although local facilities such as play and allotments are in many areas sporadic and accessibility is an issue with some villages not having any provision. However for the typologies covering natural/semi natural green space and sports pitches, where driving accessibility is more relevant, accessibility was very good with no deficiencies identified⁵².

Waste

According to Defra, 46.9.0% of household waste collected in Rugby Borough was sent for reuse, recycling or composting in 2013/2014, which is average in comparison to other authorities in the West Midlands which have recycling rates that range from 28.76% (Birmingham City Council) to 59.06% (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)⁵³.

The total amount of household waste collected in the Borough during the year 2013-14 was 41,741 tonnes, and the total amount of non-household waste collected was 3,718 tonnes⁵⁴.

⁵⁰ Rugby Borough Council Green Space Strategy (March 2014)

⁵¹ http://www.rugby.gov.uk/site/scripts/directory_home.php?directoryID=2

⁵² Halcrow and Alliance Planning (2008) Rugby Open Space Audit

⁵³ Defra, Local authority collected waste generation from April 2000 to March 2014 (England and regions) and local authority data April 2013 to March 2014

⁵⁴ Defra, Local authority collected waste generation from April 2000 to March 2014 (England and regions) and local authority data April 2013 to March 2014