

# Statement of Clarification on the Population of Berkhamsted

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## Introduction

The purpose of this note is to clarify the confusion that occurred at the Examination on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in relation to population figures. The confusion relates to the area used and the year quoted.

## Areas of Assessment

Savills' assessment<sup>1</sup> does include Ashridge Ward within the Berkhamsted Study Area. This was because it, with Northchurch Ward, comprise a single Medium Super Output Area (MSOA).

MSOAs are statistically homogeneous areas defined by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). They are collections of smaller areas known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) that are in turn collections of Output Areas (OA). In many cases MSOA and Ward boundaries are broadly consistent with one another but this is not always the case. Very few statistics are now published for Wards. In particular, births, deaths and migration statistics are only reported at MSOA level. Mid Year Population Estimates (MYPE) are provided for LSOAs but most of the detail is only available at MSOA level. Dwelling numbers are available at all statistical areas but not for wards. For this reason MSOAs were used as the building blocks for the study areas, not wards.

To be clear:

- MSOA Dacorum 006 = Ashridge and Northchurch Wards
- MSOA Dacorum 009 = Berkhamsted Castle Ward
- MSOA Dacorum 012 = Berkhamsted West Ward
- MSOA Dacorum 014 = Berkhamsted East Ward

A map is also appended at Figure 1 at the end of this Statement

For the assessment the Borough was divided into six study areas with the population of surrounding rural areas included as part of the principle settlement. This is a consistent approach and is not something that has only been applied to Berkhamsted. It recognises the importance of these settlements as local service centres as envisaged in the RSS Policy SS4.

Northchurch is effectively now a continuum of Berkhamsted and Potten End (in Ashridge Ward) is in very close proximity (approximately 800m). It is accepted that there are other small settlements in Ashridge Ward (Little Gaddesdan, Ringshall and Nettleden etc) which does cover a wide area, but it was felt that most of the population of the MSOA Dacorum 006 would be in Northchurch and Potten End, and these would effectively form part of the same socio-economic catchment (i.e. for services they would gravitate towards Berkhamsted).

For the avoidance of doubt however it is possible to separate out Northchurch Ward, which is shown in Table 1.

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<sup>1</sup> See Savills representations to Dacorum Borough Council on the draft Core Strategy, November 2011. Report entitled 'Housing Demand and Socio-Economic Assessment', Page 34, Figure 5.1.

## Data Sources and Years

Mr Harbidge was correct in his assertion that the latest available Census data was from 2001 and that Berkhamsted's population (including Northchurch Ward) was 19,168, which is highlighted in Table 1. However, ONS provides Mid Year Population Estimates (MYPE) every year<sup>2</sup>. These are generally considered very accurate and are the basis for the ONS and DCLG population and household projections, not the 2001 Census in isolation.

The figure of 23,082 population for the Berkhamsted Study Area referred to by Savills in the Examination is the sum of the 2010 MYPEs for MSOAs Dacorum 006, 009, 012 and 014, and is highlighted in Table 1. For the Berkhamsted Study Area, the population has grown by 5.76% since 2001, as stated at the Examination, which is set out in Appendix 1 to our Participants Statement on Issue 6 (Page 16, Table 3.1).

Table 1: Population and Dwelling Statistics for the Geographies

Year	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	MSOA 006 (Ashridge + Northchurch Wards)		Northchurch Ward		Berkhamsted (MSOAs 009, 012, 014)		Berkhamsted Study Area		Berkhamsted & Northchurch	
	Pop <sup>2</sup>	Dw <sup>3</sup>	Pop <sup>2</sup>	Dw <sup>3</sup>	Pop <sup>2</sup>	Dw <sup>3</sup>	Pop <sup>2</sup> (A+E)	Dw <sup>3</sup> (B+F)	Pop <sup>2</sup> (C+E)	Dw <sup>3</sup> (D+F)
2001	5,317	2,314	2,661	1,226	16,507	7,000	21,824	9,314	19,168	8,226
2002	5,385	2,322	n/a	1,223	16,628	7,104	22,013	9,426	n/a	8,327
2003	5,394	2,353	n/a	1,241	16,685	7,150	22,079	9,503	n/a	8,391
2004	5,500	2,385	n/a	1,268	16,685	7,246	22,185	9,631	n/a	8,514
2005	5,463	2,391	n/a	1,276	16,651	7,287	22,114	9,678	n/a	8,563
2006	5,471	2,393	n/a	1,279	16,712	7,309	22,183	9,702	n/a	8,588
2007	5,494	2,397	n/a	1,291	16,822	7,375	22,316	9,772	n/a	8,666
2008	5,487	2,387	n/a	1,295	17,044	7,451	22,531	9,838	n/a	8,746
2009	5,460	2,397	n/a	1,291	17,402	7,641	22,862	10,038	n/a	8,932
2010	5,520	2,406	n/a	1,290	17,562	7,640	23,082	10,046	n/a	8,930
2011	n/a	2,411	n/a	1,291	n/a	7,706	n/a	10,117	n/a	8,997

- Notes:
1. Northchurch Ward comprises the following Output Areas (OA): E00118950, E00118956, E00118955, E00118952, E00118957, E00118949, E00118953, E00118954, E00118948, E00118951.
  2. Population data ('Pop') is taken from the 2001 Census and the 2002 to 2010 Mid Year Population Estimates (MYPE) produced by ONS. MYPE is available at MSOA geographies but not OA or Ward geographies.
  3. Dwellings data ('Dw') is taken from Council Tax Returns that are available from ONS.

<sup>2</sup> See Savills representations to Dacorum Borough Council on the draft Core Strategy, November 2011. Report entitled 'Housing Demand and Socio-Economic Assessment', Page 34, Paragraph 5.1.2

Figure 1: Clarification on the Boundaries of Wards and Medium Super Output Areas (MSOAs)

