

My inquiry pertains to essential datasets related to planning and development, which I believe are held by your office. Specifically, I am interested in obtaining the following in shapefile (.shp) format:

- 1. Settlement Boundaries: Defined perimeters that delineate areas where new development is generally permissible, contingent upon compliance with additional policies outlined in the Plan concerning the Council's developmental guidelines and restrictions.**

Wokingham Borough Council will not be releasing these requested GIS shapefile on the following grounds:

- a) Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 sets out an absolute exemption to an FOI request whereby the information is reasonably accessible to the applicant.**

The Council has made its GIS mapping data publicly available online, on the [Planning Policies and Constraints Map](#). The Council is not therefore obliged to provide the information requested, as it is already publicly available online.

- b) Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 sets out that FOI requests shall be refused where they could prejudice commercial interests of an organisation.**

The Ordnance Survey (OS) licensing agreement shared with public service bodies, including Wokingham Borough Council, makes it clear that FOI requests for OS data in digital format (including data that is derived from OS data) shall be refused, given that vector data can be commercially exploited and hence undermine the revenues of OS and its licensed partners.

- 2. Article 4 Directions: Specific legal tools used by local planning authorities to restrict permitted development rights in an area, primarily to protect the character of conservation areas or other significant architectural or historical significance.**

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- 3. Conservation Areas: Designated zones notable for their special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.**

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4. Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA): A comprehensive evaluation conducted to identify suitable land for housing development, aiming to ensure a sufficient supply to meet anticipated housing needs over a specific period.

An electronic copy of the council's latest Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) can be viewed and accessed on the council's website from the links below. The HELAA presents the latest assessment of promoted sites/land in the borough:

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Covering Report (November 2021) - https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/sites/wokingham/files/2023-07/Housing%20and%20Economic%20Land%20Availability%20Assessment%20Nov%202021_0.pdf

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Stage 1a Site identification and exclusion for hard constraints November 2021 (PDF) - <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/sites/wokingham/files/2023-07/HELAA%20-%201a%2C%201b%20Site%20Identification%2C%20Exclusion%20for%20Hard%20Constraints%20%281%29.pdf>

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Stage 2a Initial suitability sift November 2021 (PDF) - <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/sites/wokingham/files/2023-07/HELAA%20-%202a%20Initial%20Suitability%20Sift.pdf>

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Stages 2b, 2c Development potential and suitability November 2021 (Excel document) - <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/sites/wokingham/files/2023-07/HELAA%20-%202b%2C%202c%20Development%20Potential%2C%20Suitability%20protected.xlsx>

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Stages 2d, 2e, 2f Deliverability November 2021 (Excel document) - <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/sites/wokingham/files/2023-07/HELAA%20-%202d%2C%202e%2C%202f%20Availability%2C%20Achievability%2C%20Deliverability.pdf>

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