



Employment Land Survey 2013

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Introduction

- 1.1 The Employment Land Survey (ELS) monitors changes in employment land within Mid Devon.
- 1.2 However the ELS focuses on Classes B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution). The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines economic development as including development “within the B Use Classes, public and community uses and main town centre uses (but excluding housing development).”
- 1.3 This ELS covers the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Why Monitor?

- 1.4 The Council is required to produce monitoring reports to review the progress of its local plans and supplementary planning documents, and the extent to which the policies in the documents are being achieved. The Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document (AIDPD) sets out indicators and targets for this purpose.

Why Employment Land?

- 1.5 The NPPF requires that local planning authorities:

“plan proactively to meet the development needs of business and support an economy fit for the 21st century.”

“set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period.”

“ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area.”

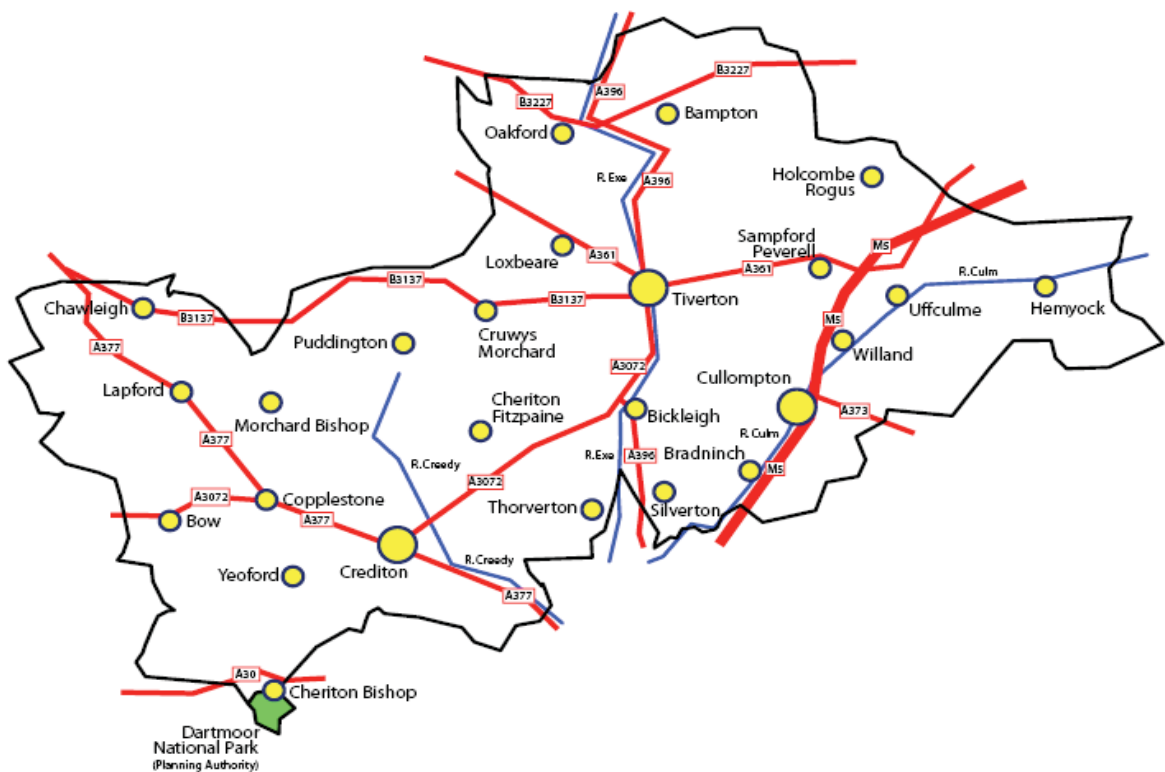
- 1.6 The ELS gives information about land allocations for employment purposes, sites with planning permission, sites under construction and vacant land available for development.
- 1.7 By looking at the ELS, a record of economic trends within Mid Devon is provided, not only of land and premises which have been developed but also the updated situation on land that is likely to be developed in the near future.

- 1.8 In terms of policy there are a number of ways the local authority can use the monitoring information contained within the ELS. It allows the authority to identify changing priorities for development in regard to the policies and proposals set out within the Development Plan. Trends can be looked at against existing policies and targets to determine whether revisions to adopted policy documents might be needed.
- 1.9 The ELS forms part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

Local Economy

Overview

- 2.1 Mid Devon is an inland area covering 913 square kilometres in the South West of England. It is one of the most sparsely populated authorities within England and Wales, with a population of approximately 78,335 and where the majority of residents live in settlements below 3,000 population.



- 2.2 The main concentration of people is found in the eastern part of the District. Tiverton (population approx 22,000) is roughly central to the district, located about 11km (7 miles) from Junction 27 of the M5 and the Tiverton Parkway mainline railway station at Sampford Peverell. The M5 passes through Cullompton (population approx 8,900) on its eastern side, with Junction 28 providing direct access to the town and the A373 running east towards Honiton. Crediton (population approx. 7,800) is the largest settlement in the west of the District, about 13kms (8 miles) from Exeter. (Source of population figures: Devon County Council – PPSA Estimates rounded).

Employment Structure

- 3.1 The large and economically successful urban areas of Exeter and Taunton are just beyond the southern and eastern boundaries of the district respectively and exert an influence over the Mid Devon economy. For example, 16% of Mid Devon's working population found employment in Exeter according to the 2001 Census. All three main towns have shown a reduction in people living and working in the same town over time. It is hoped that updated information from the 2011 Census can be reported in next year's ELS.
- 3.2 Working at home was increasing in the district at the time of the 2001 Census, 16.6% of employed people worked from home. The 2011 Census shows this has reduced to 10.6%. This may increase with the expansion of broadband and increased travel costs.
- 3.3 Manufacturing is particularly important in Mid Devon accounting for 21.2% of jobs compared to 12.6% in the sub-region (source Exeter City Council: Economic Trends Report, July 2013). In Mid Devon there continues to be a large number of employees in agriculture and forestry and with the M5 route through Mid Devon, land transport is a major sector. National trends generally show a continued decline in these sectors, which could be a potential threat to employment in Mid Devon.
- 3.4 Small and very small businesses are important to the local economy. 80.5% of Mid Devon businesses employ 1-4 people (source ONS). Rural parts of the district show higher proportions still. 15% of the economically active population is self-employed (2011 Census) and historically the proportion has been comparatively higher in the rural areas (2001 Census).
- 3.5 Approximately 1.6 % of the district's working population are claiming job seekers allowance (Official Labour Market Statistics 2013).
- 3.6 In the face of the current economic climate and the long term national decline in manufacturing the importance of an adequate supply of employment sites in addressing local economic need is clear.

Method

- 3.1 The period of monitoring for any particular year is between 1 April and 31 March. This ELS covers the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.
- 3.2 Information has been gathered on approvals, commitments, completions, sites under construction and employment land lost. This was achieved through a combination of desk-based assessment of planning history and site inspections. Staff in Development Management and Building Control also assisted in the process.
- 3.3 From 2008/09 all sites are included. Previously, sites were only taken into account if the new floorspace was over 100 sq.m.
- 3.4 For completions, the survey differentiates between individual Class B1, B2 and B8 applications. Changes of use applications between the use classes have not been included.
- 3.5 Development sites that involve the reuse of residential gardens are not considered 'brownfield'.

Employment Land Approvals

4.1 Table one below provides a yearly comparison of employment land approvals over the past year. It includes applications that have also been started and completed between April 2012 and March 2013. The figures include only sites which provide additional employment land or floor area. They do not for example include approval of reserved matters on a site which already has outline consent.

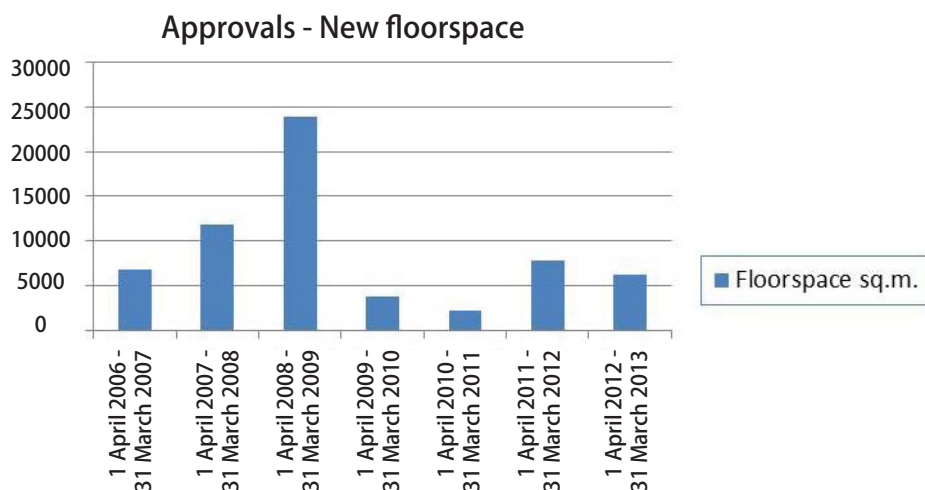
4.2 The floorspace total includes extensions or new buildings within the curtilage of existing premises and industrial estates, however these are not included within the area total. Only sites with a known floorspace provision are included in this figure.

4.3 The area total includes outline applications.

4.4 The amount of employment floorspace being approved has fluctuated over the years. Over the last five years an average of 8,763.61 sq.m has been approved, but approvals in 2009/10 and 2010/11 were unusually low. This year 6173.75 sq.m. has been approved. This has slightly decreased as last year 7838.25 sq.m was approved. The floorspace in comparison to the hectares shows efficient use of land.

Year (1 April to 31 March)	Approval Area (ha)	Floorspace (sq.m.)
Between 1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007	7.57	6825.52
Between 1 April 2007 - 31 March 2008	1.10	11790
Between 1 April 2008 - 31 March 2009	7.3844	23853.70
Between 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010	0.47	3807.89
Between 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011	0.212	2144.47
Between 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012	0.617	7838.25
Between 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013	1.317	6173.75

Table 1 – Employment Land Approvals



Employment Land Commitments

5.1 Table two indicates the total committed employment land for development for each year since 2006 i.e. land with a valid permission for employment use.

5.2 Included within Table 2 are approvals, previous years' commitments that are still valid and outline permissions.

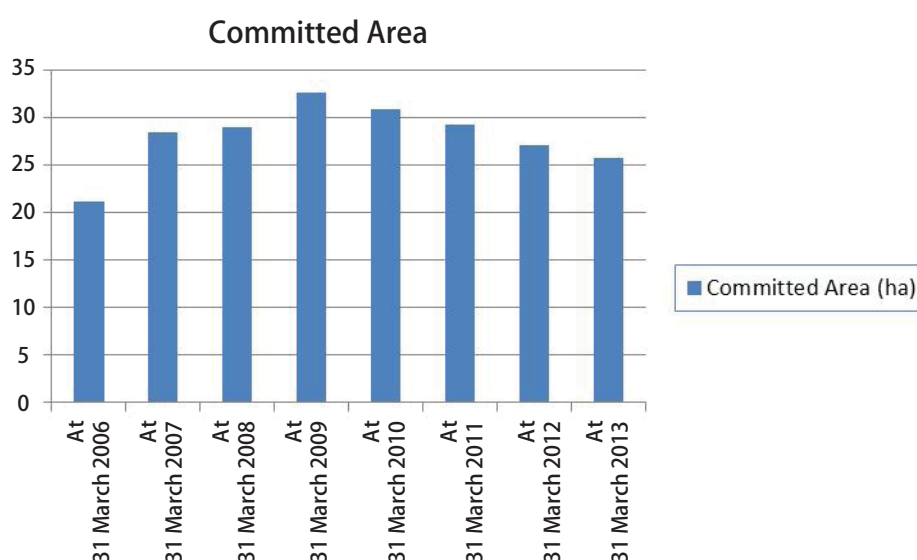
5.3 Excluded from Table 2 are local plan allocations without a current permission. Extensions or new buildings within the curtilage of existing premises and industrial estates are given a site area of 0ha.

5.4 Between 2001 and 2005 there was a gradual increase in the hectareage of committed land in Mid Devon, indicating a small but steady replacement of stock. Following this, there was a more significant increase due to planning permissions for a 10.45 ha industrial estate at Willand and two permissions for 5.06 ha and 6.30 ha developments in Cullompton. However, since 2009 commitments have been reducing. This year is slightly lower than last year.

Timeframe	Committed Area (ha)	Floorspace (m ²)
At 31 March 2006	21.195	
At 31 March 2007	28.453	(86091.94 sq.m)
At 31 March 2008	29.062	(86998.82 sq.m)
At 31 March 2009	32.6388	(111382.15 sq.m)
At 31 March 2010	30.8418	(105140.06 sq.m)
At 31 March 2011	29.2188	(96204.53 sq.m)
At 31 March 2012	27.1208	(95882.93 sq.m)
At 31 March 2013	25.7108	(90421.20 sq.m)

Table 2 – Employment Land Commitments

The floorspace showing in brackets in the above table includes both known floorspace figures and an assumed floorspace capacity on outline applications of 3500 sqm per hectare.



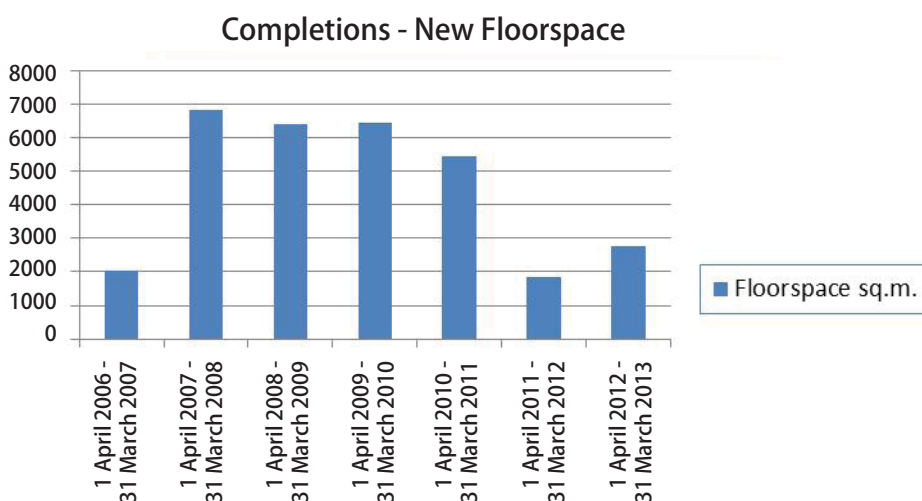
Employment Land Completions

6.1 Table three indicates employment completions or employment growth within a given year. It includes applications that have also been approved and started between April 2012 and March 2013.

6.2 The floorspace total includes extensions or new buildings within the curtilage of existing premises and industrial estates, however these are not included within the area total.

Year (1 April to 31 March)	Completed Area (ha)	% Brownfield (completed area (ha))	Floorspace (sq. m.)	% Brownfield (completed floorspace)
Between 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007	2.557	3.5	2044	42.6
Between 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008	1.82	4.5	6854	54.5
Between 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009	1.8172	20.36	6425.07	39.51
Between 1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010	0.345	76.8	6468	80.7
Between 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011	0.9345	43.9	5458.65	57.03
Between 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012	0.21	33.3	1839.6	79.9
Between 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013	0.752	70.21	2751.31	69.4

Table 3 – Employment Completions



6.3 Building rates can be attributed to a number of factors, for example the overall health of the local economy, availability of employment land for development and form of tenure of the land.

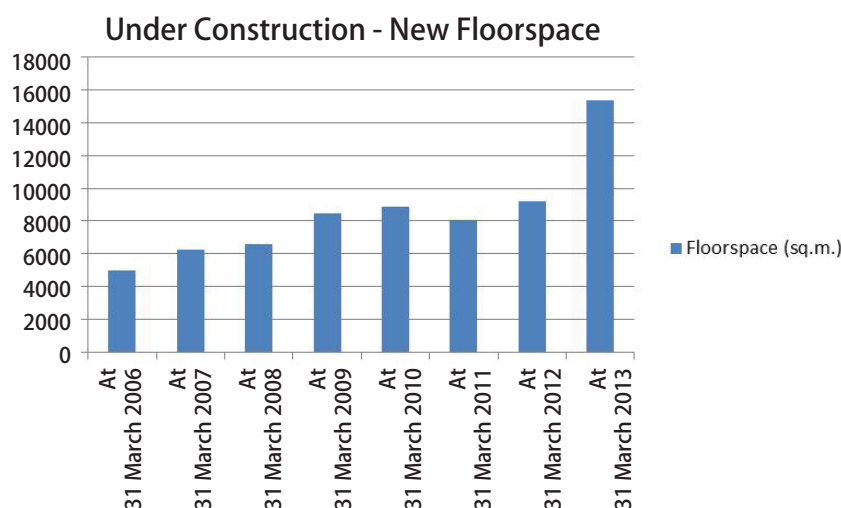
6.4 This year (2012 to 2013) there were a total of 13 permissions that were completed, which is a decrease from the year before (2011 to 2012), where 9 were completed.

Employment Land Under Construction

- 7.1 Looking at Employment land under construction (Table 4) can indicate how employment development is progressing and how it will develop over the coming year.
- 7.2 The floorspace total includes extensions or new buildings within the curtilage of existing premises and industrial estates. However, these are not included within the area total.

Timeframe	Construction Area (ha)	Floorspace (sq.m.)
At 31 March 2006	4.312	4986.17
At 31 March 2007	2.844	6267.17
At 31 March 2008	1.615	6569.29
At 31 March 2009	1.4234	8453.67
At 31 March 2010	2.1814	8832.65
At 31 March 2011	2.2569	8047
At 31 March 2012	2.8389	9172.15
At 31 March 2013	3.9219	15383.92

Table 4 – Under Construction



7.3 Floorspace under construction has tended to increase year-on-year since 2006, with a slight reduction in 2011. This year both the construction area and the floorspace have substantially increased due to a large site in Burlescombe commencing.

7.4 The amount of floorspace under construction is influenced by the availability of land coming onto the market, and the time taken for this 'availability' to translate into construction and ultimately completion. Poor economic conditions since 2009 resulted in a slowdown but this year's increase is a possible sign of recovery in the employment market.

Allocated Employment Land

- 8.1 The Council's Development Plan (which provides the legal basis for planning decisions) sets out detailed employment policies, including specific employment proposals – which are subject to individual policies.
- 8.2 The adopted Core Strategy states that an additional 290,000 sq.m of employment land is required by 2026 at 14,700 sq.m per annum or above 4.2 ha per annum.
- 8.3 The Allocations and Infrastructure DPD (AIDPD) allocations shown below were based on the above guideline, as well as taking into account past developments and existing commitments.
- 8.4 Table 5 indicates the current position of employment land allocated by the AIDPD which was adopted in October 2010.

Table 5 – Local Plan Allocations

Site	Location	Type	Policy	Total Area (ha)	Allocation remaining without permission at March 13.	Comment
Bourchier Close	Bampton	Greenfield	AL/BA/2	1.1	1.1	<i>Mixed Use Allocation Site (Housing & Employment). Whole Site 2.4 ha, 1.3 ha Housing, 1.1 ha / 4000 sq.m Employment.</i>
South Of Iter Cross	Bow	Greenfield	AL/BO/2	0.5	0.5	<i>Allocation of 0.5 ha / 17000 sq.m for Employment Development.</i>
South West of Junction Road	Bow	Greenfield	AL/BO/3	0.6	0.6	<i>Allocation of 0.6 ha / 2100 sq.m for Employment Development.</i>
South East of Village Hall	Kentisbeare	Greenfield	AL/KE/1	0.14	0.14	<i>Mixed Use Allocation Site (Housing & Employment) whole site 0.8 ha, 0.66 ha Housing, 0.14 ha / 500 sq.m Employment.</i>
Mill Street (Bow Belle)	Crediton	Brownfield	CRE5	0.5	0.5	<i>50% of 1 ha site is also for housing. Outline approved March 04 and it expired March 2009. Housing all fully completed in 09/10.</i>
Wellparks	Crediton	Brownfield	AL/CRE/7	1.5	1.5	<i>Allocation of 1.5 ha / 4150 sq.m for Employment Development.</i>
North West Cullompton	Cullompton	Greenfield	AL/CU/1	11.4	11.4	<i>Mixed Use Allocation Site (Housing & Employment) Whole Site 74.8ha, 63.4 ha Housing, 11.4ha/40000sq.m Employment.</i>
Week Farm	Cullompton	Greenfield	AL/CU/13	10.5	10.5	<i>Allocation of 10.5ha/15000 sq.m for Employment Development.</i>
Eastern Urban Extension	Tiverton	Greenfield	AL/TIV/1	27.1	27.1	<i>Mixed Use Site (Housing/Employment/Retail & Leisure). Whole Site 153 ha. Employment 27.1 ha / 112,500 sq.m which reflects median of range of employment for site (95,000 – 130,000).</i>
Blundells School	Tiverton	Brownfield	AL/TIV/9	2.00	2.00	<i>Mixed Use Allocation Site (Housing & Employment) Whole Site 14 ha, 12 ha Housing, 2 ha Employment @ 35% plot ratio (7000 sq.m).</i>
William Street	Tiverton	Brownfield	AL/TIV/13	0.2	0.2	<i>Mixed Use Allocation Site 0.9 ha (Housing, Employment, Retail). Full permission granted Dec. 09, Expired Dec. 12. New permission granted Sep. 12 (Retail).</i>
South View Road	Willand	Greenfield	WI1	10.45	0	<i>Outline approved Dec.05. Reserved matters approved Nov.07 for part of Phase 1 - 0.42 ha and it was completed 08/09. Another part of Phase 1 - 0.29 ha approved Mar. 09. This commenced 09/10 and completed in 10/11.</i>

Employment Land Lost

9.1 Table 6 details the loss of employment land between 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

Site	Location	Area (ha)	Reason	Use Class Lost
Tanners Yard, 100 High Street	Crediton	0.01ha	Residential	B1a
East Culme Offices	Cullompton	0.006ha	Residential	B1a
Swintons Insurance, 2 Station Road	Tiverton	0.01ha	Residential	B1a
60 Bampton Street	Tiverton	0.005ha	Residential	B1a
8 – 10 Barrington Street	Tiverton	0.02ha	Residential	B1a + B8
16 St Peters Street	Tiverton	0.01ha	Residential	B1a
Westcountry Housing Association	Uffculme	0.05ha	Non Residential Institution D1	B1
		Total: 0.111ha		

Table 6 – Employment Land Lost

9.2 The loss of employment land has slightly increased from 0.106ha for 11-12 to 0.111ha for 12-13. Any loss of employment land can be attributed to a number of factors for example lack of demand in the future for that employment use, site constraints and increased demand for other uses e.g. residential, retail. Losses of employment land continue to be small, indicating strong demand and a protective policy approach in recent years.

Area Summary

10.1 Table 7 shows the 'urban'/'rural' picture within Mid Devon with regards employment land development.

Area	Commitment (At 31 March 2013) sq.m. below includes assumed floorspace on outline applications (3500 sqm per ha)		Approvals (Between 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013)		Under Construction (At 31 March 2013)		Completed (Between 1 April 2012– 31 March 2013)		Other
	(ha)	(sq.m.)	(ha)	(sq.m.)	(ha)	(sq.m.)	(ha)	(sq.m.)	
Rural Parishes	11.1008	42205.65	1.298	5027.45	3.4419	9102.92	0.412	1402.18	6 Local Plan Allocations totalling 13.79 ha. The allocation at Willand has two small parts completed, and the remainder with outline permission. Bampton (BA1) is half completed, the rest remains with outline planning permission. Currently one allocated site in Bampton, two in Bow and one in Kentisbeare have no planning permission.
Urban (Crediton, Cullompton & Tiverton)	14.610	48215.55	0.019	1146.3	0.48	6281	0.34	1349.13	7 Local Plan Allocations totalling 53.20 ha. None have planning permission.

Table 7 – Area Summary

10.2 Last year (11-12) there was slightly more committed land in both the urban and rural areas. This year (12-13) there is slightly less in both areas. There are more approvals in the rural areas, less in the urban areas. There are more under construction in both areas. Completions have not changed much in either area.

10.3 The urban areas (ha) have more committed development land than rural areas. However the rural areas (ha) are higher for new approvals, sites under construction and for completions.

Conclusion

- 11.1 The percentage of approvals, sites under construction and completions on brownfield sites is fairly erratic, however Mid Devon is a rural district and therefore it should be recognised that there is only a limited supply of brownfield land available at any one time. Also there is often pressure for non-employment uses, for example residential or retail when such sites become available for redevelopment.
- 11.2 There tends to be a lot more greenfield developments in Mid Devon i.e. conversions of agricultural buildings to employment use, as there is diversification away from traditional farming.
- 11.3 A lot of employment development within Mid Devon is in the form of extensions to existing buildings or new buildings within the curtilage of an existing building therefore the area (ha) figure can look fairly low.
- 11.4 The increases in floorspace along with the smaller area totals are a good indication that employment land is being developed on already existing sites.
- 11.5 Looking forward into the next year (April 2013 to March 2014) there has been an increase in the number of approvals in rural areas, however less in urban areas. There have been increases in those under construction in both areas. There have been slight decreases in commitments in both areas. There is more allocated employment land since the adoption of the AIDPD in 2010.
- 11.6 The slower development of new employment floorspace provision relates to the change in the current economic climate and the competition from nearby larger employment centres such as Exeter and Taunton. Large allocated sites have been slow to come forward, but Masterplanning for the urban extension at Tiverton is underway, including an expectation of 35,000 square metres employment floorspace. The Employment Land Review (2013) recommends a rationalisation of employment allocations to reflect market demand and deliverability. This will be taken into account in the Local Plan Review.

Completions by site 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

Site	Use Class	Greenfield/ Brownfield	Completed Area (ha)	New Floorspace (sq.m.)
Bampton				
			-	-
			Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00
Crediton				
Creative Furniture	B1a	B	0.02	213
			Total: 0.02	Total: 213
Cullompton				
Aller Barton Farm	B1c	B	0.05	465.13
Double 'S' Exhausts Ltd.	B8	B	0.00	170
			Total: 0.05	Total: 635.13
Tiverton				
Lowman Green	B1a	B	0.27	501
			Total: 0.27	Total: 501
Elsewhere				
Courtneys Garage, Coplestone	B2	B	0.01	29.08
Middle Hollacombe, Crediton Hamlets	B2	G	0.034	291
Trobridge, Crediton Hamlets	B1c	B	0.018	176
Old Ridgewood Farm, Hemyock	B1c	G	0.02	197
Westhayes, Kentisbeare	B1c	G	0.15	187
Lapford MOT & Service Centre, Lapford	B2	B	0.00	65.10
Moor Farm, Shobrooke	B1a	B	0.14	120
Court Barton, Thorverton	B1a	G	0.02	167
Higher Pitt Farm, Washfield	B1a	B	0.02	170
			Total: 0.412	Total: 1402.18
			Total: 0.752	Total: 2751.31

Current commitments by town as at 31 March 2013

Site	Greenfield/ Brownfield	Area (ha)	New Floorspace (sq.m.) Floorspace shown in brackets is assumed floorspace on outline applications of 3500 sq.m. per ha.
Bampton			
		-	-
		Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00
Crediton			
Exeter Road	G	3.0	9050
1 Parliament Street	B	0.01	100
33 Marsh Road	B	0.00	235.1
		Total: 3.01	Total: 9385.1
Cullompton			
Week Farm	G	5.06	14178
Old Station Yard	B	0.22	1018
South of Kingsmill Road	G	6.304	(22064)
Kings Mill Road	B	0.00	635
Church Hall, Langford	B	0.009	84
Dalgety Arable Ltd.	B	0.00	154
Gregory Distribution	B	0.00	360
		Total: 11.593	Total: 38493
Tiverton			
Oxfam, 10 Fore Street	B	0.007	79.25
Brooklands (Unit 7)	B	0.00	45
Howden Industrial Estate	B	0.00	65
Protectaseal Ltd	B	0.00	148.2
		Total: 0.007	Total: 337.45

Elsewhere			
Unique Furniture & Joinery, Bow	B	0.00	57.7
Maidendown Stage, Burlescombe	B	0.00	299.4
Jersey Farm, Burlescombe	G	0.12	1175
XTZ Machine Tools Ltd Burlescombe	B	0.17	1653
Station Yard, Chawleigh	B	0.00	50.75
White Cross Farm, Cheriton Fitzpaine	B	0.02	169
Chapel Downs, Crediton Hamlets	G	0.10	527
Pennymoor Timber, Cruwys Morchard	B	0.00	559.3
Hitchcocks Farm, Halberton	G	0.04	473
Hitchcocks Farm, Halberton	G	0.58	1296
Former St Ivel Factory, Hemyock	B	0.27	512.5
Unit 6, Station Yard, Hemyock	B	0.00	145
Warren Farm, Kentisbeare	G	0.03	300
Exmoor Stoves, Morebath	B	0.03	336
Industrial Estate, Willand	G	9.7308	(34057)
2 Sisters Food Group, Willand	B	0.00	485
Building off Gisage Hill, Zeal Monachorum	G	0.01	110
		Total: 11.1008	Total: 42205.65
		Total: 25.7108	Total: 90421.20

Under construction by town as at 31 March 2013

Site	Greenfield/ Brownfield	Area (ha)	New Floorspace (sq.m.)
Bampton			
		-	-
		Total: 0.00	Total: 0.00
Crediton			
Fordton	B	0.10	1074
Page Partners Ltd.	G	0.00	230
Commonmarsh Lane	B	0.02	240
		Total: 0.12	Total: 1544
Cullompton			
Pumping Station	B	0.02	150
Higher Kings Mill Ltd.	B	0.33	3398
		Total: 0.35	Total: 3548
Tiverton			
Tiverton Fabrications	B	0.00	412
Norwood Farm, Uplowman	B	0.01	150
O & B Vehicle Solutions	B	0.00	27
Aston Manor	B	0.00	600
		Total: 0.01	Total: 1189
Elsewhere			
Maidendown Stage, Burlescombe	B	1.56	4323
Mounson Farm, Cheriton Bishop	B	0.21	694.75
Gollick Park, Clayhidon	G	0.11	128
Higher Elston, Copplestone	G	0.02	197
Sellake Barn, Halberton	G	0.01	105
Rowridge Farm, Halberton	G	0.005	74
Culmbridge Farm, Hemyock	G	0.30	204
Shuttleton Farm, Hemyock	G	0.01	144
Upper Whitemoor, Hemyock	G	0.01	81
Greenham Ind. Estate, Holcombe Rogus	B	0.47	973
Kytton Barton, Holcombe Rogus	G	0.01	100
Long Drag, Kentisbeare	G	0.08	150
East of Higher Pirzwell, Kentisbeare	B	0.03	355
Royal Oak House, Loxbeare	B	0.01	50
Meadowside Garage, Sandford	B	0.062	88.17
Down Farm, Stockleigh English	G	0.0069	54
Thorverton Mill, Thorverton	B	0.53	1302
Former Gas Works, Uffculme	B	0.008	80
		Total: 3.4419	Total: 9102.92
		Total: 3.9219	Total: 15383.92

Contacts

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