Northampton Local Plan Part 2

Habitats Regulations Assessment

HRA Report
Prepared by LUC
March 2019
**Project Title:** Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) SA and HRA

**Client:** Northampton Borough Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version Details</th>
<th>Prepared by</th>
<th>Checked by</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>17/01/19</td>
<td>Draft for client review</td>
<td>Katherine Sydney</td>
<td>David Green</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>31/01/18</td>
<td>Final for submission (Reg. 19)</td>
<td>Katherine Sydney</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>22/03/19</td>
<td>Updated to reflect minor Local Plan changes</td>
<td>Katherine Sydney</td>
<td>Jon Pearson</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northampton Local Plan Part 2

Habitats Regulations Assessment

HRA Report
Prepared by LUC
March 2019
# Contents

1 **Introduction**  
- Background to the preparation of the Local Plan Part 2  
- The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans  
- Stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment  
- Recent case law changes  
- Previous HRA work  
- Structure of the HRA report  

2 **The Local Plan**  

3 **HRA methodology**  
- Screening  
- Appropriate Assessment  

4 **HRA screening**  

5 **Appropriate Assessment**  
- Physical habitat loss or damage  
- Loss of supporting habitat  
- Changes to bird sightlines  
- Fragmentation  
- Non-physical disturbance  
- Recreation pressure  
- Pet predation  
- Changes to water supply and water level management  
- Changes to water quality  
- Air pollution  
- Assessment summary  

6 **Conclusions**  

**Appendix 1**  
- Attributes of the European sites with the potential to be affected by the Local Plan  

**Appendix 2**  
- Plans and projects with the potential for in-combination effects  

**Appendix 3**  
- Scoping matrix  

**Appendix 4**  
- Allocated sites assessed in the HRA
Tables
Table 1.1 Stages in HRA 4
Table 3.1 Stages of HRA screening 10
Table 3.2 Potential impacts and activities arising from implementation of the Local Plan that could adversely affect European sites 11
Table 6.1 Recommended policy amendments 49

Figures
Figure 2.1 Allocated sites 9
Figure 4.1 Location of European sites 16
Figure 5.1 Supporting habitat: allocated sites in relation to Golden Plover and Lapwing habitat 23
Figure 5.2 Bird sightlines: allocated sites within 250m of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site 24
Figure 5.3 Non-physical disturbance: allocated sites within 2km of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site 28
Figure 5.4 Recreation pressure: residential sites within 3km of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site 34
Figure 5.5 Pet predation: residential sites within 1.5km of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site 37
Figure 5.6 Traffic contribution to pollutant concentration at different distances from the road centre 45
1 Introduction

1.1 LUC has been commissioned by Northampton Borough Council to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its Local Plan. This report presents the methodology and findings of the HRA of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2, Submission Draft Consultation (December 2018) (hereafter called ‘the Local Plan’).

Background to the preparation of the Local Plan Part 2

1.2 Northampton Borough Council (NBC) is producing a new Local Plan for the Borough. Once adopted, the Local Plan will set out policies and guidance for development of the Borough over the next ten years to 2029. The Local Plan (Part 2) will replace the saved policies from the Northampton Local Plan adopted in 1997 and the Central Area Action Plan.

1.3 The West Northamptonshire Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) was adopted in December 2014 and covers the administrative areas of Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire. It sets out the long term vision and objectives for the whole of the West Northamptonshire Area for the plan period up until 2029. This Joint Core Strategy forms part of the Development Plan for Northampton Borough.

1.4 Northampton Borough Council’s Local Plan (Part 2) provides detailed planning policies to manage and guide development across the Borough.

The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

1.5 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2010 and again in 2012. These updates were consolidated into the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

1.6 The HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European Sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):

- SPAs are classified under the European Council Directive “on the conservation of wild birds” (79/409/EEC; ‘Birds Directive’) for the protection of wild birds and their habitats (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species);
- SACs are designated under the Habitats Directive and target particular habitats (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.

1.7 Currently, the Government also expects potential SPAs (pSPAs), possible SACs (pSACs) and Ramsar sites to be included within the assessment.

- Ramsar sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971).

1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 1012) consolidate the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments.
2 Department of Communities and Local Government (July 2018) National Planning Policy Framework (para 176).
1.8 Candidate SACs (cSACs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), which are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated by the government, must also be considered.

1.9 For ease of reference during HRA, these three designations are collectively referred to as European sites, despite Ramsar designations being at the wider international level.

1.10 The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or whole development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site’s ‘qualifying features’ (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated). Significantly, HRA is based on the precautionary principle. Where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse effect should be assumed.

**Stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment**

1.11 Table 1.1 summarises the stages involved in carrying out a full HRA based on various guidance documents.\(^3\)\(^4\) This HRA presents the methodology and findings of Stage 1: Screening and Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

**Table 1.1 Stages in HRA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1: Screening (the 'Significance Test')</td>
<td>Description of the plan. Identification of potential effects on European Sites. Assessing the effects on European Sites.</td>
<td>Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect report'. Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (the 'Integrity Test')</td>
<td>Gather information (plan and European Sites). Impact prediction. Evaluation of impacts in view of conservation objectives. Where impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options. Assess alternative options. If no alternatives exist, define and evaluate mitigation measures where necessary.</td>
<td>Appropriate Assessment report describing the plan, European site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the European site, how these effects will be avoided through, firstly, avoidance, and secondly, mitigation including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures. If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered proceed to Stage 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation</td>
<td>Identify and demonstrate 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI). Demonstrate no alternatives exist. Identify potential compensatory measures.</td>
<td>This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.12 In assessing the effects of the Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017\(^5\), there are potentially two tests to be applied by the

---


\(^4\) The HRA Handbook. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document: https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/

\(^5\) SI No. 2017/2012
competent authority: a ‘Significance Test’, followed if necessary by an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the ‘Integrity Test’. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 105(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not –

- Step 2: Under Reg. 105(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the 'Significance Test'). [These two steps are undertaken as part of Stage 1: Screening shown in Table 1.1 above.] If Yes –

- Step 3: Under Reg. 105(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of its current conservation objectives (the 'Integrity Test'). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 105(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 105(3) to take the opinion of the general public. [This step is undertaken during Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment shown in Table 1.1.]

- Step 4: In accordance with Reg.105(4), but subject to Reg.107, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.

1.13 It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the avoidance of likely significant effects at Stage 1, and through Appropriate Assessment at Stage 2 by the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid, reduce or abate effects. The need to consider alternatives could imply more onerous changes to a plan document. It is generally understood that so called ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’ (IROPI) are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with both the Government and European Commission.

1.14 The HRA should be undertaken by the ‘competent authority’ - in this case NBC, and LUC has been commissioned to do this on its behalf. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body6 in order to obtain the necessary information and agree the process, outcomes and any mitigation proposals.

**Recent case law changes**

1.15 This HRA has been prepared in accordance with recent case law findings, including most notably the recent ‘People over Wind’ and ‘Holohan’ rulings from the Court of Justice for the European Union (CJEU).

1.16 The recent People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (April 2018) judgment ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive should be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures should be assessed as part of an Appropriate Assessment, and should not be taken into account at the screening stage. The precise wording of the ruling is as follows:

"Article 6(3) must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site."

1.17 In light of the above, the HRA screening stage does not rely upon avoidance or mitigation measures to draw conclusions as to whether the Local Plan could result in likely significant effects on European sites, with any such measures being considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage as relevant.

1.18 This HRA also fully considers the recent Holohan v An Bord Pleanala (November 2018) judgement which stated that:


---

must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that, where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the ‘appropriate assessment’ must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

1.19 In undertaking this HRA, LUC has fully considered the potential for effects on species and habitats, including those not listed as qualifying features, to result in secondary effects upon the qualifying features of European sites, including the potential for complex interactions and dependencies. In addition, the potential for offsite impacts, such as through impacts to functionally linked land, and or species and habitats located beyond the boundaries of European site, but which may be important in supporting the ecological processes of the qualifying features, has also been fully considered in this HRA.

Previous HRA work

Review of Local Plan (Part 2) site options (2017)

1.20 LUC was commissioned to undertake some initial work reviewing Northampton Borough Council’s Local Plan site allocation options, with reference to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. HRA screening was not carried out as the preferred sites had not been identified at that stage; however, the report considered the types of effects that could arise as a result of the Local Plan and whether it was possible to rule any out.

1.21 That work provides background information for this HRA report, but this HRA has been fully assessed in line with the case law that has been determined since 2017.

HRA of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2007-2013)

1.22 In 2007 an HRA screening report was prepared for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. This identified likely significant effects at Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site. These sites were therefore investigated further through Appropriate Assessment which took place between 2009 and 2013, as the Appropriate Assessment was continually updated alongside the emerging Joint Core Strategy. A final HRA addendum was submitted in 2013 for the Proposed Main Modifications Joint Core Strategy. The Joint Core Strategy was adopted on 15th December 2014.

1.23 Some of the evidence gathered during the HRA work for the Joint Core Strategy has been referenced within this report.

---

7 http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpj.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2757328#2757328
Structure of the HRA report

1.24 This chapter (Chapter 1) has introduced the requirement to undertake HRA of the Local Plan. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2: The Local Plan** summarises the content of the Submission Draft Consultation version of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2, which is the subject of this report.

- **Chapter 3: HRA methodology** sets out the approach used and the specific tasks undertaken during the screening stage of the HRA.

- **Chapter 4: HRA screening** describes the findings of the screening stage of the HRA.

- **Chapter 5: Appropriate Assessment** sets out the methodology and findings of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

- **Chapter 6: Conclusions** summarises the HRA conclusions and describes the next steps to be undertaken.
2 The Local Plan

2.1 Northampton Local Plan Part 2 contains the development management policies and site allocations that will guide development within the Borough for the period to 2029. It forms part of the Development Plan for Northampton, against which planning applications will be determined (unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise), alongside:

- The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (Local Plan Part 1); and
- Any ‘made’ Neighbourhood Plans (currently Duston, Spring Boroughs, and ‘Growing Together’).

2.2 The Local Plan sets out an overall vision for the Borough and 13 overarching objectives that define Northampton’s policy priorities. It then sets out 33 development management policies and an additional five policies that provide site-specific design principles for five of the larger allocated sites. Each of the development management policies identifies one or more corresponding policies from the JCS that will be implemented through the Local Plan policy. For example, Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area delivers JCS Policy BN4 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area. Although policies from both plans are related in this way, both apply to development in Northampton.

2.3 Each of the policies is listed in the scoping matrix in Appendix 3.

2.4 In total, 95 sites are allocated for development, as shown in Figure 2.1, comprising:

- 74 sites for residential development;
- 11 sites for commercial development; and
- 10 sites for mixed residential / commercial development.

2.5 The sites allocated for residential development are intended to provide 4,749 new homes over the plan period. 1,496 of these are to make up for a shortfall in the delivery of homes planned for by the JCS. The JCS identified a housing target for Northampton of 18,870 new homes by 2029, and 5,138 homes were built between 2011 and 2018, with a further 12,236 yet to be built on sites identified in the JCS. The target number of new homes within the plan period (to 2029) is therefore unlikely to be met. The 4,749 new homes in the Local Plan are intended to meet the requirements for the anticipated JCS shortfall (1,496), a 20% buffer (20% of 18,870, or 2,746), plus an additional 507 homes.

2.6 The 18,870 homes planned in the JCS have already been subject to HRA, including the 1,496 shortfall now incorporated into the Local Plan. When considering the potential in-combination effects of the Local Plan and JCS, therefore, the additional number of homes generated by the Local Plan is 3,253 and the total number of homes across the two plans is 22,123 (of which 16,985 are not yet built).
Figure 2.1: Allocated Sites

Northampton Borough Council
Other Local Authority
Allocated employment site
Allocated residential site

1 - LAA1006
2 - LAA0719
3 - LAA0720
4 - LAA0903
6 - LAA1121
7 - LAA1099
8 - LAA0208
9 - LAA0629c
10 - LAA0629r
12 - LAA0870
13 - LAA1140
14 - LAA1112
16 - LAA0594c
17 - LAA0594r
18 - LAA1118
19 - LAA1025
20 - LAA1096
21 - LAA1071
22 - LAA1002
24 - LAA1037
25 - LAA1035
26 - LAA1034
27 - LAA0195
28 - LAA1119
29 - LAA0168
30 - LAA1009
31 - LAA1036
32 - LAA0180
33 - LAA0682
34 - LAA1100
35 - LAA0180c
36 - LAA1068
38 - LAA0338
39 - LAA1048
40 - LAA0672
43 - LAA1052
44 - LAA1109
45 - LAA0403
46 - LAA1005
47 - LAA1131
48 - LAA0333c
49 - LAA0333r
50 - LAA1026
51 - LAA2086c
52 - LAA2086r
53 - LAA0931
54 - LAA1108
58 - LAA0598
59 - LAA1014
60 - LAA0818
61 - LAA0817
62 - LAA1117
63 - LAA1126
64 - LAA1089
66 - LAA1024
68 - LAA1088
72 - LAA1022
74 - LAA0174
76 - LAA1136
77 - LAA1113
79 - LAA0598
80 - LAA1127
82 - LAA1132
83 - LAA1134
84 - LAA1134
85 - LAA1116
86 - LAA1123
87 - LAA1117
88 - LAA1124
89 - LAA1014
90 - LAA0335
91 - LAA0335
92 - LAA0335
93 - LAA0335
94 - LAA0335
95 - LAA0335
96 - LAA0335
97 - LAA1070
98 - LAA1137
99 - LAA1137
100 - LAA1137
101 - LAA1137
102 - LAA1137
103 - LAA1137
104 - LAA1137
105 - LAA1137
106 - LAA1137
107 - LAA1137
108 - LAA1137
109 - LAA1137
110 - LAA1137
111 - LAA1137
112 - LAA1137
113 - LAA1137
114 - LAA1137
115 - LAA1137
116 - LAA1137
117 - LAA1137
118 - LAA1137
119 - LAA1137
120 - LAA1137
121 - LAA1137
122 - LAA1137
123 - LAA1137
124 - LAA1137
125 - LAA1137
126 - LAA1137
127 - LAA1137
128 - LAA1137
129 - LAA1137
130 - LAA1137
131 - LAA1137
132 - LAA1137
133 - LAA1137
134 - LAA1137
135 - LAA1137
136 - LAA1137
137 - LAA1137
138 - LAA1137
139 - LAA1137
140 - LAA1137

3 HRA methodology

Screening

3.1 HRA Screening of the Local Plan has been undertaken in line with current available guidance and seeks to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. The Habitats Regulations require screening to involve the stages outlined in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Stages of HRA screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulation</th>
<th>Stage required by Regulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reg. 63(1)</td>
<td>1) Determine whether the plan or project is within the scope of the Habitats Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Determine whether the plan or project is of a type that could possibly have any (positive or negative) effect on a European site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) Determine whether the plan or project is directly connect with or necessary to the management of the European sites potentially affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4) Identify the European sites potentially adversely affected and their conservation objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5) Determine whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant adverse effect on any European site alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6) Determine whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant adverse effect on any European site in combination with other plans or projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reg. 63(2)</td>
<td>7) Requires the information necessary to decide whether the plan or project would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reg. 67</td>
<td>8) Coordination where more than one competent authority is involved in screening the plans or projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Local Plans fall within the scope of the Habitats Regulations (screening stage 1; see paragraph 1.5) and Northampton Borough Council is the competent authority with regards to screening the Local Plan (screening stage 8). The information required to determine whether the Local Plan is likely to have a significant effect (screening stage 7) is set out below and in Chapter 4.

3.3 The methodology for the remainder of the stages is described below; Chapter 4 HRA Screening Assessment provides the responses to each stage with reference to the Local Plan.

Identifying types of potential impact from the Local Plan

3.4 Table 3.2 sets out the range of potential impacts that development of the type included in the Local Plan and related activities may have on European sites. This table has been prepared by LUC for use in informing HRA judgements, drawing on our experience of HRA and comments previously provided by Natural England relating to the potential impacts and activities that could affect European sites.

---

8 Adapted from the HRA Handbook David Tyldesley & Associates: https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broad categories and examples of potential impacts on European sites</th>
<th>Examples of activities responsible for impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical loss</strong></td>
<td>Development (e.g. housing, employment, infrastructure, tourism)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Removal (including offsite effects, e.g. foraging habitat)</td>
<td>Structural alterations to buildings (bat roosts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Smothering</td>
<td>Afforestation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Habitat degradation</td>
<td>Tipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cessation of or inappropriate management for nature conservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical damage</strong></td>
<td>Flood defences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Direct mortality</td>
<td>Dredging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sedimentation / silting</td>
<td>Recreation (e.g. motor cycling, cycling, walking, horse riding, water sports, caving)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prevention of natural processes</td>
<td>Development (e.g. infrastructure, tourism, adjacent housing etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Habitat degradation</td>
<td>Vandalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Erosion</td>
<td>Arson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trampling</td>
<td>Cessation of or inappropriate management for nature conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fragmentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Severance / barrier effect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Edge effects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-physical disturbance</strong></td>
<td>Development (e.g. housing, industrial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Noise</td>
<td>Recreation (e.g. dog walking, water sports)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vibration</td>
<td>Industrial activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Visual presence</td>
<td>Vehicular traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Human presence</td>
<td>Artificial lighting (e.g. street lighting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Light pollution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water table/availability</strong></td>
<td>Water abstraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Drying</td>
<td>Drainage interception (e.g. reservoir, dam, infrastructure and other development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Flooding / stormwater increase</td>
<td>Increased discharge (e.g. drainage, runoff)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water level and stability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water flow (e.g. reduction in velocity of surface water)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Barrier effect (on migratory species)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toxic contamination</strong></td>
<td>Oil / chemical spills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Water pollution</td>
<td>Tipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Soil contamination</td>
<td>Vehicular traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Air pollution</td>
<td>Industrial waste / emissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-toxic contamination</strong></td>
<td>Sewage discharge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nutrient enrichment (e.g. of soils and water)</td>
<td>Water abstraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Algal blooms</td>
<td>Industrial activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Changes in salinity</td>
<td>Flood defences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Changes in thermal regime</td>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Changes in turbidity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Air pollution (dust)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biological disturbance</strong></td>
<td>Development (e.g. housing areas with domestic and public gardens)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Direct mortality</td>
<td>Predation by domestic pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Out-competition by non-native species</td>
<td>Introduction of non-native species (e.g. from gardens)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Selective extraction of species</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Introduction of disease</td>
<td>Hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rapid population fluctuations</td>
<td>Changes in management practices (e.g. grazing regimes, access controls, cutting / clearing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Natural succession</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Identifying European sites that may be affected

3.5 Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data has been used to map the locations and boundaries of European sites using publicly available data from Natural England. All European sites lying partially or wholly within 15 km of the Local Plan boundary have been included, to reflect the fact that policies in the Local Plan may affect European sites that are located outside of the administrative boundary of the Plan. The 15 km distance has been agreed with Natural England for HRAs elsewhere and is considered a precautionary method of identifying European sites that could potentially be affected by development. Nevertheless, a check has been made to identify any further-distant European sites that could be significantly affected by development within Northampton Borough due to links (e.g. hydrological or ecological) with the Plan area.

Assessment of 'likely significant effects' of the Local Plan

3.6 Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 20179 (the ‘Habitats Regulations’), requires an assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of a land use plan. Relevant case law helps to interpret when effects should be considered as a likely significant effect, when carrying out HRA of a land use plan.

3.7 In the Waddenzee case10, the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (translated into Reg. 102 in the Habitats Regulations), including that:

- An effect should be considered ‘likely’, "if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site” (para 44).
- An effect should be considered ‘significant’, "if it undermines the conservation objectives" (para 48).
- Where a plan or project has an effect on a site "but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned” (para 47).

3.8 A relevant opinion delivered to the Court of Justice of the European Union11 commented that:

“The requirement that an effect in question be ‘significant’ exists in order to lay down a de minimis threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on the site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill.”

3.9 This opinion (the ‘Sweetman’ case) therefore allows for the authorisation of plans and projects whose possible effects, alone or in combination, can be considered ‘trivial’ or de minimis; referring to such cases as those “that have no appreciable effect on the site”. In practice such effects could be screened out as having no likely significant effect – they would be 'insignificant'.

3.10 The HRA screening assessment therefore considers whether the Local Plan policies could have likely significant effects either alone or in combination.

In-combination effects

3.11 Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 requires an Appropriate Assessment where "a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site". Therefore, where likely significant effects are identified for the Local Plan it is necessary to consider whether there may also be significant effects in combination with other plans or projects.

3.12 The first stage in identifying ‘in-combination’ effects involves identifying which other plans and projects in addition to the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 may affect the European sites that are the focus of this assessment. There are a large number of potentially relevant plans and projects which could be considered. The review focuses largely on planned spatial growth within the

---

9 SI No. 2017/2012
10 ECJ Case C-127/02 “Waddenzee” Jan 2004.
11 Advocate General’s Opinion to CJEU in Case C-258/11 Sweetman and others v An Bord Pleanala 22nd Nov 2012.
authorities adjacent to or near Northampton, because these are the plans most likely to give rise to in-combination effects, for example in relation to water use or recreation pressure. Water Resource Management Plans have also been considered as these plans directly affect the region’s reservoirs and the rivers that feed them, including Rutland Water and the River Nene.

3.13 The following plans have been considered:
- Joint Core Strategies (Local Plan Part 1) for West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire;
- Local Plans (Part 2) for local authorities bordering Northampton;
- Northamptonshire County Council’s Transportation Plan and Minerals & Waste Plan;
- Neighbourhood plans within Northampton; and

3.14 Appendix 2 outlines the components of each plan that could have an impact on nearby European sites. The potential for the effects of these plans to combine with the effects of the Local Plan has been considered in the HRA screening and subsequent Appropriate Assessment.

Appropriate Assessment

3.15 Following the screening stage, if likely significant effects on European sites are unable to be ruled out, the plan-making authority is required under Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 to make an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of the implications of the plan for European sites, in view of their conservation objectives. EC Guidance12 states that the Appropriate Assessment should consider the impacts of the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of European sites with respect to their conservation objectives and to their structure and function.

Assessment scope

3.16 The scope of the Appropriate Assessment has been narrowed down by identifying the specific aspects of the Local Plan that contribute to its potential for significant effects. Each Local Plan policy and site allocation has been considered, alone and in-combination with other policies, site allocations and/or plans from neighbouring authorities.

3.17 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle has been adopted in the assessment, such that a conclusion of ‘no significant effect’ has only been reached where it is considered unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a Local Plan policy or site allocation would have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site.

3.18 For some types of impacts, the potential for likely significant effects has been determined on a proximity basis, using GIS data to determine the proximity of potential development locations to the European sites that are the subject of the assessment. However, there are many uncertainties associated with using set distances as there are very few standards available as a guide to how far impacts will travel. Therefore, where assumptions have been made, these are set out in Chapter 5.

3.19 A ‘traffic light’ approach has been used in the scoping matrix to record the likely impacts of each policy and site allocation on European sites and their qualifying habitats and species, using the colour categories shown below.

---

Red | There are likely to be significant effects (scoped in to Appropriate Assessment).
Amber | There may be significant effects, but this is currently uncertain (scoped in to Appropriate Assessment).
Green | There are unlikely to be significant effects (scoped out of Appropriate Assessment).

3.20 The Appropriate Assessment then focuses on those policies and site allocations that have been scoped in.

**Assessing the effects on site integrity**

3.21 A site’s integrity depends on it being able to sustain its ‘qualifying features’ (i.e. those Annex 1 habitats, Annex II species, and Annex 1 bird populations for which it has been designated) and to ensure their continued viability. A high degree of integrity is considered to exist where the potential to meet a site’s conservation objectives is realised and where the site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management support.

3.22 A conclusion needs to be reached as to whether or not the Local Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. As stated in the EC Guidance, assessing the effects on the site(s) integrity involves considering whether the predicted impacts of the Local Plan policies (either alone or in combination) have the potential to:

- Cause delays to the achievement of conservation objectives for the site;
- Interrupt progress towards the achievement of conservation objectives for the site;
- Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site;
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site;
- Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem;
- Change the dynamics of relationships that define the structure or function of the site (e.g. relationships between soil and water, or animals and plants);
- Interfere with anticipated natural changes to the site;
- Reduce the extent of key habitats or the population of key species;
- Reduce the diversity of the site;
- Result in disturbance that could affect the population, density or balance between key species;
- Result in fragmentation; or
- Result in the loss of key features.

3.23 The conservation objectives for each European site (Appendix 1) are generally to maintain the qualifying features in favourable condition. The Site Improvement Plans for each European site provide a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the European features on the site(s) and outline the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. These have been drawn on to help to understand what is needed to maintain the integrity of the European sites.

3.24 For each European site where an uncertain or likely significant effect has been identified in relation to the Local Plan, the potential impacts have been set out and judgements made (based on the information available) regarding whether the impact will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Consideration has been given to the potential for mitigation measures to be implemented that could reduce the likelihood or severity of the potential impacts such that there would not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.
4 HRA screening

4.1 The HRA screening of the Local Plan has determined that Appropriate Assessment is required, as likely significant effects from the plan’s policies and site allocations cannot be ruled out through screening. The reasoning for this is presented below, in response to each screening stage (Table 3.1).

Is the Local Plan of a type that could possibly have any (positive or negative) effect on a European site?

4.2 The Local Plan will result in several of the types of activity that could have impacts on European sites (Table 3.2). The Local Plan will result in new development (e.g. housing, employment and infrastructure), which will have associated impacts (e.g. changes to traffic distribution, types or distribution of recreation, water abstraction and discharge, light or noise).

Is the Local Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European sites?

4.3 No; the Local Plan is not connected with or necessary to the management of any European sites.

Which European sites could be potentially adversely affected?

4.4 Only one European site is located within 15 km of the Northampton Local Plan boundary: the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site. Although not within the 15 km buffer zone, Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, located 41 km from the edge of the Local Plan boundary, has also been included in the screening assessment. This is because the reservoir is a primary source of urban water supply for Northamptonshire and could be affected by changes in water demand, for example as a result of new homes. Figure 4.1 shows the location of the two sites.

4.5 The attributes of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site are set out in Appendix 1. These have been identified with reference to Standard Data Forms for the SPAs, Ramsar Information Sheets13 for the Ramsar sites, and Natural England’s Site Improvement Plans14.

4.6 Natural England’s conservation objectives15 for the SPAs have also been reviewed. These state that site integrity must be maintained or restored by maintaining or restoring the habitats of qualifying features, the supporting processes on which they rely, and populations of qualifying species.

Is the Local Plan likely to have a significant adverse effect on any European site alone?

4.7 Likely significant effects from the Local Plan cannot be ruled out at the screening stage: the Local Plan allocates development across the Borough, and both Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site have been identified as being sensitive to the types of activities that result from development.

Is the Local Plan likely to have a significant adverse effect on any European site in combination with other plans or projects?

4.8 Likely significant effects from the Local Plan in combination with other plans and projects cannot be ruled out at the screening stage. Neighbouring authorities have also allocated development that could affect Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site or the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site.

---

13 Obtained from the Joint Nature conservation Committee website (www.jncc.gov.uk)
14 Obtained from the Natural England website (www.naturalengland.org.uk)
15 Obtained from Natural England website http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216
5 **Appropriate Assessment**

5.1 The HRA screening has identified the need for Appropriate Assessment, as likely significant effects from the Local Plan (alone or in combination with other projects or plans) cannot be ruled out without further assessment.

5.2 The scope of the Appropriate Assessment has been narrowed down by considering each Local Plan policy in turn, to determine whether they would result in the type of development that could have an effect on a European site; this is set out in Appendix 3. For each type of impact that has been identified, the assessment considers the effects on each of the two European sites, the elements of the Local Plan (and other plans or projects, where relevant) that would have those effects, and any mitigation or safeguards in place that would reduce the effects. The Appropriate Assessment then considers whether there would be an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site.

### Physical habitat loss or damage

5.3 Physical habitat loss or damage at a European site can occur when a new development physically encroaches on the boundary of that European site.

**Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site**

5.4 Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site is not located within the boundary of the Local Plan area, and therefore it will not be subject to any physical habitat loss or damage from any Northampton site allocations or other development, and does not need to be considered further.

5.5 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of physical habitat loss or damage, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

**Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site**

5.6 The southern end of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site falls partly within the Northampton Borough boundary and therefore potential habitat loss or damage has been considered in relation to the Local Plan.

5.7 None of the allocated sites fall within the borders of this European site; however, some of the Local Plan’s policies permit new development outside of the site allocations. In most cases development permitted by those policies is limited to identifiable areas such as the University campus, existing employment areas, the town centre or wider central area.

5.8 The following policies permit new development outside of identifiable areas:

- **Policy 11: Development of main town centre uses**
  Permits the regeneration of unallocated sites beyond the town centre and central area, for housing and mixed use development;

- **Policy 17: New retail developments and retail impact assessment**
  Permits retail development at edge-of-centre and some out-of-centre sites; and

- **Policy 20: Community services and facilities**
  Permits new or extended community facilities.

5.9 Although these policies could in theory permit development within the SPA and Ramsar site, safeguards provided by other policies within the Local Plan would make this unlikely to occur:

- **Policy 25: Supporting and enhancing biodiversity**
  Requires proposals to "conserve, enhance and increase the net gain for biodiversity. In particular, the Council will seek the protection or enhancement of wildlife sites that are in**
areas which are...of national or international importance, specifically the Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits”. This provides specific protection for the SPA/Ramsar and it is unlikely that the loss of or damage to SPA/Ramsar habitat would be permitted; and

- **Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**
  Requires that “all new development proposals within 3km of the Special Protection Area must demonstrate, where necessary through a series of mitigation measures, that their proposals will not contribute to the disturbance and subsequent decline of the bird species for which the site is designated”. Development within the SPA/Ramsar would be likely to disturb birds and therefore be unlikely to be permitted.

5.10 Policies within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy provide further safeguards:

- **Policy BN4 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**
  Provides more comprehensive protection from the potential loss of or damage to SPA/Ramsar habitat: “New development will need to demonstrate through the development management process that there will be no significant adverse effects upon the integrity of the Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and the species for which the land is designated...either as a direct result of the development alone or in combination.”

- **Policy BN2 Biodiversity**
  Safeguards designated sites and encourages a net gain in biodiversity; and

- **Policy BN8 The River Nene Strategic River Corridor**
  Provides general protection for the biodiversity of the River Nene corridor.

5.11 In addition, any unallocated development proposals coming forward under Policies 11, 17 and 20 within the boundaries of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site would require project-level Appropriate Assessment, with the objective of ensuring that such development proposals do not give rise to adverse effects on integrity either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

5.12 **With safeguards provided by policies within the Local Plan and Joint Core Strategy, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of physical habitat loss or damage, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

### Loss of supporting habitat

5.13 Habitat loss could affect the integrity of a European site if it occurs in an area that supports a qualifying species population of a European site, for example the loss of an area used for offsite foraging or roosting by a site’s qualifying bird species.

5.14 The potential effect of air pollution on supporting habitat is discussed under ‘Air pollution’ (paragraph 5.136).

### Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.15 The site’s qualifying species are birds so it could therefore be affected by the loss of supporting habitat. Supporting habitat for the site’s qualifying species are: open water; neutral grassland; fen / marsh swamp; and broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland. However, due to the distance (41km) of the site from Northampton Borough, it is not considered that significant supporting habitat will lie within the Local Plan area. The Local Plan area is relatively urban and any potential areas of habitat for waterbirds (for example grassland) are more likely to be associated with the nearby Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site than Rutland Water, which has suitable supporting habitats much closer to it.

---

5.16 There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of loss of supporting habitat, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

5.17 Natural England’s Supplementary Advice on Conserving and Restoring Site Features for the SPA\textsuperscript{17} identifies the following species for which offsite supporting habitat is important:

- Great Bittern: feed within and outside the SPA boundary, mainly around Titchmarsh, Grendon and Stanwick. These locations are all outside the Local Plan area, therefore supporting habitats for Great Bittern are not considered likely to be affected by the Local Plan;
- Golden Plover: Feed in agricultural land surrounding their main roost locations at Stanwick, Earls Barton (Summer Leys) and Northamptonshire Washlands, and often fly many kilometres to feed. Northamptonshire Washlands is within the Local Plan area, therefore supporting habitat for Golden Plover could be affected by the Local Plan; and
- Lapwing: have a similar distribution to Golden Plover, therefore supporting habitat for Golden Plover that could be affected by the Local Plan are also relevant to Lapwing.

5.18 Wigeon feed at similar habitat as Golden Plover but do not travel as far to feed, so are not considered to make significant use of offsite habitat.

5.19 Agricultural land, particularly where close to ‘Northampton Washlands’ (the portion of the SPA that falls within the Local Plan area) could therefore be considered to be supporting habitat for Golden Plover and Lapwing from Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site.

5.20 As part of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy HRA\textsuperscript{18} and in consultation with Natural England, survey work\textsuperscript{19} was carried out in order to understand the potential effects of the Joint Core Strategy on supporting habitat used by Golden Plover and Lapwing. The findings of this work provided the basis for further discussion between the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and Natural England to identify areas that could potentially be developed and whether the adverse effects on the SPA/Ramsar qualifying bird species could be avoided and/or mitigated. One outcome of this work was a map, produced to show the quality of supporting habitat for Golden Plover and Lapwing to the south east of Northampton. The supporting habitat identified in this map has been digitised by LUC and overlaid with the Local Plan’s allocated sites, as shown in Figure 5.1.

5.21 One allocated site falls within areas that could provide optimal or sub-optimal supporting habitat for Golden Plover and/or Lapwing:

- **LAA1098: The Green, Great Houghton**
  Allocates 771 homes on a mix of optimal and sub-optimal supporting habitat.

5.22 This site is allocated for development under the following policies:

- **Policy 12: Housing and other housing led allocation**
  Allocates the site and defines its quantum of housing development; and
- **Policy 36: The Green, Great Houghton**
  Sets principles for development at the site.

5.23 In addition to the allocated site, the following policies permit (smaller scale) development that could fall within areas identified as providing optimal or sub-optimal supporting habitat for Golden Plover and/or Lapwing:

- **Policy 11: Development of main town centre uses**
  Permits the regeneration of unallocated sites beyond the town centre and central area, for housing and mixed use development;

\textsuperscript{17} Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA Conservation Objectives supplementary advice (2017)
http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5495529882517504
\textsuperscript{18} West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Pre Submission Appropriate Assessment, Environ UK Ltd, 2011.
\textsuperscript{19} Survey Work to Support the Appropriate Assessment for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, Environ UK Ltd, 2010
• **Policy 16: Supporting new employment developments and schemes within and outside safeguarded areas**
  Permits employment development in areas outside of identified safeguarded sites, for example small-scale development within other mixed use developments;

• **Policy 17: New retail developments and retail impact assessment**
  Permits retail development at edge-of-centre and some out-of-centre sites; and

• **Policy 20: Community services and facilities**
  Permits new or extended community facilities.

5.24 The loss of supporting habitat is susceptible to cumulative effects as the loss of multiple areas of habitat fragments the habitat available. Other plans that could also result in the loss of supporting habitat include:

• West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy: Northampton South of Brackmills SUE lies in an area identified as optimal / suboptimal for Golden Plover and/or Lapwing. The plan also permits development outside allocated sites e.g. transport improvements;

• South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan: the Plan area includes habitat identified as optimal / suboptimal for Golden Plover and/or Lapwing that could be affected, should development be permitted there; and

• Northamptonshire Transport Plan: the Plan area includes habitat identified as optimal / suboptimal for Golden Plover and/or Lapwing that could be affected, should development be permitted there.

5.25 These plans have themselves been subject to HRA.

5.26 None of the policies within the Local Plan provide specific mitigation for the loss of supporting habitat. However, **Policy BN4 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**, within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, provides specific protection from the loss of supporting habitat:

> “New development will need to demonstrate through the development management process that there will be no significant adverse effects upon the integrity of the Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and the species for which the land is designated including the loss of supporting habitat...either as a direct result of the development alone or in combination.”

5.27 Policies BN2 and BN8 also provide general protection. The Joint Core Strategies apply to development in both Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire. The same wording is included in Policy NE1 of the South Northamptonshire Local Plan.

5.28 Site LAA1098 (The Green, Great Houghton) has been identified for potential development. Therefore, as it will need to demonstrate that new development will not have an adverse effect on SPA/Ramsar and because Policy 36 sets out the principles for development at the site, the Local Plan needs to include any mitigation measures that would be required.

5.29 The size of the fields at LAA1098 (the species favours larger fields, where it can retain good sightlines) and its proximity to the SPA/Ramsar site (c.1.5km) mean that it is reasonably likely that the site is used by Golden Plover and/or Lapwing. However, from aerial photography, the site consists of three arable fields that are bordered by woodland, a road, and houses. It is unlikely that the site provides unique features that cannot be found at other areas of habitat nearby, and more suitable habitat (e.g. surrounded by other fields, or pasture) may be found elsewhere. As a precaution, therefore, Golden Plover and Lapwing surveys should be carried out at the site to identify whether the site is used by over-wintering birds from the SPA/Ramsar. If significant numbers of Golden Plover or Lapwing are identified at the site, mitigation will be required for the loss of habitat. Appropriate mitigation would involve the enhancement of another area of habitat, a similar distance from the SPA/Ramsar and of the same area or greater, such that sub-optimal/unsuitable habitat becomes optimal for Golden Plover or Lapwing, to ensure that the overall quality and availability of feeding resources for these species is maintained. Given the non-unique nature of these fields, there is a high degree of confidence in the ability to deliver such mitigation if required. This commitment will need to be written into the wording of Policy 36 prior to the adoption of the Local Plan, although the bird surveys could be carried out during January and February 2019, rather than waiting until the following winter.
5.30 In addition, any unallocated development proposals coming forward under Policies 11, 16, 17 and 20 within areas identified as optimal / suboptimal for Golden Plover and/or Lapwing would require project-level Appropriate Assessment, with the objective of ensuring that such development proposals do not give rise to adverse effects on integrity either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

5.31 With mitigation provided by policies within the Joint Core Strategy and with the recommended additional mitigation included within Policy 36, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site as a result of loss of supporting habitat, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Changes to bird sightlines

5.32 Many birds rely on good sightlines to detect predators and during take-off. Tall buildings or structures in close proximity to European sites designated for bird species could affect the integrity of the site by reducing bird sightlines and therefore the suitability of the site’s habitat.

Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.33 As Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site is not located within Northampton Borough, it will not be affected by changes to bird sightlines resulting from the Local Plan.

5.34 There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of changes to bird sightlines, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

5.35 Work undertaken for the HRA of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy considered the sensitivity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar bird species to changes to sightlines. This work concluded that maintenance of unobstructed lines of sight is particularly important for Golden Plover and Lapwing. As a result, Policy BN4 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area, within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy requires the following:

“...in order to protect sightlines for birds included within the Special Protection Area and Ramsar site designations, new development within a 250m zone of the Special Protection Area...must undertake an assessment to demonstrate that it will not have a significant adverse effect on birds within the Clifford Hill Basin [Northampton Washlands] or, if directly adjacent to existing buildings, should reflect surrounding building heights.”

5.36 The following allocated sites are within 250m of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site (Figure 5.2) and would therefore need to mitigate any potential effects on bird sightlines, in accordance with Joint Core Strategy Policy BN4:

- **LAA1101: Land at Waterside Way**
  A commercial site 45m away that would advance the urban edge towards the European site; and

- **LAA1107: Former Abington Mill Farm, land off Rushmere Road**
  A residential site 150m away that would advance the urban edge towards the European site.

5.37 However, taking their immediate surroundings into consideration, both sites are afforded a degree of screening; by existing buildings (LAA1101), the A45 road (LAA1107), and the trees at the edges of these (both). It is likely that sensitive design of these sites would enable development to occur without adversely affecting bird sightlines.

5.38 These sites are allocated for development by:

---

20 Environ, 2010, Survey work to support the Appropriate Assessment for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, Report of elements 3 and 4.
• **Policy 12: Housing and other housing-led allocation**
  Defines the quantum of development at LAA1107; and

• **Policy 33: Development allocations**
  Identifies site LAA1101 for (commercial) development.

5.39 Other policies (or plans) that permit development outside of allocated sites could also result in development within 250m of the SPA/Ramsar.

5.40 Policy BN4 provides specific mitigation for effects on bird sightlines, as quoted above. Further general protection is given at the local level with:

• **Policy 25: Supporting and enhancing biodiversity**
  Requires proposals to "conserve, enhance and increase the net gain for biodiversity. In particular, the Council will seek the protection or enhancement of wildlife sites that are in areas which are...of national or international importance, specifically the Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits." This provides specific protection for the SPA/Ramsar and it is unlikely that adverse effects on bird sightlines would be permitted; and

• **Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**
  Requires that "all new development proposals within 3km of the Special Protection Area must demonstrate, where necessary through a series of mitigation measures, that their proposals will not contribute to the disturbance and subsequent decline of the bird species for which the site is designated". An adverse effect on bird sightlines is a form of disturbance and would therefore not be permitted.

5.41 In addition, any unallocated development proposals coming forward (i.e. Policies 11, 16, 17 and 20) within 250m of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site would require project-level Appropriate Assessment, with the objective of ensuring that such development proposals do not give rise to adverse effects on integrity either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

5.42 **With mitigation required by policies within the Joint Core Strategy and Local Plan, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of changes to bird sightlines, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**
Northampton Local Plan Part 2 HRA

Figure 5.1: Supporting Habitats - Allocated Sites in Relation to Golden Plover and Lapwing Habitat

- Northampton Borough Council
- Allocated site
- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)

Habitat suitability for Golden Plover or Lapwing
- Optimal
- Sub-optimal
- Unsuitable

Source: Northampton BC, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit
Figure 5.2: Bird Sightlines - Allocated Sites within 250m of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar Site

- Northampton Borough Council
- Allocated site
- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)
- 250m zone around Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)

Source: Northampton BC, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

Map Scale @ A3: 1:15,000
Fragmentation

5.43 Fragmentation could occur where development splits up physically- or functionally-continuous tracts of habitat (within the SPA/Ramsar sites or offsite) into smaller, remnant patches with adverse effects on their functionality and the integrity of the species populations they support.

Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.44 As Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site is not located within Northampton Borough, it will not be affected by fragmentation as a result of the Local Plan.

5.45 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of fragmentation, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

5.46 Fragmentation of habitats within the SPA and Ramsar site will not occur as this would require the loss or damage of habitats within the European site (see paragraphs 5.6 to 5.12).

5.47 Development within areas supporting habitat (i.e. that used by Golden Plover or Lapwing in the south east of the Local Plan area; see Figure 5.1) could cause fragmentation by reducing the size of habitat area or by physically splitting up habitats. These effects are therefore assessed under ‘loss of supporting habitat’ (see paragraph 5.17 to 5.31).

5.48 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of fragmentation, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

Non-physical disturbance

5.49 Noise, vibration and light effects, for example from construction or new developments, can affect bird and other sensitive species. However, development must be close to the European sites or their supporting habitats, for these effects to be significant.

Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.50 Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site is too far (41km) from the Local Plan area for the plan’s development to give rise to noise, vibration or light disturbance that would affect the site.

5.51 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of non-physical disturbance, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

5.52 Sensitivities identified in the citations for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site include “other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities” (SPA Standard Data Form) and “unspecified development: urban use – activities connected with ongoing urban development cause significant disturbance to wintering birds if unmanaged” (Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands). This site is therefore sensitive to non-physical disturbance.

5.53 It is considered that the effects of noise, vibration and light on this European site only have the potential to be significant if the source of disturbance is within 2km of its boundary. This is consistent with the SPA’s consultation zone for all proposals likely to generate significant noise and for large commercial / industrial development, as set out in the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), 2015. Significant noise in this context is illustrated in the SPD by the example ‘clay pigeon shoot’.

---

21 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Supplementary Planning Document, August 2015
5.54 Six allocated sites are within 2km of the SPA/Ramsar (Figure 5.3):

- **LAA1101: Land at Waterside Way**
  Commercial site, c.45m away;
- **LAA1107: Former Abington Mill Farm, land off Rushmere Road**
  Residential site (125 homes), c.150m away;
- **LAA1138 Land south of Bedford Road / north of sports ground**
  Residential site (7 homes), c.550m away;
- **LAA1098: The Green, Great Houghton**
  Residential site (771 homes), c.1,260m away;
- **LAA1139: Ransome Road**
  Residential site (250 homes), c.1,730m away.
- **LAA0915: 118-122 Wellingborough Road**
  Commercial and residential site (12 homes), c.1,910m away; and
- **LAA0496: 57 Artizan Road**
  Residential site (10 homes), c.1,950m away.

5.55 However, when the physical surroundings of each site are taken into consideration, the potential for significant effects is unlikely. Sites LAA0915 and LAA0496 are small sites well within the existing urban area and on the outer edge of the 2km buffer. LAA1138 is also small and separated from the SPA/Ramsar by a major road and some urban development and trees. LAA1098 and LAA1139 are larger sites but on the edge of the 2km buffer and separated from the SPA/Ramsar by major roads and some urban development. At LAA1098, most of the area of site that is within the 2km buffer will be used for ecological enhancement and not built upon. These sites are unlikely to result in significant non-physical disturbance.

5.56 Sites LAA1101 and LAA1107 are closer to the SPA/Ramsar. As identified in relation to bird sightlines, both sites are afforded a degree of screening; by existing buildings (LAA1101), the A45 road (LAA1107), and the trees at the edges of these (both). These sites could result in non-physical disturbance of the SPA/Ramsar.

5.57 These sites are allocated for development under the following policies:

- **Policy 12: Housing and other housing led allocation**
  Allocates the sites and defines the quantum of housing development; and
- **Policy 33: Development allocations**
  Allocates all sites within the Local Plan and therefore (excluding housing development resulting from Policy 12) is responsible for the allocation of commercial development and the non-residential elements of mixed use sites.

5.58 Policies 11, 16, 17 and 20 also permit development outside of allocated sites.

5.59 Individually, these residential or commercial developments may not generate significant noise, vibration or light. However, without mitigation, they could contribute to a general urbanising effect in combination with other policies that permit development outside allocated sites (Policies 11, 17 & 20) and development from other plans:

- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy: permits development outside allocated sites in Northampton e.g. transport improvements;
- South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan: parts of the north of the District are within 2km of the SPA/Ramsar;
- Northamptonshire Transport Plan: identifies transport schemes in Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire and
- Northamptonshire Minerals & Waste Plan: an area adjacent to the SPA/Ramsar (but outside Northampton Borough) has been identified for gravel extraction.

5.60 These plans have themselves been subject to HRA.

5.61 The main policy that requires mitigation for potential non-physical disturbance effects is:
• **Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**
  Requires that "all new development proposals within 3km of the Special Protection Area must demonstrate, where necessary through a series of mitigation measures, that their proposals will not contribute to the disturbance and subsequent decline of the bird species for which the site is designated". This provides specific protection against disturbance.

5.62 The following policies also provide general protection for the SPA/Ramsar:

• **Policy 25: Supporting and enhancing biodiversity**
  Requires proposals to "conserve, enhance and increase the net gain for biodiversity. In particular, the Council will seek the protection or enhancement of wildlife sites that are in areas which are...of national or international importance, specifically the Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits."

• **Policy BN4 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**, within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy: "New development will need to demonstrate through the development management process that there will be no significant adverse effects upon the integrity of the Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and the species for which the land is designated...either as a direct result of the development alone or in combination."

• **Policy BN2 and Policy BN8** within the Joint Core Strategy also provide general protection for biodiversity and the River Nene corridor.

5.63 In line with the requirements of these policies, sites LAA1101 and LAA1107 and any other developments with the potential to result in non-physical disturbance (for example those in locations with little existing screening from the SPA/Ramsar, or larger sites with the potential to have an urbanising effect) will need to demonstrate that they will not have a significant effect on the European site, for example through sensitive design.

5.64 In addition, any unallocated development proposals coming forward under Policies 11, 16, 17 and 20 within areas identified as optimal / suboptimal for Golden Plover and/or Lapwing would require project-level Appropriate Assessment, with the objective of ensuring that such development proposals do not give rise to adverse effects on integrity either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

5.65 **With mitigation required by policies within the Local Plan and Joint Core Strategy, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of non-physical disturbance, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**
Figure 5.3: Non-Physical Disturbance - Allocated Sites within 2km of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar Site

- Northampton Borough Council
- Allocated site
- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)
- 2km zone around Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)
Recreation pressure

5.66 Recreational activities can have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site, for example from physical damage, including erosion and trampling of habitat, or fires; and the disturbance of fauna, including from human presence, dog walking or water sports.

5.67 Where the Local Plan would be likely to increase the number of people living close to or visiting sensitive European sites, the potential for increased recreation pressure has been assessed. Consideration has been given to factors such as the characteristics and current recreational use of European sites and their accessibility. The nature of development proposed has also been taken into account. For example, employment sites are considered unlikely to result in a significant increase in recreation pressure as employees will be at work for the majority of the time they are there.

Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.68 Rutland Water is 41km from the Local Plan area, but is a tourism destination known for its water sports that attracts people from a wide area. Public access and disturbance has been identified as a threat to the SPA (see Appendix 1).

5.69 There is some historic visitor data available for Rutland Water. This data was collected as part of a PhD thesis in 1992; therefore it should be used with a degree of caution. This study found the majority of visitors (c.81%) to be on day trips and that around half of all visitors had visited three or four times in the previous 12 months. The study found that approximately 33% of visitors lived less than 19 miles (approximately 30.5km) away. Some of the visitors to the Rutland Water will therefore be from the Northampton Borough area.

5.70 The SPA and Ramsar site at Rutland Water comprises open water, along with terrestrial/wetland habitats at the western edge of the lake. The SPA/Ramsar terrestrial/wetland habitats are managed as a Wildlife Trust nature reserve. Visitor numbers to the whole SPA/Ramsar are managed to minimise impacts on wildlife: access to the nature reserve is only accessible by purchasing a permit, and dogs are excluded from the most sensitive areas of the reserve. Access to the open water is restricted through the use of permits for water sports or fishing. The rest of the lake edge (not within the SPA/Ramsar site) is freely accessible to visitors (e.g. walkers and cyclists). Only a portion of the overall visits to Rutland Water will therefore be to within the SPA and Ramsar boundary.

5.71 It is considered that Rutland Water is too far from Northampton Borough for the Local Plan alone to result in significant increases in visitor numbers to the SPA and Ramsar site. The Local Plan could contribute to an increase in visitor numbers in combination with development plans from other authorities close to Rutland Water; however, the permitting system enables visitor numbers to the SPA/Ramsar to be controlled such that significant effects from recreation pressure are not likely.

5.72 There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of recreation pressure, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

5.73 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site lies within Northampton Borough and therefore receives visitors from the Local Plan area.

5.74 The Standard Data Form for the SPA identifies outdoor sports and leisure activities or recreational activities as a threat / pressure. The Ramsar Information Sheet states that access by people and dogs both on and off public rights of way is a significant cause of disturbance in some areas and that the site is also subject to a variety of recreational activities including fishing and water...
sports. The Site Improvement Plan confirms the existence of a potential threat of recreational disturbance (particularly from walkers and dog owners) to wintering birds by reducing the time available for feeding, and increasing energy expenditure when avoiding those sources of disturbance. Research shows that disturbance from human recreational activities in wetlands can cause problems for wildfowl. Detailed local studies of the effects of visitor behaviour on bird behaviour and numbers have shown that people and dogs can disturb the SPA’s birds as they feed and roost.

5.75 A 2014 visitor access study for the SPA found that visitor rates correlate with proximity to residential areas and that they decline rapidly with distance such that a relatively small proportion of people visit from distances beyond 3km of the surveyed access points. Approximately half of visitors surveyed were walking dogs, almost all (98%) were on a short visit from home, most (77%) arrived by car, and most were frequent visitors (60% visited at least once per week).

5.76 The visitor access study findings are reported in the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPD, which states that "recreational disturbance is the most significant threat to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA". The SPD further notes that demand for access and recreational activities in the Nene Valley is increasing along with disturbance to the birds for which the SPA is designated. It goes on to state that since disturbance effects are cumulative, any net increase in the number of residential units near the SPA has the potential, in the absence of mitigation, to increase the significance of the effect by increasing the number of visits to the European site.

5.77 In line with the findings of the visitor access study above and the 3km consultation zone defined by the SPD for all applications involving a net gain in residential units, it is judged that all residential development within 3km of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site would be likely to contribute to an in-combination recreational disturbance effect on the European site. The allocated residential sites within 3km of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar sites are (Figure 5.4):

- **LAA0174 Ransome Road Gateway** - 6 homes, c.2.6km away;
- **LAA0328 Cattle Market Road** - 42 homes, c.2.6km away;
- **LAA0335 Chronicle and Echo North** - 28 homes, c.2.4km away;
- **LAA0336 Chronicle and Echo South** - 19 homes, c.2.5km away;
- **LAA0496: 57 Artizan Road** - 10 homes, c.1.9km away;
- **LAA0508 Fishponds Road** - 20 homes, c.2.1km away;
- **LAA0685 Adj. 12 Pennycross Road** - 12 homes, c.2.3km away;
- **LAA0814 32 Great Russell Street** - 12 homes, c.2.4km away;
- **LAA0903 Hawkins Shoe Factory, Overstone Road** - 105 homes, c.2.3km away;
- **LAA0915: 118-122 Wellingborough Road** - 12 homes, c.1.9km away;
- **LAA0932: Southbridge Site 1** - 44 homes, c.2.3km away;
- **LAA0933: Southbridge Site 2** - 50 homes, c.2.3km away;
- **LAA1001 Former Emmanuel Middle School** - 83 homes, c.2.3km away;
- **LAA1010 Land at St Peter’s Way / Court Road / Freeschool Street** - 37 homes, c.3km away;
- **LAA1014 University of Northampton, Avenue Campus** - 200 homes, c.3km away;
- **LAA1022 Belgrave House** - 99 homes, c.2.6km away;
- **LAA1049 Land off Arbour Court** - 11 homes, c.2.9km away;

26 Brayshaw RS. 2010. Survey work to support the Appropriate Assessment for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, Element 2: Field surveys (recreational, disturbance and bird behaviour). Report to the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit.
- **LAA1058 Land off Oat Hill Drive** - 11 homes, c.2.3km away;
- **LAA1098: The Green, Great Houghton** - 771 homes, c.1.2km away;
- **LAA1107: Former Abington Mill Farm, land off Rushmere Road** - 125 homes, c.150m away;
- **LAA1113 Greyfriars** - 261 homes, c.2.5km away;
- **LAA1124 41-43 Derngate Road** - 7 homes, c.2.3km away;
- **LAA1127 32 Connaught Street** - 6 homes, c.2.7km away;
- **LAA1134 St John's Railway Embankment** - 12 homes, c.2.3km away;
- **LAA1138 Land south of Bedford Road / north of sports ground** - 7 homes, c.550m away; and
- **LAA1139: Ransome Road** - 250 homes, c.1.7km away.

5.78 These sites are allocated for development under the following policy, which would therefore have a potentially significant effect due to recreation pressure:

- **Policy 12: Housing and other housing led allocation**
  Allocates up to 2,240 new homes on 26 sites within 3km of the SPA/Ramsar.

5.79 **Policy 36: The Green, Great Houghton** and **Policy 37: Greyfriars** set principles for development at sites LAA1098 and LAA1113, respectively, but the number of homes and therefore potential for recreation pressure is defined by Policy 12.

5.80 In addition, the following policies permit an increase in the number of homes in locations other than allocated sites:

- **Policy 8: Regeneration opportunities**
  Promotes mixed use (including residential) development in the town centre and central area;
- **Policy 11: Development of main town centre uses**
  Permits regeneration of sites outside the central area;
- **Policy 14: Delivering houses in multiple occupation**
  Enables an increase in the number of households within a house;
- **Policy 15: Safeguarding existing employment sites**
  Permits changes of use from employment to non-employment uses; and
- **Policy 18: Residential development on upper floors**
  Allows changes of use above shops, to residential.

5.81 The recreation pressure effect of the Local Plan would act in combination with any recreation pressure from other residential development within 3km of the European site. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is a composite site made up of several sites along the River Nene valley. Only the Northampton Washlands portion of the SPA/Ramsar is within 3km of Northampton Borough; therefore only development plans with the potential to contribute to recreation pressure at that part of the site could have in-combination effects with the Local Plan. These are:

- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy: the Northampton South of Brackmills SUE and unallocated residential development; and
- South Northamptonshire Local Plan: where development is within 3km of the SPA / Ramsar.

5.82 To mitigate potential effects on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, due to recreation pressure, the Local Plan contains the following policies:

- **Policy 23: Sustaining and enhancing existing, and supporting the creation of, Northampton’s green infrastructure**
  Requires developments of 15 dwellings or more to deliver and/or contribute to a net gain in green infrastructure, which could divert some recreation trips away from the SPA/Ramsar;
- **Policy 24: Providing open spaces**
  Sets standards for greenspace provision, including 1.8ha of natural and semi-natural green space per 1,000 population, within a 720m walk (or 800m walk for sites over 2ha). This
provides green infrastructure that could divert some recreation trips away from the SPA/Ramsar; and

- **Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**
  Requires that "all new development proposals within 3km of the Special Protection Area must demonstrate, where necessary through a series of mitigation measures, that their proposals will not contribute to the disturbance and subsequent decline of the bird species for which the site is designated". This specifically requires mitigation of development likely to have an effect on the SPA/Ramsar.

5.83 Policy 26 strengthens the protection contained within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Policy BN4 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (which applies to development both in Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire District):

"New development will need to demonstrate that the impact of any increased recreational activity (indirect or direct) on the Special Protection Area and Ramsar site will not have a detrimental impact. Any development that will lead to an increase in recreational activity on the Special Protection Area will be required to include the necessary mitigation including development of an implementation of habitat and access management plans."

5.84 These policies provide sufficient mitigation to prevent individual developments from having a significant effect on the SPA/Ramsar, but do not necessarily address the potential combined effects of the Local Plan’s total housing provision (within 3km of the SPA/Ramsar) or the in-combination effects with other development plans.

5.85 A more strategic approach – for example a mitigation strategy that can be applied to all residential developments within 3km of the SPA/Ramsar - would provide sufficient certainty that the effects of recreation disturbance can be mitigated, rather than placing the onus solely on individual developments to identify appropriate mitigation.

5.86 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area SPD (2015) sets out the type of mitigation options that would be appropriate to mitigate the disturbance of birds at the SPA, based on a study by Footprint Ecology. These include alternative natural greenspace, habitat management, enhancement of other waterside sites, management of visitor flows / access, education and enforcement. A mitigation strategy specific to the effects of development from the Local Plan on the Northampton Washlands portion of the SPA/Ramsar will need to be developed in consultation with Natural England and committed to within Local Plan policy (i.e. agreed prior to adoption of the Local Plan). This could be developed in conjunction with South Northamptonshire District, the other local authority whose Local Plan would impact upon the Northampton Washlands part of the SPA/Ramsar. South Northamptonshire Local Plan Draft Submission (Regulation 19) version was completed in September 2018 and contains the following:

5.87 **Policy NE1: Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**

New development will need to demonstrate that the impact of any increased recreational activity (indirect or direct) on the Special Protection Area will not have a detrimental impact. Any development that will lead to an increase in recreational activity on the Special Protection Area will be required to include necessary mitigation including providing or contributing towards a combination of the following measures:

a) development of and implementation of habitat and access management plans within the SPA;

b) improvement of existing greenspace and recreational routes;

c) provision of alternative natural greenspace and recreational routes; and

d) monitoring of the impacts of new development on European designated sites to inform the necessary mitigation requirements and future refinement of any mitigation measures.

And:

The Local Planning Authority or successor authority will prepare a Mitigation Strategy document concerning the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area with a view to its subsequent adoption as an Addendum to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document within 12 months of the adoption of the Part 2 Plan.
5.88 The wording of similar text for Local Plan Policy 26 (or a separate policy) and a mitigation strategy will need to be agreed with Natural England.

5.89 Provided that a mitigation strategy is developed and agreed with Natural England prior to adoption of the Local Plan, no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site are anticipated as a result of recreation pressure, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
Figure 5.4: Recreation Pressure - Allocated Residential Sites within 3km of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar Site

- Northampton Borough Council
- Allocated site
- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)
- 3km zone around Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)

Source: Northampton BC, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

Northampton Local Plan Part 2 HRA
Pet predation

5.90 Pet predation, notably hunting by domestic cats from nearby residential developments, can be a concern where development is proposed close to a European site, particularly where the qualifying species is bird or mammal. Evidence shows that pet cats can roam up to 1.5 km at night.\(^{28,29}\)

5.91 As well as pets, research has shown that habitats close to urban areas can have higher densities of mammalian predators such as foxes\(^{30}\) and that there is an increase in the numbers of crows and magpies on sites with greater human activity.\(^{31}\)

Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.92 Rutland Water is located 41km outside Local Plan area and therefore will not be subject to any potential pet predation arising from the Local Plan policies or sites.

5.93 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of pet predation either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

5.94 The Standard Data form for this SPA site highlights the effects of ‘other urbanisation’ as a main threat and pressure that is impacting the site. The Information Sheet for the Ramsar site also highlights ‘Unspecified development: urban use’ as having an adverse effect on the site stating that “activities connected with ongoing urban development cause significant disturbance to wintering birds if unmanaged”.

5.95 Although pet predation is not specifically mentioned, it is assumed on a precautionary basis that pet predation could result in likely significant effects when residential site allocations are located within 1.5 km of a European site.

5.96 Three sites are allocated for residential development within 1.5km of the SPA and Ramsar site **(Figure 5.5):**

- **LAA1107 Former Abington Mills Farm, land off Rushmere Road**
  125 new homes, c.150m away;

- **LAA1138 Land south of Bedford Road / north of sports ground**
  7 homes, c.550m away; and

- **LAA1098 The Green, Great Houghton**
  771 new homes, c.1.2km away. Policy 36 sets out the development principles at the site.

5.97 However, when physical barriers are taken into account it is considered that the potential effects of sites LAA1107 and LAA1138 will be significantly reduced due to the barriers formed by the River Nene and the A45 (a wide dual carriageway road). It is concluded therefore that this site will not result in significant effects on the Upper Nene Valley SPA and Ramsar site as a result of pet predation.

5.98 At site LAA1098, it is only the northernmost part of the site that is within 1.5km of the SPA. Policy 36 safeguards the northern part of the site as an ecological buffer; therefore none of the residential development will lie within 1.5km of the SPA / Ramsar and significant effects are not likely to arise, as a result of pet predation.

5.99 Other policies (or plans) that permit development outside of allocated sites could also result in development within 150m of the SPA/Ramsar.

---

30. Taylor, E. Predation risk in woodlark Lullula arborea habitat: the influence of recreational disturbance, predator abundance, nest site characteristics and temporal factors. s.l. : School of Biological Sciences, UEA, 2002.
5.100 The following policies safeguard the SPA/Ramsar from pet predation:

- **Policy 25: Supporting and enhancing biodiversity**
  Requires proposals to "conserve, enhance and increase the net gain for biodiversity. In particular, the Council will seek the protection or enhancement of wildlife sites that are in areas which are...of national or international importance, specifically the Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits." This provides specific protection for the SPA/Ramsar; and

- **Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**
  Requires that "all new development proposals within 3km of the Special Protection Area must demonstrate, where necessary through a series of mitigation measures, that their proposals will not contribute to the disturbance and subsequent decline of the bird species for which the site is designated". An adverse effect from pet predation is a form of disturbance and would therefore not be permitted.

5.101 In addition, any unallocated development proposals coming forward (i.e. Policies 11, 16, 17 and 20) within 150m of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site would require project-level Appropriate Assessment, with the objective of ensuring that such development proposals do not give rise to adverse effects on integrity either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

5.102 With mitigation required by policies within the Joint Core Strategy and Local Plan, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of pet predation either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
Figure 5.5: Pet Predation - Allocated Residential Sites within 1.5km of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar Site

- Northampton Borough Council
- Allocated site
- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)
- 1.5km zone around Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA, Ramsar)
Changes to water supply and water level management

5.103 An increase in demand for water abstraction resulting from the growth proposed in the Local Plan could result in changes to water levels or flows at hydrologically connected European sites. Depending on the qualifying features and particular vulnerabilities of the European sites, this can result in likely significant effects on site integrity.

**Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site**

5.104 The potential exists for effects on Rutland Water as it is a primary source of urban water supply for Northamptonshire and therefore the population increases associated with development within the Local Plan area are likely to affect water levels at the site. Human induced changes in hydrology are listed as a key vulnerability for this European site.

5.105 The assessment of effects in relation to water supply and water level management has been informed by studies undertaken as part of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy work. The West Northamptonshire Water Cycle Strategy was published in 2011, alongside the Joint Core Strategy. It concluded that:

"water resource availability should not be considered a constraint to the Core Strategy Implementation, subject to the implementation of the Code for Sustainable Homes Standards through Building Regulations or through Local Policy'. It also concluded that ‘Anglian water services strategic infrastructure and resource strategic planning within the Ruthamford Water Resource Zone will support the proposed growth within the study area until 2035”.

5.106 However, the Water Cycle Study was published in 2011 and is therefore potentially out of date. Notable changes since its publication include the fact that the Code for Sustainable Homes has been withdrawn and that the Anglian Water supply area has been classified by the Environment Agency as an area of ‘serious water stress’, both currently and under future climate change and abstraction demand scenarios.

5.107 More recent evidence is available from Anglian Water’s 2015 ‘Water Resources Management Plan’ (WRMP), which sets out a 25 year plan to maintain the water supply demand balance in the supply region and measures to minimise the environmental impact of abstractions. The WRMP concludes that no baseline abstraction deficits are forecast in the Ruthamford North Resource Zone, where Rutland Water and Northampton Borough are located; and no significant ‘sustainability reduction sensitivities’ (requirements to reduce abstraction to more sustainable levels) have been identified. The zone is identified as being sensitive to climate change, and the WRMP states that this would primarily affect the River Nene and River Welland (which feeds Rutland Water); however, no supply / demand issues are identified for the Resource Zone throughout the forecast period (2012-2040).

5.108 The WRMP is being updated and the draft 2019 plan (dWRMP) is currently being finalised following a period of consultation. The dWRMP plans for the period from 2020 to 2045 and therefore extends beyond the Local Plan period, but it predicts that at the end of the dWRMP period (2040-2045), without mitigation, North Ruthamford would have a water deficit (demand exceeding supply) of 15ML/day, due to population growth and climate change. The dWRMP sets out the strategy for mitigating these effects and ensuring that supply exceeds demand without causing environmental harm; in Ruthamford North, this will be principally achieved through transfer between resource zones. The recent HRA of the dWRMP concludes that the works required to enable the dWRMP will not result in likely significant effects on either Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar or the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar.

33 Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, 2013, Water stressed areas – final classification.
5.109 Within the WRMP, Anglian Water state that they work closely with the Environment Agency and Natural England to ensure that their abstractions do not have a detrimental impact on the environment, and that many of their abstraction licences include conditions requiring them to monitor environmental impact which are reported on annually and if any deterioration is identified then they remain committed to addressing the issue. Anglian Water is also subject to the Environment Agency’s licensing regime which regulates the amount of water that can be abstracted in order to protect the environment. These controls are set out in The Nene Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy and they add another level of protection regarding the amount of water taken from the environment.

5.110 The dWRMP takes into account the development targets of authorities within each resource zone, and therefore plans for the growth targets set for Northampton Borough (within the Joint Core Strategy). As described in Chapter 2, the Local Plan provides just over 20% more housing capacity (3,253 homes) than required by its targets. Local Plan policies that result in an increase in the number of households are:

- **Policy 12: Housing and other housing-led allocation**
  Defines the overall supply of new housing in the Local Plan, at allocated sites;

- **Policy 8: Regeneration opportunities**
  Promotes mixed use (including residential) development in the town centre and central area;

- **Policy 11: Development of main town centre uses**
  Permits regeneration of sites outside the central area;

- **Policy 14: Delivering houses in multiple occupation**
  Enables an increase in the number of households within a house;

- **Policy 15: Safeguarding existing employment sites**
  Permits changes of use from employment to non-employment uses; and

- **Policy 18: Residential development on upper floors**
  Allows changes of use above shops, to residential.

5.111 Mitigation is provided by the following:

- **Policy 5: Sustainable Construction**
  Requires new residential developments to achieve a high water efficiency standard of 110 l per person per day

5.112 To ensure that the Local Plan’s additional housing supply will not have an adverse effect on water demand (i.e. in combination with the Joint Core Strategy and other plans), Anglian Water have also reviewed the Local Plan allocated sites and confirmed that no significant water supply issues are anticipated over the plan period.

5.113 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of changes to water supply and water level management either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

### Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

5.114 The potential exists for likely significant effects because the River Nene, which supplies water to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits, is also an important source of water to fill both Pitsford and Rutland Water reservoirs for public water supply. Significant strategic abstraction occurs at Duston Mill, upstream of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits, in addition to other abstraction points. As previously described, Rutland Water is the primary water source for Northampton but an increasing demand for water could have a knock-on effect on the River Nene and subsequently the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits.

---

36 Personal communication with N Banks, Northampton Borough Council, 7 January 2019
37 2011, West Northamptonshire water cycle study: Pre-submission Joint Core Strategy final detailed WCS report.
5.115 As with Rutland Water, the 2015 WRMP and 2019 dWRMP provide mitigation to enable supply within the Ruthamford North resource zone to exceed demand, without environmental harm; however, the Local Plan provides for more housing than set by the targets used in the dWRMP.

5.116 Policies resulting in an increase in numbers of households (as above) could increase the demand for water; however mitigation is provided by the following:

- **Policy 5: Sustainable Construction**
  Requires new residential developments to achieve a high water efficiency standard of 110l per person per day

5.117 **Policy BN4 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area** in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy also states that developments should have no significant adverse effects on the integrity due to water abstraction.

5.118 To ensure that the Local Plan’s additional housing supply will not have an adverse effect on water demand (i.e. in combination with the Joint Core Strategy and other plans), Anglian Water have also reviewed the Local Plan allocated sites and confirmed that no significant water supply issues are anticipated over the plan period.

5.119 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of changes to water supply and water level management either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

### Changes to water quality

5.120 An increase in demand for wastewater treatment resulting from the growth proposed in the Local Plan could result in a decrease in water quality as a result of increased amounts of treated sewage being discharged to hydrologically linked watercourses or increased amounts of contaminated water running off roads and other urban surfaces. Depending on the qualifying features and particular vulnerabilities of the European sites, there could be a likely significant effect on site integrity.

**Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site**

5.121 Due to the distance between the plan area and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and the absence of hydrological connections with wastewater discharge points from the Borough’s Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs), it is highly unlikely that surface run-off, foul sewage or other potential water pollution from increased development in Northampton will affect this European site.

5.122 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of changes to water quality either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

**Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site**

5.123 The River Nene flows west to east through Northampton and therefore flows through the city before passing the SPA/Ramsar.

5.124 Population growth in Northampton has the capacity to have an adverse effect on the water quality of this site relating to both increased amounts of treated sewage entering the River Nene or the expansion of the built up area resulting in increased amounts of polluted water running off roads and other urban surfaces.

5.125 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area SPD requires that applications for discharge to surface water or the ground, within 10km of the SPA/Ramsar, consult with Natural England.

5.126 Wastewater from Northampton is discharged into the River Nene at Great Billing wastewater treatment works (WwTW) which serves Northampton. It is located just to the east of

---

39 Halcrow, 2011, West Northamptonshire Water Cycle Study for the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy, Detailed WCS Final Report
Northampton next to the River Nene, between two sections of the SPA and Ramsar site, the flood storage reservoir near Northampton and Grendon lakes, downstream. It discharges into the Nene at this point meaning areas of the SPA and Ramsar site that are downstream could be adversely affected by increases in discharge.

5.127 The West Northamptonshire Water Cycle Study stated that:

"the current WFD status has been assessed for the waterbody that the WwTW that serves Northampton discharges into. The River Nene is currently failing to meet good ecological status, because the waterbody does not achieve good physiochemical status”

5.128 The study reported that Great Billing WwTW had infrastructure capacity for development forecast in the period 2010-2015, provided that capital maintenance improvements planned and funded in AMP5 were delivered. However, it was stated that in the longer term a new consent will be required and additional infrastructure will be needed to be funded and delivered through Anglian Water’s business planning process, although no constraints to providing this infrastructure were identified. The study also concluded that the existing water quality consent will need to be tightened and monitored to ensure no deterioration but that this is achievable within the limits of conventional technology and should not be a constraint to development in Northampton.

5.129 Anglian Water have since reviewed the Local Plan allocated sites and confirmed that no significant water treatment issues are anticipated.

5.130 In addition to wastewater discharges, the Local Plan could also have an adverse effect on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site due to an increase in polluted surface water run-off relating to an increase in hard standing area from growth in Northampton (and potentially in-combination with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy SUEs and development in South Northamptonshire).

5.131 Policies that permit new development, changes in use or occupation could alter wastewater treatment loads and therefore affect the water quality of the River Nene, as could development sites with surface water drainage pathways to the River Nene. The following policies therefore have the potential to alter water quality at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site:

- **Policy 7: Supporting Northampton town centre**
  Permits (small-scale) development in the town centre;

- **Policy 8: Regeneration opportunities**
  Encourages regeneration (housing & mixed use) within town centre and central area, particularly at named sites (some of which have site-specific policies);

- **Policy 11: Development of main town centre uses**
  Permits regeneration of sites outside the central area;

- **Policy 12: Housing and other housing-led allocation**
  Allocates 4,749 new homes (of which 3,253 are in addition to those required by the Joint Core Strategy) on 84 sites;

- **Policy 14: Delivering houses in multiple occupation**
  Allows increases in the numbers of households;

- **Policy 15: Safeguarding existing employment sites**
  Permits changes of use to non-employment uses;

- **Policy 16: Supporting new employment developments and schemes within and outside safeguarded sites**
  Permits development within existing employment sites;

- **Policy 18: Residential development on upper floors**
  Allows changes of use to residential; and

---

40 Personal communication with N Banks, Northampton Borough Council, 7 January 2019
Policy 33: Development allocations
Names the sites allocated for development. The majority are housing or housing-led sites and therefore allocated by Policy 12, but the 11 solely commercial sites are allocated by this policy.

5.132 Safeguarding is provided by the following:

- **Policy 6: Flood risk and water management**
  Supports proposals that comply with standards for surface water. Standards are set locally in Northamptonshire County Council’s Local Standards and Guidance for Surface Water Drainage in Northamptonshire.

5.133 There are also a number of policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy that provide additional safeguards:

- **Policy BN9 Planning for pollution control**
  States that “Proposals for new development which are likely to cause pollution or likely to result in exposure to sources of pollution or risks to safety will need to demonstrate that they provide opportunities to minimise and where possible reduce pollution issue that are a barrier to achieving sustainable development and healthy communities.” In regards to water quality this is through “Protecting and improving surface and groundwater water quality”.

- **Policy BN7a Water supply, quality and wastewater infrastructure**
  Includes the requirement for adequate wastewater treatment capacity to address environmental constraints, as well as the use of sustainable drainage systems, where practicable, to improve water quality, reduce flood risk and provide environmental and adaptation benefits.

- **Policy BN4 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area**
  Sets out the need for new developments to demonstrate, through the development management process, that there will be no significant adverse effects on the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley SPA / Ramsar site due to (among others things) “water runoff, water abstraction or discharges from the foul drainage system”.

- **Policy BN8 The River Nene strategic river corridor**
  Proposals for new development must demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the River Nene for biodiversity within and beyond the plan area.

- **Policy S10 Sustainable development principles**
  Sets out a requirement to maximise water efficiency and sustainable drainage and minimise pollution from run-off.

5.134 Further protection safeguards are provided by policies and procedures set out by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. Water treatment and recycling in Northampton is carried out by Anglian Water and the quality of the water that is discharged to water courses must pass strict standards set by law and enforced by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency measures the performance of all the water companies in England annually and the Environment Agency’s 2016 Environmental Performance Assessment Report found that in 2015 Anglican Water achieved 99% compliance with their discharge licences and permits (all water companies have licences and permits which control the level of impact they are allowed to have on the environment). Furthermore, the Environment Agency licence and control all discharges and abstractions and have responsibilities to ensure ‘no deterioration’ of water quality under the Water Framework Directive, which adds an extra layer of protection.

5.135 **With safeguards provided by policies within the Local Plan and Joint Core Strategy, there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of changes to water quality either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

### Air pollution

5.136 Air pollution is most likely to affect European sites where plant, soil and water habitats are the qualifying features, but some qualifying animal species may also be affected, either directly or
indirectly, by any deterioration in habitat as a result of air pollution. Deposition of pollutants to the ground and vegetation can alter the characteristics of the soil, affecting the pH and nitrogen (N) availability that can then affect plant health, productivity and species composition.

5.137 In terms of vehicle traffic, nitrogen oxides (NOx, i.e. NO and NO₂) are considered to be the key pollutants. Deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and NOx can cause eutrophication of soils and water.

5.138 Based on the Highways Agency Design for Road and Bridges (DMRB) Manual Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1⁴¹ (which was produced to provide advice regarding the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads (including motorways)), it is assumed that air pollution from roads is unlikely to be significant beyond 200 m from the road itself. Where increases in traffic volumes are forecast, this 200 m buffer needs to be applied to the relevant roads in order to make a judgement about the likely geographical extent of air pollution impacts.

5.139 The DMRB Guidance for the assessment of local air quality in relation to highways developments provides criteria that should be applied to ascertain whether there are likely to be significant impacts associated with routes or corridors. Based on the DMRB guidance, affected roads which should be assessed are those where:

- Daily traffic flows will change by 1,000 AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) or more; or
- Heavy duty vehicle (HDV) flows will change by 200 AADT or more; or
- Daily average speed will change by 10 km/hr or more; or
- Peak hour speed will change by 20 km/hr or more; or
- Road alignment will change by 5 m or more.

5.140 Recent case law, known as the Wealden judgement⁴², has revised the method by which Natural England expects to see in-combination air pollution effects assessed. The implication of the judgement is that, where the road traffic effects of other plans or projects are known or can be reasonably estimated (including those of adopted plans or consented projects), then these should be included in road traffic modelling by the local authority whose local plan or project is being assessed. The screening criteria of 1,000 AADT should then be applied to the traffic flows of the plans in combination.

5.141 It has been assumed that only those roads forming part of the primary road network (motorways and ‘A’ roads) might be likely to experience any significant increases in vehicle traffic as a result of development (i.e. greater than 1,000 AADT etc.).

*Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site*

5.142 A small part of Rutland Water lies within 200m of both the A606 and A6003; however, these roads are sufficiently distant from Northampton that they are not likely to experience significant increases in traffic due to the Local Plan. Data on commuting patterns⁴³, based on 2011 census data, shows negligible traffic flows to/from Northampton that pass Rutland Water.

5.143 **There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of air pollution either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

*Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site*

5.144 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is not identified as sensitive to air pollution, or nitrogen more generally, either within the Site Improvement Plan or Standard Data Form (Appendix 1). However, the supplementary advice on conservation objectives sets a target to “maintain concentrations and deposition of air pollutants to at or below the site-relevant Critical Load or Level values” for supporting habitat, both within and outside the SPA. The Air Pollution Information System⁴⁴ does not show critical load or level values for the SPA features but does

---

⁴¹ Wealden District Council v. (1) Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; (2) Lewes District Council; (3) South Downs National Park Authority and Natural England
⁴² DataShine Commute http://commute.datashine.org.uk
⁴³ Air Pollution Information System www.apis.ac.uk
show a generally stable or falling trend for nitrogen (NOx) deposition at the site, over the last ten years.

5.145 For the effects of nitrogen deposition to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA or Ramsar, it would need to change habitats to such an extent that the site’s qualifying bird species no longer feed from or use the habitat. While nutrient enrichment could change the floristic composition of the site’s terrestrial habitats, it is unlikely to do so to the extent that birds and the species they depend on stop using the habitat.

5.146 Furthermore, the effects of nitrogen deposition from traffic reduce dramatically with distance (see Figure 5.6), and are further reduced if there are ‘buffers’ in between a road and the site; the 200 metre threshold is therefore at the limit of where significant effects might occur.

Figure 5.6 Traffic contribution to pollutant concentration at different distances from the road centre

5.147 Only a very small portion of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is within 200m of an A-road. At Northampton Washlands (the portion of the SPA/Ramsar in the Local Plan area), the road is located c.120m from the SPA and is separated by another water body and scrub habitat. The only portion of the SPA/Ramsar that is adjacent to an A-road is at Rushden / Stanwick, where the SSSI condition reports confirm that the site is either in favourable condition or unfavourable recovering (due to historic poor management).

5.148 Overall, the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site is not considered to be sensitive to air pollution to a degree that changes in traffic due to the Local Plan would result in adverse effects on its integrity.

5.149 There are also areas of supporting habitat within 200m of major roads: either side of the A428 (c.180m from the SPA/Ramsar at its closest point), and adjacent to the M1 (c.6km from the SPA/Ramsar at its closest point). In both cases, it is unlikely that nutrient enrichment would change the floristic composition of these areas of supporting habitat (arable fields and pasture) to the extent that birds and the species they depend on stop using the habitat.

5.150 There will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of air pollution either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

---

45 Figure C1 from Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (May 2007) Volume 11 Environmental Assessment, Section 3 Environmental Assessment Techniques. Part 1 HA207/7 Air Quality
Assessment summary

5.151 A summary of the findings of the Appropriate Assessment is provided below. The scoping matrix identifies the policy that each effect type relates to (Appendix 3).

Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

5.152 For the majority of the types of effect that could arise from the Local Plan, Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site is too far from the Local Plan area to be significantly affected by development associated with the plan.

5.153 The following effect has the potential for likely significant effects but, following the Appropriate Assessment, no adverse effects on the integrity of the site are anticipated.

Changes to water supply and water level management

5.154 Rutland Water is a primary source of urban water supply for Northampton. New development in the Local Plan area, in combination with that from other areas within Anglian Water’s region, could increase demand such that demand for water cannot be met, sustainably. The 2015 and draft 2019 Water Resources Management Plans set out the measures required to balance water supply and demand, without adverse environmental effects. These plan for Northampton’s target number of homes set out in the Joint Core Strategy, but not the additional homes provided by the Local Plan. Anglian Water have reviewed the Local Plan allocated sites and have confirmed that there will be no water supply issues.

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

5.155 The proximity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site to the Local Plan area means that there are more types of potentially significant effect.

5.156 The following effects have the potential for likely significant effects but, following the Appropriate Assessment, no adverse effects on the integrity of the site are anticipated.

Physical habitat loss of damage

5.157 No sites are allocated within the SPA/Ramsar and development outside of allocated sites is unlikely to be permitted within the SPA/Ramsar due to protection provided by policies in the Local Plan and Joint Core Strategy.

Loss of supporting habitat

5.158 The Local Plan might permit development within areas of habitat used by Golden Plover or Lapwing from the SPA/Ramsar. Mitigation for the potential loss of supporting habitat is provided by Policy BN4 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, which requires new development to demonstrate that it will not result in a significant adverse effect due to loss of supporting habitat. This is sufficient mitigation, but could be strengthened at the local level, with amendments to Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area.

5.159 LA41098 The Green, Great Houghton is in an area that may be supporting habitat for Golden Plover and/or Lapwing. This site is allocated in Policy 12: Housing and other housing led allocation for 771 homes and design principles for the development are set out in Policy 36: The Green, Great Houghton. As this development will need to demonstrate that it will have no adverse effect on the SPA/Ramsar due to loss of supporting habitat, it is recommended that the following mitigation is incorporated into Policy 36:

- Surveys to identify whether the site is used by over-wintering Golden Plover / Lapwing (i.e.to be carried out in the winter).

- If significant numbers of Golden Plover or Lapwing are identified at the site, mitigation will be required for the loss of habitat, for example the enhancement of a sub-optimal / unsuitable area of habitat, such that it becomes optimal for Golden Plover / Lapwing. The enhanced habitat should be a similar distance from the SPA/Ramsar and of at least the same size as the habitat lost.
Changes to bird sightlines

5.160 Development within 250m of the SPA/Ramsar could affect bird sightlines. Two allocated sites (LAA1101 and LAA1107) are within 250m and the Local Plan could permit other development within the same zone. Policies within the Local Plan and Joint Core Strategy provide sufficient safeguards against this potential effect.

Non-physical disturbance

5.161 Development within 2km of the SPA/Ramsar has the potential for significant effects due to noise, vibration or light, particularly in combination with other development as multiple developments could have a general urbanising effect. Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area provides specific mitigation for disturbance effects. Further mitigation is required by Joint Core Strategy policy BN4. This mitigation should be sufficient to ensure no significant effects on integrity occur from non-physical disturbance.

Recreation pressure

5.162 The SPA/Ramsar is sensitive to visitor pressure and it is considered that any residential development within 3km of the site has the potential to contribute to visitor pressure, alone or in combination with other development.

5.163 Policy 12: Housing and other housing led allocation allocates up to 2,240 new homes on 26 sites within 3km of the SPA/Ramsar, and other policies permit development outside of the allocated sites. The portion of the SPA/Ramsar that is within 3km of the Local Plan area – Northampton Washlands – is also within 3km of development within South Northamptonshire, therefore in-combination effects are likely.

5.164 At present, the Local Plan requires mitigation in Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area, which requires that “all new development proposals within 3km of the Special Protection Area must demonstrate, where necessary through a series of mitigation measures, that their proposals will not contribute to the disturbance and subsequent decline of the bird species for which the site is designated.”

5.165 Policy 23: Sustaining and enhancing existing, and supporting the creation of, Northampton’s green infrastructure and Policy 24: Providing open spaces also require development to provide green infrastructure that could divert some recreation trips away from the SPA/Ramsar. Other policies provide general protection for the SPA/Ramsar.

5.166 These policies provide sufficient safeguards to prevent individual developments from having a significant effect on the SPA/Ramsar, but do not necessarily address the potential combined effects of the Local Plan’s total housing provision (within 3km of the SPA/Ramsar) or the in-combination effects with other development plans.

5.167 A more strategic approach – for example a mitigation strategy that can be applied to all residential developments within 3km of the SPA/Ramsar - would provide greater certainty that the effects of recreation disturbance can be mitigated, rather than placing the onus on individual developments to identify appropriate mitigation.

5.168 A mitigation strategy specific to the effects of development from the Local Plan on the Northampton Washlands portion of the SPA/Ramsar will need to be developed in consultation with Natural England and committed to within Local Plan Policy 26 (or a separate policy); i.e. agreed prior to adoption of the Local Plan. This could be developed in conjunction with South Northamptonshire District.

Pet predation

5.169 Residential developments within 1.5km of the SPA/Ramsar could contribute to an increase in numbers of domestic cats. Three residential allocated sites are within this zone but road / river barriers at two of the sites and the intended layout of the third site mean that adverse effects are unlikely.

Changes to water supply and water level management

5.170 The River Nene supplies water to both Rutland Water and Pitsford reservoirs. New development in the Local Plan area, in combination with that from other areas within Anglian Water’s region, could increase demand such that demand for water cannot be met, sustainably. The 2015 and
draft 2019 Water Resources Management Plans set out the measures required to balance water supply and demand, without adverse environmental effects. These plan for Northampton’s target number of homes set out in the Joint Core Strategy, but not the additional homes provided by the Local Plan. Anglian Water have reviewed the Local Plan allocated sites and have confirmed that there will be no water supply issues.

Changes to water quality

5.171 Policies that permit new development, changes in use or occupation could alter wastewater treatment loads and therefore affect the water quality of the River Nene, as could development sites with surface water drainage pathways to the River Nene. However, Policy 6: Flood risk and water management, along with a number of policies within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy provide sufficient safeguards.

Air pollution

5.172 The SPA/Ramsar is not considered to be particularly sensitive to air pollution. For the effects of nitrogen deposition to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA or Ramsar, it would need to change habitats to such an extent that the site’s qualifying bird species no longer feed from or use the habitat. While nutrient enrichment could change the floristic composition of the site’s terrestrial habitats (and associated supporting habitat), it is unlikely to do so to the extent that birds and the species they depend on stop using the habitat.
6 Conclusions

6.1 The HRA screening assessment (Chapter 4) identified the need for Appropriate Assessment of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2, as likely significant effects could not be ruled out. The scope of the Appropriate Assessment (Appendix 3) was then defined by considering each policy and site allocation, the type of development they could result in and their potential effects on European sites, alone and in combination.

6.2 The Appropriate Assessment has concluded that the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site or Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site. However, in some cases, further mitigation or safeguards are required to enable this conclusion to be reached. Mitigation or safeguards for some types of effect could also be strengthened at the local level by adding weight to policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, within the Local Plan.

6.3 It is recommended that the amendments in Table 6.1 are made.

Table 6.1 Recommended policy amendments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current wording</th>
<th>Suggested amendment</th>
<th>Required to conclude no adverse effect on integrity?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area</strong></td>
<td>Approach to mitigating recreation pressure will need to be agreed with Natural England and incorporated into this policy (or could be a separate policy). The policy could be worded in the following way, to broaden its coverage to include other types of effect than solely ‘disturbance’:: Development within the consultation zones identified in the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPD has the potential to affect bird species for which the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area and Ramsar site is designated. Applications for these types of development must demonstrate, where necessary through a series of mitigation measures, that their proposals will not contribute to adverse effects on the bird species for which the site is designated, or the habitats they rely on.</td>
<td>Yes, for recreation pressure. No for other effects, but strengthens mitigation for loss of supporting habitat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy 36: The Green, Great Houghton</strong></td>
<td>Golden Plover and Lapwing surveys should be carried out at the site to identify whether the site is used by overwintering birds from the SPA/Ramsar. If significant numbers of Golden Plover or Lapwing are identified at the site, mitigation will be required for the loss of habitat.</td>
<td>No, but strengthens mitigation and facilitates development at the site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Housing development of up to 800 dwellings, which comply with the development principles shown on Figure 18 will be supported, subject to the following criteria being met:*  
- The built development should only take place outside of the area hatched in the diagram  
- The scheme should be of high quality design, and must take into account and be sensitive to the significance and the setting of the Great Golden Plover and Lapwing surveys should be carried out at the site to identify whether the site is used by overwintering birds from the SPA/Ramsar. If significant numbers of Golden Plover or Lapwing are identified at the site, mitigation will be required for the loss of habitat. Appropriate mitigation would involve the...
6.4 The Local Plan is currently at the Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission) stage. The recommended policy amendments would need to be incorporated into the Local Plan prior to adoption.

6.5 With these in place, the Local Plan will have no adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

LUC
March 2019
## Appendix 1

Attributes of the European sites with the potential to be affected by the Local Plan

### Table 1 Attributes of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Qualifying features</th>
<th>Key vulnerabilities</th>
<th>Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA (1,357 ha)   | *Natura 2000 Standard Data Form*  
Wintering populations of the following bird species:  
*Anas clypeata* (Shoveler)  
*Anas Penelope* (Wigeon)  
*Anas platyrhynchos* (Mallard)  
*Anas strepera* (Gadwall)  
*Aythya farina* (Pochard)  
*Aythya fuligula* (Tufted duck)  
*Botaurus stellaris* (Bittern)  
*Fulica atra* (Coot)  
*Phalacrocorax carbo* (Cormorant)  
*Pluvialis apricaria* (Golden Plover)  
*Podiceps cristatus* (Great Crested Grebe)  
*Vanellus vanellus* (Lapwing)  
Waterfowl assemblage (wintering and breeding populations) | *Natura 2000 Standard Data Form*  
- Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources  
- Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities  
- Modification of cultivation practices  
- Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities  

*Natural England site improvement plan*  
- Public access / disturbance – Disturbance from recreation (particularly walkers and dog owners) affects wintering birds by reducing the time available for feeding, and increasing energy expenditure when avoiding those sources of disturbance.  
- Planning permission general – There continues to be an increase in built and recreational development within and around the SPA leading to loss and fragmentation of habitat, and increased disturbance. Seven local planning authorities are involved with decision making; policies can be inconsistent across the authorities or provide insufficient protection.  
- Fisheries, freshwater – An increasing number of lakes are being utilised as freshwater fisheries; overstocking of certain fish species and issuing of licences  |
|                                                                              | In general, wintering populations of waterbirds rely on:  
- Maintenance of the populations of species they feed on (see diets, below);  
- The site’s ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats, below);  
- Seasonal variations in water levels that maintain the mix of habitats at the site and that could be affected by climate change, extreme weather and/or land management;  
- Off-site habitats, which provide migratory ‘stepping stones’ and foraging habitat (rather than off-site breeding habitats; the site is designated for wintering species only) - particularly arable fields and pasture, which Golden Plover and Lapwing rely on;  
- Unobstructed flight lines / routes.  

*BTO Bird Facts*  
The site’s qualifying bird species’ diets are:  
- Shoveler: omnivorous (incl. insects, crustaceans, molluscs, seeds);  
- Wigeon: mostly leaves, shoots, rhizomes, seeds;  
- Mallard: omnivorous;  

---

47 https://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name (Area, ha)</th>
<th>Qualifying features</th>
<th>Key vulnerabilities</th>
<th>Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| (N.B. The compartment of the SPA within and directly adjacent to the plan area, known as Clifford Hill Gravel Pits or Northamptonshire Washlands, is used by a significant proportion of the site’s Golden Plover, Lapwing and Wigeon populations.) | licences to control fish-eating birds can be a problem.  
- Change in land management – Continued habitat management is required to ensure the balance of short grassland, reedbed, fen and open water is maintained.  
**Natural England: supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features**  
In addition to the above, the supplementary advice identifies the following vulnerabilities:  
- Water quantity/quality – can affect the availability/suitability of feeding and roosting habitats, especially reedbeds and grassland within flood storage areas.  
- Air quality – exceeding ‘critical values’ for air pollutants may result in changes to the habitat substrate and therefore nesting, feeding or roosting habitats.  
- Changes in vegetation characteristics – the height, cover, variation and composition of vegetation enable successful feeding/concealment/roosting.  
- Human disturbance – particular risk from users entering the private land within the flood storage area.  
- Changes to site topography – may adversely affect supporting habitats  
- Loss of connectivity between feeding/roosting areas – both on-site and at off-site habitats.  
- Changes to water area and associated marginal habitat - can adversely affect the suitability of | • Gadwall: leaves and shoots;  
• Tufted duck: mostly plants, small animals;  
• Bittern: mostly fish, amphibians, insects;  
• Coot: omnivorous but mostly plants;  
• Cormorant: fish;  
• Golden Plover: invertebrates (esp. beetles and earthworms), feeds extensively at night;  
• Great Crested Grebe: mostly fish, some aquatic invertebrates;  
• Lapwing: invertebrates from ground; will feed at night.  
**Natura 2000 Standard Data Form**  
The mix of habitats at the site (% cover) is:  
- 49% N06: inland water bodies (standing water / running water);  
- 27% N14: improved grassland;  
- 19% N07: bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens; and  
- 5% N16: broad-leaved deciduous woodland. |

---

46 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, para. 10.26  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name (Area, ha)</th>
<th>Qualifying features</th>
<th>Key vulnerabilities</th>
<th>Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Ramsar site (same area as SPA)</td>
<td>Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands The sites regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds. The site regularly supports 1% of the individuals in the populations of the following species: <em>Cygnus olor</em> (Mute Swan) <em>Anas strepera</em> (Gadwall) Noteworthy Fauna include those listed above for SPA</td>
<td>Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands • Unspecified development: urban use – activities connected with ongoing urban development cause significant disturbance to wintering birds if unmanaged. • Vegetation succession – Lack of grazing is leading to rank grassland, scrub / woodland. Whilst this is desirable in certain areas, widespread vegetation succession will result in a decrease in the availability of suitable habitat for key species. • Introduction / invasion of non-native plant species – <em>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</em> and <em>Crassula helmsii</em> present in small areas of the site. • Recreation / tourism disturbance – access by people and dogs both on and off public rights of way is a significant course of disturbance in some areas. The site is also subject to a variety of recreational activities including fishing and water sports. Demand for access and formal / informal recreational activities within the Nene Valley are increasing; development of facilities / opportunities</td>
<td>As for the SPA, with additional information on habitats and species at the site: Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands Open water, with associated wetland habitats including reedbeds, fen grassland and woodland which support a number of wetland plant and animal species including internationally important numbers of wintering and breeding wildfowl. This chain of both active and disused sand and gravel pits form an extensive series of shallow and deep open waters which occur in association with a wide range of marginal features, such as sparsely-vegetated islands, gravel bars and shorelines and habitats including reedswamp, marsh, wet ditches, rush pasture, rough grassland and scattered scrub. This range of habitats and the varied topography of the lagoons provide valuable resting and feeding conditions for concentrations of wintering waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. Species such as golden plover <em>Pluvialis apricaria</em> and lapwing <em>Vanellus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site name (Area, ha)</td>
<td>Qualifying features</td>
<td>Key vulnerabilities</td>
<td>Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                     |                     | is often in an uncoordinated manner. | *vanellus* also spend time feeding and roosting on surrounding agricultural land outside the Ramsar site.  
The site provides flood water storage within the hydrological catchment. |
Table 2 Attributes of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name (Area, ha)</th>
<th>Qualifying features</th>
<th>Key vulnerabilities</th>
<th>Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rutland Water SPA</td>
<td>Natura 2000 Standard Data Form</td>
<td>Natura 2000 Standard Data Form</td>
<td>In general, wintering populations of waterbirds rely on:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1,555 ha)</td>
<td>Wintering populations of the following bird species: Anas clypeata (Shoveler) Anas creca (Teal) Anas Penelope (Wigeon) Anas strepera (Gadwall) Aythya fuligula (Tufted Duck) Bucephala clangula (Goldeneye) Cygnus olor (Mute Swan) Fulica atra (Coot) Mergus merganser (Goosander) Podiceps cristatus (Great Crested Grebe) Waterfowl assemblage</td>
<td>Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Pollution to groundwater Other human intrusions and disturbances Invasive non-native species</td>
<td>Maintenance of the populations of species they feed on (see diets, below);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The site’s ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats, below);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Predictable seasonal variations in water levels, which could be affected by climate change, extreme weather and/or changes in water abstraction or discharge;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Off-site habitats, which provide migratory ‘stepping stones’ and foraging habitat (rather than off-site breeding habitats; the site is designated for wintering species only); and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unobstructed flight lines / routes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Natural England Site Improvement Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Water abstraction – Increased water abstraction is proposed that will radically alter water levels in the reservoir which may result in a proportion of waterbirds utilising areas provided as compensation but which are currently outside the SPA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inappropriate water levels – Water levels of the reserve are managed primarily for public water supply and water storage and not specifically for non-breeding water birds. This can influence the number of specific species of non-breeding water birds using the site at certain times of the year. At the moment, this is not causing any long-term deterioration of the site. However, when the proposed new increased abstraction regime is implemented, appropriate management of the water levels in the compensation and mitigation water bodies will be required to offset the impacts of the abstraction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Direct impact from 3rd party – Cumulative impacts from unregulated third party activities like private firework displays in properties adjacent to the SPA, hot air balloon flights, and private aircraft flights is unknown. Investigation is needed to better understand the frequency of these disturbances and the cumulative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unobstructed flight lines / routes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BTO Bird Facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The site’s qualifying bird species’ diets are:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shoveler: omnivorous (incl. insects, crustaceans, molluscs, seeds);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teal: omnivorous (mostly seeds), feeds at night;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wigeon: mostly leaves, shoots, rhizomes, seeds;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gadwall: leaves and shoots;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tufted duck: mostly plants, small animals;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Goldeneye: insects, molluscs and crustaceans;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mute Swan: aquatic vegetation, also grazes on land and occasionally takes insects, molluscs and small amphibians;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coot: omnivorous but mostly plants;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

49 https://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name (Area, ha)</th>
<th>Qualifying features</th>
<th>Key vulnerabilities</th>
<th>Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>impacts of these activities upon the waterbirds using Rutland Water.</td>
<td>• Goosander: fish;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Invasive species – Rutland Water has been colonised by several non-native species and not all are having a positive impact on the SPA interest features.</td>
<td>• Great Crested Grebe: mostly fish, some aquatic invertebrates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Water pollution – The inflows into Rutland Water currently receive regulated discharges of treated sewage as well as unregulated treated sewage discharges from septic tanks. Further nutrient inputs come from diffuse sources which maintain the reservoir in a highly eutrophic state and has led in the past to regular algal blooms.</td>
<td>Natura 2000 Standard Data Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Planning permission general – In the wider area surrounding the SPA, wind farm and other development is being proposed and is taking place. However, the impact upon the waterfowl behaviour during nocturnal migration and dispersal to and from the reservoir, and their interaction with the environment in the surrounding countryside is poorly understood.</td>
<td>The mix of habitats(^5^0) at the site (% cover) is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Public access / disturbance – The reservoir and surrounding area is a very important destination for undertaking recreational activities. These include a range of water sports, fishing, cycling, birdwatching and walking. Several large events are also held on the banks of the reservoir each year. Future recreational proposals will need to avoid likely significant effects on the SPA.</td>
<td>• 80% N06: inland water bodies (standing water / running water);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Fisheries: Rutland Water is currently managed as a put and take trout fishery. Trout have a controlling impact on coarse fish populations and future changes in coarse fish populations could create a shift in the ecological balance of the water body.</td>
<td>• 10% N19: mixed woodland;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 9.9% N09: dry grassland /steppes; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 0.1% N07: bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{50}\) Habitat types: https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/Folder_Reference_Portal/NATHABS_HABCODE_090416.pdf
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name (Area, ha)</th>
<th>Qualifying features</th>
<th>Key vulnerabilities</th>
<th>Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rutland Water Ramsar site (same area as SPA)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands</strong>&lt;br&gt;Assemblages of international importance, supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds&lt;br&gt;Species / populations occurring at levels of international importance, supporting 1% of the</td>
<td><strong>No vulnerabilities listed</strong></td>
<td>As for the SPA, with additional information on habitats and species at the site:&lt;br&gt;<strong>Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands</strong>&lt;br&gt;Rutland Water is a large eutrophic man-made pump storage reservoir created by the damming of the Gwash Valley in 1975. The reservoir is in a lowland setting receiving the majority of its water from the Nene (90%) and Welland (10%). In general the reservoir is drawn down in the summer and filled during the autumn and winter months when river levels are high.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural England: supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features

In addition to the above, the supplementary advice identifies the following vulnerabilities:

- Water supply - critical for SPA features that are dependent on wetland habitats supported by surface water, especially at certain times of year.
- Air quality – exceeding ‘critical values’ for air pollutants may result in changes to the habitat substrate and therefore nesting, feeding or roosting habitats.
- Loss of connectivity – the ability to move to and from feeding and roosting areas is critical to the breeding success of species present on the site, both on-site and at off-site habitats.
- Water depth – the SPA requires extensive areas of water for feeding, and water depth at critical times of year is paramount for successful feeding, fitness and survival.
- Food availability – inappropriate management might affect the distribution, abundance and availability of food plants may adversely affect the sustainability of the population.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name (Area, ha)</th>
<th>Qualifying features</th>
<th>Key vulnerabilities</th>
<th>Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>individuals in a population of one species of waterbird</td>
<td></td>
<td>The main habitats are open water and a mosaic of lagoons, reedswamp, marsh, old meadows, scrub and woodland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qualifying species / populations:</td>
<td></td>
<td>The main habitat is the open water of the main body of the reservoir. This is deep water with some macrophyte growth down to 3 metres (average depth 14 m, maximum depth 34 m).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Anas strepera strepera</em> (Gadwall)</td>
<td></td>
<td>The western end of the reservoir contains three bunded areas with their own water supply. These are managed by manipulating the water level to produce seasonal inundation and conditions for breeding wildfowl. They include several small artificial islands and a 2 ha reedbed. The rest of the site is made up of adjacent woodland and grazed grasslands that are used by wintering wigeon and swans and provide a buffer from activities adjacent to the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Anas clypeata</em> (Northern Shoveler)</td>
<td></td>
<td>In addition to the site’s qualifying species, there are a number of other waterbird species that occur at the site in nationally important numbers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2
Plans and projects with the potential for in-combination effects

PART 1 LOCAL PLANS

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS)

Status
Adopted December 2014. Forms Part 1 of the suite of Local Plans in the West Northamptonshire region, which includes Northampton Borough, and is therefore part of the Development Plan for Northampton.

Types of development with the potential for in-combination effects
Makes provisions for a total of 47,620 net additional dwellings across the plan area. These are distributed between: Daventry District (12,730); Northampton (18,870); South Northamptonshire District (11,020).

Reference to European sites
Policy BN4 (Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area) requires that new development will need to demonstrate that there will be no significant adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA, including loss of supporting habitat and impacts due to water runoff, water abstraction or discharges from the drainage system. New development that will lead to an increase in recreational activity at the SPA will require mitigation. New development within 250m of the SPA must also undertake an assessment to demonstrate no effect on sightlines for birds – if directly adjacent to existing buildings, it should reflect surrounding building heights.

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS)

Status
Adopted July 2016 and forms the strategic guidance for the Local Plans for Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. North Northamptonshire borders the West Northamptonshire region to the north.

Types of development with the potential for in-combination effects
The JCS outlines the need for housing of 34,900 net additional dwellings over the plan period 2011-31. Policy 28 sets out the distribution of these dwellings between districts - with Kettering Borough to absorb 10,400 dwellings and Wellingborough 7,000.

One of the most significant proposals is for the sustainable urban extension with around 2,500 homes to the East of Rushden.

Reference to European sites
The JCS references the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site as a significant and protected environmental asset. The JCS requires that any new residential development proposed within 3km of the designated site where schemes involve a net gain in residential units. If mitigation measures cannot be identified, the development will not be permitted.

Policy 4 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) requires that the plan will protect the designated site from unacceptable levels of access and managing pressures for access to and disturbance of sensitive habitats. It also requires that any developments likely to have an adverse impact, either alone or in combination, on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site or other designated site must satisfy HRA requirements. Mitigation strategies may involve contributing to: access and visitor management measures within the SPA; improvement of existing greenspace and recreational routes; or the monitoring of impacts of new development on the European sites to inform future measures.
### PART 2 LOCAL PLANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging. Public consultation on the Draft Plan concluded in November 2018 and the Plan went to Examination in January 2019. Adoption is projected for late 2019. South Northamptonshire falls within the West Northamptonshire region and borders the southern half of Northampton Borough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types of development with the potential for in-combination effects</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Draft Plan provides for 11,020 net additional dwellings over the plan period for 2011-2029, reflecting the provisions in Policy S3 of the West Northamptonshire JCS. However South Northamptonshire carried out their own Housing Needs Assessment in line with the revised NPPF (2018), giving a lower ‘housing need’ figure of 6,320.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The distribution of housing provision allocates new dwellings relatively evenly – 2,160 in Brackley; 2,650 in Towcester town; 2,360 in the South Northamptonshire rural area; and 3,850 in the Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reference to European sites</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In line with the overarching JCS Policy BN4, Policy NE1 (Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area) requires that any new development within a 3km zone of the SPA must undertake an assessment regarding adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The LPA will also prepare a Mitigation Strategy Document concerning the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site within 12 months of the adoption of the plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The local authority has adopted the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Daventry District Settlements and Countryside (Part 2) Local Plan</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerging. Consultation on the Draft Plan concluded in October 2018 and the Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2018. According to the Local Development Scheme, the Part 2 Local Plan is projected for adoption in July 2019. Daventry District falls within the West Northamptonshire region and borders the northern half of Northampton Borough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types of development with the potential for in-combination effects</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy S3 of the West Northamptonshire JCS sets out that over 2011-2029, 12,730 net additional dwellings will be delivered in Daventry District, with Daventry town accounting for 4,620 dwellings. As of April 2018, 2,581 dwellings had been delivered against this requirement, with the majority in rural areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reference to European sites</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy ENV4 (Green Infrastructure) does not directly reference the SPA. However, it requires that proposals will be supported that would contribute to the aims and objectives of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area project on habitat restoration, creation and connectivity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>The Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough (PBW)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopted February 2019. The Plan is now formally part of the Development plan forming Part 2 of the Local Plan for the borough. This Part 2 Plan fully supersedes the policies in the Town Centre Area Action Plan (2009) and saved policies from Borough of Wellingborough Local Plan (1999-2004). Wellingborough falls within the North Northamptonshire region and borders the west of Northampton Borough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types of development with the potential for in-combination effects</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 28 the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) allocates 7,000 net additional dwellings...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to Wellingborough over the plan period of 2011-31. The Draft Plan for Wellingborough reaffirms that, detailing that the majority of these will be provided in the Growth Town of Wellingborough (5,750), with the remainder distributed across villages.

Reference to European sites

The Plan recognises that the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site lies in close proximity to several sites allocated in the Plan, and requires that mitigation measures are carried out in respect of potential recreation pressures, in accordance with Policy 4 of the North Northamptonshire JCS. In particular Policy Site 1 (Wellingborough East) requires that proposals must ensure that there is no adverse impact either alone or in combination on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site, which may involve providing alternative accessible greenspace within the development, or access and visitor management measures within the SPA.

The local authority has adopted the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duston Neighbourhood Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Duston Neighbourhood Plan was ‘made’ in December 2015, following examination in May 2015 and a successful referendum in November 2015. The plan covers the area corresponding to Duston Parish, a north-west suburb of Northampton with a population of around 15,000 (2011). The plan’s housing provision is in line with the Joint Core Strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan was ‘made’ in April 2016, following examination in September 2015 and a successful referendum in March 2016. The plan covers an area within central Northampton adjacent to the town centre and within the Castle Walls. The plan’s housing provision is in line with the Joint Core Strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan was ‘made’ in April 2017, following examination in November 2016 and a successful referendum in February 2017. The plan covers the communities of Blackthorn, Cherry Lodge, Goldings, Lings, Lingswood Park, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge – which lies to the north-east of Northampton town centre. The plan permits small scale residential development (1-9 dwellings).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OTHER PLANS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The WRMP 2015 sets out how Anglia Water plan to maintain the water supply-demand balance from 2015-2040.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 2019 WRMP is currently in draft version, following public consultation in March-June 2018. It presents the Preferred Plan of Anglia Water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types of development with the potential for in-combination effects</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 2015 plan develops a number of feasible options for maintaining the supply-demand balance in the region. Key features include: demand management in all Water Resource Zones (WRZs), a river augmentation scheme, the transfer of resources from areas of surplus to areas of deficit, the selection of a trading option, and the deferral of resource development to the end of the forecast period (including water reuse schemes and the recommissioning of a reservoir).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The priority of the 2019 plan is demand management, supported by targeted supply-side investment. It also promotes transfers across the region from areas of surplus to areas of deficit. It plans to deliver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
environmental benefits by reducing abstraction from the environment and ensuring no deterioration in the ecological status of water bodies. The Ruthamford North WRZ is designated for a new pumping station and new potable water transfer to the South Fenland RZ.

Reference to European sites

The plans recognise that the region is home to a significant proportion of wetland sites or conservation interest. Rutland Water is an Anglian Water reservoir, and the River Nene is one of the watercourses that feeds Rutland Water and Pitsford reservoir.

Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (2012)

Status

The Northamptonshire Transportation Plan was adopted in 2012.

Types of development with the potential for in-combination effects

The plan aligns with the statutory West and North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategies. It is the overarching transport plan that sets out strategic aims and goals for the region, and is accompanied by a number of daughter documents on specific modes and areas, including Northampton Town Transport Strategy (2013); and thematic strategies for bus, rail, cycling, walking, major roads, highway development, parking, and road freight.

The Joint Core Strategy and Transportation Plan between them define the transport schemes for Northampton.

Reference to European sites

Strategic Policy 25 states that 'we will avoid or minimise harmful effects on the natural and historic environment when planning and designing new transport infrastructure schemes'. Strategic Policy 22 (on reducing the impact of motor vehicles) further states that any proposals that would significantly harm a European site would not be supported by the strategy.

Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017)

Status

The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted in 2017 as an updated version of the previously adopted 2014 plan.

Types of development with the potential for in-combination effects

The plan provides the basis for determining planning applications for waste and minerals-related development in Northamptonshire, and allocates specific sites for waste and minerals development.

Minerals development can include the extraction of primary aggregates and the use of secondary (e.g. recycled) aggregates.

Waste development can include the collection, processing and disposal of waste, including hazardous waste.

Reference to European sites

The plan states:

"As the former gravel pits in the Nene Valley are now designated as a site of European importance in relation to birds (Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA), it is important that further extraction from allocated sites in this valley will not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of this designation. Potential sites were subject to HRA through the plan-making process. The planning application for mineral extraction at the Earls Barton West extension (M4) site will be required to undergo further HRA to ensure that development would not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA sites."

and

"Waste management facilities involving advanced treatment often include some form of emission stack (chimney) and increasingly feature the use of lighting for the joint purpose of security and visual interest, and may include the use of reflective surfaces as a design feature. This is particularly important in Northamptonshire given the presence of military flight paths and large numbers of migratory birds. The presence of tall structures (particularly where involving atmospheric emissions) or reflective surfaces..."
under flight paths may present air safety risks. Proposals for development surrounding areas known to be of importance for migratory bird species (e.g. the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and associated habitats) should also consider the potential for building bird strike resulting from tall structures and reflective surfaces. It is therefore important to highlight the need for consideration of such matters during the formative stages of proposal research and design.”
## Appendix 3
### Scoping matrix

The matrix below shows which types of impacts on European sites could potentially result from each of the policies and sites allocated in the Local Plan. Where a site is not expected to have a particular type of impact, the relevant cell is shaded green. Where a site could potentially have a certain type of impact, this is shown in orange. The final column sets out the nature of potential significant effects if they were to arise. Where uncertain or likely significant effects are identified, these are considered further in Chapter 5 Appropriate Assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy 1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development</strong></td>
<td>None – this policy describes the overall strategy for development within the Borough but will not itself result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy 2: Place making</strong></td>
<td>None – this policy sets out design principles for development but will not itself result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|  | This policy states that development should contribute to good place making by "Sustaining, protecting and enhancing heritage and natural environment assets, including prospective non-designated assets and setting and those included on Local Lists as well as those already statutorily protected. Additionally future development must not leave these assets vulnerable to risk and, wherever possible, should promote the use, understanding and enjoyment of the historic and natural environments as an integral part of good placemaking."
<p>|  | This could provide some mitigation for impacts on European sites. |  |
| <strong>Policy 3: Design</strong> | None – this policy sets out design principles for development but will not itself result in new development. | None | No |
| <strong>Policy 4: Amenity and layout</strong> | None – this policy will not result in new development. | None | No |
| <strong>Policy 5: Sustainable construction</strong> | None – this policy will not result in new development. | None | No |
|  | This policy requires residential development to achieve a water efficiency standard of 110l per person per day (Building Regulations Part G2). This could provide mitigation for effects due to changes in water level (e.g. abstraction to |  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy 6: Flood risk and water management</td>
<td>None – this policy will not result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 7: Supporting Northampton town centre</td>
<td>Retail, leisure and employment development Changes in vehicle traffic Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Air pollution Changes to water levels and/or quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 8: Regeneration opportunities</td>
<td>Residential and mixed use development Changes in population Changes in vehicle traffic Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Recreation pressure Pet predation Air pollution Changes to water levels and/or quality Non-physical disturbance Loss of supporting habitat Fragmentation Loss of bird sightlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 9: Supporting and safeguarding the University of Northampton Waterside Campus</td>
<td>Education development Potential changes in population Changes in vehicle traffic Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Recreation pressure Air pollution Changes to water levels and/or quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 10: Managing hotel growth</td>
<td>Hotel development</td>
<td>Recreation pressure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supports proposals that comply with standards for surface water and could therefore provide mitigation for water quality effects. Water quality standards are set locally in Northamptonshire County Council’s Local Standards and Guidance for Surface Water Drainage in Northamptonshire.

This policy permits development within the town centre (i.e., changes of use, redevelopment, or brownfield development). Although likely to be small-scale, development could contribute to a change in the number of vehicle trips to the town centre (and therefore air pollution) and water demand / discharge.

This policy encourages the regeneration of sites within the town centre and wider central area, for housing and mixed use development. Residential development could increase the demand for greenspace for recreation, traffic (and air pollution), and water demand / discharge.

Depending on the location of the sites, there is also the potential for the loss of supporting habitat or fragmentation (if on or near greenspace/waterbodies); or non-physical disturbance (noise / light), pet predation or loss of bird sightlines if the sites are close to a European site (i.e., in the southeast corner of the Central Area).

The policy refers to some named sites, but also enables development on other, as yet unidentified sites. The quantum of housing provided by allocated sites named in this policy has been assessed under Policy 12, and employment under Policy 33. The potential for regeneration development outside of these allocated sites is assessed under this policy.

This policy permits the enhancement of University facilities and improvements in connectivity to the town. If the development accommodates an increase in student / staff numbers or significantly alters the mix of uses at the site, it could increase traffic (air pollution), water demand / discharge and trips to local greenspace.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Changes in visiting population  
Changes in vehicle traffic  
Changes to water demand and discharge | Air pollution  
Changes to water levels and/or quality | This policy permits new hotels within the town centre and Enterprise Zone. New hotels could increase traffic (air pollution), water demand / discharge, and trips to local greenspace. |
| **Policy 11: Development of main town centre uses**  
Residential and mixed use development  
Changes in population  
Changes in vehicle traffic  
Changes to water demand and discharge | Recreation pressure  
Pet predation  
Air pollution  
Changes to water levels and/or quality  
Physical habitat loss / damage  
Non-physical disturbance  
Loss of supporting habitat  
Fragmentation  
Loss of bird sightlines | Yes  
This policy is similar to Policy 8, but permits the regeneration of sites beyond the town centre and central area, for housing and mixed use development. Residential development could increase the demand for greenspace for recreation, traffic (air pollution), and water demand / discharge. Depending on the location of the sites, there is also the potential for physical habitat loss / damage; the loss of supporting habitat or fragmentation (if on or near greenspace/waterbodies); or non-physical disturbance (noise / light), pet predation or loss of bird sightlines if the sites are close to a European site. |
| **Policy 12: Housing and other housing-led allocation**  
(4,749 new homes at 84 allocated sites – see Appendix 4)  
Residential and mixed-use development  
Changes in population  
Changes in vehicle traffic  
Changes to water demand and discharge | Recreation pressure  
Pet predation  
Air pollution  
Changes to water levels and/or quality  
Physical habitat loss / damage  
Non-physical disturbance  
Loss of supporting habitat | Yes  
This policy permits housing and associated mixed use development at 80 allocated sites. Some of those sites also have site-specific development policies (Policies 34-38); however the number of homes they are allocated for is assessed under this policy. Residential development could increase the demand for greenspace for recreation, traffic (air pollution), and water demand / discharge. Depending on the location of the sites, there is also the potential for physical habitat loss / damage; the loss of supporting habitat or fragmentation (if on or near greenspace/waterbodies); or non-physical disturbance (noise / light), pet predation or loss of bird sightlines if the sites are close to a European site. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Fragmentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None – this policy sets out the preferred housing mix but will not itself result in new development.</td>
<td>Loss of bird sightlines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in population</td>
<td>Recreation pressure</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in vehicle traffic</td>
<td>Pet predation</td>
<td>This policy permits dwellings to be converted into houses of multiple occupancy and therefore increases the occupation density of residences in the town. Although likely to be small-scale, the increase in population could contribute to an increase in the demand for greenspace for recreation, traffic (air pollution), and water demand / discharge. Depending on the location of the properties, there is also the potential for increase in pet predation, if close to a European site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Air pollution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to water levels and/or quality</td>
<td>Non-physical disturbance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of supporting habitat</td>
<td>Fragmentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in population</td>
<td>Recreation pressure</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in vehicle traffic</td>
<td>Pet predation</td>
<td>This policy safeguards existing employment sites, but permits changes of use to non-employment uses if employment use is no longer viable. If the development significantly alters the number of vehicle trips to the site or the mix of uses at the site, it could increase traffic (air pollution) and water demand / discharge. Depending on the location of the sites, there is also the potential for the loss of supporting habitat or fragmentation (if on or near greenspace/waterbodies); or non-physical disturbance (noise / light) if the sites are close to a European site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Air pollution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to water levels and/or quality</td>
<td>Non-physical disturbance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of supporting habitat</td>
<td>Fragmentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment development</td>
<td>Air pollution</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in vehicle traffic</td>
<td>Changes to water levels and/or quality</td>
<td>This policy permits development within existing employment sites. If the development significantly alters the number of vehicle trips to the site or the mix of uses at the site, it could increase traffic (air pollution) and water demand / discharge. Depending on the location of the sites, there is also the potential for the loss of supporting habitat or fragmentation (if on or near greenspace/waterbodies); or non-physical disturbance (noise / light) or loss of bird sightlines if the sites are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Non-physical disturbance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of supporting habitat</td>
<td>Fragmentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</td>
<td>Potential effects if proposal implemented</td>
<td>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy 17: New retail developments and retail impact assessment</strong>&lt;br&gt;[7,000-8,900 sqm convenience retail and 5,300-7,300 sqm convenience]</td>
<td>Retail development&lt;br&gt;Changes in vehicle traffic&lt;br&gt;Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Air pollution&lt;br&gt;Changes to water levels and/or quality&lt;br&gt;Physical habitat loss / damage&lt;br&gt;Non-physical disturbance&lt;br&gt;Loss of supporting habitat&lt;br&gt;Fragmentation&lt;br&gt;Loss of bird sightlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy 18: Residential development on upper floors</strong></td>
<td>Changes in population&lt;br&gt;Changes in vehicle traffic&lt;br&gt;Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Recreation pressure&lt;br&gt;Air pollution&lt;br&gt;Changes to water levels and/or quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy 19: Neighbourhood centres</strong></td>
<td>None – this policy sets principles for development in proximity to neighbourhood retail, but will not itself result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy 20: Community services and facilities</strong></td>
<td>Community development&lt;br&gt;Changes in vehicle traffic&lt;br&gt;Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Air pollution&lt;br&gt;Changes to water levels and/or quality&lt;br&gt;Physical habitat loss / damage&lt;br&gt;Non-physical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</td>
<td>Potential effects if proposal implemented</td>
<td>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disturbance</td>
<td>loss of bird sightlines if the sites are close to a European site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Loss of supporting habitat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fragmentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Loss of bird sightlines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 21: Childcare provision</td>
<td>None – this policy will not result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 22: Sites for burial space</td>
<td>Extension of existing burial sites</td>
<td>Loss of supporting habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If the land adjacent to the two existing burial sites is used by species from either European site, then their extension could result in the loss of supporting habitat or fragmentation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The policy recognises that burial spaces can provide greenspace or ecological enhancement, which could contribute to mitigation for recreation impacts on European sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 23: Sustaining and enhancing existing, and supporting the creation of, Northampton's green infrastructure</td>
<td>None – this policy will not result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This policy states that &quot;Development of 15 dwellings or more will deliver and / or contribute to a net gain of green infrastructure in accordance with the Best Practice Principles, Aims and Objectives set out in the Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan (or subsequent updated documents). Development proposals will demonstrate through context and design how they make a positive contribution to the Green Infrastructure Components”; and “Major applications must be accompanied by a site specific green infrastructure strategy and /or plan to illustrate how GI is integrated within the development proposal and seeks to improve connectivity to the Local Level Green Infrastructure network beyond the boundary.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This could provide mitigation for recreation impacts on European sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 24: Providing open spaces</td>
<td>None – this policy will not result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This policy sets standards for greenspace provision, including 1.8ha of natural and semi-natural green space per 1,000 population, within a 720m walk (or 800m walk for sites over 2ha).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This could provide mitigation for recreation impacts on European sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 25: Supporting and enhancing biodiversity</td>
<td>None – this policy will not result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This could provide mitigation for recreation impacts on European sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</td>
<td>Potential effects if proposal implemented</td>
<td>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>result in new development.</td>
<td></td>
<td>This policy requires proposals to &quot;conserve, enhance and increase the net gain for biodiversity. In particular, the Council will seek the protection or enhancement of wildlife sites that are in areas which are... of national or international importance, specifically the Site of Special Interest, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Policy 26: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area | None – this policy will not result in new development | None | No | This policy requires that "all new development proposals within 3km of the Special Protection Area must demonstrate, where necessary through a series of mitigation measures, that their proposals will not contribute to the disturbance and subsequent decline of the bird species for which the site is designated”.
This will provide mitigation for recreation and disturbance impacts on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA. |
| Policy 27: Protection and enhancements of designated and non-designated heritage assets | None – this policy will not result in new development. | None | No |
| Policy 28: Designing sustainable transport and travel | Sustainable transport infrastructure | None | No | This policy sets out the requirement for developments to reduce the requirement for car use by providing infrastructure and high quality design that encourages public transport use, walking and cycling.
This could provide mitigation for air pollution impacts on European sites. |
| Policy 29: Highway network and safety | None – this policy will not result in new development. | None | No | This policy requires developments to have no potentially adverse impacts on the local and/or strategic transport network that cannot be mitigated; and requires major developments applications to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment.
This could contribute to mitigation for air pollution impacts on European sites. |
<p>| Policy 30: Transport schemes and mitigation | None – this policy sets out the requirement for developer contributions to transport schemes and council safeguarding of land for transport, but will not itself result in new development. | None | No |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy 31: Parking standards</th>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None – this policy will not result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy 32: Infrastructure delivery and contributions</th>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None – this policy sets out the requirement for developer contributions to new infrastructure, but will not itself result in new development.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy 33: Development allocations</th>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(92 site allocations - see <strong>Appendix 4</strong>. 80 are for housing / housing-led development and assessed under Policy 12. The remaining 11 are allocated for non-residential development.)</td>
<td>Employment / mixed use (non-residential) development Changes in population Changes in vehicle traffic Changes to water demand and discharge</td>
<td>Air pollution Changes to water levels and/or quality Non-physical disturbance Loss of supporting habitat Fragmentation Loss of bird sightlines</td>
<td>Yes This policy identifies all of the sites allocated for either housing-led or employment development; however, housing allocations have been assessed under Policy 12. Only the employment developments (including the non-residential aspects of the housing-led schemes) have been assessed under this policy. Employment development could result in increased traffic (air pollution) and water demand / discharge. Depending on the location of the sites, there is also the potential for the loss of supporting habitat or fragmentation (if on or near greenspace/waterbodies); or non-physical disturbance (noise / light) or loss of bird sightlines if the sites are close to a European site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy 34: Northampton Railway Station (LAA0288), Railfreight and adjoining sites (LAA0333) (at least 200 homes, see Policy 12; mixed uses, see Policy 33)</th>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None – this policy sets design principles for the development of the site but will not itself result in new development (beyond that allocated in Policies 12 and 8).</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
<td>No The quantum of development brought forward at this mixed use development is assessed under Policy 12 (new homes) and Policy 33 (other new development at allocated sites).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy 35: Martin’s Yard Extension (LAA1005)</th>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None – this policy sets design principles for the development of the site but will not itself result in new development (beyond that allocated in Policy 33).</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
<td>No The quantum of development brought forward at this employment development is assessed under Policy 33.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy 36: The Green, Great Houghton (LAA1098) (800 homes, see Policy 12)</th>
<th>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</th>
<th>Potential effects if proposal implemented</th>
<th>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None – this policy sets design principles for the development of the site but will not itself result in new development (beyond that allocated in Policy 33).</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
<td>No The quantum of development brought forward at this housing-led development is assessed under Policy 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal</td>
<td>Potential effects if proposal implemented</td>
<td>Does the policy or site allocation need to be scoped into the Appropriate Assessment?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 37: Greyfriars (up to 261 homes, see Policy 12; mixed uses, see Policy 33)</td>
<td>None – this policy sets design principles for the development of the site but will not itself result in new development (beyond that allocated in Policies 12 and permitted by Policy 33).</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy 38: Ransome Road (up to 250 homes, assessed under Policy 12)</td>
<td>None – this policy sets design principles for the development of the site but will not itself result in new development (beyond that allocated in Policy 12).</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The quantum of development brought forward at this housing-led development is assessed under Policy 12 (new homes) and Policy 33 (other new development at allocated sites).
## Appendix 4
Allocated sites assessed in the HRA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site reference</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAA0167</td>
<td>Tanner Street</td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0168</td>
<td>Rowtree Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0171</td>
<td>Quinton Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0174</td>
<td>Ransome Road Gateway</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0180</td>
<td>St James Road (former bus depot)</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0195</td>
<td>Hunsbury School, Hunsbury Hill</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0205</td>
<td>Parklands Middle School, Devon Way</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0208</td>
<td>Swan Valley Gateway</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0288</td>
<td>Railway Station car park</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0328</td>
<td>Cattle Market Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0333</td>
<td>Castle Station Railfreight</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0335</td>
<td>Great Russell Street / Chronicle &amp; Echo North</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0336</td>
<td>Chronicle &amp; Echo South</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0338</td>
<td>Countess Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0403</td>
<td>Allotments, Studland Rd</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0496</td>
<td>57 Artizan Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0508</td>
<td>Fishponds Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0590</td>
<td>Nationwide Building Society (adjacent car park)</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0594</td>
<td>Sixfields East</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0598</td>
<td>Car park, Victoria Street</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0629</td>
<td>British Timken site</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0657</td>
<td>Fraser Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0666</td>
<td>171-180 St Andrews Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0672</td>
<td>Tunnel Hill Cottages, Rothersthorpe Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0685</td>
<td>Adj. 12 Pennycress Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0719</td>
<td>Car garages workshops, 409 Harlestone Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0720</td>
<td>Ryland Sans Ford garage, Harlestone Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0814</td>
<td>32 Great Russell Street</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0818</td>
<td>St Peter’s Way</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0870</td>
<td>Sixfields, Upton Way</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0903</td>
<td>Hawkins Shoe Factory, Overstone Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0910</td>
<td>379 Harlestone Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0915</td>
<td>118-122 Wellingborough Road</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0931</td>
<td>Sites in Green Street</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0932</td>
<td>Southbridge Site 1</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA0933</td>
<td>Southbridge Site 2</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1001</td>
<td>Former Emmanuel Middle School</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1005</td>
<td>Land north of Martins Yard, Spencer Bridge Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site reference</td>
<td>Site name</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1006</td>
<td>Pineham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1007</td>
<td>Land south of Wooldale Road, east of Wootton Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1009</td>
<td>Land west of Policy N5 Northampton South SUE</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1010</td>
<td>Land at St Peter's Way/ Court Road/ Freeschool Street</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1013</td>
<td>University of Northampton, Park Campus</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1014</td>
<td>University of Northampton, Avenue Campus</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1022</td>
<td>Belgrave House</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1025</td>
<td>Land to the west of Towester Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1026</td>
<td>Eastern Land parcel</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1034</td>
<td>Witham Way garage site</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1035</td>
<td>West Oval garage site</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1036</td>
<td>Derwent Drive garage site</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1037</td>
<td>Swale Drive garage site and rear/ unused land</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1041</td>
<td>Newnham Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1048</td>
<td>Stenson Street</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1049</td>
<td>Land off Arbour Court</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1051a</td>
<td>Waterpump Court and Billing Brook Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1051b</td>
<td>Land between Waterpump Court and Billing Brook Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1052</td>
<td>Coverack Close, rear of garages</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1058</td>
<td>Land off Oat Hill Drive</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1060</td>
<td>Hayeswood Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1068</td>
<td>The Briars garage site</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1069</td>
<td>Farmclose Road garage site</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1071</td>
<td>Medway Drive (rear of Medway Close)</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1086a</td>
<td>Cosgrove Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1086b</td>
<td>Chalcombe Avenue</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1094</td>
<td>Land off Hoimecross Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1096</td>
<td>Land off Mill Lane</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1097</td>
<td>Gate Lodge</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1098</td>
<td>The Green, Great Houghton</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1099</td>
<td>Upton Park (Upton Reserve Site)</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1100</td>
<td>Hill Farm Rise</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1101</td>
<td>Land at Waterside Way</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1102</td>
<td>Site east of Towester Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1104</td>
<td>Watering Lane</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1107</td>
<td>Former Abington Mill Farm, land off Rushmere Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1108</td>
<td>Horsley Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1109</td>
<td>Mill Lane</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1112</td>
<td>Milton Ham</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1113</td>
<td>Greyfriars</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1114</td>
<td>Cedarwood Nursing Home, 492 Kettering Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1116</td>
<td>194-200 Kingsthorpe Grove</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1117</td>
<td>133 Queens Park Terrace</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site reference</td>
<td>Site name</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1118</td>
<td>135 Harlestone Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1119</td>
<td>Silver Coronet, Welland Way</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1121</td>
<td>Upton Valley Way East</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1123</td>
<td>83 - 103 Trinity Avenue</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1124</td>
<td>41-43 Derngate</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1126</td>
<td>5 Primrose Hill</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1127</td>
<td>32 Connaught Street</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1131</td>
<td>The Leys Close, 39 Mill Lane</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1133</td>
<td>Eastern District Social Club, Crestwood Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1134</td>
<td>St John’s Railway Embankment</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1137</td>
<td>Land at Wootton Fields</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1138</td>
<td>Land south of Bedford Road/ north of sports ground</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1139</td>
<td>Ransome Road</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAA1140</td>
<td>Land north of Milton Ham</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>