



ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

12 CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN - TOWARDS 2031 - DRAFT LOCAL PLAN FOR CONSULTATION *(Pages 5 - 286)*

Appendices attached:

- Appendix C: Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Joint Sustainability Appraisal of the Sustainable Development Strategy
- Appendix D: Habitats Regulations Assessment (draft)
- Appendix E: Equalities Impact Assessment (draft)
- Appendix H: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation – Supporting the Spatial Approach 2011 – 2031

The following appendices are accessible via the following hyperlink (please copy all lines as the address is split over several):

https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/draft_submission/esc/

- Appendix A: Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (draft)
- Appendix F: Statement of Consultation (draft)
- Appendix G: Cambridge Policies Map (draft)

To follow:

- Appendix B: Sustainability Appraisal (draft)



To: Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change: Councillor Tim Ward
Report by: Head of Planning Services
Relevant scrutiny Environment Scrutiny 11/06/2013
committee: Committee
Full Council 27/06/2013
Wards affected: All Wards

CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN 2014

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report concerns the new draft Cambridge local plan.
- 1.2 Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee considered the draft Local Plan on 29 May. The purpose of this report is to present the complete version of the Plan as currently drafted, including appendices and the changes requested by the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
- 1.3 The report recommends that the Plan should be considered by the Environment Scrutiny Committee and then by Full Council.
- 1.4 If Full Council approves the Plan, it will be published for a form of public consultation in which anybody may lodge formal representations. Environment Scrutiny Committee and Full Council will consider those representations in early 2014 and it will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination by an independent planning inspector.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 This report is being submitted to the Environment Scrutiny Committee for prior consideration and comment before decision by the Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change.
- 2.2 The Executive Councillor is recommended:
 - To agree the draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 subject to any changes recommended by Environment Scrutiny Committee on 11

June and Full Council on 27 June (including the adoption of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation approach for plan making under the duty to co-operate (Appendix H));

- To recommend to Full Council that the Plan is approved for the purposes of publication under Regulations 19 and 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- To agree that any amendments and editing changes that need to be made to the draft Local Plan (and associated Sustainability Appraisal and other appendices) put to Full Council be agreed by the Executive Councillor in consultation with the Chair and Spokesperson of Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

3. Background

Introduction

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the current Cambridge Local Plan was adopted in July 2006 and runs to 2016 and beyond. There is an urgent need to replace this plan with a new one that makes provision for development over a longer time period (to 2031); addresses all of the challenges currently facing Cambridge; responds to the new national policy context established by the National Planning Policy Framework (published in 2012); and accords with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011 and associated Regulations.
- 3.2 There has been a great deal of preparatory work for the new Plan, including consultations on Issues and Options (June – July 2012) and on Issues and Options 2 (January – February 2013), and the collection of evidence and the undertaking of specialist studies to justify and underpin the preparation of policies. 18,000 representations were made to the two consultation stages. All of the comments made during the two periods of consultation have been taken into account and summaries of the main issues raised have been presented to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The statement of consultation is attached to these papers at appendix F and sets out how representations have been dealt with.
- 3.3 The various draft sections of the new plan, along with policy justifications, have been presented at meetings of Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 25 March, 27 March, 16 April and 29 May. At the meeting on 29 May, Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee recommended that Executive Councillor submit the draft Local Plan to Environment Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

3.4 This report has the following appendices:

- Appendix A: Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (draft)
- Appendix B: Sustainability Appraisal (draft)
- Appendix C: Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Joint Sustainability Appraisal of the Sustainable Development Strategy
- Appendix D: Habitats Regulations Assessment (draft)
- Appendix E: Equalities Impact Assessment (draft)
- Appendix F: Statement of Consultation (draft)
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Legal and National Policy Requirements

3.5 There are a number of legal duties that must be considered when preparing any development plan. These are summarised as follows:

1. Whether the plan been prepared in accordance with the **Local Development Scheme** and in compliance with the **Statement of Community Involvement** [The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 20042 (the Act) sections 19(1) and 19(3) respectively].
2. Whether the plan has had regard to **policies developed by a local transport authority** in accordance with section 108 of the [Transport Act 2000](#) [Reg 10(a)].
3. Whether the plan pursues the objectives of **preventing major accidents and limiting the consequences of accidents** by pursuing those objectives through the controls described in Article 12 of [Council Directive 96/82/EC](#) [The Seveso directive] [Reg 10 (b) (c)].
4. Whether the plan has been subject to a **strategic environment assessment**, and where required an appropriate assessment of impact on any sites falling under the EU Habitat (and Birds) directive [The Act Section 19(5), [EU Directive 2001/42/EC](#), [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#), [EU Habitats and Birds Directives Directive 92/43/EEC](#), [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010](#)].

5. Whether the plan is compatible with the requirements of the [EU Water Framework Directive](#) and any River Basin Management Plans prepared under that directive [[Directive 2000/60/EC](#)].
6. Whether the plan has regard to the **National Waste Management Plan** [Reg 10(d) and [Waste \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2011](#)].
7. Whether the plan has regard to any **Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)** for its area; [section 19(2)(f), section 4 of the [Local Government Act 2000](#)].
8. Whether the plan meets the **procedural requirements involving publicity and availability of the development plan document and related documents**; [The Act Section 20(3), prescribed documents Reg 17 and Reg 22, Consultation Reg 18, Submission Reg 22].
10. Whether the plan meets the **Duty to Cooperate** [The Act Section 33A, Reg 4].

3.6 Plans must also meet the soundness tests as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 182):

“A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is “sound” – namely that it is:

- **Positively prepared** – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- **Justified** – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
- **Effective** – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
- **Consistent with national policy** – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.”

3.7 In the opinion of officers, the version of the Plan that is now presented to Committee meets all of these legal requirements and tests, and so would be suitable for publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State, if approved by Full Council in due course.

Relationship with other Development Plans

- 3.8 No plan can be prepared in isolation, and a key consideration for the Council, and ultimately for the planning inspector who examines the submitted plan, is the relationship of the new Cambridge Local Plan with other Development Plans.
- 3.9 At the start of this year, the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England (the East of England Plan) was formally revoked by statutory instrument, along with its addendum relating to Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. At the same time, all of the remaining policies from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 were revoked. This means that there is no longer any requirement for the Local Plan to comply with, or have regard to, any “higher level” strategic development plan (although the Plan will be tested for its consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework).
- 3.10 An important obligation introduced by the Localism Act 2011 is the “duty to co-operate”, referred to at the end of paragraph 3.5 above. This requires the Council and a wide range of other bodies to co-operate with one another in certain defined activities relating to plan making. In Cambridge’s case, co-operation between the City Council Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council has been, and will continue to be, critical. At the strategic level the approach to identifying objectively assessed needs for homes and jobs and to strategic issues has been set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation and Spatial Approach. This approach has been recommended for adoption as the basis for plan making under the duty to co-operate.
- 3.11 “Co-operation” does not necessarily mean that there must be complete agreement by all parties on every aspect of the Plan; but there must be evidence of joint-working wherever appropriate and attempts to agree on such matters as an evidence base, infrastructure needs, cross-boundary development needs etc. This has been achieved through a close working relationship with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council through the various stages of plan preparation to date, and planned co-operation on the forthcoming stages of proposed submission consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State. As a result, there will be a high degree of consistency between the proposed new Cambridge Local Plan and the proposed new Local

Plan for South Cambridgeshire and the proposed Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

- 3.12 It is proposed that upon adoption, the new Local Plan will replace the 2006 Local Plan in its entirety, revoking its policies automatically. However, there remains the issue of the future of the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan and the Cambridge East Area Action Plan, both of which are statutory development plans.
- 3.13 The new Plan has been drafted in a way that is consistent with the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan, which will remain in place unaltered. In the case of Cambridge East, there are two policies in the Area Action Plan (policies CE/3 and CE/35), which will be replaced by a policy in the new Local Plan; the remainder of that Area Action Plan will continue in force.
- 3.14 The other statutory development plans affecting Cambridge are the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Site Specific Proposals DPDs. There is nothing in the Local Plan, as drafted, that conflicts with these.

Structure and Content of the Local Plan

- 3.15 The Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee has been presented with a draft Plan and has agreed that it should be presented to Environment Scrutiny Committee for consideration (with amendments noted as tracked changes).
- 3.16 The overall content of the Plan reflects the changing landscape for planning since the last local plan was adopted in 2006 but includes significant common policy areas such as; an updated vision and objectives; spatial strategy; individual site allocations; a comprehensive suite of planning policies; and sections dealing with delivery, implementation and monitoring; together with a series of appendices.
- 3.17 The Plan includes a key diagram which shows, diagrammatically, the basic geography of the strategy – the main locations for growth, key proposed transportation infrastructure, the city centre and the next level of centres in the proposed hierarchy, the River Cam, the Cambridge Green Belt and the local authority boundary. It also includes a full Policies Map (formerly known as a Proposals Map), showing the allocations and areas to which policies apply on an Ordnance Survey base map.

Next Steps

- 3.18 Following this Environment Scrutiny Committee, the draft plan is intended to progress to Full Council on 27 June 2013. Full Council will need to understand that they will be recommended to approve a version of the Plan that they would want to be the Council's final adopted version. To be absolutely clear, this version is not some kind of "Consultation Draft"; it is a "Proposed Submission" version - a version that is intended to be submitted to the Secretary of State in due course, defended at a public examination and adopted in the form as submitted unless the Planning Inspector who conducts the subsequent public examination into the Plan recommends otherwise.
- 3.19 Provided that the Plan is agreed at Full Council, arrangements will be made to publish it formally on 19 July 2013. The relevant Regulation requires a minimum period of six weeks during which anybody may submit a formal representation about the Plan, but it is proposed that an extended period should be allowed until 30 September, in view of the summer holiday period.
- 3.20 There are certain statutory minimum requirements about the publicity that must be given at this stage, and the availability of documents. The primary purpose of this stage is to enable anybody to lodge a formal representation about the soundness of the Plan or its compliance with legal requirements.
- 3.21 The Council will continue to go beyond the minimum legal requirements for publication and availability of the Plan, and all supporting documents. In addition, there will be direct notification of the opportunity to submit representations to a wide variety of individuals and organisations, exhibitions, posters, leaflets etc. The consultations and communications arrangements will be consistent with the agreed Consultations and Community Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan Review and the Council's Code of Practice on Consultation and Community Engagement.
- 3.22 An important feature of this stage to note is that it is not the task of the Council to consider the representations that are lodged. The task of the Council is to receive and acknowledge representations, to prepare a summary of the main issues raised in those representations and then, when ready, to submit a package of items to the Secretary of State for examination. The package will include:
- The submission version of the Local Plan with Policies Map (as approved by Council);
 - Copies of all the representations received;

- A statement of the number of representations made and a summary of the main issues raised;
- A statement with details of previous consultations (i.e. Issues and Options and Issues and Options 2), including the methods used for consultation, who was consulted, the main issues raised and how they have been taken into account in the submitted plan;
- The sustainability appraisal report;
- All of the other documents that make up the evidence base and justification for the Plan.

3.23 It is anticipated that submission will take place early in 2014, following final consideration by Environment Scrutiny Committee and Full Council.

3.24 In practice, the documents are submitted to the Government's Planning Inspectorate, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State. A planning inspector will be appointed to conduct a public examination into the Plan, and it is the job of the inspector to take all of the representations into account during the course of the examination.

3.25 This inspector will receive and debate evidence from all relevant parties (including, of course, the Council) and a major part of the examination will be a series of hearing sessions in public. These hearing sessions are likely to be in the spring/summer of 2014. The process will culminate in the production of the Inspector's Report in which he/she will say if the Plan is or is not sound, and legally compliant, with recommended modifications if necessary to make it so.

3.26 If having considered the issues raised in representations, the Council felt sufficiently strongly that the Plan ought to be changed, then it would be necessary to approve the change, make the changed Plan available all over again for at least six weeks for formal representations, and then submit the original submission version, the changed submission version, all of the representations received in response to both versions and all of the other material referred to at paragraph 3.24 above.

3.27 Such an approach can be very confusing and time-consuming and should be avoided if at all possible. In short, the version of the Plan that is approved at Full Council on 27 June 2013 should be regarded as the version that the Council wants to see as its final, adopted version.

4. Implications

(a) **Financial Implications**

There are both direct and indirect financial implications arising from this report.

The direct financial implications flowing from the approval of the Plan relate to the costs of printing, publicity and public consultation and, in due course, paying the Planning Inspectorate for the fees of a planning inspector in examining the submitted document. However, the costs of preparing a local plan have been budgeted for and included in the budget for 2013-2014 and the medium term financial planning for 2014-2015. The agreed approach of preparing one single local plan rather than three separate development plan documents will mean considerable cost and time savings can be achieved.

(b) **Staffing Implications** (if not covered in Consultations Section)

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. The review of the Local Plan has already been included in existing work plans.

(c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

There are no direct equal opportunity implications arising from this report. The Plan has the potential to impact on different sections of the community, but an Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared as part of the Plan preparation and this demonstrates how potential equalities issues have been, and will be, addressed.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

The new Local Plan for Cambridge will assist in the delivery of high quality and sustainable new development along with protecting and enhancing the built and natural environments in the City. This will include measures to help Cambridge adapt to the changing climate as well as measures to reduce carbon emissions from new development. Overall there should be a positive climate change impact.

(e) **Procurement**

There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

The consultation and communications arrangements for the Local Plan are consistent with the agreed Consultation and Community

Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan Review, 2012 Regulations and the Council's Code for Best Practice on Consultation and Community Engagement.

(g) **Community Safety**

There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report.

5. Background papers

5.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Localism Act 2011, which can be accessed at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>
- National Planning Policy Framework 2012, which can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- Cambridge Local Plan 2006, which can be accessed at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-plan-2006>
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/policies/structure-plan.htm>
- Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 – Issues and Options and Issues and Options 2 consultations, which can both be accessed at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-plan-review>

6. Appendices

- Appendix A: Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (draft)
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7. Inspection of papers

7.1 To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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Appendix C: Cambridge and South
Cambridgeshire Joint Sustainability Appraisal
of the Sustainable Development Strategy

Appendix C: Reviewing the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Cambridge Area

1. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are updating their Local Plans for the Cambridge area for the period up to 2031.
2. The existing development plans for the area are the Cambridge Local Plan (adopted 2006) and the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (adopted between 2007 and 2010). They include a development strategy based on a sustainable development sequence focusing development on Cambridge, sites on the edge of Cambridge brought forward through a review of the Green Belt, a new town (Northstowe), and limited development in better served villages.
3. The updated local plans extend the plan period to 2031, and consider development needs for this period, and how they should be addressed. This paper considers the evolution of the development strategy for the Cambridge area, and how the preferred approach was identified.
4. It includes the following:
 - The Current Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire - How the existing strategy for development in the Cambridge area was developed.
 - Continuing a Sustainable Development Strategy – Considerations regarding how the strategy could be moved forward to 2031.
 - Considering Options for a new Development Strategy – How strategy options were considered through the Issues and Options process.
 - Existing Housing Supply – Details the existing supply of sites with planning permission or existing allocations, and how they relate to the development hierarchy.
 - Identifying New Site Options – How site options for testing were identified, how they were tested through the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process, and how reasonable alternative allocations were distinguished from rejected options.
 - Identification of the proposed development strategy.

The Current Development Strategy for the Cambridge Area

5. Whilst regional and structure plans are no longer produced, throughout the plan making process South Cambridgeshire District Council has worked closely with Cambridge City Council. There is a strong interaction between the two administrative areas. South Cambridgeshire encircles Cambridge and many residents of the district look to the city for services and jobs.
6. The current development strategy for the Cambridge area stems from as far back as 1999, from the work undertaken by Cambridge Futures, which influenced the 2000 Regional Plan for East Anglia and the 2003 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan. Prior to that date, development in Cambridge had been constrained by the Green Belt. One of the effects of this constraint

was that housing development which would have taken place in Cambridge was dispersed to towns and villages beyond the outer boundary of the Green Belt, with people commuting back to jobs in Cambridge contributing to congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, air quality problems and other quality of life issues. The change in strategy introduced in the 2003 Cambridgeshire Structure Plan recognised that a significant change in the approach to the planning of the city was required in order to help redress the imbalance between homes and jobs in, and close to, Cambridge, whilst ensuring that the special qualities of Cambridge and the surrounding area which are protected by a Green Belt are maintained. It also needed to provide for the long-term growth of the University of Cambridge and Addenbrooke's Hospital, whilst minimising increases in congestion on radial routes into the city.

7. The existing Cambridge Local Plan (2006) and South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (adopted between 2007 and 2010) introduced a step change in levels of planned growth, unmatched since the interwar years. This was consistent with the agreed development strategy for the Cambridge area set out in the 2003 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan. The Plans released significant land from the Cambridge Green Belt and allocated a number of urban extensions to the city in the south, north west, north east and east of the city.
8. The strategy in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 and carried into the two Councils' current plans aims to focus development according to a sustainable development sequence:
9. Current Development Sequence:
 1. Within the urban area of Cambridge
 2. On the edge of Cambridge
 3. In the new town of Northstowe
 4. At the market towns in neighbouring districts and in the better served villages.
10. The Cambridgeshire Structure Plan envisaged the following approach to Development following this sequence.

Structure Plan 2003 Development Sequence	Cambridge only	South Cambs Only	Cambridge and South Cambs	%
Cambridge	6,500	2,400	8,900	27
Edge of Cambridge	6,000	2,000	8,000	25
New settlement(s)		6,000	6,000	18
Villages		9,600	9,600	30
TOTAL 1999 to 2016	12,500	20,000	32,500	

11. The 2003 Structure Plan identified broad locations to be released from the Green Belt on the edge of Cambridge, which had been identified in Green Belt reviews as having less significance in terms of the purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt. The only exception to this was land in north west Cambridge to

meet the long term development needs of Cambridge University given its international significance. The strategy was put into effect through the Cambridge Local Plan, the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework, and the joint Area Action Plans for North West Cambridge and Cambridge East. All of these plans were subject to extensive periods of public consultation and examination by planning inspectors. The strategy was endorsed and included in the East of England Plan 2008. Significant progress is being made on the growth sites identified in the Councils' current plans, although progress was slowed just as sites were coming forward due to the effects of the recession when it took hold in 2008. However, almost all sites are now progressing well and are either under construction, with planning permission or at pre-application discussion stage.

12. At the heart of the strategy established in 2003 was the review of the Cambridge Green Belt which released land for a total of around 22,000 homes, of which some 10,000 to 12,000 were to be built at Cambridge East in both Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. This included development that would take place beyond 2016 where it required the relocation of Cambridge Airport. In 2009, the landowner - Marshalls of Cambridge - advised that Cambridge Airport would not be made available in this plan period at least, as an appropriate relocation sites could not be found. This means that the major development opportunities at Cambridge East cannot be part of the development strategy in the new Local Plans, and so the full implementation of the current development strategy cannot take place in the plan period to 2031. Marshall has recently announced a renewed intention to develop the allocated site north of Newmarket Road for around 1,200 homes with a planning application expected in 2013 and development north of Cherry Hinton in both Councils' areas following later which the Councils consider could provide around 500 homes.

Continuing a Sustainable Development Strategy

13. Throughout the preparation of the existing plans, there was strong local acknowledgement of the growing need for future growth to follow a more sustainable spatial pattern of development in the Cambridge area to help mitigate commuting by car to jobs in and close to Cambridge and the resulting congestion and emissions, this included traffic restraint through the introduction of a congestion charge which was subsequently rejected.
14. As part of the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England, the Cambridgeshire authorities commissioned consultants to prepare the Cambridgeshire Development Study. The study was completed in 2009 and looked at how well the existing development strategy was working, forecasts for economic growth, taking account of the beginning of the downturn and how the strategy could be developed if further growth was needed.
15. The study identified a range of challenges for growth beyond the current development strategy. These included that significant additional expansion to Cambridge (where the economy is strongest) would impact on the integrity of

the Green Belt and the concept of Cambridge as a compact city. The study also concluded that without deliverable solutions for transport and land supply, Cambridge centred growth would be difficult to achieve, and would require a fundamental step change in traffic management and travel behaviour.

16. The study recommended a spatial strategy for Cambridgeshire that was based on delivering the current strategy with further balanced expansion through regeneration in selected market towns, and focussed on making best use of existing infrastructure. However, it did indicate that some additional growth could be located on the edge of Cambridge incorporating a limited review of the Green Belt boundary, in the long term. The key objective of the strategy was to locate homes close to Cambridge or other main employment centres, avoiding dispersed development, and ensuring that travel by sustainable modes is maximised through connections focussing on improved public transport and reducing the need to travel.
17. For the review of the development plans the Councils have considered whether the current strategy remains the most appropriate development strategy to 2031, or whether an alternative would be more suitable as a result of current circumstances. The interrelationship between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire means that decisions cannot be taken in isolation and the future approach needs to remain joined up, as it has been in the past. This is also now a requirement on the authorities under the Duty to Cooperate introduced by the Localism Act 2011. On the whole, South Cambridgeshire looks towards Cambridge in functional terms whilst Cambridge is affected by a tight administrative boundary and surrounding Green Belt, and therefore any decision relating to the spatial strategy in South Cambridgeshire is likely to have an impact on Cambridge and vice versa.
18. The Councils have reviewed jointly how far the current sustainable development strategy has progressed, what evidence there is that it is achieving its original objectives and what a new sustainable development strategy looks like in view of changes in economic and other circumstances since the current strategy was adopted. It must balance the three strands of sustainability – economic, social, and environmental.
19. For plan making, Councils are required to positively seek opportunities to meet the objectively assessed development needs of their area in a flexible way, unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.
20. Where Green Belts are defined, they should only be altered in exceptional circumstances when preparing a Local Plan. When reviewing Green Belt boundaries, Councils are required to take account of the need to promote sustainable development and consider the consequences for sustainable development of channelling development towards urban areas within Green Belts, to villages inset within the Green Belt and to locations beyond the Green Belt.

21. This sets a considerable challenge for the Cambridge area, in the context of:
- A strong and growing economy;
 - The need for new homes to support the jobs and the aim to provide as many of those new homes as close to the new jobs as possible to minimise commuting and the harmful effects for the environment, climate change and quality of life that it brings; and
 - A tightly drawn Green Belt to protect the unique character of Cambridge as a compact, dynamic city with a thriving historic centre, to maintain and enhance the quality of its setting, and to prevent it merging with the ring of necklace villages, that helps underpin the quality of life and place in Cambridge, fundamental to economic success
22. Achieving an appropriate balance between these competing arms of sustainable development is a key objective of the development strategy for the new Local Plans.

Note: The amount of development that should be planned for is addressed separately and not in this document.

Sustainable Development Strategy Review

23. The current sustainable development strategy was extensively scrutinised and challenged during its evolution through the regional plan and structure plan into the Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (LDF). Independent planning inspectors confirmed it as the most sustainable development strategy for the two Districts to 2016 and beyond.
24. Moving forward into the new Local Plans and having regard to the new Duty to Co-operate, the recently established Cambridgeshire Joint Strategy Unit has worked with the Councils to carry out a further review of the sustainable development strategy for the two Councils' areas. Overall, the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Development Strategy Review document concludes that the development strategy in the Cambridge Local Plan and the South Cambridgeshire LDF remains the most sustainable for the two areas, subject to striking the right balance between meeting the needs and demands for new homes and jobs, with environmental, infrastructure and quality of life factors. The most sustainable locations for development are within and on the edge of Cambridge and then in one or more new settlements close to Cambridge, which are connected to the city by high quality public transport and other non-car modes. Development in market towns (outside Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire) scores broadly similar to new settlements although travel distances are much further making non-car modes potentially less attractive than new settlements. Development in villages is the least sustainable option and only appropriate in the larger better served villages with good quality public transport.

25. The review concluded that in addition to the key sustainability considerations of proximity to employment, services and facilities and access to good public transport, the central themes that emerge from this broad assessment are:
- The need to have regard to the scale of development that is planned at different locations, not least to ensure that development allocations do not undermine the delivery of the existing sustainable development strategy and lead to a return to unsustainable patterns of development;
 - Its ability to deliver the necessary infrastructure to create sustainable communities; and
 - Overall delivery implications and timescales.
26. Whilst the new Local Plans need to add some supply to the significant existing supply of housing, planning permission already exists for more employment development than is forecasted by 2031. Whatever decisions are made on supplying additional houses, jobs growth will continue. The challenge will be to develop Local Plans that deliver a sustainable development strategy that balances employment growth with good quality and deliverable travel options with short journey times from the key locations for new and existing homes. Consideration also needs to be given to the special character of Cambridge and quality of life for existing and future residents.
27. In its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Government carries forward the advice from earlier Planning Policy Statements that, when drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries, local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. They should consider the consequences for sustainable development of channelling development towards urban areas inside the Green Belt boundary, towards towns and villages inset within the Green Belt or towards locations beyond the outer Green Belt boundary. As part of preparing new Local Plans and given the change in circumstances since the current development strategy was agreed, it was therefore considered appropriate to look again at the inner Cambridge Green Belt boundary in order to establish whether there were any more options for development that should be consulted on.

Considering Options for a new Development Strategy

28. The Issues and Options consultations sought comments on whether the current development strategy remains the soundest basis for development in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire for the period to 2031.

Cambridge

29. The Cambridge Issues and Options Report 2012 focussed on the City Council's area by assessing options for continued development within the urban area as well as exploring whether there should be further development on the edge of Cambridge in the Green Belt. This included:

- Whether there should be more development than is already committed in the 2006 Local Plan on the edge of Cambridge?
 - Should more land be released from the Green Belt?
 - If so, where should this be? Ten broad locations around Cambridge were included in the consultation document.
 - Whether there were any other approaches that should be considered at this stage?
30. There was also strong acknowledgement of the good progress that is being made towards implementing the current strategy, with development progressing on fringe sites on the edge of Cambridge.

South Cambridgeshire

31. The South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options 2012 consultation included a question on how the sustainable development strategy should be taken forward.
32. It explained that any development strategy for South Cambridgeshire needs to recognise the links with Cambridge, particularly in terms of providing employment to support the successful economy of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, and housing to provide opportunities for the workforce, both existing and new, to live close to where they work. As with the current strategy, the updated Local Plan is likely to need to be a combination of sites at different stages in the sequence in order to meet housing targets and in particular some village housing developments to provide a 5-year supply, given the long lead in time for new major developments which would realistically only start to deliver later in the plan period.
33. The options for the development strategy consulted on that lie within South Cambridgeshire were to:
- Focus on providing more development on the edge of Cambridge, in part to replace Cambridge East, through a further review of the Green Belt.
 - Focus on providing more development through one or more new settlements, of sufficient size to provide sustainable development, including provision of a secondary school, and with good public transport links to Cambridge.
 - Focus on providing development at the more sustainable villages that have the best levels of services and facilities and accessibility by public transport and cycle to Cambridge or, to a lesser extent, a market town.
 - A combination of the above.

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

34. Through the joint consultation in 2013, the Councils sought views on the appropriate balance between protecting land on the edge of Cambridge that is of high significance to Green Belt purposes, and delivering development away from Cambridge in new settlements and at better served villages

35. The majority of representations were that the Green Belt should be protected from further development. Development should be concentrated in new settlements and better served villages, to reduce congestion and avoid pressure on village infrastructure. Further urban extensions received a more limited level of support.

The Sustainability Appraisal of Strategic Approaches

36. The Sustainability Appraisal process has also been a key element of considering the relative merits of different strategic approaches.
37. Building on the Sustainability Appraisals supporting each of the Issues and Options consultations, Appendix 1 of this report includes a high level assessment of the sustainability implications of focusing on different stages of the development sequence (Cambridge Urban Area, Edge of Cambridge, New Settlements, more Sustainable villages, and less sustainable villages).
38. In outline, the benefits of utilising land within the urban area of Cambridge are the re-use of previously developed land and reducing the need for greenfield development. It also delivers housing closest to the highest concentration of jobs, services and facilities.
39. Development on the edge of Cambridge is the next closest option to the City, but would require use of greenfield land in the Green Belt. The purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt recognise the qualities and importance of the area for the landscape and townscape setting of the City and surrounding villages. The Green Belt review has shown that significant additional development would be detrimental to these purposes.
40. New settlements offer the opportunity to focus development in a way that would support delivery of new services, facilities and employment to meet the needs of residents. Whilst there would still be travel to Cambridge they offer a higher degree of self-containment than more dispersed strategies. They would enable the delivery of focused transport improvements, to deliver a higher share of travel by sustainable modes than more distributed strategies, although they would also focus traffic into specific corridors.
41. Village based strategies would disperse growth. It may enable incremental improvements to existing services and transport, but would provide less focus for delivery of high quality services, and could put pressure on existing village services where expansion could be challenging. There would be less access to high quality public transport, and the modal share of travel by car would be higher.

Existing Housing Supply

42. Notwithstanding the loss of a significant number of homes at Cambridge East, a significant supply of housing has already been identified through existing plans. This includes land with planning permission, and land that was identified and allocated in previous plans which remain available, suitable and deliverable, with these attributes being tested through Annual Monitoring Reports.

Within Cambridge

43. Since 2011, 280 homes have been built within the urban area of Cambridge. At the end of March 2013 there was an existing supply of 2,698 homes in Cambridge City Council's urban area of Cambridge either with planning permission or outstanding allocations. This excludes the major developments on the edge of Cambridge in the current Local Plan 2006, that are considered under the edge of Cambridge stage below. Orchard Park also forms part of the urban area of Cambridge, having been released in an earlier plan, although it lies within South Cambridgeshire. It is largely built, but a further 309 dwellings are expected to be built between 2011 and 2031. There is therefore a total existing supply of 3,287 homes within the urban area of Cambridge.

On the edge of Cambridge

44. Since 2011, 51 homes have been built at Trumpington Meadows and NIAB1. A further 11,310 new homes are already identified through the combined land released from the Green Belt in the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 and South Cambridgeshire LDF adopted between 2007 and 2010. This is a major part of the current development strategy and will remain so in the new Local Plans. After stalling at the beginning of the economic downturn, good progress in relation to the development of the fringe sites has been, and continues to be made. There is therefore a total existing supply of 11,361 homes on the edge of Cambridge.

New settlements

45. The new town of Northstowe is a key part of the current strategy. The town will comprise 9,500 dwellings in total, of which 5,965 are anticipated to come forward by 2031. Northstowe is located on the Guided Busway and will have good public transport links to Cambridge but at present the guided buses often get caught along with all other traffic on congested roads once they reach Cambridge. South Cambridgeshire District Council consulted on whether the reserve site at Northstowe should be allocated in the Local Plan but recognised that this would not increase the number of homes that could be built by 2031, but could provide flexibility in the way the town is built. It is not expected that the reserve land will increase the overall number of homes at Northstowe.

Development at larger villages

46. A total of 640 homes have been built in villages since 2011. There are outstanding commitments for 3,028 homes in the rural area as a whole as at end March 2012 and three site options that were subject to public consultation in the Issues and Options consultation of summer 2012 now have planning permission for a further 185 homes .

Total Existing Supply

47. Cambridge has an existing supply of 10,437, divided between the urban area, and sites on the fringe of the City.

CAMBRIDGE	Completions and Committed Dwellings (March 2013)	Percentage of existing total supply
Cambridge Urban Area	2,978	29
Cambridge Fringe Sites	7,459	71
TOTAL	10,437	

48. The total existing supply for South Cambridgeshire accounts for 14,029 dwellings.

SOUTH CAMBS	Completions and Committed Dwellings (March 2013)	Percentage of existing total supply
Cambridge Urban Area	309	2
Cambridge Fringe Sites	3,902	28
New Settlements	5,965	43
Villages	3,853	27
TOTAL	14,029	

49. The combined total of existing supply of the two districts is shown in the table below.

CAMBRIDGE AND SOUTH CAMBS	Completions and Committed Dwellings (March 2013)	Percentage of existing total supply
Cambridge Urban Area	3,287	13
Cambridge Fringe Sites	11,361	46
New Settlements	5,965	24
Villages	3,853	16
TOTAL	24,466	

50. The current commitments retain the Cambridge focus of the strategy originated in the Structure Plan, with around 60% in or on the edge of the City.
51. The objectively assessed housing needs identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), which the two Councils have committed to meeting

in full within their own areas under a country-wide Memorandum of Cooperation, are 14,000 homes for Cambridge and 19,000 homes for South Cambridgeshire for the plan period 2011-2031.

52. A housing requirement of 14,000 dwellings for Cambridge, means the new Local Plan needs to accommodate an additional 3,563 dwellings on top of current supply. A housing requirement of 19,000 for South Cambridgeshire, means the new Local Plan needs to identify sites to accommodate a further 4,971 dwellings.
53. Both individually and in combination, the new local plans of both districts will be determining the location of around 25% of the total development planned in the sub region 2011 to 2031. Whatever the outcome of the strategy a significant focus on Cambridge will remain.

Identifying New Site Options

54. Both Councils have explored a range of site options that could meet the additional development requirements to 2031 through their Issues and Options consultations.

Cambridge

55. Cambridge City Council has undertaken an extensive search for additional housing sites within the built-up area. This involved a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) whereby the Council issued a general 'call for sites' to identify all possible sites that could accommodate housing development in the city as well as undertaking an extensive search for sites. Sites that were put forward were subject to a rigorous assessment leading to a shortlist of sites which could deliver an additional 2,060 homes. These sites were subject to public consultation in January 2013, including initial sustainability appraisal by Cambridge City Council.

On the edge of Cambridge (Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire)

56. The Green Belt surrounding Cambridge has been in place since the 1950s. Green Belt policy has maintained the setting and special character of Cambridge, avoided coalescence with the ring of villages closest to the city, protected the countryside from development and prevented urban sprawl. The result is that Cambridge remains a compact city, surrounded by attractive countryside and a ring of attractive villages to which there is easy access by foot and bicycle. The city centre is unusually close to open countryside, particularly to the west and south-west.
57. These characteristics are valued assets and significantly contribute to the character and attractiveness of the historic city and the wider Cambridge area, and the quality of life enjoyed here. The Green Belt around Cambridge has an inextricable relationship with the preservation of the character of the city, which

is derived from the interplay between the historic centre, the suburbs around it and the rural setting that encircles it.

58. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that the Government attaches great importance to Green Belts, with the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy being to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. The essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence. The NPPF continues the five long established national purposes of including land within Green Belts as being to:
- To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
 - To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
 - To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
 - To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
 - To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.
59. At the local level, the fourth bullet is of particular significance and the following purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt have been established in previous Local Plans:
- To preserve the unique character of Cambridge as a compact, dynamic city with a thriving historic centre;
 - To maintain and enhance the quality of its setting; and
 - To prevent communities in the environs of Cambridge from merging into one another and with the city.
60. Green Belt boundaries can only be established in Local Plans and according to the NPPF, once established they can only be altered in exceptional circumstances. The current inner Green Belt boundary has been established through the Cambridge Local Plan (2006) and South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (adopted between 2007 and 2010), including the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (2008) and North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (2009). The exceptional circumstances for establishing the Green Belt boundaries set out in existing plans came through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan (2003), which sought to focus more growth close to Cambridge to increase the sustainability of development. The Structure Plan agreed broad locations where land should be released from the Green Belt.
61. In order to inform the current detailed Green Belt boundary, two important studies were undertaken. The first was the Inner Green Belt Boundary Study undertaken by Cambridge City Council in 2002 and the second was the Cambridge Green Belt Study by Landscape Design Associates for South Cambridgeshire District Council in September 2002.
62. The study for South Cambridgeshire District Council took a detailed look at the Green Belt around the east of Cambridge and a wider, more strategic look at the Green Belt elsewhere around the city, whilst the Inner Green Belt Boundary Study prepared by Cambridge City Council was carried out to specifically assist with identifying sites that could be released from the Green Belt for development

close to Cambridge without significant harm to the purposes of the Green Belt including the setting of the city.

63. The City Council also commissioned a specific Green Belt study by Landscape Design Associates (2003) in relation to land West of Trumpington Road. This was a requirement of the Structure Plan (2003). This study concluded that there was no case for a Green Belt release concerning the land West of Trumpington Road, in that the land provides a rural setting of arable farmland and water meadows close to the historic core, which is not found elsewhere around Cambridge. A smaller area of land including school playing fields and the golf course was assessed for development within this broad location and it was concluded that these were attractive features in their own right which contribute positively to the quality of the landscape setting of Cambridge, and the quality of life for people within the city.
64. The current Green Belt boundary around the city was established with the expectation that its boundaries could endure to the end of the plan period of 2016 and beyond. However, circumstances have changed, and whilst good progress has been made towards achieving the current development strategy, with development of the fringes all underway with the exception of the Cambridge East airport site, the Councils do need to consider as part of preparing their new Local Plans whether there are exceptional circumstances for reviewing Green Belt boundaries again. In reviewing Green Belt boundaries, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development, and with consideration given to the consequences for sustainable development of channelling development outwards urban areas inside the Green Belt boundary, towards towns and villages inset within the Green Belt or towards locations beyond the outer Green Belt boundary.
65. The Councils took a joined up approach in the Issues and Options consultations in Summer 2012 and asked whether there should be more development on the edge of Cambridge, if there should be more land released from the Green Belt, and if so, where should this be. Ten Broad Locations around the edge of Cambridge were consulted on to explore whether any had potential to be released from the Green Belt for housing. A summary of the views received is contained in the Site Assessments for Edge of Cambridge Sites evidence document. The ten broad locations were also subject to sustainability appraisal in the Initial Sustainability Appraisal. Promoters of land on the edge of Cambridge through the Councils' respective SHLAA processes resubmitted their sites through the consultations.
66. To help inform the process in moving forward to identifying specific site options, the Councils carried out a joint review of the Inner Green Belt boundary. The purpose of the review was to provide an up to date evidence base for Councils' new Local Plans, and help the Councils reach a view on whether there are specific areas of land that could be considered for release from the Green Belt and allocated for development to meet their identified needs without significant harm to Green Belt purposes.

67. The Inner Green Belt Study Review 2012 builds on the studies that were undertaken in 2002 and 2003 as well as the broad updated appraisal of the Inner Green Belt boundary that the City Council undertook in March 2012 to sit alongside its Issues and Options consultation (Summer 2012). The appraisal of the inner Green Belt boundary areas was undertaken against the backdrop of the most recent land releases and how those releases have affected the revised inner Green Belt boundary. The appraisal specifically reconsidered zones of land immediately adjacent to the city in terms of the principles and function of the Green Belt.
68. In summary, both steps have found that releases of land on the edge of the city through the current Local Plans are sound. However, as a consequence of the releases, the adjacent rural land surrounding these sites now has increased value for Green Belt purposes and to the setting of the city. This increase in value for Green Belt purposes comes from three considerations:
- New developed edges are being created on land released from the Green Belt by previous plans and these edges are moving the city further into its rural surroundings and therefore lessening the extent of the Green Belt;
 - The new edges are different from those previously seen on the edge of the city being more densely developed and usually higher and not so easily softened by vegetation; and
 - Views of the city will be foreshortened as the edge advances into the rural surroundings sometimes making the foreground noticeably more important for the setting of the city.
69. The work concluded that areas where the city is viewed from higher ground or generally has open aspects, or where the urban edge is close to the city centre are more sensitive and cannot accommodate change¹ easily. Areas of the city that have level views and where the edge has mixed foreground can sometimes accommodate change more easily. On a comparative basis these areas have a lesser importance to the setting of the city and to the purposes of Green Belt.
70. Given that the inner Green Belt boundary was looked at very closely only a decade ago it should not be unexpected that the new review has found that most of the inner Green Belt continues to be important for Green Belt purposes and specifically important to protect the setting and special character of Cambridge as a historic city.
71. The work also confirmed that in areas where changes to the city edge are currently envisaged and they are adjacent to important view-points such as motorways or elevated vantage points, there needs to be an appropriately sized area of land retained as Green Belt between any future urban edge and the view/vantage point to still provide a green foreground setting to the city. This green foreground should be retained as Green Belt. This need is vital because development requires a minimum distance between it and the viewpoint to avoid

¹ 'Change' means the introduction of a different feature into the rural/agricultural landscape. This could be an electricity pylon, built development or even a bio-mass crop, but in this instance it is built development.

a harmful effect on the setting of the city. This can be demonstrated on the northern edge of the city where development in places now abuts the A14 with no foreground between the viewpoint and the development. As a result, the development cannot be viewed in any sort of landscape context or setting making it appear severe and discordant.

72. Having thoroughly tested the inner Green Belt boundary, the Inner Green Belt Study Review 2012 found that there are a limited number of small sites, which are of lesser importance to Green Belt purposes. The review also concluded that the significant majority of the remaining Green Belt close to Cambridge is fundamentally important to the purpose of the Cambridge Green Belt and should not be developed. This is considered to be the tipping point, at which if you extend beyond this point for development, the Green Belt purposes and setting of the city are compromised. Any further significant development on the inner edge of the Green Belt would have significant implications for Green Belt purposes and fundamentally change Cambridge as a place. The 2012 study confirmed the conclusions of the Green Belt Study 2002 by Landscape Design Associates, that despite extensive development to the south-east, east and north of the historic core, the scale of the core relative to the whole is such that Cambridge still retains the character of a city focussed on its historic core. The findings of the study were incorporated into the technical assessments of potential site options.

Identifying site options on the Edge of Cambridge

73. Following the identification and testing of broad locations in the 2012 Issues and Options consultation, a long list of sites at the fringe of Cambridge was developed within these broad locations drawing on two sources: Developers' site boundaries received from the 'call for sites' for the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAAs) carried out by both authorities and also pursued through the 2012 Issues and Options consultations; and additional sites identified through the 2012 Inner Green Belt Review as fulfilling Green Belt purposes to a lesser degree. This resulted in an initial list of 41 sites.
74. These sites were assessed utilising a site assessment pro forma, which was developed jointly to take into account both authorities' Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The pro forma was specifically developed to fully integrate the sustainability appraisal process into site assessment. The criteria in the pro forma take into account the social, environmental and economic sustainability themes and objectives identified in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Reports of both Councils. Ensuring that the criteria take into account the SA is the most effective way of ensuring that the SA is central to the appraisal of sites. In this way, the potential effects of bringing forward alternative sites for development can be thoroughly tested and compared. Consultants URS, who are carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Cambridge Local Plan review, advised on the development of the joint pro forma to ensure that it meets the requirements of SA and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. The pro forma also includes planning and deliverability criteria which

do not directly relate to the SA, but are important in order to ensure that the Local Plans are deliverable.

75. The Joint Green Belt Site Assessment Pro forma can be found at Appendix 1 of the Interim Sustainability Appraisal of Issues and Options 2 Part 1. For each criterion there is an explanation as to which of the Cambridge SA topics and South Cambridgeshire SA objectives it relates to. A traffic light system has been used to score the sites from 'red red' (a significant negative impact) to 'green green' (no impact or minor impact which can be mitigated). In most cases there were three potential scores (red, amber, green), but in some cases this was extended at either end to five categories to give a finer grained assessment. The grading range provides a means by which the relative sustainability of each site can be established in comparison with other sites.
76. The pro forma is split into two parts. The first part is a high level sieve (Level 1). It includes strategic considerations, including impact on the Green Belt, flood risk, national biodiversity and heritage designations. It also addresses key deliverability issues. This stage is effective for identifying issues that mean a site should be rejected.
77. Level 2 of the assessment considered a range of issues including accessibility to services and sustainable transport, pollution, historic environment and biodiversity. Although a number of sites were considered to merit rejection following the Level 1 assessment, they were also assessed by the Level 2 criteria in order to give the most comprehensive and robust assessment possible.
78. Map 2 and Appendix 1 in the Issues & Options 2, Part 1 – Joint Consultation of Development Strategy & Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge (November 2012) illustrate the site options tested. The completed pro formas for all of the sites assessed can be found in the 'Technical Background Document – Part 1' at the following link: www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/planning-and-buildingcontrol/planning-policy/background-documents/
79. The individual site pro formas show how each site performs against the criteria that relate to the sustainability objectives.
80. In order to draw information together in an accessible form, and reach an overall conclusion on the merits of the sites assessed, key elements from the pro formas were combined in a series of summaries by broad location which enable the most and least sustainable sites to be identified. These can be found in Appendix 2 of the Issues and Options 2 (2013) Part 1 document.
81. Following the assessment, 6 sites in the Green Belt on the edge of Cambridge were identified as being sites with development potential, albeit with some constraints or adverse impacts (with an overall score of amber). These include two housing sites, two employment sites, one site which could be developed for either housing or employment and one which could be potentially developed for housing, employment or a community stadium. Five of these sites are located

to the south of Cambridge and one is to the north of Cambridge. Four of the sites are within the Cambridge City Council boundary and two fall within South Cambridgeshire. These were subject to public consultation in the joint Issues and Options 2: Part 1 consultation in January 2013.

82. The other sites assessed have been rejected as options for development, due to either their significance to Green Belt purposes and/or for other reasons including planning constraints such as archaeological merit. Reasons for rejection are summarised in Appendix 3 of the Issues and Options 2: Part 1 document.

Identifying Site Options – The Rest of South Cambridgeshire

83. In order to identify reasonable site options, South Cambridgeshire District Council has drawn on its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012) requires the preparation of Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAA), by local planning authorities, to establish realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability, and likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the plan period. A 'Call for Sites' was issued in 2011, and nearly 300 site options with development potential were submitted and subject to testing.
84. Each of the sites was also subject to Sustainability Appraisal. This tested the impact of development on the 23 South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Objectives, identified through the sustainability appraisal scoping process. To assist in making this assessment quantifiable, measurable and transparent, and for direct comparison between sites to be made, the Site Assessment Matrix in appendix 2 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal indicates how the impact of individual sites against each objective has been determined. For a number of objectives, quantifiable grading was identified to provide a means by which the relative sustainability of each site can be established in comparison with other sites.
85. In order to combine the results of the SHLAA and SA to assist plan making, a summary assessment that draws together the two assessments and reaches a view on the 'Sustainable Development Potential' of each site was prepared. Appendix 6 of the SHLAA document includes detailed assessments of all sites and can be viewed on South Cambridgeshire District Council's website: www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf/shlaa .
86. Annex 1 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report 2012 includes detailed sustainability appraisals of all sites, and Annex 2 the summary assessment for each site.
87. The South Cambridgeshire SHLAA and Sustainability Assessments identify key constraints and considerations relating to potential development sites including suitability, availability and achievability. In order to draw information together in

an accessible form, and reach an overall conclusion on the merits of the sites assessed, key elements from both assessments were combined in a series of settlement summaries which enable the most and least sustainable sites in each settlement to be identified. This was collated in Annex 2 of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report 2012. These assessments explore issues in two groups, providing an assessment of the impact and its significance, using a similar mechanism to the SA of identifying a range from significant positive to significant negative impacts. The first group of issues comprises:

- Strategic considerations identified in the SHLAA – Identifies if a site is subject to any strategic considerations that have the potential to make the site unsuitable for development e.g. flood risk, impact on SSSI or Listed Buildings (reflects tier 1 of the SHLAA site assessment. Green Belt impact was drawn out separately).
- Green Belt – Sites in the Green Belt are identified by a negative score, sites outside as neutral. If it is in the Green Belt, impact on the function of the Green Belt was considered, and the scale of impact identified. The assessment included in the SHLAA utilised the LDA Green Belt Study 2002 to guide consideration. Green Belt as a matter of principle was NOT used as an exclusionary factor at this stage.
- SHLAA significant local considerations – Identifies if a site is subject to heritage, environmental and physical considerations, from tier 2 of the SHLAA Assessment (note landscape and townscape impact drawn out separately)
- Landscape and townscape impact – reflects the conclusions of the SHLAA and the Sustainability Appraisal.
- SHLAA site specific factors – Considers the availability and achievability of the site. If a site is scored as a significant negative, it is rejected, as it cannot be delivered.(Reflects tier 3 of the SHLAA assessment).
- Access to key local services, distance to key local services, accessibility by sustainable transport modes – draws on the Sustainability Appraisal to consider transport accessibility.

88. Each summary concludes with the ‘Sustainable Development Potential’. This draws on the SHLAA Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal. It categorises sites as follows:

- More Sustainable Sites with Development Potential (few constraints or adverse impacts) GREEN
- Less sustainable but with development potential (some constraints or adverse impacts) AMBER

- Least Sustainable, with no significant development potential (significant constraints or adverse impacts) RED
89. The entries in the summary assessment sometimes represent a judgement about a number of separate criteria from the SHLAA and Sustainability Appraisal assessments and represent a balanced view of the overall performance of that site across a range of criteria.
 90. The settlement summaries taken together with the full assessments allow for sites to be selected to meet a number of different options relating to the scale of growth and spatial development strategies. They have also helped to make the process and findings accessible for the public during the Issues and Options consultations.
 91. Sites identified as 'Least Sustainable, with no significant development potential' have been rejected at this stage, because they are not considered reasonable options for development.
 92. The approach to village sites has taken into account the village hierarchy, developed following a review of the sustainability of settlements (South Cambridgeshire Village Classification Report 2012), and included in the Spatial Strategy chapter of the Local Plan. This identifies Rural Centres as the most sustainable villages in the district, with the highest level of access to a combination of services, facilities, employment and public transport, providing services to a small rural hinterland. Minor Rural Centres are the next in the hierarchy, offering a lower level of services and facilities, but still more than smaller villages. Sites that were consulted on as potentially falling in a new category 'Better Served Group Villages' provide a lower level of services and facilities, but could be differentiated from Group villages, which only benefit from a low level of services but include a primary school. At the bottom of the hierarchy, infill villages do not have a primary school, and are generally the smallest villages in the District.
 93. After reviewing the potential development sites, it was clear that sufficient sites could be identified as higher levels of the hierarchy, without relying on allocations in the smallest villages, which would lead to a dispersed pattern of development where the fewest services and facilities are available. Therefore sites at Group and Infill villages were not considered reasonable alternatives and were not consulted on, even if they scored Amber in the assessments. Such sites may be capable of development as windfalls or as rural affordable housing exception sites depending on their location and scale, but they would not reflect a sustainable form of development in the context of a district wide strategy and so have not been considered as options for development site allocations in the Local Plan.

New settlements

94. A total of 14 sites which would either deliver new standalone settlements, or expand existing new settlements, were tested through the SHLAA and Sustainability Appraisal process.
95. Five options were subsequently identified for consultation in Issues and Options 2012. The Strategic Reserve at Northstowe, identified in the current Local Development Framework, was identified, but is unlikely to deliver additional dwellings at Northstowe during the plan period and may simply help provide the planned 9,500 homes in a high quality form of development. Potential new settlements were identified at Waterbeach Barracks, with three different scale options identified. A new village at Bourn Airfield was also identified as an option.
96. New settlement options could deliver significant numbers of new homes but they have major infrastructure requirements, particularly in terms of transport measures.. High quality, sustainable transport solutions would be essential to minimise commuting by private car.
97. New settlements also require long lead in times before they can deliver homes on the ground and therefore could only provide homes for the second half of the plan period, although they would continue to provide housing beyond the plan period. A new town at Waterbeach Barracks may only deliver 1,400 dwellings during the plan period. A new village at Bourn Airfield may have greater potential to deliver in the plan period if appropriate.

Larger, better served villages

98. South Cambridgeshire District Council consulted in Issues and Options 2012 on site options that could deliver a total of 5,850 new homes on village sites. This included a strategic scale development at Cambourne.
99. In response to Issues and Options 2012 consultation, 58 new sites were submitted to the Council for consideration. Those in Group and Infill villages were not assessed, because they are the villages with limited services and facilities and the least sustainable locations for development. The 30 sites in identified Better Served Group Villages and above were assessed and 10 additional site options were identified for consultation in the I&O2. These sites could deliver an additional 1,245 new homes. This gives options for a total of 7,095 additional new homes at this lowest stage in the development sequence.

Public Consultation

100. Site options were subject to public consultation through the Issues and Options Consultations, including the joint consultation in January 2013.

101. Over 38,000 representations have been submitted to the councils in response to the two issues and options consultations that have taken place so far. Summaries of the representations, as well as the individual representations, are available to view on the Councils' websites.
102. The Councils have reviewed and considered the comments received, including Member Workshops for South Cambridgeshire Members and the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Cambridge City Council Members. The Councils have also considered a range of possible options that flow from the development strategy options and the site options consulted on and tested those through the SA process. They have also been tested through transport modelling and as the long list of site options has been narrowed down, key stakeholders have been asked again for their views on the emerging shortlist of sites to help further refine the preferred strategy and package of sites, such as the education authority.
103. As referred to earlier, the SA of the broad strategy options at Appendix 1 demonstrates that focusing development on Cambridge remains the most sustainable location for additional development and the Cambridge SHLAA has identified 6,302 new homes through windfall sites or allocations within the urban area in the new Local Plan.
104. The edge of Cambridge is the next most sustainable location against a range of objectives for growth in the development sequence, but the SA identifies the importance of balancing the accessibility aspects of sustainable development and the environmental and social benefits it brings, with the significant harm to the landscape and setting environmental aspects of sustainability that development on land in the Green Belt would have, with the resulting irreversible adverse impacts on the special character and setting of Cambridge as a compact historic city and the risks that could have to the economic success of the Cambridge area, which is in part built on its attractiveness as a place to live and work. The detrimental impacts of further major development on the edge of Cambridge was demonstrated in the Inner Green Belt Study Review 2012 and major extensions to Cambridge were rejected as reasonable options and not consulted on in Issues and Options 2 in 2013. The assessment process identified six Green Belt sites as potential options for development and this limited refinement of the Green Belt would mean that Cambridge is able to meet its full objectively assessed needs within its administrative area. Results of consultation on the appropriate balance between edge of Cambridge or new settlements and better served villages was strongest to protect the Green Belt.
105. The effect of decisions on reasonable site options on the edge of Cambridge is to require development away from Cambridge to meet the remaining development needs of the wider Cambridge area. The SA of broad locations at Appendix 1 confirms earlier findings from the Regional Spatial Strategy review and Structure Plan that new settlements are the next most sustainable location for growth and that development at villages should be limited for sustainability reasons.

106. South Cambridgeshire's SHLAA and Initial Sustainability Report demonstrate that there are 2 new settlement options that can be considered for development in the new Local Plan: a new town at Waterbeach and a new village at Bourn Airfield. The other new settlement options put to the Council were rejected in the SHLAA and initial SA process. The 2 sites identified scored as Amber in the assessment largely because it is inevitable that such a major development will have some adverse impact on some aspects of sustainability, but it was considered that they would be capable of mitigation through carefully designed development proposals. The results of consultation supported concentration on new settlements rather than focus on edge of Cambridge due to Green Belt impacts
107. At the more sustainable village stage of the sequence, South Cambridgeshire consulted on a range of housing site options across the district. The largest of these was a major extension to Cambourne, through a fourth linked village to the west of the existing village. The results of consultation offered some support to better served villages, although to a lesser extent than new settlements.

Consideration of alternative packages of sites

108. The Councils have followed an iterative process of developing the preferred strategy.
109. For Cambridge, the level of objectively assessed need is such that all reasonable options have needed to be included in the Local Plan and Cambridge City Council does not consider that any reasonable alternatives exist for meeting need beyond this, in view of the outcome of work to consider potential for Green Belt review.
110. For South Cambridgeshire, having jointly reached the view on the edge of Cambridge, the options available are around the number of new settlements identified in the new Local Plan, the possible timing and level of delivery that could be secured in the plan period from those sites, whether to include a major expansion of the previously established new village of Cambourne, and the implications for level of village provision that would need to be made and identifying the best available sites in the better served villages.
111. Important issues for shortlisting the preferred village sites included:
- providing homes close to the jobs in and around Cambridge,
 - providing homes close to the jobs south of Cambridge in view of the predominance of new housing in villages to the north over many years and substantial jobs growth in the south,
 - focus on more sustainable villages with high quality public transport links to Cambridge
 - making best use of brownfield land
 - Avoid green spaces, and areas of flood risk
 - sites with parish council and local support

112. A range of options around the new settlement options, major expansion of Cambourne and the best available sites at villages have been identified and tested through SA, to consider the relative impact of different development packages. This included looking at different levels of growth at some of the site options to minimise adverse impacts and secure the most sustainable form of development. Details are included in appendix 2 of this report.

The Revised Strategy

113. The Councils are now at the stage of identifying the preferred package of housing sites to include in their Local Plans to meet their identified objectively assessed needs. Given the significant level of supply from each Council's current plans of 10,400 for Cambridge and 14,000 for South Cambridgeshire, the Councils need to allocate land for a further 3,600 and 5,000 homes respectively.
114. Cambridge City Council has identified sites for 3,324 new homes through new allocations and windfall development in the urban area of Cambridge. In addition, land north and south of Worts Causeway is proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for housing to deliver 430 dwellings. This would enable the City Council to meet its full identified housing needs within its administrative area.
115. It is also proposed to allocate the 3 sites on Fulbourn Road close to ARM for employment, 2 in Cambridge City Council's area and 1 in South Cambridgeshire.
116. A small expansion of the existing NIAB2 housing site in South Cambridgeshire between Huntingdon and Histon roads is also proposed, although this would not increase the overall number of homes currently planned but instead provide more room to ensure a high quality development. It is not proposed to include employment on the site so that there is sufficient room for the supporting infrastructure necessary for the housing development to retain a green foreground to Cambridge Road.
117. Strategic options for new development in South Cambridgeshire focus on new settlements and previously established new settlements, with new allocations for:
- New town at Waterbeach Barracks – 8,000 homes, 1,400 of which by 2031.
 - New village at Bourn Airfield – 3,500 homes, 1,470 of which by 2031.
 - Cambourne West – 1,500 homes, all by 2031.
118. The preference to allocate all three strategic sites has been influenced by the long lead in times for new settlements which will therefore come forward later in the plan period and continue developing beyond 2031. Without also including major expansion of Cambourne, a significant amount of development would be required at villages and would result in the sort of dispersed development strategy previously having been found to be unsustainable. Bourn Airfield new

village would be delayed by two years to come forward slightly later in the plan period than it otherwise might, so that the remainder of Cambourne is well progressed before any development starts at Bourn Airfield. This will also help provide additional flexibility. The strategic sites will provide 4,370 homes in the plan period. Starting Waterbeach towards the end of the plan period has the benefit of ensuring that Northstowe will be well established before another new town development begins.

119. The major sites will be supported by limited development at the more sustainable villages in the order of 900 homes to provide flexibility and help ensure a continuous supply of housing land over the plan period, including if there is any delay in progress on any of the major sites.

(Note: the preferred village sites will be considered at South Cambridgeshire's Planning Policy and Localism Portfolio Holder's meeting on 11 June)

120. The table below shows the level of development proposed at each stage of the development sequence:

CAMBRIDGE AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HOUSING 2011 TO 2031	Existing Completions and Commitments (both areas)	New Sites Cambridge	New Sites South Cambs	TOTAL	Percentage
Cambridge Urban Area	3,287	3,324	0	6,611	20
Edge of Cambridge	11,361	430	100	11,891	35
New Settlements	5,965	0	4,370	10,335	31
Villages	3,853	0	895	4,748	14
TOTAL	24,466	3,754	5,365	33,585	100

121. The development strategy identified includes development at a number of levels in the sequence taking account of the opportunities and constraints identified.
122. Cambridge remains the focus of the development strategy comprising 55% of the housing requirement 2011 to 2031. This is comparable with and slightly higher than the 52% in the Structure Plan strategy.
123. Only minor additional Green Belt development potential was identified on the edge of Cambridge in addition to the extensive existing commitments because of the significant harm this would cause to the purposes of the Green Belt. The additional dwellings, added to those already committed, mean that 35% of all new development is planned on the edge of Cambridge, compared with 25% in the Structure Plan.
124. In addition to the new settlement at Northstowe, the strategy proposes additional new settlements at Bourn Airfield, and in the longer term Waterbeach Barracks. This will enable infrastructure investment to be focused to maximise benefits, maximise travel by non-car modes, support the re-use of significant previously

developed sites, and reduce the need for further development at villages as the final and least sustainable stage in the development sequence, although some village development is proposed to provide flexibility.

125. At the village level, development will be focused on the more sustainable villages with the best range of services and facilities, including taking account of opportunities to utilise previously developed land.

126. A comparison with the Structure Plan 2003 strategy is provided below.

	Structure Plan 1999 to 2016	Percentage	New Strategy 2011 - 2031	Percentage
Edge of Cambridge	8,000	25	11,891	35
New Settlements	6,000	18	10,335	31
Villages	9,600	30	4,748	14

APPENDIX 1

The sustainability implications of focusing development at different spatial locations

The following builds on the assessment of South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options 2012 Issue 9: Development Strategy, which considered the broad implications of focusing development at different locations in the development sequence. It additionally includes a comparison with development within the Cambridge urban area to cover the whole of the development sequence. It has also been reviewed by Environ, who are completed the Final Sustainability Appraisal of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

The appraisal is structured around the South Cambridgeshire sustainability objectives, established through the South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The linkages to the Cambridge City Sustainability Appraisal Framework and its Objectives have been considered, and the relationship between the sustainability objectives is detailed at the end of this note.

	1. Land	2. Waste	3. Air quality and environmental pollution	4. Designated sites and protected species	5. Habitats and species	6. Access to wildlife and green spaces	7. Landscape and townscape character	8. Historic Environment	9. Good Spaces	10. Climate Change Mitigation	11. Climate Change Adaptation	12. Human health	13. Crime	14. Public Openspace	15. Housing	16. Inequalities	17. Services and Facilities	18. Involvement	19. Economy	20. Access to Work	21. Infrastructure	22. Sustainable Travel	23. Transport Infrastructure
Cambridge Urban Area	+++	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+++	?	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Edge of Cambridge	-	?	?	?	?	+++	---	-	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+/+	?	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
New settlements	+	?	?	?	?	+++	!/-	?	?	!/+	?	?	?	?	?	?	+/+++	?	!/+	+++	+++	+++	+++
More sustainable villages	-	?	?	?	?	+	-!/-	?	?	?	-	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	+	+	-	-	-
Smaller less sustainable villages	-	?	?	?	?	+	-!/-	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	---	?	---	---	-	---	---

ASSESSMENT KEY

Symbol	Likely effect against the SA Objective
+++	Potentially significant beneficial impact, option supports the objective
+	Option supports this objective although it may have only a minor beneficial impact
~	Option has no impact or effect is neutral insofar as the benefits and drawbacks appear equal and neither is considered significant
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine the assessment at this stage
-	Option appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts
---	Potentially significant adverse impact, conflict with the objective

This assessment considers the range of broad strategies / options available for growth. This is a high level appraisal of strategic options and actual impacts on many objectives would depend on the specific site options identified for development, and therefore these are more appropriately explored elsewhere.

Cambridge

Development in Cambridge offers opportunities to re-use previously developed land, making use of the existing urban area, reducing the need to develop greenfield / agricultural land. Cambridge provides the highest concentration of jobs, and high order services and facilities in the Cambridge area, placing residential development in the urban area would enable the closest access to these. With regard to air quality, the central area of the city is identified as an AQMA, and therefore further development could include placing further population in this area. However, development in the urban area has best opportunity to support non-car modes of transport, and the compact nature of the city makes it particularly suitable for cycling in addition to walking.

Edge of Cambridge

An edge of Cambridge focus would involve Green Belt development, and loss of significant amounts of high grade agricultural land. The review of the Green Belt identified that it would not be possible to deliver significant additional development on the edge of Cambridge without significant detriment to the specific purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt. These purposes highlight the importance to the historic City of Cambridge of the quality of its setting as well as the usual role of Green Belts in preventing communities from merging with one another. The recent review of the Green Belt released large areas of less significance to Green Belt purposes, and the land that remains on the inner edge becomes increasingly important.

Development on the edge of Cambridge would be the next closest development option to the urban area of the city, supporting access opportunities by alternative modes, although access to public transport services is better close to radial routes with good services, and some areas around the City currently have more limited access to high quality public transport. Larger developments could include their own local centres, and be accessed by new public transport routes.

Development on the edge of Cambridge could bring dwellings closer to the M11 or A14, areas of relatively poor air quality (with an AQMA on the A14). Major development has the potential to worsen air quality, although it would support greater use of non-car modes than more distributed patterns of development. Development near to busy routes would still add to congestion at peak times.

Green Infrastructure opportunities would vary by site, but larger scale development could support delivery of significant green infrastructure. A number of larger site proposals specifically reference the potential to deliver significant open space or Green Infrastructure beyond the minimum required by policy.

New Settlements

A focus on new settlements could utilise previously developed land opportunities, such as former airfields or military barracks, although they would also be likely to still utilise significant areas of greenfield land. New settlements could incorporate significant public transport routes to Cambridge, and new town and local centres as appropriate, to ensure that residents have convenient access to local services and facilities by walking, cycling and public transport. They have the potential to enable focussed investment in public transport and cycling infrastructure, delivering high quality services to provide a significantly higher modal share of travel by non-car modes than village based growth options. The greater distance from Cambridge would mean higher levels of car use (although significantly better than dispersed villages based strategies), and it would result in focused pressure on specific routes. This could have local air quality implications.

New settlements could be developed with a mix of uses with employment delivering jobs locally and their own services and facilities of higher order than smaller scale growth at existing villages. This could provide a degree of self-containment, by providing opportunities to live and work in the same place, however, the greatest concentration of jobs will remain in and close to Cambridge.

The scale and mixed use nature of new settlements offer specific opportunities for renewable energy based upon potential for combined heat and power.

Impact on landscape would depend on the site, but the scale of a new settlement means that impacts could be significant. Some sites were tested with more limited wider landscape impacts. Located outside the green belt they would have a lesser impact on townscape, and the setting of Cambridge. Sites tested were all outside the Green Belt. New settlements could provide opportunity to deliver significant green infrastructure.

More Sustainable Villages

A focus on the more sustainable villages would focus development on villages where there is the best access to local services and facilities and best public transport to access higher order services and facilities in Cambridge, but comparatively villages offer a reduced range of opportunities, and the need to travel would be greater than in other options.

There are likely to be significantly less opportunities to deliver sustainable transport than a Cambridge focused or new settlement option, as spreading development around villages would be likely to deliver incremental improvements at best, rather than focused investment. Traffic impacts would be spread more around the district, but there would be a higher modal share for car use. Outside the Rural Centres public transport services are generally limited in terms of frequency and journey time. Cycling opportunities would also be lower than other strategy approaches, as distances to Cambridge or market towns would be greater, and would often rely on rural roads rather than dedicated routes.

A distribution to smaller sites would have a more incremental impact on the landscape and townscape, but village expansions could negatively impact on village character. The most sustainable villages are inset into the Green Belt close to Cambridge. A village based option would require incremental improvement to village infrastructure. This could put pressure on existing village services and facilities, such as schools, doctors and utilities. A more distributed pattern of village development would provide no direct opportunities to deliver significant scale green infrastructure. In order to identify the quantity of sites required to deliver required levels of development through a village focus, it could require the use of some sites in flood zone 2.

Other Villages

Focusing more development into less sustainable villages (group and infill villages) would have significant adverse impacts on access to services and facilities, employment, and sustainable transport. A village based strategy requiring development at lower levels of the village hierarchy would increase the proportion of growth at greater distances from major employment areas than other strategic approaches. In many cases public transport in smaller villages is extremely limited, and most lack any significant services and facilities, therefore increasing the journey length to access these.

Key to Sustainability Objectives

Further information on the objectives can be found in the individual districts sustainability appraisal scoping reports.

South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Objectives		Cambridge City Sustainability Objectives
LAND	1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, economic mineral reserves, productive agricultural holdings, and the degradation / loss of soils	1. Communities and Wellbeing
	2. Minimise waste production and support the reuse and recycling of waste products	
	3. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	
POLLUTION		4. Water 1. Communities and Wellbeing
BIODIVERSITY	4. Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	8. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure
	5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	
	6. Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	
	7. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	
	8. Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings.	
	9. Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	
LANDSCAPE, TOWNSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	10. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	7. Landscape, Townscape and Cultural Heritage
	11. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	
CLIMATE CHANGE		6. Climate change mitigation and renewable energy
		5. Flood risk including climate change adaptation

HEALTH	12. Maintain and enhance human health	1. Communities and Wellbeing
	13. Reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime	
	14. Improve the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space.	
HOUSING	15. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	1. Communities and Wellbeing
	16. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	17. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	1. Communities and Wellbeing
	18. Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities	
	19. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy.	
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	20. Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	2. Economy
	21. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	
	22. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.	
TRANSPORT	23. Secure appropriate investment and development in transport infrastructure, and ensure the safety of the transport network.	3. Transport.

Appendix 2 Site Package Options for Sustainability Appraisal

In order to compare the sustainability of delivering the remaining housing needs for South Cambridgeshire at different locations, packages of sites have been identified and tested, to compare the cumulative impacts.

Eight different packages were identified, each with a different focus for the remaining development. It would not be reasonable to test every potential combination of options, but the aim has been to providing a good coverage of strategic alternatives that could be delivered with the site options available taking account of the issue and options and initial sustainability appraisal process.

Where new settlements have been considered, the deliverability and potentially longer lead in times have been taken into account. The phasing relative to other options has also been considered, in order to achieve the development needed in the plan period. In some cases different amounts of a site being developed in the plan period have been considered, with the remainder being developed later.

Further details of this assessment will be included in the South Cambridgeshire Final Sustainability Report, which will accompany the draft Local Plan.

Option 1 - Waterbeach New Town, Cambourne West and Village Focus

This option includes provision from the partial completion by 2031 of a new town at Waterbeach, with the remainder after 2031, the completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne and development at a range of villages down to the 'Better Served Group Village' level.

Option 2 - Bourn Airfield New Settlement and Village Focus

This option includes the completion of a new settlement at Bourn Airfield within the plan period, and limited development in Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centre villages to meet the remaining requirement.

Option 3 - Cambourne and Village Focus

This option is a village focused approach. It includes completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne, with the remainder of new development focused on other villages. At Waterbeach, there would be no new settlement, but the redevelopment of the barracks themselves would accommodate around 900 dwellings.

Option 4 - Waterbeach New Town, Bourn Airfield New Settlement, and Cambourne West Focus

This option includes provision from the partial completion by 2031 of a new town at Waterbeach, the partial completion of a new settlement at Bourn Airfield, the completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne. This would be supported by selected development at Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres.

Option 5 - Waterbeach New Town, Bourn Airfield New Settlement and Village Focus

This option includes provision from the partial completion by 2031 of a new town at Waterbeach, the partial completion of a new settlement at Bourn Airfield (but more than Option 4 assumes), and development at Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres.

Comparing with Green Belt strategies

As detailed earlier, the assessment of 41 individual potential site options highlighted the potential harm to the Green Belt and the setting of the City of significant further development. Only 6 site options were identified, and all have been included within the proposed development strategy.

The sustainability appraisal earlier identified potential benefits on some sustainability objectives of further development in the Green Belt. In order to provide a comparison with other strategies, packages have been tested which include further development in the Green Belt, building on the assessments of tested but rejected sites. Testing has considered the overall impact of identifying the quantum of development in the broad locations available, rather than identifying specific rejected site options.

Option 6 - Cambridge Green Belt and Village Focus

This option assumes 2 or 3 large urban extensions to Cambridge on land currently in the Green Belt. This would accommodate around 4000 dwellings. This would be supported by selected village sites at Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres, with a focus on previously developed land.

Option 7 - Cambridge Green Belt, Waterbeach New Town, Cambourne West and Village Focus

This option assumes 1 or 2 large urban extensions to Cambridge on land currently in the Green Belt, accommodating around 2000 dwellings. The remaining development needs would be accommodated through the partial completion of a new town at Waterbeach, the completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne and limited development at villages.

Option 8 - Cambridge Green Belt, Waterbeach New Town, Bourn Airfield New Settlement, Cambourne West and Village Focus

This option assumes delivery of smaller sites on land currently in the Green Belt on the edge of Cambridge, provision from the partial completion of a new town at Waterbeach, the completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne and selected development at Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres.

Table 1 Development Packages for Sustainability Appraisal

Options by Development Sequence (South Cambs only)	Existing Supply	Opt 1		Opt 2		Opt 3		Opt 4 (was 9)	
		Existing Supply & New Sites	New Sites Only	Existing Supply & New Sites	New Sites	Existing Supply & New Sites	New Sites	Existing Supply & New Sites	New Sites
Cambridge urban area	309	309	0	309	0	309	0	309	0
Cambridge fringe sites	3,902	4,002	100	4,002	100	4,002	100	4,002	100
New settlement(s)	5,965	7,365	1,400	9,465	3,500	5,965	0	8,835	2,870
Rural Centres	1,779	4,314	2,535	2,444	665	4,314	2,535	3,969	2,190
Minor Rural Centres	1,082	2,182	1,100	1,597	515	3,477	2,395	1,287	205
Group Villages	846	846	0	846	0	846	0	846	0
Infill Villages	147	147	0	147	0	147	0	147	0
TOTAL	14,029	19,164	5,135	18,809	4,780	19,059	5,030	19,394	5,365

Options by Development Sequence (South Cambs only)	Existing Supply	Opt 5		Opt 6		Opt 7		Opt 8	
		Existing Supply & New Sites	New Sites	Existing Supply & New Sites	New Sites	Existing Supply & New Sites	New Sites	Existing Supply & New Sites	New Sites
Cambridge urban area	309	309	0	309	0	309	0	309	0
Cambridge fringe sites	3,902	4,002	100	8,002	4,100	6,002	2,100	5,032	1,130
New settlement(s)	5,965	9,665	3,700	5,965	0	7,365	1,400	7,865	1,900
Rural Centres	1,779	2,444	665	1,999	220	3,479	1,700	3,499	1,720
Minor Rural Centres	1,082	1,422	340	1,422	340	1,082	0	1,597	515
Group Villages	846	846	0	846	0	846	0	846	0
Infill Villages	147	147	0	147	0	147	0	147	0
TOTAL	14,029	18,834	4,805	18,689	4,660	19,229	5,200	19,294	5,265

Each package of sites has been tested utilising the Sustainability Objectives developed through the South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, by consultants Environ.



South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

Draft SA Results for Packages of Sites

Prepared for:
**South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambourne**

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A	First Draft	17/05/13	VTT	TM
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2	Final Draft Report	20/05/13	VTT	VTT/TM

1 Introduction

This draft report outlines the results of a sustainability appraisal of site packages for the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. These packages have been selected as the reasonable alternatives which could deliver the additional 4,971 dwellings need to meet the South Cambridgeshire identified housing needs. The preferred package, when chosen following the sustainability appraisal, will contribute to a much larger development strategy for the Cambridge area, involving almost 55 % of development (18,000) houses in and on the edge of Cambridge.

This assessment builds upon work undertaken by South Cambridgeshire District Council for its site assessments.

The purpose of this assessment is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment¹ and sustainability, of the reasonable alternative packages of sites. There are 8 reasonable alternative packages which have been subject to assessment.

2 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

This assessment builds on comprehensive assessment work at the site level which has already been undertaken by the South Cambridge District Council. It uses the same SA Framework as these previous assessments.

Key to the appraisal scoring:

Symbol	Likely effect against the SA Objective
+++	Potentially significant beneficial impact
+	Policy supports this objective although it may have only a minor beneficial impact
0	Policy has no impact or effect is neutral insofar as the benefits and drawbacks appear equal and neither is considered significant
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine or base the assessment at this stage
-	Policy appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts
---	Potentially significant adverse impact

¹ As required by the Article 5 SEA Directive.

Option 2 - Bourn Airfield New Settlement and Village Focus

PACKAGE 2		NIAB3	BA	Rural Centres				Minor Rural Centres				Overall		
Site name/category														
1	Previously developed land	0	+	+++	0	0	0	+++	0	0	0	0	0	+
	Agricultural land	-	---	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	---
	Mineral reserves, soils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Air quality	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/-	0	0	0	-
3	Noise, light pollution, odour & vibration	0	-	+++	0	0	0	-	-	+++	0	0	0	-
	Land contamination	+	+	+	0	0	+/0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+
	Water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Nature conservation interest & geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Habitat fragmentation, native species, habitat restoration	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
6	Access to wildlife & green spaces	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+
7	Landscape character	-	0	+	0/+	0/+	0	0	-	0	---/-	0	0	-
	Townscape character	-	0	0/+	0	0	0	+++	-	-	---/-	+	0	-
8	Historical, archaeological, cultural	0	0/-	0	0	0/-	0	0	0	0	0	+/0	0	0
10	Renewable energy resources	0	+ /+++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
11	Flooding, SUDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Open space	+++	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+
16	accessibility to local services/ facilities	+++	+	+	+	+	+++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
	Distance to centre	+	0	---	-	---	---	---	---	-	---	+++	-	-

PACKAGE 2		NIAB3	BA	Rural Centres				Minor Rural Centres				Overall		
		0	+++/+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++
1	Quality & range of local services & facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Ability of people to influence decisions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Engagement with community activities	0	+++	0	+/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++
8	Business development & competitiveness	+	+++	-/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++
9	Shopping hierarchy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	employment opportunities in accessible locations	+++	+ /+++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
0	investment in key community services & infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	+	+++ /+	+	+	+	+	+++ /+	-
2	access to education & training, & provision of skilled employees	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+++	-
1	shorter journeys, improve modal choice & integration modes	+++	0	0	0	0	0	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+
	distance to bus stop / rail station	+++	0	0	-	0	+	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	frequency of Public Transport	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	typical Public Transport Journey Time to City Centre or Market Town	+++	0	-	0	0	+	+++	0	0	0	+	+++	+
	distance for cycling to City Centre or Market Town	+++	0	+	0	+	+	+++	+	+	+	+	+++	+
2	safe access to the highway network	-	0/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-

PACKAGE 2	Site name/category	NIAB3	BA	Rural Centres			Minor Rural Centres					Overall				
	safer transport network & promote use of non- motorised modes	+	+++	+	0	0	0	+++	+	+	+	+/+++	+	+	+	+++

Option 4 - Waterbeach New Town, Bourn Airfield New Settlement, and Cambourne West Focus

PACKAGE 4		NIAB3	WNT	BA	Rural Centres						CW	Minor Rural Centres			Overall		
Site name/category																	
1	Previously developed land	0	+++	+	+++	0	0	0	+++	0	0	0	0	0	+++	0	+++
	Agricultural land	-	---	---	0	-	-	0	0	-	---	-	-	0	-	-	---
	Mineral reserves, soils	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Air quality	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
3	Noise, light pollution, odour & vibration	0	0	-	+++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++	-	-
	Land contamination	+	+	+	+	0	+0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
	Water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Nature conservation interest & geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Habitat fragmentation, native species, habitat restoration	+	+++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
6	Access to wildlife & green spaces	0	+++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
7	Landscape character	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Townscape character	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
8	Historical, archaeological, cultural	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
10	Renewable energy resources	0	+++	+0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
11	Flooding, SUDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Open space	+++	+++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++
	accessibility to local services/ facilities	+++	+	+	+	+	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+
16	Distance to centre	+	0	0	---	-	---	+	0	0	---	-	---	+	+	+	---
	Quality & range of local services & facilities	0	+++	+0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++

PACKAGE 4		NIAB3	WNT	BA	Rural Centres								CW	Minor Rural Centres				Overall				
1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
1	8	0	+++	+++	0	+/0	0	+/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++	
1	9	+	+++	+++	-/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	1	+++	0/+++	+/+++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	+++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
2	1	+++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
2	2	+	+/?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2	2	+++	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
2	3	-	---	0/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
2	3	+	+++	+++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+++

PACKAGE 5		NIAB3	WNT	BA	Rural Centres			Minor Rural Centres			Overall
Site name/category											
1	Ability of people to influence decisions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7											
1	Engagement with community activities	0	+++	+++	0	+/0	0	0	0	0	+++
8											
1	Business development & competitiveness	+	+++	+++	-/0	0	0	0/-	0	0	+++
9											
1	Shopping hierarchy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/-	0	0	0
2	employment opportunities in accessible locations	+++	0/+++	+/+++	+	+	+	+++	+	0	+++
0											
2	investment in key community services & infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+++/+
1											
2	access to education & training, & provision of skilled employees	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+++
1											
2	shorter journeys, improve modal choice & integration modes	+++	+	0	0	0	0	+++	+	0	+
1											
2	distance to bus stop / rail station	+++	0	0	0	-	0	+++	+	+++	+
1											
2	frequency of Public Transport	+	+/?	+	+	+	+	+++	+	---	-
2											
2	typical Public Transport Journey Time to City Centre or Market Town	+++	+/?	0	-	0	0	+++	0	+	+++
1											
2	distance for cycling to City Centre or Market Town	+++	+	0	+	0	+	+++	+	+	+++
1											
2	safe access to the highway network	-	---	0/-	0	0	0/-	0	0	0	0
3											
2	safer transport network & promote use of non-motorised modes	+	+++	+++	+	0	0	+++	+/+++	+	+++

Option 6 - Cambridge Green Belt and Village Focus

PACKAGE 6										
	Site name/category	NIAB3		GB		Rural Centres		Minor Rural Centres		Overall
1	Previously developed land	0	0	+++	+++	0	+++	0	0	+
	Agricultural land	-	---	0	0	-	0	-	-	---
	Mineral reserves, soils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Air quality	-	---	0	0	0/-	0	0	0	---
	Noise, light pollution, odour & vibration	0	0	+++	-	-	+++	0	0	+
	Land contamination	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
	Water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Nature conservation interest & geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Habitat fragmentation, native species, habitat restoration	+	0 / +	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
6	Access to wildlife & green spaces	0	+++	0	0	+	0	0	0	+++
7	Landscape character	-	---	+	0	---/-	0	0	0	---
	Townscape character	-	---	0 / +	+++	---/-	+	0	0	---
8	Historical, archaeological, cultural	0	0/-	0	0	0	+/0	0	0	0
10	Renewable energy resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Flooding, SUDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Open space	+++	+++/?	0	0	+	0	0	0	+++/?
16	accessibility to local services/ facilities	+++	+++	+	+++	0	0	0	0	+++
	Distance to centre	+	0/+	---	---	-	+++	-	-	?
	Quality & range of local services & facilities	0	+++	0	0/-	+	0	0	0	+++
17	Ability of people to influence decisions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Engagement with community activities	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
19	Business development & competitiveness	+	+/?	-/0	0/-	0	0	0	0	+/?
	Shopping hierarchy	0	0	0	0/-	0	0	0	0	0
20	employment opportunities in accessible locations	+++	+++	+	+++	+	0	+++	+++	+++
21	investment in key community services & infrastructure	-	-	-	+	+	+	+++/+	+++/+	-
	access to education & training, & provision of skilled employees	+	-	-	+	-	+	+++	+++	-
22	shorter journeys, improve modal choice & integration modes	+++	+++	0	+++	+	0	+	+	+++
	distance to bus stop / rail station	+++	+/+++	0	+++	+	+++	+	+	+

PACKAGE 6										
	Site name/category	NIAB3		GB		Rural Centres		Minor Rural Centres		Overall
	frequency of Public Transport	+	+/+++	+	+++	+	---	-	-	+
	typical Public Transport Journey Time to City Centre or Market Town	+++	+/+++	-	+++	0	+	+++	+++	+
	distance for cycling to City Centre or Market Town	+++	+++	+	+++	+	+	+++	+++	+++
2	safe access to the highway network	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
3	safer transport network & promote use of non-motorised modes	+	+++/?	+	+++	+/+++	+	+	+	+++/?

Option 7 - Cambridge Green Belt, Waterbeach New Town, Cambourne West and Village Focus

PACKAGE 7							
	Site name/category	NIAB3	GB	WNT	CW	Rural Centres	Overall
1	Previously developed land	0	0	+++	0	+++	+
	Agricultural land	-	---	---	---	0	---
	Mineral reserves, soils	0	0	-	0	0	-
3	Air quality	-	---/-	-	0	0	-
	Noise, light pollution, odour & vibration	0	0	0	0/-	+++	+
	Land contamination	+	+	+	0	+	+
	Water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Nature conservation interest & geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Habitat fragmentation, native species, habitat restoration	+	0 / +	+++	+/0	0	+
6	Access to wildlife & green spaces	0	+++	+++	+/+++	0	+++
7	Landscape character	-	---	-	0/-	+	---
	Townscape character	-	---	0	0	0 / +	---
8	Historical, archaeological, cultural	0	0/-	-	0	0	-
10	Renewable energy resources	0	0	+++	0/+	0	+
11	Flooding, SUDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Open space	+++	+++/?	+++	+/+++	0	+
16	accessibility to local services/ facilities	+++	+++	+	+	+	+++
	Distance to centre	+	0 / +	0	---	---	-
	Quality & range of local services & facilities	0	+++	+++	+/+++	0	+++
17	Ability of people to influence decisions	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Engagement with community activities	0	+	+++	+/+++	0	+
19	Business development & competitiveness	+	+/?	+++	+/+++	-/0	+/?
	Shopping hierarchy	0	0	0	0/+	0	0
20	employment opportunities in accessible locations	+++	+++	0/+++	0	+	+
21	investment in key community services & infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	-
	access to education & training, & provision of skilled employees	+	-	-	-	-	-
22	shorter journeys, improve modal choice & integration modes	+++	+++	+	0	0	+
	distance to bus stop / rail station	+++	+/+++	0	0	0	+
	frequency of Public Transport	+	+/+++	+/?	+	+	+

PACKAGE 7							
	Site name/category	NIAB3	GB	WNT	CW	Rural Centres	Overall
	typical Public Transport Journey Time to City Centre or Market Town	+++	+ /+++	+/?	0	-	+
	distance for cycling to City Centre or Market Town	+++	+++	+	0	+	+
23	safe access to the highway network	-	-	---	0/-	0	-
	safer transport network & promote use of non-motorised modes	+	+++/?	+++	+	+	+++

Option 8 - Cambridge Green Belt, Waterbeach New Town, Bourn Airfield New Settlement, Cambourne West and Village Focus

PACKAGE 8		NIAB3	GB	BA	CW	Rural Centres		Minor Rural Centres					Overall	
Site name/category														
1	Previously developed land	0	0	+	0	+++	+++	0	0	0	+++	0	0	+
	Agricultural land	-	---	---	---	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	---
	Mineral reserves, soils	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Air quality	-	-	-	0	0	0	0/-	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Noise, light pollution, odour & vibration	0	0	-	0/-	+++	-	-	-	+++	0	0	0	-
	Land contamination	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+
4	Water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nature conservation interest & geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Habitat fragmentation, native species, habitat restoration	+	0/+	0	+/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	Access to wildlife & green spaces	0	+ /+++	+	+ /+++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
7	Landscape character	-	---	0	0/-	+	0	---/-	-	0	0	0	0	---
	Townscape character	-	---	0	0	0 / +	+++	---/-	-	-	+	0	0	---
8	Historical, archaeological, cultural	0	0/-	0/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/0	0	0	0
	Renewable energy resources	0	0	+ /+++	0/+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
11	Flooding, SUJDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Open space	+++	+++/?	+	+ /+++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
14	accessibility to local services/ facilities	+++	+++	+	+	+	+++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	Distance to centre	+	0/-	0	---	---	---	-	---	---	+++	-	-	-
16	Quality & range of local services & facilities	0	+ /+++	+++ /+	+ /+++	0	0/-	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
	Ability of people to influence decisions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PACKAGE 8		NIAB3	GB	BA	CW	Rural Centres	Minor Rural Centres						Overall		
18	Engagement with community activities	0	+	+++	+/+++	0 0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
19	Business development & competitiveness	+	+/?	+++	+/+++	-/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/?
20	Shopping hierarchy employment opportunities in accessible locations	0	+++	0	0/+	0 0/-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
21	investment in key community services & infrastructure	-	-	-	-	+	+	+++	+	+++	+	+++	+	+++	-
	access to education & training, & provision of skilled employees	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
22	shorter journeys, improve modal choice & integration modes	+++	+++	0	0	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	distance to bus stop / rail station	+++	+/+++	0	0	+++	+	+++	+	+++	+	+++	+	+	+
23	frequency of Public Transport	+	+/+++	+	+	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	typical Public Transport Journey Time to City Centre or Market Town	+++	+/+++	0	0	-	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
23	distance for cycling to City Centre or Market Town	+++	+++	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	safe access to the highway network	-	-	0/-	0/-	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
23	safer transport network & promote use of non-motorised modes	+	+/?	+++	+	+++	+/+++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+++

3.2 Cumulative performance of packages

This table presents the cumulative performance for each packages against the SA Objectives and sub-objectives.

	Package No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		+++	+	+	+++	+	+	+	+
1	Will it use land that has been previously developed? Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land? Will it avoid the sterilisation of economic mineral reserves? Will it minimise the degradation / loss of soils due to new development? Will it maintain or improve air quality? Minimise, and where possible improve on, unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration? Will it minimise, and where possible address, land contamination?	---	---	-	---	---	---	---	---
		-	0	0	-	-	0	-	0
3	Will it protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment? Will it conserve protected species and protect sites designated for nature conservation interest and geodiversity? Will it reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance native species, and help deliver habitat restoration (helping to achieve Biodiversity Action Plan Targets)? Will it improve access to wildlife and green spaces, through delivery and access to green infrastructure?	-	-	-	-	-	---	-	-
		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
4	Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character? Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of townscape character?	---	-	---	-	-	---	---	---
		-	-	0	-	-	0	-	0
8	Will it protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments)? Will it support the use of renewable energy resources?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
10	Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, and incorporate sustainable drainage measures?	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0
14	Will it increase the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space? Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs, sports facilities etc?) Sub-Indicator: Distance to centre	+++	+	+	+++	+	+++/?	+	+
16	Will it improve quality and range of key local services and facilities including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc?) Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions, including 'hard to reach' groups?	---	-	---	---	-	?	-	-
		+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++	+
17		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Package No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18	Will it encourage engagement with community activities?	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+	+	+
19	Will it support business development and enhance competitiveness, enabling provision of high-quality employment land in appropriate locations to meet the needs of businesses, and the workforce?	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+/?	+/?	+/?
	Will it protect the shopping hierarchy, supporting the vitality and viability of Cambridge, town, district and local centres?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Will it contribute to providing a range of employment opportunities, in accessible locations?	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+	+
21	Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure, including broadband?	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-
	Will it improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees to the economy?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Will it enable shorter journeys, improve modal choice and integration of transport modes to encourage or facilitate the use of modes such as walking, cycling and public transport?	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+	+
22	Sub-indicator: Distance to bus stop / rail station	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Sub-indicator: Frequency of Public Transport	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Sub-indicator: Typical Public Transport Journey Time to Cambridge City Centre or Market Town	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Sub-indicator: Distance for cycling to City Centre or Market Town	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+	+
23	Will it provide safe access to the highway network, where there is available capacity?	---	-	-	---	-	-	-	-
	Will it make the transport network safer for and promote use of non-motorised modes?	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+++/?	+++	+++

3.3 Comparative Performance of Packages against each SA Objectives

SA Objective 1

Will it use land that is previously developed?

There is a limited supply of previously developed land available for development in the district, and this was reflected in the options identified through the plan making process. Therefore, all packages perform positively against this sub-objective because areas within each of the packages perform either neutrally, or have minor positive impacts, leading to a positive cumulative performance. The only packages which could utilise significant areas of previously developed land include either or both of two new settlement options, at Waterbeach and Bourn Airfield. In particular the Waterbeach new town option would involve the redevelopment of the large barracks site. There are options at the village level that would utilise previously developed land, particularly at Sawston and Gamlingay. As a result, packages 1 and 4 offer potentially significant beneficial impacts. This largely stems from the relative reliance in these packages on Waterbeach New Town which scores highly on

this sub-objective to deliver a large proportion of their housing allocations. The other packages which include this site are less reliant on it in terms of overall housing provision and include other sites with less positive performance.

Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?

The scale of development needed in the district means that impact on this objective will be significant, with unavoidable loss of high grade agricultural land. All packages therefore perform poorly in relation to this sub-objective.

The major development site options are all identified as having significant negative impact on the objective, as they would involve large areas of high grade agricultural land. Some smaller villages were identified avoiding the high grade agricultural land, but they would not be sufficient to deliver the total.

Whilst the impact of a number of village sites was indicated as only minor due to their smaller scale, cumulatively packages involving a number of these sites would still be significant. Package 3 performs slightly better overall because a significant proportion of housing provision, around 34%, in this package comes from rural centres and several minor rural centre sites which have a neutral impact on the best and most versatile agricultural and from the redevelopment of the barracks at Waterbeach. However, the cumulative impact of this package of sites on agricultural land should still be noted, even if it is marginally less significantly adverse than the other packages.

Will it avoid the sterilisation of economic mineral reserves? Will it minimise the degradation / loss of soils due to new development?

Mineral reserves are identified on the proposals map of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework. Of particular prevalence in the area are reserves of sand and gravel. The most significant site within areas identified is the Waterbeach New Town, therefore packages 1, 4, 5 and 7 conflict with this sub-objective. The other packages have no impact on this sub-objective or the effects are considered to be neutral.

SA Objective 2

This objective was scoped out of the assessment as it is not a location specific issue.

SA Objective 3

Will it maintain or improve air quality?

Growth on the scale envisaged will inherently generate traffic movements, thereby having a negative impact on air pollution regardless of location of new development.

New settlements options identified are located in areas of good air quality, but an increase in traffic and static emissions could potentially affect local air quality.

The individual assessments of large scale development sites needed to deliver this volume of development were identified as having significant negative impacts on air quality. Package 6 could have potentially significant adverse impacts because it incorporates large scale development on the edge of Cambridge (4,000 homes). In addition, sites in locations near to the A14 or the M11 would be near to areas of poor air quality, including the identified Air Quality Management Area.

This objective is intrinsically linked with the transport objectives particularly objective 22 on sustainable travel. Therefore, when considering the impacts on air quality from development of a given package, consideration also needs to be given to the performance of the package against objective 22, positive performance against which can mitigate for potential air quality impacts identified under this objective.

Minimise, and where possible improve on, unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration?

It is generally possible to avoid light pollution through sensitive lighting design, in all but the darkest of landscapes.

The initial assessment of the Bourn Airfield new settlement site highlighted a potential conflict with the adjoining industrial area. This had historically resulted in noise complaints from nearby residential areas. This site was proposed in representations for redevelopment for employment uses which are more compatible with residential development, and subject to consultation through Issues and Options 2. The issue is therefore now capable of appropriate mitigation and the site's performance against this objective has therefore improved. This is case for packages 2, 4, 5 and 8.

The development packages avoid significant cumulative negative performance overall, but nonetheless there are potential minor adverse impacts. A small number of village sites offered specific opportunities to address issues, such as redevelopment of industrial areas in residential areas.

On the edge of Cambridge, package 6 has the potential to bring development closer to the M11 and A14 and therefore people closer to potential noise pollution. The individual site assessments within the package highlight these issues, but also indicate that impacts are likely to be capable of mitigation and consequently this package performs positively overall.

Package 7 has the potential for a minor positive performance for this objective, because the majority of its sites are considered to have neutral impact on achieving this objective and one has the potential for a major positive performance.

Will it protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment?

All packages have a neutral performance for this objective. Parts of the south east of South Cambridgeshire are identified as groundwater protection zones, associated with the underlying chalk. The majority of development within the packages would avoid these areas. Some site options around villages in these areas, like Sawston would fall within groundwater protection zones, but appropriate mitigation measures could be included to protect water quality.

SA Objective 4

Will it conserve protected species and protect sites designated for nature conservation interest and geodiversity?

All sites are outside protected areas and it has been assumed that mitigation measures could be implemented appropriately for all options, as would be required by law and planning policy.

SA Objective 5

Will it reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance native species, and help deliver habitat restoration (helping to achieve Biodiversity Action Plan Targets)?

None of the sites included in any of the packages is considered to be in conflict with this sub-objective. All packages are considered to have a cumulative positive performance since they all include sites where there are opportunities for positive enhancements to be secured through development.

Major development options identified include opportunities for habitat linkage/enhancement/restoration, and the creation of new Green Infrastructure which would provide net benefits. Waterbeach New Town (included in packages 1, 4, 5 and 7), offers potentially significant beneficial impacts through habitat creation in the north of the site, as part of mitigation measures required to preserve the setting of Denny Abbey. Packages including this site therefore perform well for this sub-objective. Although village sites may offer fewer opportunities for enhancement in terms of overall net gains, the significance of their contribution to ecological coherence of strategic habitat networks is highly dependent upon their location and the type of habitat they could provide.

SA Objective 6

Will it improve access to wildlife and green spaces, through delivery and access to green infrastructure?

The greatest potential to directly deliver new green infrastructure is with major development sites. Larger sites on the edge of Cambridge have potential to include green infrastructure, as do new settlements. Smaller village sites generally offer less potential, although they may still contribute financially to improving green space provision and access through Section 106 agreements or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), they are less likely to be able to secure increases in provision levels directly.

SA Objective 7

Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character?

All packages include some sites which conflict with the protection of landscape character, and therefore negative performances have been recorded.

Packages involving development on the edge of Cambridge are likely to have a significant negative impact on the landscape Character objective. The review of the Green Belt identified that it would not be possible to deliver significant additional development on the edge of

Cambridge without significant detriment to the specific purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt. These purposes highlight the importance to the historic City of Cambridge of the quality of its setting as well as the usual role of Green Belts in preventing communities from merging with one another.

The scale of the new settlement options mean that they will also impact on this objective, but they are likely to offer greater potential for mitigation, and are located in areas of lower landscape sensitivity. The setting of Denny Abbey is a particular issue for the Waterbeach new town option, and mitigation will be required to maintain its setting.

Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of townscape character?

All packages include some sites which conflict with the protection of townscape character, and therefore negative performances have been recorded. Packages which include significant green belt release on the edge of Cambridge (6, 7 and 8) would have significant negative impacts on this objective. The rationale for this being that the Green Belt setting of Cambridge is identified as being particularly important to the historic character and setting of the City. The townscape impact of the new settlement options is identified as being less significant as they lie outside the Green Belt, away from Cambridge.

SA Objective 8

Will it protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments)?

Only packages 2, 6 and 8 have a neutral performance for this objective. A number of sites included in the packages have been assessed as being in conflict with this objective. This includes Waterbeach New Town (included in packages 1, 4, 5 and 7), where the key issue is the impact on Denny Abbey. Mitigation measures could be implemented, but there would be likely minor negative residual impacts.

The Green Belt Study 2012 highlights the importance of the Green Belt as part of the setting for the historic City of Cambridge. Packages involving development on the edge of Cambridge could negatively impact on this setting.

SA Objective 9

This objective has been scoped out of this assessment as it is not location specific. All developments will be required to be built to a high standard of design and create good spaces through the plan's policy requirements.

SA Objective 10

Will it support the use of renewable energy resources?

Large developments present potential opportunities for district heating/combined heat and power. New settlements, with a large scale, mixed uses and potentially higher density centres may offer the greatest opportunities. This accounts for the positive performance for most packages

in relation to this sub-objective. Large scale development sites on the edge of Cambridge could offer opportunities, but they are not as large as the eventual scale of the potential new settlements, hence package 6 has a neutral performance for this sub-objective. However, the potential for such low carbon energy developments is dependent on factors which are highly site-specific, which means that some caution should be applied in interpreting these performances. The focus of package 3 on smaller scale village development means that this package is the least likely to offer opportunities for district heating or combined heat and power, meaning that this package is unlikely to positively support this sub-objective and is more likely to have a neutral effect.

Two SA sub-objectives have been scoped out, because all new development will be required to promote energy efficiency, and minimise contributions to climate change through sustainable construction practices. This will be ensured by adherence with building regulations and through policies within the plan.

SA Objective 11

Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, and incorporate sustainable drainage measures?

All of the packages are seen to be neutral in relation to this sub-objective apart from package 3, which includes a site which is partially in flood zones 2 and 3.

The SA sub-objective regarding sustainable water use has been scoped out as this development design rather than development location specific and all development will have to be implemented to enable and encourage high levels of water efficiency.

SA Objectives 12 and 13

These two objectives have been scoped out because they relate predominantly to design specific issues rather than locational issues.

SA Objective 14

Will it increase the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space?

No sites within any of the packages have a negative performance for this objective and all packages perform positively for the provision of public open space. General planning policies require provision of open space to meet the needs generated through new development. Package 3 because of its dispersed approach to development around villages, may give rise to fewer opportunities to deliver more than the minimum open space requirements, and such infrastructure investment will inherently be more dispersed, but in doing so it could achieve a wider spatial distribution of new provision. Specific opportunities will depend on how the developments evolve. Waterbeach New Town (included in packages 1, 4, 5 and 7), offers potentially significant beneficial impacts because of the new open space which would be provided as part of this development.

SA Objective 15

All the housing sub-objectives have been scoped out of this assessment because they relate primarily to the type and mix of provision which will be controlled through the plan policies are therefore not specific to location of development.

All of the sites were generally assumed to be neutral in relation to the sub-objective for provision of accommodation for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people, because the plan is proposing no specific site allocations.

SA Objective 16

This objective has been scoped out because all developments will be expected to improve social relations.

SA Objective 17

Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs, sports facilities etc?)

Packages 6 and 7, which include the most significant levels of development on the edge of Cambridge, offer potentially the most significant positive performance in relation to this sub-objective because of the proximity of development to the higher order services and facilities available within Cambridge. Development of a new town would include its own town centre and facilities, although in the case of Waterbeach much of this would be delivered beyond the plan period, and so the short and medium term performance for this sub-objective would be less positive than in the longer term.

Other packages include development at the Rural Centre / Minor Rural Centre level, ensuring that new housing would be accessible to local services and facilities. Package 3, which has the most village focus, incorporates the most sites with a negative score against this sub-objective but, on balance, even this package scores positively overall. Because none of the packages include housing provision on new sites beyond the better served group villages, none of the packages is in conflict with this sub-objective overall.

Distance to local centres is one measure of accessibility, and this varies by individual site. Significant major developments would be likely to incorporate new local centres, thereby ensuring services and facilities are accessible to the new population. Smaller developments are more likely to be reliant on existing centres.

Most village level options are located on the edges of villages, meaning that in some cases site score relatively poorly against the objective. In the case of package 7 and 8, which would include some development on the edge of Cambridge, smaller urban extensions may not include new local centres, and site specific appraisals indicated that some sites were a significant distance from existing local centres. Packages 1, 3 and 4 incorporate a relatively high level of housing provision in villages so are in conflict with this sub-objective and may result in potentially significant adverse impacts as many village sites are at some distance from existing village centres. They also rely on development

in Cambourne west, which generally performs poorly against distance to centre, although it does adjoin a new secondary school so its performance for education access is good. There is also a small supermarket nearby in Lower Cambourne. In particular, package 4 relies on it to deliver over a quarter of its housing provision. The overall performance of Cambourne west depends upon whether it is likely to deliver a local centre, and therefore provision of a local centre should be an integral part of the development delivery.

In contrast, the other packages have a greater reliance on new settlements and/or major development sites and generally these perform better because it is assumed that they would be able to deliver new local centres through masterplanning of these sites. Overall, however, these packages are still in conflict with this sub-objective.

Will it improve quality and range of key local services and facilities including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc?)

The assessment of individual sites assumed that larger focused developments have more potential to deliver a range of new services, whilst more scattered village development would reduce the likely impact of investment, and could put additional pressure on existing village services. Consequently, package 3 performs less positively as it does not include a new settlement and is additionally the most reliant on village development. By comparison, the other packages perform well for this objective.

SA Objective 18

Will it encourage engagement with community activities?

New development is required by plan policies to provide community facilities to meet the needs generated, and will therefore contribute to supporting engagement with community activities. The assessment of individual sites assumed that larger more focused developments are more likely to be able to deliver a wider range of new services. On this basis packages 1, 2, 4 and 5, which include new settlements, are more likely to perform well and provide positive support for this sub-objective. Conversely, that scattered village development would be less likely to be able to, and could in some cases put additional pressures on existing village services. On this basis Package 3 does not include a new settlement, performs less positively.

SA Objective 19

Will it support business development and enhance competitiveness, enabling provision of high-quality employment land in appropriate locations to meet the needs of businesses, and the workforce?

New settlements would be mixed use developments incorporating provision of employment land, hence the strongly positive performance for the packages providing new settlements (1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8) and the less positive performance for package 3, which would not deliver a new settlement. Some development proposals on the edge of Cambridge would also be mixed use. It should be noted, however, that much of the employment at Waterbeach (included in options 1, 4, 5 and 7) may be delivered beyond plan period.

Will it protect the shopping hierarchy, supporting the vitality and viability of Cambridge, town, district and local centres?

The individual site assessments assumed that the plan's policy requirements would mean that new centres may be delivered to meet local needs, but that they would be required not to be of such a scale to harm the shopping hierarchy. Therefore, all packages are deemed to have a neutral performance for this sub-objective.

SA Objective 20

Will it contribute to providing a range of employment opportunities, in accessible locations?

The site assessments focused on accessibility to major employment opportunities, using accession modelling for journey lengths. All of the packages support this objective, with package 6 offering potentially significant beneficial impacts because of the concentration of development on the edge of the most significant existing employment area, that being Cambridge. New settlement sites are currently not as close to major employment areas, but as mixed use used new employment opportunities are likely to lead to increased access to employment in the longer term, and therefore these are likely to perform slightly better than the village focused packages.

SA Objective 21

Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure, including broadband?

During the earlier assessment of individual sites it was assumed that larger sites will need investment in infrastructure and that they cannot rely on existing provision. Since all packages include large sites they all record a negative performance against this sub-objective except for package 3. Package 3 incorporates a diversity of sites including sites with significantly positive and minor negative performance for this sub-objective, such that an overall performance is difficult to judge with any level of certainty.

Will it improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees to the economy?

Even after allowing for surplus school places, development on the scale incorporated in each of the packages would require an increase in school planned admission numbers, which would require the expansion of existing schools and/or provision of new schools. All of the packages therefore conflict with this objective and may result in adverse impacts unless new schools were provided.

SA Objective 22

Will it enable shorter journeys, improve modal choice and integration of transport modes to encourage or facilitate the use of modes such as walking, cycling and public transport?

Sub-indicator: Distance to bus stop / rail station

Sub-indicator: Frequency of Public Transport

Sub-indicator: Typical Public Transport Journey Time to Cambridge City Centre or Market Town

Sub-indicator: Distance for cycling to City Centre or Market Town

All of the packages support this sub-objective and score positively against the sub-indicators.

Development close to the edge of Cambridge would support access opportunities by alternative modes, although access to public transport services is better close to radial routes with good services, and some areas around the City currently have more limited access to high quality public transport. Larger developments could be accessed by new public transport routes. This means that package 6 would perform particularly well against this objective because of the concentration of development on the edge of Cambridge.

New settlements (included in packages 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8) could incorporate significant public transport routes to Cambridge, and new town and local centres as appropriate, to ensure that residents have convenient access to local services and facilities by walking, cycling and public transport. They have the potential to enable focussed investment in public transport and cycling infrastructure, delivering high quality services to provide a significantly higher modal share of travel by non-car modes than village based growth options. Dispersing development around villages would be more likely to deliver incremental improvements, rather than focused investment. But this could benefit existing communities. Traffic impacts would be spread more around the district, but there would be a higher modal share for car use. Outside the Rural Centres public transport services are generally limited in terms of frequency and journey time. Cycling opportunities would also be lower than other strategy approaches, as distances to Cambridge or market towns would be greater, and would often rely on rural roads rather than dedicated routes. This would particularly impact on package 3 as the most village based option.

The sub-objective on the movement of freight has been scoped out of this assessment because this assessment is dealing specifically with housing allocations.

SA Objective 23

Will it provide safe access to the highway network, where there is available capacity?

A wide range of sites are in conflict with this sub-objective, which results in a negative performance for all packages. A major negative performance is recorded for packages 1 and 4 because of their reliance on Waterbeach New Town. The site assessment suggests that this development may result in potentially significant adverse impacts because of insufficient capacity on existing roads although mitigation measures are being explored to address this, including improved access to rail, road improvements and bus improvements. It should also be noted that by the end of the plan period, only a small proportion of the new town will be built, reducing the scale of the impacts at that time.

Will it make the transport network safer for and promote use of non-motorised modes?

The site assessments for the new settlements at Waterbeach New Town and Bourn Airfield suggest that they could potentially lead to significant improvement to public transport, walking or cycling facilities. Transport evidence suggests this would increase modal share by sustainable modes compared to more dispersed development strategies.

Similarly, the greenbelt developments are seen to be of a sufficient scale to enable associated improvements to the transport network. This accounts for the strongly positive performances for all packages except package 3, although there is some uncertainty as it would depend on the opportunities provided by specific sites. Nonetheless, package 3 includes a larger number of smaller developments, which would offer less potential to generate significant investment in transport infrastructure.

3.4 Commentary on Sustainability Performance of Packages

This section describes how each package performs across the range of SA objectives and sub-objectives. This section does not seek to describe all the effects, but to highlight the significant sustainability effects of the packages, or those effects which differentiate the packages' performances.

Option 1 - Waterbeach New Town, Cambourne West and Village Focus

This package includes provision for a new town at Waterbeach, the completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne and development at a range of villages down to the Better Served Group Village level.

Waterbeach New Town scores strongly against a relatively large number of sub-objectives and, because of its relative reliance on this site, this is reflected in the overall scores for this package. It performs strongly in relation to:

- Use of previously developed land;
- Provision of open space;
- Quality and range of local services and facilities;
- Engagement with community activities;
- Business development and competitiveness; and
- Safety of the transport network and promotion of non-motorised modes

As with all of the packages, it performs poorly in relation to the use of agricultural land. Both Waterbeach New Town and Cambourne West would involve the loss of significant amounts of agricultural land and this would be compounded by cumulatively significant further loss from a large number of village sites.

The inclusion of a large number of village sites which are considered to be sensitive in landscape terms means that the cumulative impact on landscape character is likely to be significant in this package. Significant mitigation measures will be required, particularly when the town would reach its eventual size.

Its inclusion of a large number of village sites, many of which are some distance from existing centres, also means it scores poorly in relation to the 'distance to centre' sub-indicator. The issues with highway capacity for the Waterbeach New Town site also result in this package performing poorly in terms of providing safe access to the highway network.

In relation to the infrastructure objectives, there is a contrast between the more positive scores for the sites in minor village centre and the more negative scores for the new settlements and larger village sites, where investment in infrastructure would be required. In spite of the inclusion of a significant number of smaller village sites, we have assessed the balance overall as being negative.

Option 2 - Bourn Airfield New Settlement and Village Focus

This package includes the completion of a new settlement at Bourn Airfield within the plan period, and limited development in Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centre villages to meet the remaining requirement.

Unlike Waterbeach New Town, only approximately one third of the Bourn Airfield site is previously developed land and it also scores less strongly in relation to the provision of open space. Because of its heavy reliance on the Bourn Airfield site, this is reflected in the overall scores for this package, with fewer strongly positive scores than package 1.

However, it performs slightly better than package 1 in relation to the distance to centre sub-indicator because so much of the provision in this package would be served by a new centre on the Bourn Airfield site, with less provision on village sites. The absence of significant capacity constraints on the highway network for the Bourn Airfield site also means it performs better than package 1 in relation to the sub-indicator for safe access to the highway network.

Option 3 - Cambourne and Village Focus

This package adopts a village-focused approach. It includes completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne, with the remainder of new development focused on other villages. At Waterbeach, there would be no new settlement, but the redevelopment of the barracks themselves would accommodate around 900 dwellings.

Overall, this package does not strongly support any of the sub-objectives.

Although the Waterbeach barracks development would not result in the loss of agricultural land, the cumulative loss of agricultural land across a large number of village sites means that there is still conflict with this sub-objective, albeit to a lesser degree than the other packages as it could deliver the largest number of houses without using agricultural land.

Although individual site impacts may be relatively minor, the cumulative impacts on landscape and townscape character from this package are likely to be significant, although some impacts may be capable of partial mitigation through design and siting.

As with the other packages with a strong reliance on village development, it scores poorly in relation to access to services and facilities, placing larger amounts of development in lower order centres than any other package.

Larger scale developments are more likely to incorporate new provision of services, facilities, employment space and transport facilities. The reliance on smaller sites in this package therefore results in this package performing less positively in relation to:

- Quality and range of local services and facilities;
- Engagement with community activities;
- Business development and competitiveness;
- Safety of the transport network and promotion of non-motorised modes.

Option 4 - Waterbeach New Town, Bourn Airfield New Settlement, and Cambourne West Focus

This package includes provision from the partial completion by 2031 of a new town at Waterbeach, the partial completion of a new settlement at Bourn Airfield, the completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne. This would be supported by selected development at Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres.

The overall scores for this package largely mirror the scores for package 1, with strongly positive scores for:

- Use of previously developed land;
- Provision of open space;
- Quality and range of local services and facilities;
- Engagement with community activities;
- Business development and competitiveness;
- Safety of the transport network and promotion of non-motorised modes.

It has strongly negative scores for use of agricultural land, distance to centre and (because of the highways issues relating to Waterbeach New Town) provision of safe access to the highway network.

It does, however, represent a lower level of landscape impact than package 1 in terms of landscape character because the large number of sensitive village sites in option 1 are largely replaced in this package with the Bourn Airfield site, which is not considered to be sensitive. It is probably also marginally less sensitive in terms of townscape character, although the differences are too subtle to be picked up in terms of the overall performance of the packages at this level of assessment.

Option 5 - Waterbeach New Town, Bourn Airfield New Settlement and Village Focus

This package includes provision from the partial completion by 2031 of a new town at Waterbeach, the partial completion of a new settlement at Bourn Airfield (but more than Option 4 assumes, which is offset by less reliance on development at Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres).

Its relative reliance on the Bourn Airfield site means that its scores largely mirror the scores for package 2. The focus on new settlements means that it is likely to result in provision of new services, facilities, employment space and transport facilities, meaning it performs strongly in relation to:

- Quality and range of local services and facilities;
- Engagement with community activities;
- Business development and competitiveness;
- Safety of the transport network and promotion of non-motorised modes.

The relatively low provision in villages also means that this package is likely to have less cumulative impact on landscape and townscape character than those with a strong reliance on village development or on other sensitive sites.

Option 6 - Cambridge Green Belt and Village Focus

This package assumes 2 or 3 large urban extensions to Cambridge on land currently in the Green Belt. This would accommodate around 4000 dwellings. This would be supported by selected village sites at Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres, with a focus on previously developed land.

Delivering this scale of development on the edge of Cambridge would require sites which would have a significant negative impact on the landscape and townscape character objectives and on air quality. The review of the Green Belt identified that it would not be possible to deliver significant additional development on the edge of Cambridge without significant detriment to the specific purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt. These purposes highlight the importance to the historic City of Cambridge of the quality of its setting as well as the usual role of Green Belts in preventing communities from merging with one another.

The major Green Belt sites could offer significant potential for the provision of green infrastructure, which results in this package and package 7 performing strongly in relation to this sub-objective. Because of the proximity of much of the development to Cambridge, these packages also strongly support the sub-objective of improving accessibility to key local services and facilities. In addition, the provision of new services and facilities which would be required as part of the urban extensions included in this package mean that this package would improve the quality and range of key local services and facilities.

The edge of Cambridge focus of this package also results in strongly positive scores for a number of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure sub-objectives, including: contributing to provision of employment opportunities in accessible locations; and enabling shorter

journeys, improving modal choice and integration of transport modes. It also performs well against the sub-indicator for 'distance for cycling to city centre'.

Option 7 - Cambridge Green Belt, Waterbeach New Town, Cambourne West and Village Focus

This option assumes 1 or 2 large urban extensions to Cambridge on land currently in the Green Belt, accommodating around 2000 dwellings. The remaining development needs would be accommodated through the partial completion of a new town at Waterbeach, the completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne and development at 1 village.

Delivering this scale of development on the edge of Cambridge would require sites which would have a significant negative impact on the landscape and townscape character objectives. The review of the Green Belt identified that it would not be possible to deliver significant additional development on the edge of Cambridge without significant detriment to the specific purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt. These purposes highlight the importance to the historic City of Cambridge of the quality of its setting as well as the usual role of Green Belts in preventing communities from merging with one another.

The major Green Belt sites could offer significant potential for the provision of green infrastructure, which results in this package and package 6 performing strongly in relation to this sub-objective. Because of the proximity of much of the development to Cambridge, these packages also strongly support the sub-objective of improving accessibility to key local services and facilities. It performs less well than package 6 for access to employment opportunities, although still positively. In addition, the provision of new services and facilities which would be required as part of the urban extensions included in this package mean that this package would improve the quality and range of key local services and facilities.

As with all the packages this one would lead to loss of high grade agricultural land. As above the scale of development on the edge of Cambridge would result in significant negative impact on the landscape and townscape objective.

There are fewer strongly positive scores, for example regarding sustainable travel and transport infrastructure sub-objectives.

Option 8 - Cambridge Green Belt, Bourn Airfield New Settlement, Cambourne West and Village Focus

This option assumes delivery of smaller sites on land currently in the Green Belt on the edge of Cambridge, the partial completion of a new settlement at Bourn Airfield, the completion of an extension to the existing new settlement at Cambourne and selected development at Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres.

Delivering this scale of development on the edge of Cambridge would require sites which would have a significant negative impact on the landscape and townscape character objectives. The review of the Green Belt identified that it would not be possible to deliver significant additional development on the edge of Cambridge without significant detriment to the specific purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt. These purposes highlight the importance to the historic City of Cambridge of the quality of its setting as well as the usual role of Green Belts in preventing communities from merging with one another.

As with all the packages this one would lead to significant loss of high grade agricultural land. This package would result in significant harm to landscape and townscape character on the edge of Cambridge. There are some larger sites in the package which have negative or uncertain performances for safe highway access.

The package performs less well than package 6 for access to employment opportunities, although still positively.

The only strongly positive performance is for this package is for objective 23, relating to the sub-objective of transport network safety and promoting the use of non-motorise transport modes.

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Appendix D: Habitats Regulations Assessment

Screening Report for the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014

May 2013

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Executive Summary

This document is a Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014, which has been carried out by Cambridge City Council as the relevant competent authority. It has been carried out in order to meet the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

Habitats Regulations Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed plan or project, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on one or more Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites. This report represents stage 1 of this process and provides:

- Details of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 and its objectives;
- Details of other relevant plans and projects;
- Details of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites that could potentially be affected by the Draft Local Plan (including their specific characteristics and conservation objectives); and
- A screening assessment of the Draft Local Plan, both alone and in combination with other identified plans and projects, in order to identify any likely significant effects on those sites.

The conclusion drawn as a result of this screening assessment is that the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 is not likely to have any significant effects on the Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites identified. The City Council therefore considers that there is not necessary to proceed to further stages of appropriate assessment.

1 - INTRODUCTION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document is a Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014, which has been carried out in order to meet the requirement of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). It has been prepared by Cambridge City Council, as the relevant competent authority.

1.2 The Habitats Directive

1.2.1 Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (the 'Habitats Directive') provides the legal protection for habitats and species of European Importance. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment and states:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Article 6(4) goes on to discuss alternative solutions, the test of 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) and compensatory measures:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

1.2.2 The sites covered by Habitats Regulations Assessment form what are known as Natura 2000 sites. These are a European network of special areas of conservation and special protection areas under the old Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) or the new Wild Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), provided for by Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive. These sites of international importance for nature conservation were established under the Habitats Directive, which was transposed into UK law as the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &C) Regulations 1994¹. On 1st April 2010 this was

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/2716/contents/made>

replaced by the The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010². This was consequently amended by the The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012³, which came into force on 16th August 2012.

1.2.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012⁴ updates the legislation and consolidates all the many amendments, which have been made to the Regulations since 1994.

1.2.4 Paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) states that:

“the following wildlife sites should be given the same protection as European sites:

- potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- listed or proposed Ramsar⁵ sites; and
- sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites

Therefore these sites will also be assessed as part of this screening assessment.

Review of the Implementation of the Habitats Directive

1.2.5 In November 2011 the Government announced a review of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives as currently implemented in England. This review was published by DEFRA on 22nd March 2012⁶.

1.2.6 The review found that in the large majority of cases the implementation of the Directives was working well and allowed for the development of key infrastructure and ensured a high level of environmental protection. Four key areas were identified, where change would improve the implementation of the Directives, these were:

- Facilitating nationally significant infrastructure projects
- Improving implementation processes and streamlining guidance
- Improving the quality, quantity and sharing of data
- Improving the customer experience

1.2.7 An implementation plan for these measures is currently underdevelopment. A report on the progress on the implementation was scheduled for March 2013.

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1927/contents/made>

⁴ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1927/contents/made>

⁵ Potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Ramsar sites are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a Special Protection Area, candidate Special Area of Conservation or Ramsar site

⁶

1.3 What is Habitats Regulations Assessment?

- 1.3.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed plan in combination with other plans and projects on one or more European sites, Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar Sites. The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the plan should aim to **avoid** any negative impacts of European sites by identifying potential impacts early on in the plan-making process and writing these impacts out of the plan. Where adverse impacts remain, **mitigation measures** should be applied to the point that no adverse impacts remain. If the plan is still likely to result in adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated it should not be taken forward in its current form. In this situation the plan may have to undergo an assessment of alternative solutions. Where adverse impacts remain **compensatory measures** may be required but these will only be permitted if (a) no alternative solutions exist and (b) the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (the 'IROPI' test).
- 1.3.2 There are 4 stages to the Habitats Regulations Assessment process as outlined below:
- **Stage 1 (Screening)** – the process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant;
 - **Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment)** – The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts should be provided;
 - **Stage 3 (Assessment of alternative solutions)** – The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar site(s); and
 - **Stage 4 (Compensatory measures)** – An assessment of the compensatory measures where, in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the plan should proceed.
- 1.3.3 If the screening stage concludes that there are likely to be no significant impacts on European sites then there is no need to progress to the stage of Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.3.1 Judgement of the significance of effects on European sites should be undertaken in relation to the designated interest features and conservation objective of the site in question using sound judgement and with a scientific basis where available. If insufficient information is available to make a clear judgement, it should be assumed that a significant effect is possible in line with the precautionary principle.
- 1.3.1 Natural England will be consulted to ensure that the Habitats Regulations Assessment is considering all the potential impacts that may affect the sites (and the management objectives for each site).

The Precautionary Principle

Prudent action that avoids the possibility of irreversible environmental damage in situations where the scientific evidence is inconclusive but the potential damage could be significant.

1.4 Structure of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.4.1 The structure of this Habitats Regulations Assessment will be as follows:

- Description of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014
- Description of the relevant plans and projects considered 'in combination'
- Screening Methodology
- Identification and description of European Sites
- Conclusions on the Screening Assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014
- Consultations

1.5 Joint Working

1.5.1 In line with the Duty to Cooperate (as specified in the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework) we are working closely with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council in preparing the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014. Cross boundary issues have been identified and worked on jointly and screening reports, such as the Habitats Regulations Assessment have been worked on in conjunction with South Cambridgeshire district Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

2 Description of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014

2.1 The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document covers the Local Authority area for Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the council's Local Development Framework (LDF). Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan, the Cambridge East area action plan and the Statement of Community Involvement. The Cambridge Local Plan will bring together the following statutory requirements:

- core strategy
- development control policies
- site-specific allocations.

2.2 The vision of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 is:

The vision for Cambridge is of a compact, dynamic city, located within the high quality landscape setting of the Cambridge Green Belt. The city will draw inspiration from its iconic historic core, heritage assets and structural green corridors, achieving a sense of place in all of its parts, with generous, accessible and biodiverse open spaces and well-designed architecture. Building on the city's reputation for design excellence, Cambridge's new development will be innovative and will promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, helping to support the transition to a more environmentally sustainable and successful low carbon economy. The city will continue to develop as a centre of excellence and world leader in the fields of higher education and research, and will foster the dynamism, prosperity and further expansion of the knowledge-based economy, whilst retaining the high quality of life and place that underpins that economic success. It will also grow in importance as a sub-regional centre for a wide range of services. Housing provision in the city will be of a high quality and will support the development and enhancement of balanced and mixed communities through provision of housing of a mix of sizes and types, including a high proportion of Affordable Housing. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to guide and facilitate growth and the infrastructure required to support development, so that the city grows in a sensitive and sustainable manner. This will ensure that the high environmental quality of the city is protected and enhanced and that future developments offer a full range of opportunities to all.

2.3 The vision is supported by the following strategic objectives:

1. All new development will contribute to the vision of Cambridge as an environmentally sustainable city, where it is easy for people to make a transition to a low carbon lifestyle. This means making best use of energy (including community energy projects), water and other natural resources, securing radical reductions in carbon emissions, minimising environmental impact and being capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change.
2. All new development will be highly water efficient; will contribute to overall flood risk reduction through water sensitive urban design, and will help to improve the quality of the River Cam and other water features in the city.

3. All new development will be of the highest quality, in terms of design excellence and innovation, addressing its impact upon its surroundings and embracing the principles of sustainable design and construction.
4. All new development will contribute to the positive management of change in the historic environment, protecting, enhancing and maintaining the unique qualities and character of Cambridge, including the River Cam corridor, the city's wider landscape and setting, and its designated and undesignated heritage assets for the future.
5. All new development will protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character and quality of the Cambridge skyline.
6. All new development will protect and enhance the landscape setting of the city, which comprises the Cambridge Green Belt, the green corridors penetrating the urban area, the established network of multi-functional green spaces, and tree canopy cover in the city.
7. All new development will protect and enhance the city's biodiversity, network of habitats and geodiversity.
8. All new housing will be provided to meet the needs of the city within its sub-region, delivering an appropriate mix of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet existing and future needs, including Affordable Housing.
9. All new development will assist the creation and maintenance of inclusive, environmentally sustainable communities.
10. All new development will promote and support economic growth in environmentally sustainable and accessible locations, facilitating innovation and supporting Cambridge's role as a world leader in higher education, research, and knowledge-based industries, whilst maintaining the quality of life and place that contribute to economic success.
11. All new development will support Cambridge's vibrant and thriving centres, with a varied range of shopping facilities in accessible locations that meet the needs of people living, working and studying in, or visiting, the city and its wider sub-region.
12. All new development will promote social cohesion and sustainability and a high quality of life by maintaining and enhancing provision for open space, sports and recreation, community and leisure facilities, including arts and cultural venues that serve Cambridge and the sub-region.
13. All new development will be located to help minimise the distance people need to travel, and be designed to make it easy for everyone to move around the city and access jobs and services by sustainable modes of transport.
14. All new development will ensure appropriate and timely provision of environmentally sustainable forms of infrastructure to support the demands of the city, including digital and cultural infrastructure.

15. All new development will promote a safe and healthy environment, minimising the impacts of development and ensuring quality of life and place.

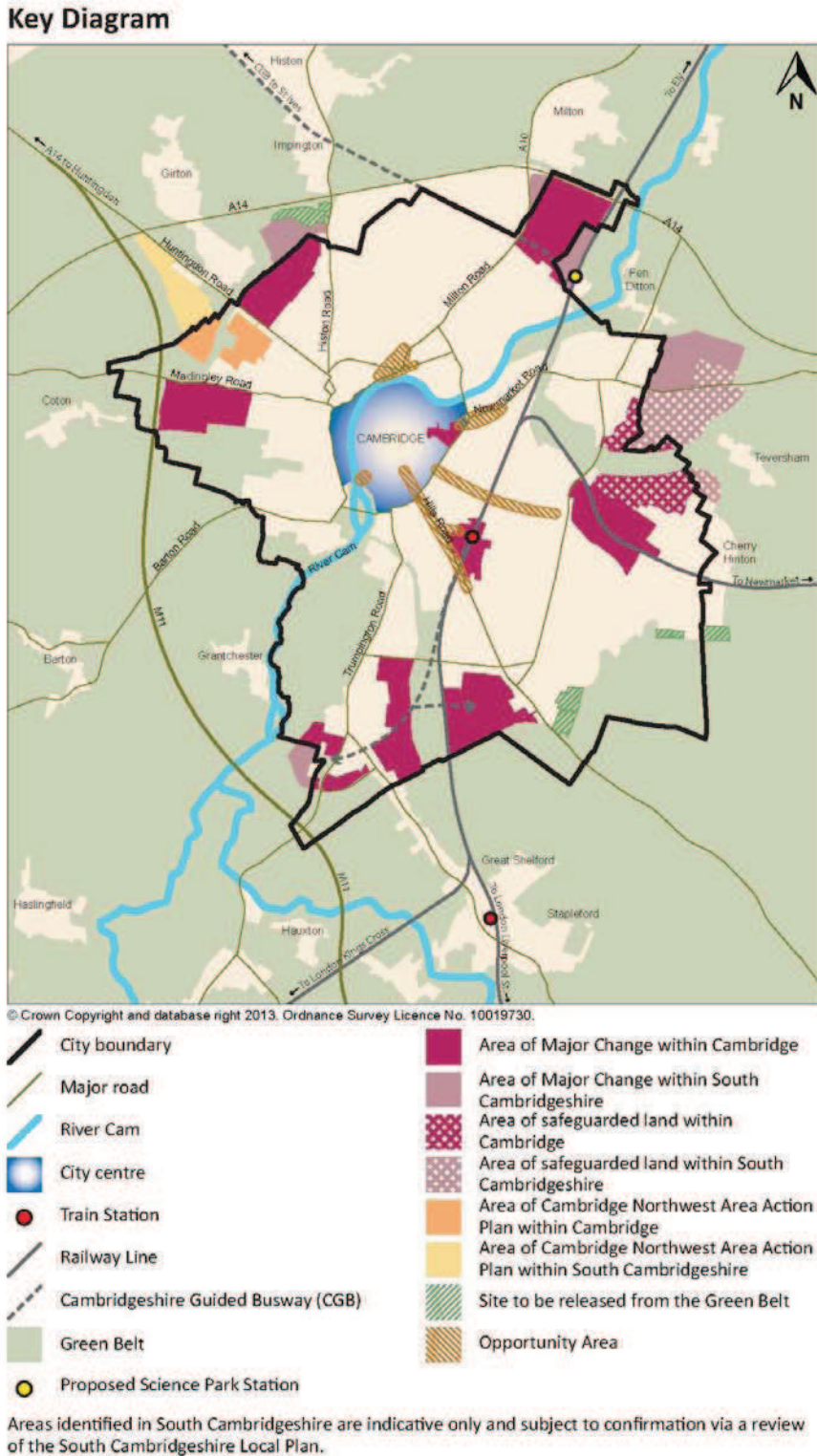
2.4 The LDF currently comprises a number of development plan documents (DPDs) and supplementary planning documents (SPDs) as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Cambridge Local Development Framework

Document Name	Progress to date
Cambridge East Area Action Plan (DPD)	Adopted in February 2008
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (DPD)	Adopted October 2009
Affordable Housing (SPD)	Adopted January 2008
Sustainable Design & Construction (SPD)	Adopted May 2007
Planning Obligations Strategy (SPD)	Adopted March 2010 (minus education section)
Public Art (SPD)	Adopted January 2010
Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	Adopted January 2010
Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	Adopted October 2011

2.5 Some of the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) will fall away as they are tied to current Local Plan Policies, others such as the Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD and the Old Press Mill Lane SPD will remain. New SPDs will be prepared to provide additional detail.

Figure 1: Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 – Key Diagram



3 – DESCRIPTION OF THE RELEVANT PLANS AND STRATEGIES

3 Description of the Relevant Plans and Strategies to be Considered ‘In Combination’

- 3.1 The 2006 Cambridge Local Plan is the current Local Plan and plans for development in Cambridge up to 2016.
- 3.2 Previous Habitats Regulations Assessments have referred to the East of England Plan or Regional Strategy for the East of England and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003. These plans were revoked by the *The Regional Strategy for the East of England (Revocation) Order 2012*⁷, which came into force on 3rd January 2013. Article 2 of the order revokes the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Regional Economic Strategy and Article 3 revokes all directions preserving policies contained in structure plans in the area to which the RSS relates. Therefore these plans and policies are no longer to be considered ‘in combination’.
- 3.3 This screening stage focuses on the ‘in-combination’ effects of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with other plans, including those of other nearby authorities and minerals and waste plans produced by County Councils. These plans are listed with a brief summary in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 All relevant plans mentioned (in Appendix1) will be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations Assessment, by the relevant authority.

⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/3046/introduction/made>

4 – SCREENING METHODOLOGY – SETTING OUT THE APPROACH USED AND SPECIFIC TASKS UNDERTAKEN

4 Screening Methodology Setting out the Approach Used and Specific Tasks Undertaken – UPDATE LP2031 NE team name etc.

- 4.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 has been undertaken in accordance with the European Commission's guidance on the 'Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites', and seeks to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive. The tasks undertaken in this process are outlined below.
- 4.2 Task 1: Identification of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites that may be affected by the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 and the factors contributing to and defining the integrity of these sites.**
- 4.2.1 There are no Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites contained within the area covered by Cambridge City Council, so initial investigations were undertaken to identify sites in surrounding districts. This work has already been undertaken by South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Habitats Regulations Assessment of their Draft Local Plan Development Plan Document and involved the use of GIS data as well as consultation with Natural England. South Cambridgeshire District Council have incorporated their Habitats Regulations Assessment into their *Local Plan – Initial Sustainability Report (July 2012)* and *Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (June 2012)*. South Cambridgeshire District Council is the neighbouring authority for Cambridge City Council and as such it was felt appropriate to apply Habitats Regulations Assessment to the same sites. The precautionary principle was applied to this selection and as such sites beyond the boundary of South Cambridgeshire District Council have been included. The sites identified are listed in section 5 of this document and the attributes that contribute to and define the integrity of these sites are listed in Appendix 2. It is felt that the information identified is appropriate to inform this screening decision.
- 4.3 Task 2: Completion of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Matrix for the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014, including an Assessment of Significance of Effects.**
- 4.3.1 The screening matrix has been used to assess a number of the Councils development plan documents and SPDs. As such, this methodology has been approved for use by Natural England. In accordance with government guidance, the precautionary principle has been applied to the assessment of whether or not the potential effects of the document are considered to be 'significant'. The screening matrix has been used to assess the significance of effects on the conservation objectives of each of the European sites identified and considers both the potential effects of the document alone and in combination with other relevant plans and projects as identified in section 3 of this document. The impacts examined by the screening matrix are in relation to land take by development, impact on protected species which travel outside the designated sites, increased disturbance from recreational use, impacts on water quantity and quality and changes in levels of pollution.

5 Natura 2000 and Ramsar Sites Potentially Affected by the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014

5.1 There are no Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites within Cambridge. However there are a number of sites outside the boundaries of the City that have been considered as part of this assessment because of their proximity to the district and/or the nature of their conservation interest. These sites are:

- Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC;
- Ouse Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar site;
- Fenland SAC and Ramsar site;
- Portholme SAC
- Devil's Dyke SAC
- Breckland SAC and SPA

There are no candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the area.

5.2 As mentioned previously, the sites chosen were identified by South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Habitats Directive Assessment as part of their *Local Plan – Initial Sustainability Report (July 2012)* and *Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (June 2012)*. Natural England confirmed that these sites were appropriate for the purposes of a Habitats Regulations Assessment in a letter to South Cambridgeshire District Council dated the 9th November 2006. Breckland SAC and SPA has been added to this assessment as it has been included in many other Local Authorities' Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Details of each of these sites along with their relevant conservation objectives are contained within Appendix 2. The locations of these sites are shown on the maps in Appendix 3.

5.3 The conservation objectives for each SAC or SPA are designed to ensure that the qualifying interest of each site is maintained in the long term. Whilst these are specific to each site, there are some general principles including:

- To maintain the population of the habitat/species as a viable component of the site;
- To maintain the distribution of the habitat/species within the site;
- To maintain the distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species;
- To maintain the structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species; and
- To ensure that there is no significant disturbance of the species.

For further information please visit the Natural England website at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

5.4 Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, which provides for the conservation and good use of wetlands. The UK Government ratified the Convention and designated the first Ramsar sites in 1976. The main aim of Ramsar sites is to promote the conservation of the site in order to avoid

deterioration of wetland habitats of Ramsar interest and significant disturbance of associated species.

- 5.5 The main aim of this screening assessment is to ensure that the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014, either alone or in combination with other plans as identified in Appendix 1, will not have an impact on the conservation objectives of these sites.

6 - CONCLUSIONS

6 Conclusions of the Screening Assessment

- 6.1 Appendix 4 of this document contains the full screening assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 on the identified Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. This considers the potential impacts of the document both alone and in combination with other relevant plans as outlined in section 3 above.
- 6.2 The overall conclusions of this screening assessment is that the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 is unlikely to have any significant impacts on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites identified. As such it is felt that it is not necessary to proceed to the next stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process i.e. Stage 2 and the requirement for an appropriate assessment.

7 - CONSULTATIONS

7 Consultations

- 7.1 Natural England is the statutory nature conservation body for appropriate assessment. Their consultation team have been consulted on this Habitats Regulations Assessment and their conclusions are as follows:

Appendix 1: Summary of other relevant plans and strategies

Title	Date of Adoption	
Cambridge City Council		
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013	A consultation document looking at site options within Cambridge for allocation and designation in the Local Plan, internal and external space standards and car and cycle parking standards.
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012	A consultation document highlighting issues and providing options for new policies to guide the development of the Local Plan to 2031
Cambridge Local Plan 2006	2006	This document provides the policies to guide development in Cambridge to 2016. It also designates proposal sites for certain types of development, including a number of Areas of Major Change, which are mainly concentrated around the fringe of the City.
Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD.	2011	This document addresses the need to improve the physical environment within the Eastern Gate area. It includes planning guidance to help coordinate and guide future redevelopment in line with the council's Local Plan policies and objectives
Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010	This document provides guidance on the provision of public art as part of new developments. It covers public art delivered through the planning process, principally Section 106 Agreements (S106), the commissioning of public art using the S106 Public Art Initiative, and outlines public art policy guidance
Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2010	This document provides guidance for the long-term and incremental redevelopment of the Old Press/Mill Lane site.
Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007	This document provides further guidance on the policies in the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan that relate to sustainable design and construction issues. These issues include: urban design, transport, movement and accessibility, sustainable drainage, energy, recycling and waste facilities, biodiversity, pollution, climate change adaptation, water, materials and construction waste and the historic environment.
Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007	This document will provide the framework for the negotiation and use of planning obligation money across the city. Its main

Title	Date of Adoption	
		purpose is to provide the mechanisms to secure provision of new infrastructure or improvements to existing infrastructure, measures to mitigate the adverse effects of new developments and measures to address the needs identified to accommodate the projected growth of Cambridge.
Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008	This document gives advice on what is involved in providing Affordable Housing in Cambridge. It expands upon and adds detail to policies 3/7 and 5/5 of the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan.
Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council		
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031, South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2 – Part 1 Joint Consultation on Development Strategy and Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge	2013	A consultation document produced in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council, including potential sites that could be allocated for residential, employment or other uses in the Local Plan. It also included site options for a community stadium.
Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD,	2008	This document provides the detailed policy guidance for the development of Cambridge East, a new major urban quarter of Cambridge comprising between 10,000 to 12,000 dwellings.
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD	2009	This document provides the detailed policy guidance for the development of land between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road on the fringes of Cambridge, which has been allocated to provide for the long-term needs of the University of Cambridge.
Cambridgeshire County Council		
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Proposals Map C ○ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A: Minerals and Transport Zones and Proposals Map B: Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2011 ○ 2012 	<p>These documents set out the Councils' strategic vision and objectives for future development and management of minerals and waste within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including strategic site allocations over the Plan period to 2026. The document also contains a suite of development control policies to guide minerals and waste development.</p> <p>The proposals maps set out the Councils' allocations for site-specific proposals for future development and management of minerals and waste within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It identifies site-specific</p>

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document ○ The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document ○ RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2011 ○ 2011 ○ 2012 	<p>land allocations for future minerals and waste management development and other supporting site-specific policies. Map A: shows minerals and transport proposals; Map B: shows waste management proposals; Map C: shows Mineral Safeguarding Areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guides long term mineral and waste management development in this area • Sets out advice which will improve the design and sustainability of new waste management facilities • Provides advice on the design and provision of waste management infrastructure in residential and commercial developments, including the basis on which developer contributions will be sought for waste management infrastructure
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011	Sets out Cambridgeshire's existing and future transport issues and how we will seek to address them. It was developed following consultation with the public and stakeholders in Spring 2010, the consultation results are available to download below. LTP3 covers the period 2011-2026 and was adopted in March 2011.
South Cambridgeshire District Council		
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2: Part 2 – South Cambridgeshire Further Site Options	2013	A consultation document that sought views on additional new site options for development and other possible changes such as amendments to village frameworks and designations to protect village character in South Cambridgeshire.
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options	2012	A consultation document that sought views on options for how the district should be developed over the next 20 years to 2031. Included site options for development and options for policies covering a wide range of topics.
South Cambridgeshire Core	2007	Sets out the strategic vision and overall

Title	Date of Adoption	
Strategy DPD		approach for future development in South Cambridgeshire to 2016. Reflects the strategy in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 with the focus on locating new development in the most sustainable locations on the edge of Cambridge and at the new town of Northstowe.
South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD	2010	Contains allocations for housing and employment development as well as safeguarding land for transport infrastructure in South Cambridgeshire.
South Cambridgeshire Development Control Policies DPD	2007	Guides decisions on planning applications and covers a wide range of topics including housing, jobs, travel, the natural environment and the Green Belt.
Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,	2008	Provides the detailed policy guidance for the development of the Southern Fringe (Trumpington Meadows site).
Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD	2011	Provides practical advice and guidance on how to develop a proposal that will comply with Policy SP/11 in the Site Specific Policies DPD in January 2010. This policy allows the reuse or redevelopment of buildings (excluding glass houses) where it can be demonstrated they are no longer needed for agricultural purposes for on site experimental or other ground breaking forms of sustainable living, provided that the development would not occupy a larger footprint than existing buildings.
Orchard Park Design Guide SPD	2011	Relates to Policy SP/1 in the Site Specific Policies DPD and policies in the Development Control Policies DPD. Sets out the design principles for the remaining land parcels at Orchard Park that the Council expects to be addressed by developers in any planning application, to ensure the creation of a high quality desirable 'place'. The SPD provides a framework that will assist in the assessment of applications and design guidance that will apply to any development proposals that may come forward and is not land use specific.
Health Impact Assessment SPD	2011	Relates to Policy DP/1 in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. For major

Title	Date of Adoption	
		developments, a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is required to be submitted alongside any planning application to demonstrate that the potential impacts on health have been considered at the planning and design stage. The SPD builds on international and national guidance, and provides advice and guidance on the preparation of Health Impact Assessments including the steps involved in the process and details of what should be included in the HIA to demonstrate that any health related impacts have been fully considered.
Landscape in New Developments SPD	2010	Expands on district-wide policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. The Landscape in New Developments SPD seeks to ensure consideration is given, wherever possible, to the retention of landscaping features within developments, or to incorporating new planting into new designs. Landscaping is a valuable addition to any development, often helping to create accessible green spaces for wildlife and people. Also builds on national policy in PPS 1, PPS 9 and PPG 15.
District Design Guide SPD	2010	Expands on district-wide policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. The aim of the District Design Guide SPD is to provide additional guidance on how developments can ensure they are sustainable and achieve a high quality of design in a way that respects the local context. The District Design Guide SPD also builds on national policy in PPS 1 and its supplement: Planning & Climate Change.
Affordable Housing SPD	2010	Expands on district-wide affordable housing policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD. These policies seek to secure the provision of an appropriate level, mix and size of affordable housing, including on rural exceptions sites, so that new housing developments planned in the district address the identified housing needs of all parts of the community. It provides guidance to applicants and agents preparing development proposals to ensure

Title	Date of Adoption	
		the affordable housing proposed meets desirable standards at an affordable price to benefit all potential future occupiers. Also builds on national policy in PPS 3 and Circular 05/05.
Listed Buildings SPD	2009	Expands on district-wide policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. These policies seek to ensure that Listed Building issues are adequately addressed throughout the development process. It also builds on the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and PPG 15. The Listed Buildings SPD provides broad guidance on Listed Buildings with regards to South Cambridgeshire District Council policies, and therefore it covers general approaches, typical works and when Listed Building Consent is likely to be required
Biodiversity SPD	2009	Expands on district-wide policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. These policies seek to ensure that biodiversity is adequately protected and enhanced throughout the development process. It also builds on national policy in PPS 1 and PPS 9, which promote sustainable, well-designed development while seeking to ensure that biodiversity and appropriate landscaping are fully integrated into new developments.
Trees and Development Sites SPD	2009	Provides guidance to applicants and agents preparing development proposals that may impact on trees, including protected trees and trees that are unprotected but of significance. It also guides owners of protected trees on the application process and criteria used to assess those applications.
Public Art SPD	2009	Supports Policy SF/6 in the Development Control Policies DPD. Defines what is meant by the term Public Art, provides an outline of the wider benefits of having Public Art included within new developments, and gives clear guidance for developers to encourage them to include Public Art within proposed development schemes.
Open Space in New	2009	Provides further detail on the Council's

Title	Date of Adoption	
Developments SPD		quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards for children's play space, outdoor sport, and informal open space for new developments. It also provides clear guidance on how to calculate the requirements of individual developments, and the process that applicants and officers will need to go through during the planning application process.
Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009	Supports Policy CH/5 in the Development Control Policies DPD. Provides further guidance on how national policy in PPG 15 is interpreted in the local context. The guidance applies to new developments and works to existing buildings, as well as demolition of existing structures within conservation areas.
Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007	Describes Cottenham at particular points in time and highlights the qualities valued by its residents. The document supports the Development Control Policies DPD.
South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD. Issues and Options 1: General Approach	2006	A consultation document that sought views on the general approach to identifying need and the criteria that should be used for the selection of sites.
South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD. Issues and Options 2: Site Options and Policies	2009	A consultation document that sought views on site options for Gypsy & Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots and draft planning policies.
Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007	This document provides the detailed policy guidance for the proposed new town of Northstowe, which will consist of up to 10,000 new homes, a town centre and new employment.
Huntingdonshire District Council		
Huntingdonshire Core Strategy	2009	The Core Strategy sets the framework for how Huntingdonshire will develop up to 2026. It contains Strategic policies to manage growth and guide new development. The Core Strategy provides the local context for considering the long-term social, economic and environmental resource impacts of development.
Huntingdonshire Development Management DPD Proposed Submission, 2010	2010	Sets out the Council's policies for managing development in Huntingdonshire. The Development Management DPD has not been progressed beyond this Proposed Submission version due to the change in

Title	Date of Adoption	
		Government and announced changes in planning policy. The Proposed Submission version has been used since 2010 as the most up to date approved statement of development management policies; however the emerging Local Plan to 2036 will be given greater weight as it progresses through the stages of preparation
Huntingdon West Area Action Plan,	2011	The area action plan covers approximately 300 hectares of land west of Huntingdon's town centre. Of this, some 20 hectares is land between the town centre and the railway line and includes the Huntingdon Railway Station. The remaining land extends west to encompass the Hinchingsbrooke area. The Huntingdon West Area Action Plan is an area where significant change is expected. It will help deliver planned growth, stimulate regeneration, protect areas particularly sensitive to change, and resolve potentially conflicting objectives in this area.
Local Plan to 2036	In progress	The plan will set out the strategy for development in the whole of Huntingdonshire, incorporating policies for managing development and site-specific proposals for different forms of development in the context of the new National Planning Policy Framework. The plan will include consideration of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone and other proposed development on the Airfield, as well as other opportunities that have arisen since the Core Strategy was adopted in 2009. The plan is currently in the very early stages of evidence-based preparation.
Huntingdonshire Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD – Issues Report	2009	This document identified sites to provide residential accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community in Huntingdonshire. Gypsy and Traveller site provision is now being considered as part of the Local Plan to 2036 process
East Cambridgeshire District Council		
East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	2009	Covers the district of East Cambridgeshire, and includes the spatial strategy to 2025. It sets the strategic vision for the district and

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Littleport Masterplan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011 	<p>future growth of new housing, employment and facilities. It expects Soham's population to increase by around 2,000 people (1,100 homes) by 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Littleport Masterplan is the Council's longer-term vision for the future of Littleport. The Littleport Masterplan presents a vision for Littleport that embraces its unique natural fen landscape setting, and is focused on revitalising the town centre, improving job opportunities, and achieving high quality development that enhances the image of the town. The Masterplan proposes an increase in the population of the town from approximately 8,800 currently to some 13,000 over the 21-year time period of the plan, an increase of some 1,700 new homes. Accompanying this is provision for employment sites to provide local jobs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burwell Masterplan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burwell Masterplan seeks to provide a modest level of growth to meet housing need, sympathetic to Burwell's village character. The key principle is balanced growth, promoting job creation alongside housing development to reduce out commuting, thereby creating a more sustainable community. The Masterplan also contains a number of infrastructure proposals, together, providing a clear spatial framework for the development of the village over the next 20 years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic issues and village vision issues and options consultations and technical work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011/2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Cambridgeshire District Council has taken a unique 'bottom-up' approach to site specific allocations as part of the Core Strategy Review, by involving and consulting residents and Parish Councils at the early stages of options development and continued close working throughout the site allocations process. This

Title	Date of Adoption	
		work helped prepare a Village Vision for every village in the District including site specific allocation policies and identified infrastructure needs
<p>SPDs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Conservation Area • Burwell High Town Conservation Area • Burwell North Street Conservation Area • Haddenham Conservation Area • Hill Row Haddenham Conservation Area • Soham Conservation Area • Ely Conservation Area • Stretham Conservation Area • Dullingham Conservation Area • Littleport Conservation Area Appraisal • Little Downham Conservation Area Appraisal • Sutton Conservation Area Appraisal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop Fronts Design Guide • County Wildlife Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations (Oct.2011 - updated version). • SPD on Developer Contributions – a review of the current SPD – expected to be adopted May 2013. • Design Guide SPD (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2011 • Due 2013 • Due 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 • Due 2013 • 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation areas SPDs assess the character and interest of each area and to help determine whether the area should be designated a Conservation Area. The documents aim to fulfil East Cambridgeshire District Council's duty to 'draw up and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement' of these areas as required by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for the design of shop fronts • The document has been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to Policy CS6–Environment, and Policy EN6-Biodiversity and Geology in the Core Strategy. • Guidance on developer contributions and planning obligations • Review of current SPD to include guidance and clarity on Community Infrastructure Levy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A building design guide for East Cambridgeshire

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contaminated Land - Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminate
Fenland District Council		
Fenland Local Plan 1993	1993	The Local Plan concentrates growth in existing housing, employment and service provision within existing centres. It will be replaced by the Fenland Local Plan Core Strategy.
Fenland Local Plan Draft Core Strategy 2013		Plans for growth over a 20-year period, aiming to deliver 11,000 new homes to 2031, with large new housing areas on the edge of Wisbech, March, Chatteris and Whittlesey. It provides new land to attract new businesses and jobs and sets out policies to guide development and provision of infrastructure.
North Hertfordshire District Council		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations – Originally adopted in April 1996 Now working on a new Local Plan 	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This document shows the saved policies (from the 1996 Local Plan) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It seeks to restrain development pressures, maintain the existing pattern of settlements and countryside, and enhance the character of existing land uses in urban and rural areas. Core Strategy and Development Policies were consulted on in 2007, the results of which will feed into a new Local Plan. The Council's preferred option (Option F) was indicated as 7,000 new homes, based on meeting affordable housing needs. A new consultation on housing options is being held in February-March 2013. the Local Plan is currently scheduled for adoption in 2015.
North Hertfordshire Draft Design SPD 2011	2011	This document provides a guide for the future development of the towns, villages and rural areas. It brings together guidance and advice from other sources such as government guidance and village design statements.
North Hertfordshire Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development SPD 2006	2006	This document establishes zones within which different parking standards will be applied.
Planning Obligations SPD	2006	This document elaborates the Council's

Title	Date of Adoption	
		policy on securing money from new development to pay for infrastructure.
Stevenage and North Hertfordshire Action Plan, Issues & Options 2008		This document contained planning policies to direct the future growth of Stevenage to the north and west, and area that will be subject to considerable growth. The AAP will guide the development of new homes, new employment areas and associated services to support the new neighbourhoods. It will now feed into the formulation of the Local Plan.
Central Bedfordshire		
Central Bedfordshire Council, Core Strategy & Development Management Policies (For North Bedfordshire)	2009	Sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and overarching policies to 2031. The Core Strategy plans for the delivery of: 14,230 new homes in the district between 2001-2021 and 3720 new homes in the period 2021-2026, making a total of 17,950 between 2001-2026. The Council will plan for a minimum target of 17,000 net additional jobs in the district for the period 2001-2026. In support of this target, approximately 77 hectares of net additional B1-B8 employment land will be identified for the remainder of the period 2010-2026. Land will be allocated through the Site Allocations DPD, which will identify whether phasing is required.
Site Allocations DPD for North Bedfordshire	2011	Identifies land for new development, including housing, employment and other forms of development. This document forms part of the LDF. At least 5,000 new homes and approximately 77ha of employment land (B1 – B8) must be provided between 2010 and 2026, in line with requirements contained in the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD.
Saved Local Plan 2007 Policies (2007) and joint Core Strategy 2011 (endorsed for Development Management purposes)		In the south, until a new Development Strategy is adopted, the adopted Local Plan (2004) and joint Core Strategy (endorsed for Development Management purposes) will continue to set the planning context for decisions on planning applications.

Title	Date of Adoption	
		http://www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk/corestrategy.html
Bedford Borough Council		
Bedford Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan	2008	Plans for district up to 2021. The areas of Bedford, Kempston and the northern Marston Vale (the Growth Area) are the focus for development
Forest Heath		
Forest Heath Core Strategy, Adopted May 2010 by the Council, quashed by central Government		Setting out a vision, objectives, spatial strategy and overarching policies, the Core Strategy guides the provision of new development in the District up until 2026 (with Housing to 2031). The policies and text of the Core Strategy were quashed by the High Court in April 2011.
Forest Heath Local Plan 1995 Saved Policies	2010	Saved Local Plan policies from the 1995 Forest Heath Plan.
Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Development Management Policies Submission Document	2012	The Development Management Policies document contains policies which will, when adopted, form an important tool for the day-to-day determination of planning applications. Part of the Local Development Framework.
Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Joint Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Document	2012	A joint SPD which will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications
Forest Heath District Council Core Strategy Policy CS7 Single Issue Review Issues and Options document	2012	The High Court order that quashed the Core Strategy removed the spatial distribution of housing numbers. The document revisits these parts of the Core Strategy in order to reconsider the most appropriate general locations for housing growth and seeks to review the evidence base.

Title	Date of Adoption	
Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document	2011	The SPD sets out the District Council's approach when considering planning applications for new residential development which is likely to generate demand for, access to and use of open space and recreation facilities.
St Edmundsbury Borough Council		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>St Edmundsbury Core Strategy Development Plan Document</i> • Rural Site Allocations Preferred Options DPD • Draft Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031 and Rural Vision 2031 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 • 2010 	<p>The Core Strategy Preferred Options and Strategic Sites Issues and Options document looks at how and where the borough can accommodate the sustainable growth of housing and jobs up until 2031. All growth around Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill will protect the identity of those villages that surround the towns. Housing provision is split as 8,118 in Bury St Edmunds, 5,301 in Haverhill and 2,212 in Other villages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the council's preferred options for site allocations in the six key service centres and the 12 local service centres identified in the Core Strategy Document. It reviews the existing Housing Settlement boundaries for all villages and also proposes to designate the general employment areas and operational use areas outside Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. • Plan to guide the overall direction of future service provision and management of growth in the borough for the next 20 years and beyond. The documents are part of the Local Development Framework, which establishes where development will take place across the borough, and the documents will be part of the statutory planning policy for the borough.
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk		
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Core Strategy	2011	This document guides development to 2025. The majority of new housing (90%) will be located within either the main towns, settlements adjacent to the main towns and in the settlements designated as Key Rural Service Centres.

Title	Date of Adoption	
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies	2011	The Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan document allocates and designates areas of land for particular uses such as: housing, employment, retail, recreation and open space. It proposes changes to the development boundaries for each of the settlements, and sets out important Development Management Policies, which apply across the whole borough and are used for determining planning applications, dealing with particular subjects.
Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council		
Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2000-2015,	2005	Sets policies regarding proposals for minerals extraction and waste sites
Managing Waste in New Developments SPD	2006	Provides guidance on reducing, recycling and recovering waste during demolition, construction and occupation of new developments.
The Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Polices – Submission Document (2012)		This will set out the Councils' strategic vision and objectives for future development and management of minerals and waste within the Plan area, identify strategic site specific land allocations for minerals and waste development, and will include a suite of core policies which will be used to determine planning applications for mineral extraction and waste management development.
Hertfordshire County Council		
The Minerals Local Plan 2002 - 2016	2007	Sets policies regarding proposals for minerals extraction and also allocates sites.
Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Document	2012	This document sets out the county council's strategic, overall spatial strategy and development management policies for waste development in Hertfordshire. All other waste local development documents must conform to the Core Strategy.
Waste Site Allocations Local Development Document (currently being progressed towards adoption).		This Local Development document identifies sites for waste management facilities. It includes maps and waste planning briefs for sites identified as Allocated Sites or Employment Land Areas of Search. This document is currently at Proposed Submission stage.
Suffolk County Council		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Core Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011 	The Core Strategies set out the key

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals Core Strategy • Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008 • 2009 	<p>elements of the minerals and waste planning framework for the county based on an agreed vision followed by aims and strategic objectives. The document also contains a suite of generic development control policies.</p> <p>The Site Allocations document contains policies for determining planning applications for minerals related development. It identifies on maps twelve sites for sand and gravel extraction containing 10.53mt and will meet the identified need for sand and gravel until 2021.</p>

Appendix 2: Information on Natura 2000 and Ramsar Sites

NAME: EVERS DEN AND WIMPOLE WOODS

Designation and Code: Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK0030331
SSSI boundary is the same as the SAC

Location

The site is located in South Cambridgeshire District, but outside the area covered by the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan. The site is located close to Wimpole Park.

Grid ref Centroid⁸ : TL 340526 **Area:** 66.48 ha.

Primary reason for selection of the site

Presence of colony of Barbastelle bats *Barbastella barbastellus* for which it is considered to be one of the best areas in UK.

Conservation objective

To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Barbastelle bats.

General Site characteristics

Broadleaved deciduous woodland (100%)

Soil and geology – Basic, Clay

Geomorphology and Landscape – Lowland

Species

Barbastella barbastellus bats. This is one of the UK's rarest mammals. The species is protected on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Site Description

The site comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Wood). A colony of Barbastelle bats (*Barbastella barbastellus*) is associated with the trees in Wimpole Woods. These trees are used as a summer maternity roost where the female bats gather to give birth and rear their young. Most of the roost sites are within tree crevices. The bats also use the site as a foraging area. Some of the woodland is also used as a flight path when bats forage outside the area.

Eversden Wood is species-rich example of ancient ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) field maple (*Acer campestre*) – dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) woodland and is one of the largest remaining sites of this type on the Cambridgeshire chalky boulder-clay.

The woodland is predominantly relict coppice of ash and field maple over an understorey of

⁸ This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with aspen (*Populus tremula*), birch (*Betula sp*) and small-leaved elm (*Ulmus minor*) also locally dominant.

The ground flora is characterised by dog's mercury and bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), and the damp soil conditions are reflected in the local abundance of associated plants such as meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and tufted hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Many herbs typical of old woodlands are present including yellow archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*), wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and the nationally scarce oxlip (*Primula elatior*) a species largely confined to damp chalky boulder-clay woods of eastern England. Other locally uncommon plants represented include herb-Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), and, particularly on the drier wood banks, pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and hairy wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*).

The woodland rides provide additional habitat diversity and support herbs such as ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and false fox-sedge (*Carex otrubae*).

Management and ownership

The primary management principles used for this site are those that maintain a regime of minimum management with little disturbance in order to protect the roosting sites in the woodland for the Barbastelle bats.

Wimpole Woods is owned and managed by the National Trust and their management is aimed at maintaining and where possible, enhancing the Barbastelle population.

Eversden Wood is privately owned and the current management is considered compatible with the use of this wood as a foraging area / flight path by Barbastelles.

Access

There is public access to the woods. Public rights of way go through both areas of woodland.

Wimpole Wood is near to Wimpole Park where the National Trust provide car parking for visitors to their estate. This is around 1km as the crow flies from the start of the woodland. There is also a minor road that runs between Wimpole and Eversden Woods and this provides very limited on road parking available closer to Eversden Wood but still some 500m away. This is not signposted as available for parking.

Current condition

Natural England produced a conditions report on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI in October 2011 (from survey work in January/December 2010) and found that the site is meeting 100% its PSA⁹ targets. 39.88% of the area is in favourable condition¹⁰ and 60.12% is in an unfavourable recovering condition. None of the area is in decline.

Barbastelle bats require minimal disturbance within 2Km of their roost. They can forage up to 20km from their roosts but more typically venture around 6-8km. Barbastelle bats' foraging routes radiate out from their roosting sites using a limited number of main routes,

⁹ PSA target – the Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to have 95% of the SSSI are in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.

¹⁰ Favourable Condition means that the SSSI land is being adequately conserved and is meeting its conservation objectives

which split into major limbs and then into smaller branches¹¹.

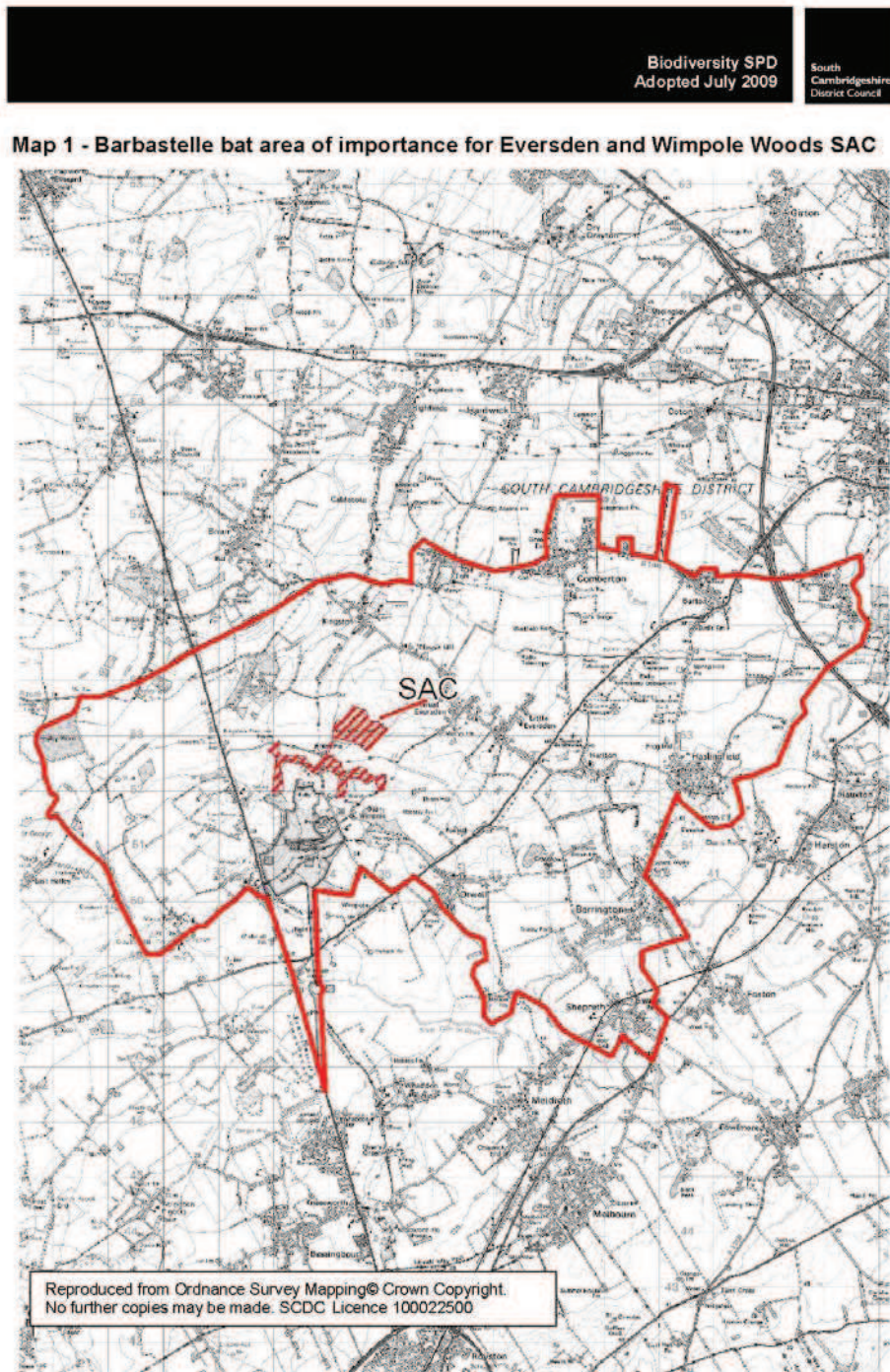
The Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document published by South Cambridgeshire District Council in July 2009 (see Appendix 1) mapped out the main area of importance to Barbastelle bats, and this is shown on the map below (and is in Map 1 of their report). It reflects the landscape and habitat of known value to bats, and also where survey effort has been deployed to date.

Vulnerability

The current use of the woods, including public access, is considered compatible with the Barbastelle interest and should not affect the Barbastelle population or their roosts.

¹¹ Greenway F (20204) Advice for the management of flightless and foraging habitats of the Barbastelle Bat *Barbastella barbastellus*, English Nature Research Report 657.

Map 1 Barbastelle bat area of importance for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC



NAME: DEVIL'S DYKE

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK0030037

Location

The site is located in East Cambridgeshire district and also extends into Forest Heath district in Suffolk.

Grid ref Centroid : TL 611622 **Area**: 8.02 ha.

Primary reason for selection of the site

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco- Brometalia*) (important orchid site).

Conservation Objective

To maintain in favourable condition unimproved calcareous grassland with particular reference to semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (CG3 and CG5 grassland) and *Himantoglossum hircinum* lizard orchid.

General site characteristics

Dry grassland. Steppes (100%)
Soil and geology – Basic, Limestone
Geomorphology and landscape - Lowland

Species

CG3 *Bromus erectus*
CG5 *Bromus erectus* – *Brachypodium pinnatum* calcareous grasslands
Himantoglossum hircinum – lizard orchid
Pulsatilla vulgaris - Pasque flower

Site Description

This section is the most species rich of the Devil's Dyke which as a whole stretches from the Fen Edge at Reach ending at Ditton Green. The section that is identified as a SAC is adjacent to Newmarket Heath. **Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)** Devil's Dyke consists of a mosaic of CG3 *Bromus erectus* and CG5 *Bromus erectus* – *Brachypodium pinnatum* calcareous grasslands.

It is the only known UK semi-natural dry grassland site for lizard orchid *Himantoglossum hircinum*. Lizard orchid is nationally rare (i.e. occurring in 15 or fewer 10x10 km squares) and is vulnerable in Great Britain. It is restricted to calcareous grasslands and dunes in southern England. It is considered to be one of the best areas for this in the United Kingdom

Management and ownership

The dyke is in private ownership. There is a Devil's Dyke Restoration Project set up which is a partnership scheme involving Natural England, English Heritage, Cambridgeshire

Wildlife Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council working with landowners and managers and local people. The aim of this project is to restore the dyke and there is a clear management plan. The species rich calcareous grassland requires active management without which it rapidly becomes dominated by rank grasses which leads to the encroachment of scrub over time. Traditional management is by grazing.

The Pasque flower is a speciality of the dyke and a Local Species Action Plan has been produced for this plant.

Access

There is a public right of way running along the dyke. There is parking available at the July Race course, Newmarket.

Current condition

As grazing declined in the early part of the twentieth century, scrub has encroached onto many areas of the dyke. In the SAC area there had been some scrub encroachment on the southern part of the site and some clearance work has been undertaken. A survey was carried out by Natural England in July 2008 with the corresponding report (compiled in October 2011) indicating that 49.57% of the area is in favourable condition, 23.43% is in an unfavourable recovering condition but 27% of the area is in unfavourable condition with no change. In May 2002 the site was meeting 100% of its PSA targets, this reduced to 86% in 2008 and 73% in 2011. This would appear to indicate that the condition of the area is not improving.

Vulnerability

Although clearance work has been undertaken there will need to be control over any regrowth of scrub and any weediness of this section.

There is some scrub encroachment on the southern part of the site and some clearance work has been undertaken. The grassland itself is not currently managed and leaf-litter build up could be a long-term problem. Future management plans to address this through a mowing regime are being considered.

The area remains vulnerable as the reduction in meeting its PSA targets indicates over the last 10 years

NAME: FENLAND

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK 0014782

There are three fens that together form the Fenland SAC

- 1 Wicken Fen
- 2 Chippenham Fen
- 3 Woodwalton Fen

Each site is also a Ramsar site.

Location

Wicken Fen and Chippenham Fen are in East Cambridgeshire District; Woodwalton Fen is in Huntingdonshire District.

Grid ref Centroid: TL554701 Wicken Fen TL555700; Chippenham Fen TL648697; Woodwalton Fen TL230840

Area: 618.64 ha.

Primary reason for selection of site for SAC

Molinia meadows on calcareous peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) – considered to be one of the best areas in UK. Fenland contains, particularly at Chippenham Fen, one of the most extensive examples of the tall herb-rich East Anglian type of M24 *Molinia caerulea* – *Cirsium dissectum* fen-meadow. It is important for the conservation of the geographical and ecological range of the habitat type, as this type of fen-meadow is rare and ecologically distinctive in East Anglia.

Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* – considered to be rare as its total extent in the UK is estimated to be less than 1,000 ha; considered to be one of the best areas in UK. The individual sites within Fenland SAC each hold large areas of **calcareous fens**, with a long and well-documented history of regular management. There is a full range from species-poor *Cladium*-dominated fen to species-rich fen with a lower proportion of *Cladium* and containing such species as black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. There are good transitions to purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and rush pastures, all set within a mosaic of reedbeds and wet pastures.

Conservation objective

To maintain in favourable condition:

- *Molinia* meadows on chalk and clay (Eu- *Molinion* community)
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* (great fen sedge) and species of the *Caricion davallianae* vegetation community.

To maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the population of spined loach and

great crested newts.

General site characteristics

Bog Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (70%)

Broadleaved deciduous woodland (20%)

Inland water body (standing water, running water) (5%)

Other arable land (5%)

Soil and geology – basic, peat

Geomorphology – floodplain, lowland

Species

Molinion caeruleae - for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Cladium mariscus and *Caricion davallianae* - which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares. This is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Cobitis taenia (Spined loach) - for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Triturus cristatus (Great crested newt) - for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Current conditions

The fenland grasslands are dependent upon traditional management practices of cutting and grazing by livestock. In recent decades scrub and woodland have spread at the expense of fen vegetation. Appropriate water management is vital to the maintenance of the special features. The three constituent sites are all National Nature Reserves and the site management plans include actions to address this problem.

DESCRIPTION OF EACH SITE THAT TOGETHER FORMS THE FENLAND SAC

1. WICKEN FEN

Location

This site is in East Cambridgeshire District.

Area: 254 ha.

Reason for Ramsar allocation

- Criterion 1 – One of the most outstanding remnants of East Anglian peat fens. The area is one of the few that has not been drained. Traditional management has created a mosaic of habitats from open water to sedge and litter fields.
- Criterion 2 - The site supports one species of British Red Data Book plant fen violet *Viola persicifolia*, which survives at only two other sites in Britain. It contains eight nationally scarce plants and 121 British Red Data invertebrates.

Site description

This site is a marginal remnant of the original peat fenland of the East Anglian basin. It has been preserved as a flood catchment area, and its water level is controlled by sluice gates.

The original peat fen lies to the north of Wicken Lodge. The site here supports fen communities of carr and sedge. The carr scrub is largely of alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus* and willow over a sparse vegetation of fen plants and including marsh fen *Thelypteris palustris*. The more open areas of sedge fen are typically of tall grasses, saw sedge *Cladium mariscus*, purple moor grass *Molina caerulea*, sedges *Carex* spp and rushes *Juncus* spp.

Nationally important higher plants include *Viola persicifolia*, *Lathyrus palustris*, *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, *Oenanthe fluviatilis* and milk parsley *Peucedanum palustre*.

To the south of the Wicken Lode, the area is of rough pasture land, reedbed and pools which are attractive to breeding wetland birds and to wintering wildfowl, the area being subjected to winter flooding.

The dykes, abandoned claypits and other watercourses carry a great wealth of aquatic plants. Many, such as greater spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and lesser water-plantain *Baldellia ranunculoides* are now uncommon elsewhere.

Management and ownership

The site is owned by the National Trust and managed by a local management committee, which reports to the East Anglian Regional Office of the National Trust.

The continuation of the historic systems of management and the effective monitoring and maintenance of water levels underlies the Fen's ecology and are crucial for the success of all other management practices. The Fen is artificially protected from drying out by a water-retaining membrane.

Access

There is a visitor centre and shop, nature trails, three hides and 16km of walking routes. Entry is by permit only to help control visitor numbers. Visitors are also managed by 'zoning' parts of the Fen near the entrance, leaving the more remote parts of the site relatively undisturbed. The Fen is open throughout the year from dawn to dusk.

Current conditions

Natural England has produced a report about the condition of the SSSI (in 2008). Only 36% of the site was meeting PSA targets. 53% of the area was unfavourably declining. A more recent survey 2009/10 found improvements to the site. Natural England compiled a report in October 2011 showing that the site was meeting 100% of its PSA targets, with no declining areas. 47.08% of the area was in favourable condition and 52.92% in unfavourable recovering.

Vulnerability

Work carried out in the nearby river system to prevent flooding in the 1960s means that the site no longer receives the amount of winter water as it did in the past. This has brought about a lowering of the water table over the past 40 years (Ramsar Report 5.5.06).

The habitats within this site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticide. Access to this site, and any recreational activities within, may need to be controlled.

2. CHIPPENHAM FEN

Location

This site is in East Cambridgeshire District Council.

Area: 112 ha.

Reason for Ramsar allocation

- Criterion 1 – A spring-fed calcareous basin mire with a long history of management that is partly reflected in the diversity of the present-day vegetation;
- Criterion 2 - The invertebrate fauna is very rich, partly due to its transitional position between Fenland and Breckland. The species list is very long, including many rare and scarce invertebrates characteristic of ancient fenland sites in the UK.
- Criterion 3 – The site supports diverse vegetation types, rare and scarce plants. The site is the stronghold of Cambridge milk parsley *Selinum carvifolia*.

Site description

The site comprises areas of tall and often rich fen, fen grassland and basic flush that have developed over shallow peat soils. The site also contains calcareous grassland, neutral grassland, woodland, mixed scrub and open water.

The site is in a shallow peat-filled depression underlain by a thick layer of marl, which rises to the surface in places. The fen is fed by rainfall and springs from the chalk aquifer. There are several ponds on the site and a system of dykes take water from the springs, in the south of the reserve, to the Chippenham River, near its northern boundary.

The areas of tall fen are dominated by a mosaic of saw sedge *Cladium mariscus* and reed *Phragmites australis* are present with abundant purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*. A rich fen has developed in mown areas supporting the nationally rare *Selinum carvifolia*. In one area this merges into a species rich basic flush where black bog rush *Schoenus nigricans* becomes abundant. Dense and scattered scrub has developed. There are areas of chalk grassland that grade into the fen grassland. The damp neutral grassland meadows are developing a fen meadow flora. The ditches support a rich aquatic flora.

The water level is controlled within a series of ditches.

Because the fen contains such a wide range of habitats it supports a wide variety of breeding bird species, including hobby, short-eared owl, nightingale and several species of warbler. It also forms the winter roosting for hen harriers.

Management and ownership

Both the site and surrounding areas are privately owned. Part of the site is under unspecified tenure. The site is mainly used for nature conservation

The site is actively managed by Natural England through regular cutting and grazing with cattle. Encroaching scrub is being removed to restore fen where appropriate. A water compensation scheme has been instituted to ameliorate the effects of water abstraction. The Environment Agency monitors groundwater changes in the aquifer.

Access

There are rights of way across the site. Access away from the paths is by permit only. The nearest car parking is in the villages of Fordham or Chippenham.

There is a low level of usage by local inhabitants using the rights of way through the middle of the site according to the Ramsar information sheet. Few people apply for permits for recreational purposes, they are mainly requested by naturalists.

Current conditions

In October 2011 it was reported that 100% of the area is now meeting the PSA target. 72.65% of the area is in favourable condition and 27.35% in unfavourable recovering condition. Previous reports showed that 85.41% of the area was meeting the PSA target.

Chippenham Fen NNR has suffered from a changed hydrological regime due to abstraction from the underlying chalk aquifer. This problem is being addressed through supply of supplementary water together with a programme of vegetation and invertebrate population monitoring. This project is being taken forward by Natural England, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water Services plc.

Vulnerability

There is considerable pressure in the region from the water abstraction that may affect the local springs and aquifer.

The habitats within the site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides, applications of which should be avoided both within the site itself and in adjacent surrounding areas.

3. WOODWALTON FEN

Location

This fen is in Huntingdonshire District.

Area: 229.7 ha.

Reason for Ramsar allocation

- Criterion 1 – The site is within an area of one of the remaining parts of East Anglia which has not been drained;
- Criterion 2 – The site supports two species from the British Red Data Book for plants, fen violet and fen wood rush.

Site description

This fen holds a range of wetland plant communities once characteristic of large areas of the East Anglian fens. The site was once a raised bog associated with the former Whittlesey Mere and was dug for peat in the late 19th century when most of the acidic peat was removed, exposing the underlying fen peat. The vegetation of the area today largely reflects this historical use of the site. The open fen and swamp communities represented are of several types. A relict of the acid peat holds stands of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* with ling *Calluna vulgaris*, bog myrtle *Myrica gale*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and the saw sedge *Cladium mariscus*. A further swamp community is dominated by purple small-reed *Calamagrostis epigejos*. Mixed fen covers a significant part of the site. This vegetation community is floristically rich and contains species such as meadow rue *Thalictrum flavum*, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, swamp meadow-grass *Poa palustris* and great water dock *Rumex hydrolapathum*. Rare fen plants such as the fen wood-rush *Luzula pallescens* and fen violet *Viola persicifolia* occur.

Of particular note is the network of ditches on the site and these hold many water plants that are now relatively uncommon in Britain including bladderwort *Urticularia vulgaris* and water violet *Hottonia palustris*. In addition, two meres have been dug in order to increase the area of standing water on the site and these have proved valuable for aquatic plant and animal communities. Further habitats of significance on the site include marshy grassland, birch and alder woodland and fen carr. The carr is varied in composition and contains willow *Salix* spp., blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, birch *betula* spp and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*.

The whole site is a patchwork of wetland communities, providing a habitat for many uncommon plant and insect species-a number of which are confined to East Anglia.

Management and ownership

The site was purchased by Hon Charles Rothschild in 1910 and donated to the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves (now the Royal Society for Nature Conservation) in 1919. Since the 1950s the pro-active management of the site has sought to reverse the drying out process and therefore conserve this crucial fenland habitat. The site is leased from the Wildlife Trust to Natural England.

The effective monitoring and maintenance of water levels underlies the Fen ecology and is crucial for the success of all other management practices. A Water Level Management Plan

has been implemented and the site is flooded in winter in time of high water flows thus protecting low-lying farmland. However as a consequence nutrient levels in the water can be high due to agricultural runoff. Water inflows and outflows are strictly controlled. In the 1980s clay sealed banks were constructed around the perimeter of the reserve, this isolated water levels on the fen from that of the surrounding area.

The Great Fen project aims to link this nature reserve with Holme Fen.

Access

Parking is limited at this site – some being available alongside the Great Raveley Drain. There are three marked trails around the fen following the rides. Woodwalton Fen has not been a permit only site since around 2003. Although members of the public no longer require Natural England's permission to access the site, there remains in force restricted access to some areas and a no dog policy is maintained.

Current condition

The site is meeting 97.91% of its PSA target. 53.28% of the area is in favourable condition and 44.63% is unfavourable recovering, 2.09% is favourable with no change. In 2008 the site was meeting 100% of the PSA target so there is slight decline in the sites condition.

Woodwalton Fen takes water in the summer months from the surrounding drains. In the winter months the fen is designed to be used as a flood storage area, although this occurs infrequently. As a consequence nutrient levels in the water can be high due to agricultural runoff. Water inflows and outflows are strictly controlled. In the 1980s clay sealed banks were constructed around the perimeter of the reserve, this isolated water levels on the fen from that of the surrounding area.

Vulnerability

Woodwalton Fen takes water in the summer months from the surrounding drains. In the winter months the fen is designed to be used as a flood storage area, although this occurs infrequently. In both these circumstances the water entering the Fen is high in nutrients from agricultural run-off. It is intended to undertake research to investigate what effects the flooding may be having on the site's interests. The quality of the water from agricultural run off needs to be monitored

NAME: OUSE WASHES

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site – UK0013011. The boundaries of the Ramsar site as extended are coincident with those of the Ouse Washes SSSI.

Location

This site is located in East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and West Norfolk Districts.

Grid reference Centroid: TL498895

Area: 2,403 ha. (Ramsar site and SSI site): 311.35 ha. (SAC site).

Primary reason for selection of this site as SAC

Spined loach *Cobitis taenia* – This site is only one of four known outstanding localities in the UK.

Conservation objective:

To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of species (Bewicks swan, whooper swan, hen harrier, spotted crake, and ruff) migratory species of European importance (widgeon, gadwall, pintail, shoveler, pochard and black-tailed Godwit) and wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to grassland / marshy grassland with ditches and open water.

Also to maintain in favourable condition the habitat for spined loach.

General site characteristics

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (50%)

Bogs Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (20%)

Improved grassland (30%)

Soil and Geology – Alluvium Clay, Neutral, Peat

Geomorphology and Landscape – Floodplain, Lowland

Site Description

The Ouse Washes represent spined loach *Cobitis taenia* populations within the River Ouse catchment. The Counter Drain with its clear water and abundant macrophytes is particularly important and a healthy population of spined loach is known to occur.

The site is an area of seasonally flooded washlands habitat managed in a traditional agricultural manner. The washlands support nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl and nationally important numbers of breeding waterfowl. The site is also of note for the large area of unimproved neutral grassland communities, which it holds,

and for the richness of the aquatic flora within the associated watercourses.

Reasons for identification as a Ramsar Site

The Ouse Washes Ramsar site and its proposed extension is a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded washlands, which are agriculturally managed in a traditional manner. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.

- Ramsar Criterion 1a - The site qualifies by being a particularly good representative example of a natural or near-natural wetland characteristic of its biogeographical region. It is one of the most extensive areas of seasonally flooding washland of its type in Britain, and the wetland has high conservation value for many plant and animal groups.
- Ramsar Criterion 2a - The site qualifies by supporting a number of rare species of plants and animals. The site holds several nationally scarce plants, including the whorled water-milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, greater water parsnip *Sium latifolium*, river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, fringed water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*, long stalked pondweed *Potamogeton praelongus*, hair-like pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, grass-wrack pondweed *Potamogeton compressus*, tasteless water-pepper *Polygonum mite*, small water-pepper *Polygonum minus* and marsh dock *Rumex palustris*. Invertebrate records indicate that the site holds a good relict fenland fauna for several groups, reflecting the diversity of wetland habitats. Two rare Red Data Book insects have been recorded, the large darter dragonfly *Libellula fulva* and the riffle beetle *Oulimnius major*.
- Ramsar Criterion 2a - The Ouse Washes also qualifies by supporting a diverse assemblage of rare breeding waterfowl associated with seasonally flooding wet grassland. This includes breeding migratory waders of lowland wet grassland: oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, ruff *Phdomachus pugnax*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, and black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and a diverse assemblage of breeding wildfowl with mute swan *Cygnus olor*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, gadwall *Anas strepera*, teal *A. crecca*, mallard *A. platyrytynchus*, pintail *A. acuta*, garganey *A. querquedula*, shoveler *A. clypeata*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligulaa*, moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* and coot *Fulica atra* occurring regularly. Many of these species are rare and much restricted in Britain and the European Community owing to habitat loss and degradation. The site thus has an important role in maintaining the ranges of several of these species, which have been affected by changes in habitat elsewhere in Britain. Breeding gadwall, mallard, garganey, shoveler and bar-tailed godwit are all present in nationally important numbers.
- Ramsar Criterion 5 - The Ouse Washes qualifies as a wetland of international importance by virtue of regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl, with an average peak count of 60,950 birds recorded in the five winter periods 1986/7 to 1990/91.
- Ramsar Criterion 6 - The Ouse Washes also qualifies by supporting, in winter, internationally important populations of the following species (figures given are average peak counts for the five winter period 1986/87 - 1990/91): 4,980 Bewick's

swan *Cygnus columbarius bewicki* (29% of the north-west European wintering population); 590 whooper swans *Cygnus cygnus* (3% of the international population); 38,000 wigeon *Anas penelope* (5% of the north-west European population); 4,100 teal *A. crecca* (1% of NW European); 1,450 pintail *Anas acuta* (2% NW European); and 750 shoveler *Anas clypeata* (2% of NW European). Also notable are the following nationally important wintering populations: 270 cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (2% of the British wintering population); 490 mute swan *Cygnus olor* (3% of British); 320 gadwall *Anas strepera* (5% of British); 2,100 pochard *Aythya ferina* (4% of British); 860 tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (1 % of British); and 2,320 coot *Fulica atra*.

During severe winter weather elsewhere, the Ouse Washes can assume even greater national and international importance as wildfowl and waders from many other areas arrive, attracted by the relatively mild climate, compared with continental European areas, and the abundant food resources available.

The continued international importance of this site is dependant on the maintenance of a winter flooding regime and a high, but controlled summer water table.

Reasons for identification as a Special Protection Area

The Ouse Washes Ramsar site and the Special Protection Area is a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded wash lands, which are agriculturally managed in a traditional manner. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.

The boundaries of the Special Protection Area are coincident with those of the Ouse Washes SSSI, apart from the exclusion of a section of the Old Bedford River in the north of the SSSI.

The Ouse Washes qualifies under Article 4.1 of the EC Birds Directive by supporting, in summer, a nationally important breeding population of ruff *Philomachus pugnax* species. In recent years an average of 57 individuals have been recorded, a significant proportion of the British population.

The site also qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting internationally or nationally important wintering populations of three species. During the five year period 1986/87 to 1990/91, the following average peak counts were recorded: 4,980 Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbarius bewickii* (29% of the north-west European wintering population, 70% of the British wintering population), and 590 whooper swans *Cygnus cygnus* (3% of the international population, 10% of British). In addition, between 1982-87 an average of 12 wintering hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* was recorded, representing 2% of the British wintering population.

The Ouse Washes qualifies under Article 4.2 by supporting, in summer, in recent years, nationally important breeding populations of five migratory species: 111 pairs of gadwall *Anas strepera* (20% of the British breeding population); 850 pairs of mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (2% of British); 14 pairs of garganey *Anas querquedula* (20% of British), 155 pairs of shoveler *A. clypeata* (12% of British), and 26 pairs of black-tailed godwits *Limosa limosa* (44% of British).

The site further qualifies under Article 42 as a wetland of international importance by virtue of regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl, with an average peak count of 60,950 birds recorded in the five winter period 1986/1 to 1990/91. This total included-internationally or nationally important wintering populations of the following migratory waterfowl (figures given are average peak counts for the five winter period 1986/87 - 1990/91): 270 cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (296 of the British wintering population); 490 mute swan *Cygnus olor* (3% of British); 38,000 wigeon *Anas penelope* (596 of the north-west European population, 1596 of British); 320 gadwall *Anas strepera* (5% of British); 4,100 teal *A. crecca* (1% of NW European, 4% of British); 1,450 pintail *Anas acuta* (2% NW European, 6% of British); 750 shoveler *Anas clypeata* (2% of NW European, 8% of British); 2,100 pochard *Aythya ferina* (4% of British); 860 tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (1% of British); and 2,320 coot *Fulica atra* (1% of British).

The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 by virtue of regularly supporting, in summer, a diverse assemblage of the breeding migratory waders of lowland wet grassland including: oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, and black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*; and a diverse assemblage of breeding wildfowl with mute swan *Cygnus olor*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, gadwall *Anas strepera*, teal *A. crecca*, mallard *A. platyrhynchos*, pintail *A. acuta*, garganey *A. querquedula*, shoveler *A. clypeata*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* and coot *Fulica atra* occurring regularly. Many of these species are rare and much restricted in Britain and the European Community owing to habitat loss and degradation. The site thus has an important role in maintaining the ranges of several of these species, which have been affected by changes in habitat elsewhere in Britain.

During severe winter weather elsewhere, the Ouse Washes can assume even greater national and international importance as wildfowl and waders from many other areas arrive, attracted by the relatively mild climate, compared with continental European areas, and the abundant food resources available.

The continued international importance of this site is dependant on the maintenance of a winter flooding regime and a high, but controlled summer water table.

Management and ownership

Given the extent of the Ouse Washes there are a number of management techniques that need to be carried out in the washes. Wetland grassland requires active management if it is to retain its conservation interest this has traditionally been done by grazing. Partial winter flooding is required to maintain suitable habitat conditions for wintering birds. A mosaic of winter flooded grassland and permanently un-flooded grassland is desirable. Ditches are artificial habitats created by land drainage – if left unmanaged silt accumulates in the bottom of the ditches leading to the loss of the range of aquatic plants and animals colonising the ditches. There needs to be a rotation undertaken on ditch management. Also the level of water in the ditches and its quality needs to be regulated to maintain the optimum level for the plant and animal community. All the habitats are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides.

Access

There is a network of public rights of way in the Washes. The RSPB manage a nature

reserve at Welches Dam where there is a visitor centre and a number of bird hides. The WWT manage a nature reserve at Welney, Norfolk also with a centre and hides.

Current condition

Assessment work was carried out in 2003 and at this time many of the units that comprise the Washes were in an unfavourable state. Only 12.93% of the site meets the PSA target. The water quality regularly failed to meet total Phosphorus target of 0.1mg/l. Until this can be remedied the site will continue to remain unfavourable.

Vulnerability

Two independent and parallel rivers comprise the SAC. The Counter Drain / Old Bedford (known also as the outer river) drains adjacent farmland. The Old Bedford / Delph (known also as the inner river) is sourced by the River Great Ouse. During the winter and increasingly during the spring and summer months as well, the inner river takes flood-water from the Great Ouse, and therefore has an important flood defence function. Issues of concern relate to water quantity, water quality, salinity, turbidity and sediment.

The need to ensure there is sufficient water for the rivers is addressed through the Water Level Management Plan agreed by the Environment Agency and partner organisations. The outer river is also a source of water for nearby arable land forming spray irrigation, but this abstraction is unmetered for the most part. Abstraction of water from the Great Ouse system to Essex via the Ely-Ouse Transfer Scheme is monitored through the Denver License Variation. Other proposals for water abstraction, e.g. to Rutland Water by Anglia Water, have been the subject of assessment, but there are no current proposals.

It has been found that in the Environment Agency Review of Consents that there was very little difference between the different abstraction scenarios in terms of water resource availability to the Ouse Washes. The water table depth ranges are, therefore, relatively similar between the different scenarios i.e. there is little between the naturalised and current and maximum licensed scenarios. Therefore abstraction licences have no effect on the vegetation supporting the SPA features under the existing operating regime. Therefore the Agency concluded that water resources consents do not adversely affect the integrity of the European site, with respect to SPA features.

Water quality is a major issue of concern. Increases in two plant nutrients - nitrogen and particularly phosphorus (thought to be derived from sewage treatment works) - are leading to changes in the macrophyte communities, shown by a decline in species diversity and the loss of species together with an increase in species tolerant of eutrophic conditions. This is particularly apparent in the inner river. There is evidence that agricultural inputs are a minor component. In addition, blanket-weed (aquatic algae) poses problems to navigation and angling, leading to issues of timing and frequency of aquatic weed-cutting.

It is clear from the Environment Agency Review of Consents process that high phosphorus concentrations are currently the main issue for the Ouse Washes leading to eutrophication in the main watercourses and internal ditches and degradation of the wet grassland habitat. From all of the available evidence, phosphorus levels are above the desired target level, in some cases by a considerable amount. The main contribution to the phosphorus load comes from consented point source discharges of sewage effluent.

In addition, flood water draining off the adjacent Ouse Washes into the inner river can be of a very poor quality (particularly in warm weather) leading to problems of deoxygenation with resultant fish-kills. The frequency of increased spring and summer flooding on the Ouse Washes is currently being studied to ascertain ways of ameliorating its effects.

Saline intrusion through the northernmost tidal lock gate may be contributing to an increase in salinity levels of the outer river.

Conditions must be applied to planning permissions for gravel extraction from quarries near to the SAC, to ensure that drainage water from de-watering and washings does not affect the turbidity and sediment levels in the outer river.

NAME: PORTHOLME

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK0030054.

Location

This site is within Huntingdonshire District.

Grid reference Centroid: TL 237708 **Area:** 91.93 ha.

Primary reason for selection of this site

Lowland hay meadows *Alopecurus pratensis* *Sanguisorba officinalis* – considered to be one of the best areas in UK.

Conservation objectives

To maintain in favourable condition the lowland hay meadow.

General site characteristics

Humid grassland (100%)

Soil and geology – Alluvial, Neutral

Geomorphology and landscape – Floodplain, Lowland.

Species

Alopecurus pratensis and *Sanguisorba officinalis* - This large site represents lowland hay meadows in eastern England. It is the largest surviving traditionally-managed meadow in the UK, with an area of 104 ha of alluvial flood meadow (7% of the total UK resource). There has been a long history of favourable management and very little of the site has suffered from agricultural improvement, and so it demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. It supports a small population of fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris*. *Libellula fulva* is also present.

Site Description

It is the largest surviving traditionally managed meadow in the UK with an area of 104 ha of alluvial flood meadow (7% of the total UK resource). It is almost completely surrounded by water. There has been a long history of favourable management on traditional lines as a 'lammas' meadow and very little of the site has suffered from agricultural improvement, and so it demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. It supports a small population of fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*). Watercourses on the periphery of the site have populations of some uncommon invertebrates including one dragonfly, which is of a nationally restricted distribution. It is considered to be one of the best areas for this in the United Kingdom.

The grassland communities are characterised by the presence of such grasses as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, and meadow fescue *Festuca pratensis*. The range of herbs present, typical of such meadows, includes lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*. A number of locally rare and one nationally rare plant are also present.

Channels of the River Ouse surround the meadow, and the Alconbury Brook is close by. These water bodies are important for dragonflies (*Odonata*) in particular the restricted dragonfly *Libellula fulva*.

Large flocks of waders use this site in winter.

Management and ownership

The London Anglers Association owns the site and is advised on the management of the site by Natural England.

Neutral grassland requires active management if it is to retain its conservation interest. In order to maintain a species rich sward, each year's growth of vegetation must be removed; otherwise the sward becomes progressively dominated by tall and vigorous grasses. These, together with an associated build up of dead plant matter, suppress less vigorous species and reduce the botanical diversity of the site.

The traditional management of this site, which still continues, is by cutting for hay followed by grazing of the aftermath in later summer until the autumn. In winter and early spring Portholme is inundated by floodwaters. This provides natural fertilising of the soil and it is this seasonal flooding coupled with the traditional management that maintains the diversity of the natural plant communities.

The Environment Agency carried out drainage improvements on Portholme Meadow, Huntingdon, in September 2010 to help re-establish rare types of grassland that had been found to be not in good condition. This unfavourable condition was due to the amount of curled dock present. Curled dock is an invasive weed which degrades the quality of the natural grassland. Floodwater ponding had caused deterioration in the vegetation community and these inappropriate water levels had resulted in the changes to the meadows. The plan by the Environment Agency has allowed the floodwater to drain off more quickly from the affected area and reduce the curled dock populations, allowing the desired grassland communities to re-establish. The works also improved the site's ability to adapt to climate change.

In the past MAFF (the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) had sponsored dipwell monitoring of the meadows. Water table levels are vital to the management of this site. Currently no monitoring is being carried out. Anglian Water Services (AWS) is required to produce a statutory water company drought plan under the requirements of the new s39B of the Water Industry Act 1991 as introduced by the Water Act 2003. For each site, potential changes arising from the drought actions have been identified and the existence and adequacy of current monitoring programmes has been provisionally assessed. For the most part, existing monitoring is adequate for monitoring the effects of the drought actions. In relation to Portholme it recommends in the 2006 Drought Plan the following:

'One site (Portholme Meadow) has been monitored in the past and this work is probably sufficient to determine a baseline. However, no monitoring is currently being undertaken. Previous modelling studies suggest that reductions in river water levels are likely to be very small and

are therefore unlikely to have any effect on riparian water table levels in adjacent meadows or water levels in adjacent gravel pits.’

Access

There are three main entrances to the meadow and visitors can walk around the site on the extensive footpaths, which lead off the main entrances. The footpaths form a triangle across the meadow and each footpath is approximately 1.6km in length.

Current condition

The units of the site were assessed in June 2005 and 2006 and it was found to have inappropriate cutting / mowing regimes and inappropriate weed control. The site was not meeting the PSA target at all. 90.92% of the area was seen to be unfavourable but remaining unchanged i.e. not in decline.

By November 2010 there was an improvement, the site was recorded as meeting 100% of the PSA target in an unfavourable recovering condition. The latest report compiled by Natural England in November 2011 indicates that the site is meeting 100% of its PSA targets and that it is favourably recovering. The last survey of the site was carried out in June 2011. It would appear that the drainage improvement works carried out by the Environment Agency has had a positive impact.

Vulnerability

The site is a large area of alluvial flood meadow which has had a long history of favourable management and, therefore, demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. Traditionally the site is cut for hay followed by aftermath grazing in late summer and autumn. Part of the site is subject to a Countryside Stewardship agreement aimed at maintaining the alluvial flood meadow. The Environment Agency has produced a Water Level Management plan which aims to maintain the current water level management regime in the long-term and recommends improvements in data collection on water levels and flooding frequency. The recommendations will be incorporated in the relevant Local Environment Agency Plan (due to go to consultation in 1999).

Without a controlled management plan the site will not retain its conservation interest. The improvement in drainage carried out by the Environment Agency shows how the correct management can greatly improve an area’s biodiversity.

NAME: BRECKLAND

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK0019865

Special Protection Area (SPA) – UK9009201

Although covering much of the same land the boundary of the SAC is not contiguous with that of the SAP.

Location

This site is within Forest Heath in Suffolk and Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District in Norfolk.

Grid reference Centroid: TL862948 **Area:** SPA – 39433.65 ha; SAC – 7548.06 ha

Primary reason for selection of this site for SAC

- Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands.
- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation
- European dry heaths
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland species on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*).

Other qualifying features:

The area is considered to support a significant presence of Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

The area is considered to support a significant presence of *Triturus cristatus* (great crested newt)

General site characteristics

Inland water bodies (0.5%)

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (1%)

Dry grassland (59.4%)

Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. *Phygrana* (20%)

Improved grassland (0.2%)

Other arable land (0.1%)

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (9%)

Coniferous woodland (4%)

Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice (0.5%)

Other land (0.3%)

Site Description

Wangford Warren and adjoining parts of RAF Lakenheath are included in the Breckland site as the only occurrence of this habitat type in the UK. The site has one of the best-preserved systems of active inland sand dunes in the UK. The habitat type, which is in part characterised by the nationally rare grey hair -grass *Corynephorus canescens* occurring here at its only inland station, is associated with open conditions with active sand movement. The site shows the colonization sequence from open sand to acidic grass-heath.

The Breckland meres in Norfolk represent natural eutrophic lakes in the east of England. They are examples of hollows within glacial outwash deposits and are fed by water from the underlying chalk aquifer. Natural fluctuations in groundwater tables mean that these lakes

occasionally dry out. The flora is dominated by stonewort – pondweed *Characeae* – *Potamogetonaceae* associations.

The dry heaths of Breckland are representative of European dry heaths in East Anglia, in eastern England, developed under a semi-continental climate. Breckland has an average annual precipitation of only 600mm, relatively hot summers and cool winters. Frosts can occur in any month of the year. The dry acidic heath of Breckland represents H1 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Festuca ovina* heath in the SAC series. The sand sedge dominated *Carex arenaria* sub-community (H1d) is typical of areas of blown sand – a very unusual feature of this location.

The highly variable soils of Breckland, with underlying chalk being largely covered with wind-blown sands, have resulted in mosaics of heather -dominated heathland, acidic grassland and calcareous grassland that are unlike those of any other site. In many places there is a linear or patterned distribution of heath and grassland, arising from fossilised soil patterns that formed under peri-glacial conditions. Breckland is important for rare plants, such as perennial knawel *Scleranthus perennis* ssp. *prostrates*, and rare invertebrates.

Breckland in East Anglia is the most extensive surviving area of the rare grassland type CG7 *Festuca ovina* – *Hieracium pilosella* – *Thymus praecox* grassland. The grassland is rich in rare species typical of dry, winter-cold, continental areas, and approaches the features of grassland types in central Europe more than almost any other semi-dry grassland found in the UK. The terrain is relatively flat, with few physical variations, but there are mosaics of calcareous grassland and heath/acid grassland, giving rise to patterns of structural variation.

Current Condition:

In recent decades, scrub and woodland have spread at the expense of the heathland and chalk grassland vegetation due to the cessation of traditional cutting and grazing management. Management agreements and particularly Environmentally Sensitive Area payments go part of the way towards re-introducing this largely uneconomical traditional management, and controlling the scrub. Strong populations of rabbits are important in maintaining the Breckland swards.

Vulnerability:

Grazing by sheep/cattle is essential to the maintenance of habitats. Problems include nutrient deposition from the atmosphere and adjacent arable land, invasion by self sown trees/shrubs, and uncontrolled and inappropriate recreational activities. Local ground water abstraction has a deleterious impact on the natural eutrophic lakes, the Breckland meres, and is the subject of active liaison between English Nature and the Environment Agency.

Reasons for identification as a Special Protection Area:

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Burhinus oedicephalus (Western Europe - breeding)- 60.1% of the GB breeding population of stone curlews

Caprimulgus europaeus - 12.2% of the GB breeding population of nightjars. - *Lullula arborea*

- 28.7% of the GB breeding population of woodlarks.

General Site Characteristics:

Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (0.9%)

Dry Grassland. Steppes (19.7)

Humid grassland. Mesophile Grassland (1.3%)
Improved grassland (0.3%)
Other arable land (31.5%)
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (1.4%)
Coniferous woodland (44.7%)

Vulnerability:

Stone-Curlews are largely reliant on arable land for nesting and are thus vulnerable to disturbance and nest destruction from agricultural operations. Stone curlews require very short vegetation, with abundant patches of bare and stony ground. The bare stony ground provides excellent camouflage for adults, chicks and eggs, whilst the short vegetation allows good visibility for predator avoidance.

The best way to achieve suitable conditions for stone curlews in arable land is to plant spring-sown crops that develop slowly. Autumn sown crops are usually too dense and tall by the spring nesting season. It can be useful to provide a rotation system of a range of spring sown crops that includes summer fallows, thus supplying both nest sites and invertebrate rich areas for foraging. Ideal ploughing times are just before the birds arrive (usually early March) and just before egg laying commences (usually early May). Alternatively, crops that grow too tall for nesting stone-curlew can be treated with herbicide to restore bare ground.

Management agreements are in place to provide nest plots and thus safeguard the population.

Stone-Curlew, Nightjar and Woodlark are vulnerable to predation from corvids¹² and foxes and to disturbance caused by human activity, including dog walking. There should be the absolute minimum of disturbance to breeding stone-curlew, particularly by people on foot within sight of, and up to 500m from nests. In 2005, new public access was introduced on heaths by legislation. Safeguards to protect stone-curlew have been included but the situation will require monitoring to determine how successful restrictions have been in preventing additional disturbance.

Breckland heathlands and acid grasslands supporting stone-curlew, nightjar and woodlark are fragile in terms of the high background levels of air pollution in the area, particularly high nitrogen loads causing undesirable habitat changes. Research on this topic is ongoing, and measures to export the nutrients off heaths (such as night time sheep folding or topsoil stripping) to counter the effects of pollution are potential management options. There are development pressures on the area, particularly for infrastructure, which requires substantial discussion and mitigation in some cases. This is achieved through Natural England commenting on planning applications and providing input to structural and local plans.

Woodlark and nightjar benefit from clear-fell forestry rotational management. Surveys for both woodlark and nightjar were carried out in 2010. The woodlark survey recorded 209 breeding pairs; a figure below 253 would indicate unfavourable condition. The nightjar survey recorded 240 churring males; a figure below 311 would indicate unfavourable condition. The appropriate management is currently taking place in the forests carried out by the Forestry Commission (FC). The FC's Design Plan for the Breckland Forest area indicates that there has not been a change in the extent of the habitat and therefore a programme of research

¹² Corvids; Crows, jays, magpies, ravens, jackdaws and rooks all belong to the Family of birds called Corvidae.

and experimental management is underway to determine the cause of the population changes with a commitment from FC to adopt management practices to meet population target.

Collecting of eggs of stone-curlew, and to some extent night jar and woodlark, is believed to be a serious threat to individual birds and to population size. The loss of eggs to this illegal activity is unknown. There is a police-based alert system in place in Breckland to try and reduce this type of crime, and landowners are vigilant.

Current condition of Breckland farmland

The report compiled by Natural England in November 2011 showed that 100% of the PSA target is being met for the numerous units that make up the Breckland Farmland SSSI – all are in a favourable condition.

The condition of the units making up the Breckland Forest SSSI area also is meeting 100% of the PSA target although the condition is described as unfavourable recovering due to the reduction in the number of stone curlews and nightjars found in the 2010 survey.

Appendix 3: Maps

Map 2: Eversden and Wimpole Woods (SAC)

Map 3: Devil's Dyke (SAC)

Map 4: Fenland (SAC) and Wicken Fen (RAMSAR)

Map 5: Fenland (SAC) and Chippenham Fen (RAMSAR)

Map 6: Fenland (SAC) and Woodwalton Fen (RAMSAR)

Map 7: Ouse Washes (RAMSAR, SAC and SPA)

Map 8: Ouse Washes (RAMSAR, SAC and SPA)

Map 9: Portholme (SAC)

Map 10: Breckland (SAC , SPA)

Map 11: Special Areas of Conservation

Map 12: Special Protection Areas

Map 13: RAMSAR Sites

Map 2

Maps to follow:

Appendix 4: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Matrix

Screening Matrix for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives for the Site</p>	<p>Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC Grid Ref: TL 340526</p> <p>Reason for designation: This site has been designated as a SAC due to the presence of a colony of Barbastelle bats. The woods comprise a mixture of ancient coppice woodland in the Eversden woods and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin in the Wimpole Woods.</p> <p>A colony of Barbastelle bats is present at Wimpole Woods, where the trees are used as a summer maternity roost. Most of the roost sites are within tree crevices. The bats also use the site as a foraging area and some of the woodland is used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site. The Barbastelle bat is one of the UK's rarest mammals.</p> <p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, within South Cambridgeshire District Council's area.</p>
<p>Are there any other projects or plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect the Eversden and Wimpole Woods?</p>	<p>The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document affects the whole of the local authority area of Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the city council's Local Development Framework. Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan, the Cambridge East area action plan. The Cambridge Local Plan will contain the following statutory requirements: core strategy; development control policies; site-specific allocations. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the woods, namely the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan and the Cambridge East area action plan. These plans include allocations of land for development.</p>

Other relevant plans:	
Title	Date of Adoption
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012
Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	2011
Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010
Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2006
Cambridge Local Plan 2006	
Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007
Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007
Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008

	Document		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document o The RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2011 o 2012 	
	Cambridgeshire County Council		
	Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011	
	South Cambridgeshire District Council		
	South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD	2007	
	South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,	2010	
	South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD	2007	
	Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,	2008	
	Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD	2011	
	Orchard Park Design Guide SPD	2011	
	Health Impact Assessment SPD	2011	
	Landscape in New Developments SPD	2010	
	District Design Guide SPD	2010	
	Affordable Housing SPD	2010	
	Listed Buildings SPD	2009	
	Biodiversity SPD	2009	
	Trees and Development sites SPD	2009	
	Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009	
	Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009	
	Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009	
	Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007	
	South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD	2006	
	Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007	
	Huntingdonshire District Council		
	Huntingdonshire Core Strategy	2009	
	Huntingdonshire Development Management DPD Proposed Submission, 2010	2010	
	Huntingdon West Area Action Plan,	2011	

	Local Plan to 2036	In progress
	Huntingdonshire Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD – Issues Report	2009
	Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council	
	Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2000-2015,	2005
	Managing Waste in New Developments SPD	2006
	The Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies – Submission Document	2012
	Hertfordshire County Council	
	The Minerals Local Plan 2002 - 2016	2007
	Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Document	2012
	Waste Site Allocations Local Development Document (currently being progressed towards adoption).	In Progress
	Central Bedfordshire	
	Central Bedfordshire Council, Core Strategy & Development Management Policies (For North Bedfordshire)	2009
	Site Allocations DPD for North Bedfordshire	2011
	Saved Local Plan 2007 Policies (2007) and joint Core Strategy (endorsed for Development Management purposes)	2007 2011
	Bedford Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan	2008

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:

	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Nature of Potential Impact	Land take by development	There are no policies or site options in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on these woods.
	The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does not propose any development that will take land from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.	
	None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from these woods.	

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	<p>Eversden and Wimpole Woods are home to the Barbastelle bat (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>), which can forage up to 20km from their roost sites, although this distance is more typically around 6-8km. Barbastelle bats require minimal disturbance within 2km of their roost. The main area of importance for these bats has been identified in the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity SPD as shown on Map 1 of this document and identified in their Sustainability Scoping Report..</p> <p>While the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does allocate land for development, the sites are located outside the main area of importance for the Barbastelle bat.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF includes an allocation for an extension to the Barrington Quarry, which lies within the area of importance. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) full assessment of the Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document (DPD) concluded that the proposed mineral site would not have a direct effect on the SAC owing to the distance of the two sites, even for surface water mediated effects that act sometimes at considerable distance. In relation to the off site occurrence of the Barbastelle Bats it was concluded that none of the identified flight routes took the Barbastelle bats to or past the Barrington proposed extraction site, although it may be possible that east-west on the north side of the existing chalk pit may be used. However, as the new extraction proposal encroaches no closer to this tree belt than the existing quarry operation and as all pathways were either absent or too long, no adverse effects</p>	<p>The woods are relatively isolated and are not located near to any of the locations for major development</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulation Assessment, which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded within the HRA's for the Minerals and Waste policies and allocations, including the allocation at Barrington Quarry.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>were concluded.</p> <p>The closest major developments to these woods are on the fringes of Cambridge (the Southern Fringe Area Development Framework 2006 and North West of Cambridge Area Action Plan 2008). An Area Action Plan has been adopted for the Southern Fringe (by South Cambridgeshire District Council) and an Area Action Plan has been produced for the North West Cambridge site. Both of these sites are over 8km from the woods and are outside the area of importance.</p>	
Recreational pressure and disturbance	<p>Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Plan are set to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation</p> <p>Likewise in South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock to 20,000 or less. However, no major proposals contained within the Draft Cambridge Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire Issues & Options Report or any other plans are within 5km of these woods. The closest major development on the fringes of Cambridge is over 8km away from the sites and the closest development,.</p> <p>The woods form part of a Country Walk and forms part of the wider countryside footpath network. Their form and character,</p>	<p>While the provision of an element of residential development through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods, leads to the conclusion that the Plan will not lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the woods. There are no major options in the South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options Report that are within 5km.</p> <p>The Natura 2000 data for these woods indicates that the current use of the woods is</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>along with their relative distance from car parking and public transport limits their attractiveness for informal recreation and leisure. Many of the visitors to this area tend to focus their attention on the National Trust property at Wimpole Hall.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2011). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as the Eversden and Wimpole Woods.</p> <p>With regard to South Cambridgeshire new strategic open spaces are already planned, and the Green Infrastructure Strategy proposes new countryside recreation opportunities, to support growth in the area.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	<p>considered to be compatible with the Barbastelle bats' interests and should not affect their population or roosts. As the bats roost in the trees and forage at sunset/night they are not affected by day visitors.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>
Water quantity and quality	<p>This is not relevant for the conservation objectives of this site</p> <p>Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy findings (August 2011) - The site did not meet the criteria to be included in the assessment</p>	Not relevant
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to</p>	As the Eversden and Wimpole Woods are not

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale. An Air Quality Policy will also be included in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014; this policy relates to air pollution from all potential sources and seeks to ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on air quality.</p> <p>As the development sites within Cambridge City will be some distance away from the Eversden & Wimpole Woods, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have an impact on these woods.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments or major transport routes in close proximity to the woods. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The level of development proposed in South Cambridgeshire's</p>	<p>in close proximity to proposed major development sites and major transport routes it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the woods as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and the implementation of an Air Quality policy through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 aim to reduce pollution levels.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded within the HRA's for the Minerals and Waste policies and allocations, including the allocation at Barrington Quarry.</p> <p>As the sites proposed by South Cambridgeshire are not in close proximity to any developments proposed or major transport routes, it is not considered that there</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:	
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site
	<p>options report could result in increased levels of atmospheric pollution, through the emissions created by development, or from the car journeys generated. Whilst the actual impact of the Plan on air quality alone or in combination with other plans is difficult to quantify, the location of the site is not in close proximity to any major development options proposed or major transport routes.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF includes an allocation for an extension to Barrington Quarry, which is 4km from the woods. A full HRA was carried out before this site was allocated within the adopted Site Specific Proposals DPD as discussed above and the assessment produced by RPS concluded no adverse effects either alone or in combination with any other plans and projects at that time.</p>
	<p>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</p> <p>is likely to be any significant impact on their nature conservation objectives. Their options report proposes general policy requirements that development does not harm the identified European sites to address their quality</p>
Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow
Overall Conclusions:	
<p>With regards to the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 is unlikely to have a significant impact on the conservation objectives of this site. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from policies and allocations contained within the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF, no adverse effects were identified as all pathways were either absent or too long when examined.</p>	

Screening Matrix for the Devil's Dyke SAC

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives for the Site</p>	<p>Devil's Dyke SAC Grid Ref: TL 611622</p> <p>Reason for designation: This site has been designated as a SAC due to the presence of semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco – Brometalia</i>).</p> <p>Devil's Dyke consists of a mosaic of calcareous grasslands (CG3 <i>Bromus erectus</i> and CG5 <i>Bromus erectus</i> – <i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>). It is the only known UK semi-natural dry grassland site for lizard orchid (<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>).</p> <p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, within East Cambridgeshire District Council's area.</p>												
<p>Are there any other projects or plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect Devil's Dyke?</p>	<p>The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document affects the whole of the Local Authority area of Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the city council's Local Development Framework. Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan, the Cambridge East area action plan and the Statement of Community Involvement. The Cambridge Local Plan will contain the following statutory requirements: core strategy; development control policies; site-specific allocations. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council). These plans include allocations of land for development.</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Title</th> <th>Date of Adoption</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge</td> <td>2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report</td> <td>2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD</td> <td>2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD</td> <td>2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Title	Date of Adoption	Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013	Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012	Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	2011	Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010	Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2006
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Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013												
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012												
Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	2011												
Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010												
Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2006												

Cambridge Local Plan 2006	20069
Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007
Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007
Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council	
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031, South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2 – Part 1 Joint Consultation on Development Strategy and Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge	2013
Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD,	2008
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD	2009
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:	
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document	o 2011
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document	o 2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A – Mineral and Transport Proposals	o 2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map B – Waste Management Proposals	o 2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map C – Mineral Safeguarding Areas	o 2011
o The Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document	o 2011
o The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document	o 2011
o The RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD	o 2012
Cambridgeshire County Council	
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
South Cambridgeshire District Council	
South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD	2007
South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,	2010
South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD	2007

Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,	2008
Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD	2011
Orchard Park Design Guide SPD	2011
Health Impact Assessment SPD	2011
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District Design Guide SPD	2010
Affordable Housing SPD	2010
Listed Buildings SPD	2009
Biodiversity SPD	2009
Trees and Development sites SPD	2009
Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009
Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009
Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009
Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007
South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD	2006
Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007
East Cambridgeshire District Council	
East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	2009
Ely Area Action Plan Options Paper and Site Allocations Option Paper	2010
Ely Masterplan (2009), the Soham Vision Masterplan (2010), the Littleport Masterplan (2011).and Burwell Masterplan (2013)	
Strategic issues and village vision issues and options consultations and technical work	2011/12
Review of East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	Due 2013
SPDs:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Conservation Area • Burwell High Town Conservation Area • Burwell North Street Conservation Area • Haddenham Conservation Area • Hill Row Haddenham Conservation Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soham Conservation Area • Ely Conservation Area • Stretham Conservation Area • Dullingham Conservation Area • Littleport Conservation Area Appraisal • Little Downham Conservation Area Appraisal • Sutton Conservation Area Appraisal • Shop Fronts Design Guide • County Wildlife Sites • Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations (Oct.2011 - updated version). • SPD on Developer Contributions – a review of the current SPD – expected to be adopted May 2013. • Design Guide SPD • Contaminated Land - Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2011 • Due 2013 • Due 2013 • 2010 • 2010 • 2011 • Due 2013 • 2012 • 2010
Forest Heath		
	Forest Heath Core Strategy, Adopted May 2010 by the Council quashed by central Government	2010
	Forest Heath Local Plan 1995 Saved Policies	1995
	Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Development Management Policies Submission Document	2012
	Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Joint Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Document	2012
	Forest Heath District Council Core Strategy Policy CS7 Single Issue Review Issues and Options document	2012
	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document	2011
St Edmundsbury Borough Council		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Edmunds bury Core Strategy Development Plan Document • Rural Site Allocations Preferred Options DPD (2010) • Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031, Rural Vision 2031 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 • 2010

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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:	
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site
Land take by development	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does not propose any development that will take land from Devil's Dyke and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	<p>The conservation objectives for this site relate to plant species within the grassland itself as opposed to animal species. Therefore there are no species listed as important to the integrity of the site that travel to forage outside the boundaries of the site.</p>
Recreational pressure and disturbance	<p>Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 site allocations will include an element of residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Local Plan to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation and likewise in South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 20,000 or less. However, no major proposals contained within the Draft Cambridge Local Plan, or South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options Report or any other plans are within 5km of this site. The closest major development site to Devil's Dyke is at Cambridge East, which is over 10km from the site. Cambridge</p>
	<p>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</p> <p>There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.</p> <p>Due to the distance of the site from the city and the fact that there are no species listed as important to the integrity of the site that travel to forage outside the boundaries of the site there is not likely to be any significant effect from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p> <p>While the provision of an element of residential development through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from Devil's Dyke, leads to the conclusion that the Plan will not lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the woods.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>East will now only be partially delivered. A small part of the Cambridge East Site will be delivered in the Local Plan Period through South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. It is not considered that the level of public use at Devil's Dyke will increase greatly as a result of proposals contained within these documents.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011).</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Devil's Dyke as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	<p>vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there is not likely to be a significant impact on Devil's Dyke as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p> <p>In view of the limited additional recreational use that will occur at Devil's Dyke, there are not considered to be any likely significant effects from options identified in the South Cambridgeshire District Council Issues and Options Report.</p>
Water quantity and quality	<p>This is not relevant for the conservation objectives of this site Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy Phase 2 findings (August 2011) - The site was not mentioned in the assessment.</p>	Not relevant
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation,</p>	<p>As Devil's Dyke is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>albeit on a small-scale. An Air Quality Policy will also be included in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014, this policy relates to air pollution from all potential sources and seeks to ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on air quality.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Devil's Dyke. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The level of development proposed by the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan could result in increased levels of atmospheric pollution, through the emissions created by development, or from the car journeys generated. Whilst the actual impact of the Local Plan on air quality alone or in combination with other plans is difficult to quantify, the location of the development sites are not in close proximity to any development options.</p> <p>The site is adjacent to the A14 but this is roughly at right angles to the road and as a result only a limited part of the Dyke is actually adjacent to the A14. Policies contained within the Cambridge Draft Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options Report and other documents have the objective of</p>	<p>contained within other relevant plans and the implementation of an Air Quality policy through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 aim to reduce pollution levels.</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire's options report proposes general policy requirements that development does not harm the identified European Sites and to address air quality.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded within the HRAs for the Minerals and Waste policies and allocations, including the allocation for a clinical waste facility at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>reducing commuting into Cambridge by focussing development in and on the edge of Cambridge and in the new town of Northstowe to the north west of Cambridge. It is therefore considered that there are unlikely to be any significant increases in the amount of traffic using this part of the A14.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulation Assessments produced by RPS for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) on Devil's Dyke. The HRA documents considered all the proposed policies and allocations, including the clinical waste facility allocated Area of Search at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. Air pollutants were ruled out from the clinical waste facility because of the distance of the pathway. Furthermore, it was concluded that any adverse effects on the integrity of the Devil's Dyke SAC would be avoided by the regulation of emissions under IPPC and EC Waste Incineration Directive Requirements in place at that time. Overall no adverse impacts were identified on Devil's Dyke SAC.</p>	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

Overall Conclusions:
The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031 is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives of Devil's Dyke SAC. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from policies and allocations contained within the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents no adverse effects were identified on Devil's Dyke SAC.

Screening Matrix for the Fenland SAC and Ramsar Sites

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives for the Site</p>	<p>Fenland SAC comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicken Fen; • Chippenham Fen; and • Woodwalton Fen <p>Reason for designation:</p> <p>This site has been designated as a SAC due to the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Molinia</i> meadow on calcareous, peaty or clayey silt laden soils (<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>); • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of <i>Caricion davallianae</i>; • Significant presence of Spined Loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>); and • Presence of Great Crested Newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) <p>The Fenland SAC contains one of the most extensive examples of the tall herb-rich East Anglian type of fen- meadow (<i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>), particularly at Chippenham Fen. It is important for the conservation of the geographical and ecological range of the habitat type, as this type of fen-meadow is now rare and ecologically distinctive to East Anglia.</p> <p>The individual sites that make up the Fenland SAC hold large areas of calcareous fens with a long and well documented history of regular management. There is a full range of habitat types ranging from species-poor <i>Cladium</i> dominated fen to species-rich fen with a lower proportion of <i>Cladium</i> and containing such species as black bog-rush (<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>), tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>) and meadow thistle (<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>). There are good transitions to purple moor-grass (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) and rush pastures, all set within a mosaic of reed beds and wet pastures. The Fens also support a significant population of spined loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>) and great crested newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>).</p> <p>The three sites that make up the Fenland SAC are located outside of the Cambridge City boundary. Each of the sites is also designated as a Ramsar site and a summary of the conservation objectives for each site is given below.</p>
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- **Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar Site**

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the Ramsar site</p>	<p>Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar site</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 555700</p> <p>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site: Wicken Fen is considered to be one of the most outstanding remnants of the East Anglian peat fens. It supports one species from the British Red Data Book of plants, the fen violet (<i>Viola persicifolia</i>), which survives at only two other sites in the UK. It also contains eight nationally scarce plants and 121 British Red Data book invertebrates.</p>																				
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect Wicken Fen?</p>	<p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, in East Cambridgeshire District Council's area. The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document affects the whole of the Local Authority area of Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the city council's Local Development Framework. Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan and the Cambridge East area action plan. The Cambridge Local Plan will contain the following statutory requirements: core strategy; development control policies; site-specific allocations. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p>																				
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Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council		
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031, South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2 – Part 1 Joint Consultation on Development Strategy and Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge		2013
Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD,		2008
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD		2009
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council		
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:		
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document		2011
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document		2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A – Mineral and Transport Proposals		2012
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o The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document		2011
o The RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD		2012
Cambridgeshire County Council		
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy		2011
South Cambridgeshire District Council		
South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD		2007
South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,		2010
South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD		2007
Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,		2008
Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD		2011
Orchard Park Design Guide SPD		2011
Health Impact Assessment SPD		2011

	Landscape in New Developments SPD	2010
	District Design Guide SPD	2010
	Affordable Housing SPD	2010
	Listed Buildings SPD	2009
	Biodiversity SPD	2009
	Trees and Development sites SPD	2009
	Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009
	Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009
	Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009
	Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007
	South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD	2006
	Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007
	East Cambridgeshire District Council	
	East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	2009
	Ely Area Action Plan Options Paper and Site Allocations Option Paper	2010
	Ely Masterplan (2009), the Soham Vision Masterplan (2010), the Littleport Masterplan (2011) and Burwell Masterplan (2013)	
	Strategic issues and village vision issues and options consultations and technical work	2011/12
	Review of East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	Due 2013
	SPDs:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Conservation Area • Burwell High Town Conservation Area • Burwell North Street Conservation Area • Haddenham Conservation Area • Hill Row Haddenham Conservation Area • Soham Conservation Area • Ely Conservation Area • Stretham Conservation Area • Dullingham Conservation Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littleport Conservation Area Appraisal • Little Downham Conservation Area Appraisal • Sutton Conservation Area Appraisal • Shop Fronts Design Guide • County Wildlife Sites • Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations (Oct.2011 - updated version). • SPD on Developer Contributions – a review of the current SPD – expected to be adopted May 2013. • Design Guide SPD • Contaminated Land - Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 • Due 2013 • Due 2013 • 2010 • 2010 • 2011 • Due 2013 • 2012 • 2010
Forest Heath		
	Forest Heath Core Strategy, Adopted May 2010 by the Council quashed by central Government	2010
	Forest Heath Local Plan 1995 Saved Policies	1995
	Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Development Management Policies Submission Document	2012
	Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Joint Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Document	2012
	Forest Heath District Council Core Strategy Policy CS7 Single Issue Review Issues and Options document	2012
	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document	2011
St Edmundsbury Borough Council		
	St Edmundsbury Core Strategy Development Plan Document	• 2011
	Rural Site Allocations Preferred Options DPD (2010)	• 2010
	Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031, Rural Vision 2031	
SuffolkCounty Council		
	Waste Core Strategy	• 2011
	Minerals Core Strategy	• 2008

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD 2009
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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does not propose any development that will take land from Wicken Fen and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives relate to species of plant within the fen and species of invertebrates. While the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to this site. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.	Due to the distance of Wicken Fen from the city, it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Plan are set to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation and likewise in South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 20,000 or less. However, no major proposals contained within the Draft	While the provision of an element of residential development at the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, policy options including the delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from Wicken Fen, leads to the conclusion that the Plan will

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Cambridge Local Plan, or South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options Report or any other plans are within 5km of Wicken Fen. Access to the site is limited to public rights of way, with any access beyond these being by permit only and can therefore be controlled.</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire district Council considers that the level of public use through allocated developments (identified in their Issues and Options Report) will not increase greatly. There are other countryside access opportunities, existing or proposed, available in more accessible locations to the major centres of population. New strategic open spaces are already planned, and the Green Infrastructure Strategy proposes new countryside recreation opportunities, to support growth in the area.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridge Sub-region Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2006). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as Wicken Fen.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Wicken Fen as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	<p>not lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data. The Natural Trust manages access to the site and zoning ensures that the more remote parts of the site are left undisturbed.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there is unlikely to be a significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Wicken Fen as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Water quantity and quality	<p>The increase in housing identified in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will place higher demand on water. However policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand, setting water consumption requirements in line with levels 5 and 6 of the code for sustainable homes. In addition, all new development will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems through the Integrated Water Management and Water Cycle Policy. As the site allocations within Cambridge City are some distance away from Wicken Fen, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will have no likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Wicken Fen. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a result of new development, many of the plans identified which are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new</p>	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will be used to guide development and determine planning applications in the City. It will contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at Wicken Fen such as the Integrated Water Management and Water Cycle Policy. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, is unlikely to result in significant impacts on the nature conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>The Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy 2011 states that analysis of hydrology indicates that Wicken Fen is topographically higher than the Cam and drains via Wicken Lode then Burwell Lode towards it. As the Cam does not feed it, there are no associated risks, which could arise from additional sewage effluent discharge at Cambridge irrespective of any changes in effluent flow or quality from that site.</p> <p>Options are proposed in the South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options Report to ensure developments protects water quality, insuring appropriate waste water</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004). Any additional water abstraction from Wicken Fen can only take place if it is shown that it does not adversely affect the sites ecological integrity (Source: The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Document, Environment Agency October 2006).</p> <p>The water level problems identified as a vulnerability of the site primarily relate to its relationship with the river Cam and issues caused by flood protection measures local to the site introduced in the 1960's.</p> <p>Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy Phase 2 findings (August 2011) - This wetland is located approximately 1km at its nearest point east of the Cam valley, downstream of Cambridge. The Cam receives treated sewage discharges from Cambridge wastewater treatment works (WwTW), just south of the A11 at Cambridge. That WwTW would receive additional effluent in the future from proposed development at Cambridge, with the potential consequences for downstream flows and water quality.</p> <p>However, analysis of hydrology indicates that Wicken Fen is topographically higher than the Cam and drains via Wicken</p>	<p>infrastructure is available, and appropriate pollution control measures are included on sites The Council is working with Anglian Water and Cambridge water to explore infrastructure requirements of site options, and ensure developments can be appropriately serviced.</p> <p>It is therefore felt that the impact of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 and other plans is unlikely to have a significant impact on Wicken Fen.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRA's for the policies and allocations within the Minerals and Waste documents, including the allocation at Dimmock's Cote Quarry in Wicken.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Lode then Burwell Lode towards it. As the Cam does not feed it, there are no associated risks, which could arise from additional sewage effluent discharge at Cambridge irrespective of any changes in effluent flow or quality from that site, so such scenarios have not been considered further in this assessment.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA's) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) with all the policies and allocations, including Dimmock's Cote Quarry in Wicken. No adverse effects were concluded for Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar site owing to the absence of a water related pathway.</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale. An Air Quality Policy will also be included in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014; this policy relates to air pollution from all potential sources and seeks to ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on air quality.</p>	<p>As Wicken Fen is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of new developments and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and the implementation of an Air Quality policy through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 aim to reduce pollution levels.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:	
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site
	<p>As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Wicken Fen, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City is unlikely to have a significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Wicken Fen. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA's) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) with all the policies and allocations, including Dimmock's Cote Quarry in Wicken. No adverse effects were concluded for Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar site owing to the absence of a water related pathway.</p>
	<p>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</p> <p>Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRA's for the policies and allocations within the Minerals and Waste documents, including the allocation at Dimmock's Cote Quarry in Wicken.</p>

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

Overall Conclusions:

The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031, both alone and in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Wicken Fen. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from policies and allocations contained within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents no adverse effects were identified on Wicken SAC and Ramsar site or on the wider Fenland SAC which comprises of Wicken Fen; Chippenham Fen; and Woodwalton Fen.

- **Chippenham Fen SAC and Ramsar Site**

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the Ramsar site</p>	<p>Chippenham Fen SAC and Ramsar Site</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 648697</p> <p>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site: Chippenham Fen is a spring-fed calcareous basin mire with a long history of management, which is partly reflected in the diversity of its present day vegetation. The invertebrate fauna is very rich, partly due to its transitional position between Fenland and Breckland. The species list contains many rare and scarce invertebrates, characteristic of ancient British fenland sites. The site supports diverse flora, with rare and scarce species. The site is the stronghold of Cambridge milk parsley <i>Selinum carvifolia</i>.</p>								
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect Chippenham Fen?</p>	<p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary in East Cambridgeshire District Council's area.</p> <p>The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document affects the whole of the Local Authority area of Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the city council's Local Development Framework. Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan and the Cambridge East area action plan. The Cambridge Local Plan will contain the following statutory requirements: core strategy; development control policies; site-specific allocations. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p>								
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South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,	2010

South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD	2007
Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,	2008
Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD	2011
Orchard Park Design Guide SPD	2011
Health Impact Assessment SPD	2011
Landscape in New Developments SPD	2010
District Design Guide SPD	2010
Affordable Housing SPD	2010
Listed Buildings SPD	2009
Biodiversity SPD	2009
Trees and Development sites SPD	2009
Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009
Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009
Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009
Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007
South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD	2006
Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007
East Cambridgeshire District Council	
East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	2009
Ely Area Action Plan Options Paper and Site Allocations Option Paper	2010
Ely Masterplan (2009), the Soham Vision Masterplan (2010), the Littleport Masterplan (2011).and Burwell Masterplan (2013)	
Strategic issues and village vision issues and options consultations and technical work	2011/12
Review of East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	Due 2013
SPDs:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Conservation Area • Burwell High Town Conservation Area • Burwell North Street Conservation Area • Haddenham Conservation Area • Hill Row Haddenham Conservation Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soham Conservation Area • Ely Conservation Area • Stretham Conservation Area • Dullingham Conservation Area • Littleport Conservation Area Appraisal • Little Downham Conservation Area Appraisal • Sutton Conservation Area Appraisal • Shop Fronts Design Guide • County Wildlife Sites • Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations (Oct.2011 - updated version). • SPD on Developer Contributions – a review of the current SPD – expected to be adopted May 2013. • Design Guide SPD • Contaminated Land - Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2011 • Due 2013 • Due 2013 • 2010 • 2010 • 2011 • Due 2013 • 2012 • 2010
Forest Heath	
Forest Heath Core Strategy, Adopted May 2010 by the Council quashed by central Government	2010
Forest Heath Local Plan 1995 Saved Policies	1995
Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Development Management Policies Submission Document	2012
Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Joint Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Document	2012
Forest Heath District Council Core Strategy Policy CS7 Single Issue Review Issues and Options document	2012
<i>Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document</i>	2011
St Edmundsbury Borough Council	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Edmunds bury Core Strategy Development Plan Document • Rural Site Allocations Preferred Options DPD (2010) • Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031, Rural Vision 2031 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 • 2010
SuffolkCounty Council	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Core Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minerals Core Strategy Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008 2009
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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does not propose any development that will take land from Chippenham Fen and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	<p>The conservation objectives relate to species of plant within the fen and species of invertebrates. While the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to Chippenham Fen. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.</p>	<p>Due to the distance of the site from the city it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.</p> <p>Allocations identified in South Cambridgeshire District Councils Issues and Options Report is not likely to have a significant impact are specifies listed as important to the integrity of the site.</p>
Recreational pressure and disturbance	<p>Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside for recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Plan are set to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 which could also lead to an increased demand for access to</p>	<p>While the provision of an element of residential development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>countryside recreation However, no major proposals contained within the Draft Cambridge Local Plan, are within 5km of Chippenham Fen (Cambridge East is over 15km from the site).</p> <p>The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan proposes to increase the dwelling stock by 20,000 or less. Increasing the dwelling stock in the district could increase demand for countryside recreation. However, no options identified are within 5km of the site. Access to the wider site away from rights of way is limited. The site is a significant distance from development options identified in the Issues and Options Report.</p> <p>Both the site and the surrounding area are privately owned. While there are rights of way running across the site, access beyond these paths is by permit only. The Ramsar data sheets indicate a low level of usage by local villagers with few people applying for permits for recreational purposes.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2011). These proposals would be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as Chippenham Fen. The Green Infrastructure Strategy for Cambridgeshire published in July 2011 identifies Chippenham Fen as a target area for biodiversity enhancement and increased public access balanced against the conservation</p>	<p>the relative distance of development sites from Chippenham Fen, leads to the conclusion that the Plan is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>It is considered unlikely that the level of public use of Chippenham Fen will increase greatly as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>importance of this site and indicates that water management investigations are being carried out by the Environment Agency to understand the best method of mitigating the reduction in water in the aquifer due to settlement growth in Red Lodge, Newmarket and other parts of the catchment. Cambridge is not considered to be in this catchment.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Chippenham Fen as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	
Water quantity and quality	<p>The increase in housing identified in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will place higher demand on water. However policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand, setting water consumption requirements in line with levels 5 and 6 of the code for sustainable homes. In addition, all new development will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems through the Integrated Water Management and Water Cycle Policy. As the site allocations within Cambridge City are some distance away from Chippenham Fen, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will have no likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality</p>	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will be used to guide development and determine planning applications in the City. It will contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality a Chippenham Fen. As such it is considered that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, will be unlikely to have a significant impact on Chippenham Fen.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>from new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Chippenham Fen. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a result of new development, many of the plans identified which are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004). Any additional water abstraction from Chippenham Fen can only take place if it is shown that it does not adversely affect the sites ecological integrity (Source: The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Document, Environment Agency October 2006).</p> <p>The water level problems identified as a vulnerability of the site primarily relate to its relationship with the river Cam and issues caused by flood protection measures local to the site introduced in the 1960's.</p> <p>Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy findings (August 2011) - The</p>	

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Fenland SAC did not meet the criteria to be included in the assessment</p>	
<p>Changes in pollution levels</p>	<p>The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale. An Air Quality Policy will also be included in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014, this policy relates to air pollution from all potential sources and seeks to ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on air quality.</p> <p>The urban extensions to Cambridge set out in the Local Plan should help to reduce the level of commuting into Cambridge and its associated pollution by redressing the balance of homes to jobs and allow people to use more sustainable forms of transport. However, the scale of development proposed may lead to an increase in local pollution, but this will be kept to a minimum. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Chippenham Fen, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City is unlikely to have a significant impact on this site.</p>	<p>As Chippenham Fen is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of new developments and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and the implementation of an Air Quality policy through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 aim to reduce pollution levels.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRAs for the policies and allocations within the Minerals and Waste Documents, including the allocation for a clinical waste facility at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Chippenham Fen. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The level of development proposed by the South Cambridgeshire District Councils Issues and Options Report could result in increased levels of atmospheric pollution, through the emissions created by new developments or increased journeys. However as the sites are not in close proximity to the site options proposed, it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on their nature or conservation objectives. The options report proposes general policy requirements that development does not harm the identified European Sites and to address air quality.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the policies and allocations, including the proposed clinical waste facility at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. No adverse effects were concluded for Chippenham Fen SAC and Ramsar site owing to the absence of a water related pathway and the fact that the site is not sensitive to air pollution.</p>	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

Overall Conclusions:
The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Chippenham Fen. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from policies and allocations contained within the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents no adverse effects were identified on Chippenham Fen SAC and Ramsar site or on the wider Fenland SAC which comprises of Wicken Fen; Chippenham Fen; and Woodwalton Fen.

- **Woodwalton Fen SAC and Ramsar Site**

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the Ramsar site</p>	<p>Woodwalton Fen SAC and Ramsar Site</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 230840</p> <p>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site: Woodwalton Fen lies within an area of one of the remaining parts of East Anglia that has not been drained. The site supports two species of flora listed in the British Red Data Book for plants, fen violet <i>Viola persicifolia</i> and fen wood rush <i>Luzula pallescens</i>.</p>																				
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect Woodwalton Fen?</p>	<p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, in Huntingdonshire District Council's area.</p> <p>The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document affects the whole of the Local Authority area of Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the city council's Local Development Framework. Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan and the Cambridge East area action plan. The Cambridge Local Plan will contain the following statutory requirements: core strategy; development control policies; site-specific allocations. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p>																				
<p>Other relevant plans:</p>																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Title</th> <th>Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge</td> <td>2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report</td> <td>2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD</td> <td>2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD</td> <td>2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan 2006</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,</td> <td>2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,</td> <td>2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD</td> <td>2008</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Title	Year	Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013	Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012	Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	2011	Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010	Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2006	Cambridge Local Plan 2006	2006	Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007	Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007	Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
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Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008																				

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council		
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031, South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2 – Part 1 Joint Consultation on Development Strategy and Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge		2013
Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD,		2008
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD		2009
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council		
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:		
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document	o	2011
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document	o	2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A – Mineral and Transport Proposals	o	2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map B – Waste Management Proposals	o	2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map C – Mineral Safeguarding Areas	o	2011
o The Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document	o	2011
o The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document	o	2011
o The RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD	o	2012
Cambridgeshire County Council		
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy		2011
South Cambridgeshire District Council		
South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD		2007
South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,		2010
South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD		2007
Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,		2008
Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD		2011
Orchard Park Design Guide SPD		2011
Health Impact Assessment SPD		2011
Landscapes in New Developments SPD		2010
District Design Guide SPD		2010

	Affordable Housing SPD	2010
	Listed Buildings SPD	2009
	Biodiversity SPD	2009
	Trees and Development sites SPD	2009
	Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009
	Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009
	Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009
	Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007
	South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD	2006
	Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007
	Huntingdonshire District Council	
	Huntingdonshire Core Strategy	2009
	Huntingdonshire Development Management DPD Proposed Submission, 2010	2010
	Huntingdon West Area Action Plan,	2011
	Local Plan to 2036	In progress
	Huntingdonshire Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD – Issues Report	2009
	Fenland District Council	
	Fenland Local Plan 1993	1993
	Fenland Local Plan Draft Core Strategy 2013	2013

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does not propose any development that will take land from Woodwalton Fen and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.	There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site. The conservation objectives relate to species of plant within the fen. While the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does allocate land	Due to the distance of the site from the city it is not considered that there is likely to be a

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge on previously developed land, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to Woodwalton Fen. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.</p>	<p>significant effect from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.</p>
<p>Recreational pressure and disturbance</p>	<p>Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Plan are set to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation. However, no major proposals contained within the Draft Cambridge Local Plan, are within 5km of Woodwalton Fen, likewise in South Cambridgeshire there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 20,000 or less. However, no major proposals contained within the Cambridge Local Plan or South Cambridgeshire Plan or any other plans are within 5km of Woodwalton Fen (Northstowe is over 20km away from the site).</p> <p>Parking is limited at the site – some being available alongside the Great Raveley Drain. There are three marked trails around the fen. There are no public rights of way crossing the fen. Woodwalton Fen has not been a permit only site since around 2003. Although members of the public no longer require Natural England's permission to access the site there remains in force restricted access to some areas and a no dog policy is</p>	<p>While the provision of an element of residential development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from Woodwalton Fen, leads to the conclusion that the Plan is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data. Public access to some areas of the site is restricted and a no dog policy is maintained.</p> <p>It is considered unlikely that the level of public use of Woodwalton Fen will increase greatly as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>maintained. There are other countryside access opportunities available in more accessible locations and so it is considered unlikely that the proposed plans will lead to a great increase in visitor numbers.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridge Sub-region Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2011). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than Woodwalton Fen.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Woodwalton Fen as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	<p>alone or in combination with other plans.</p>
Water quantity and quality	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 site allocations have the potential to introduce uses onto the site that have a higher demand for water than uses currently on site (for example the introduction residential units). However policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand. In addition, all new development will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and the Integrated Water Management and Water Cycle Policy. As the site allocations within Cambridge City are</p>	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will be used to guide development and determine planning applications in the City. It will contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at Woodwalton Fen. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, will not result in significant impacts on the nature conservation objectives of the site.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>some distance away from Woodwalton Fen, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will have no likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Woodwalton Fen. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a result of new development, many of the plans identified which are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004). Any additional water abstraction from Woodwalton Fen can only take place if it is shown that it does not adversely affect the sites ecological integrity (Source: The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Document, Environment Agency October 2006).</p>	<p>It is therefore felt that the impact of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 and other plans are unlikely to have a significant impact on Woodwalton Fen.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRAs for the policies and allocations within the Minerals and Waste documents, including the allocations for a clinical waste facility at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and the recycling Area of Search allocation at Alconbury Airfield.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy findings (August 2011) - The Fenland SAC did not meet the criteria to be assessed through the Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the adopted Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the policies and allocations, including the proposed clinical waste facility at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and the recycling Area of Search allocation at Alconbury Airfield. No adverse effects were concluded for Woodwalton Fen SAC and Ramsar site owing to the length of the pathway between Woodwalton Fen and the minerals and waste policies and allocations put forward.</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale. An Air Quality Policy will also be included in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014; this policy relates to air pollution from all potential sources and seeks to ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on air</p>	<p>As Woodwalton Fen is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in new developments and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and the implementation of an Air Quality policy through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 aim to reduce pollution levels.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site quality.	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Woodwalton Fen, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have a likely significant impact on Woodwalton Fen.</p> <p>The level of development proposed by the South Cambridgeshire District Councils Issues and Options Report could result in increased levels of atmospheric pollution, through the emissions created by new developments or increased journeys. However as the sites are not in close proximity to the site options proposed, it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on their nature or conservation objectives. The options report proposes general policy requirements that development does not harm the identified European Sites and to address air quality.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Woodwalton Fen. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the adopted</p>	<p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRAs for the policies and allocations within the Minerals and Waste documents, including the allocations for a clinical waste facility at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and the recycling Area of Search allocation at Alconbury Airfield.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the policies and allocations, including the proposed clinical waste facility at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and the recycling Area of Search allocation at Alconbury Airfield. No adverse effects were concluded for Woodwalton Fen SAC and Ramsar site owing to the length of the pathway between Woodwalton Fen and the minerals and waste policies and allocations put forward.</p>	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

<p>Overall Conclusions:</p> <p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Woodwalton Fen. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from policies and allocations contained within the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents no adverse effects were identified on Woodwalton Fen SAC and Ramsar site or on the wider Fenland SAC which comprises of Wicken Fen; Chippenham Fen; and Woodwalton Fen.</p>
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Screening Matrix for the Ouse Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the site</p>	<p>The Ouse Washes</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 498895</p> <p>The Ouse Washes are a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded washlands, which are managed through the use of traditional agricultural techniques. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wild bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.</p> <p>Reason for designation as a SAC: The Ouse Washes contain a significant population of spined loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>). The Counter Drain, with its clear water and abundant macrophytes, is particularly important and has a significant population of spined loach.</p> <p>Reason for designation as an SPA The Ouse Washes are a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded washlands, which are managed through the use of traditional agricultural techniques. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wild bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.</p> <p>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site The Ouse Washes have been designated as a Ramsar site for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particularly good example of a natural or near-natural wetland, characteristic of its biogeographical region; • The site supports a number of rare species of flora and fauna; • The site supports a diverse collection of rare breeding waterfowl associated with seasonally flooding wet grassland; • The Washes are of international importance by virtue of regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl; • The Washes are important internationally for supporting certain species during the winter <p>The boundaries of the SPA and Ramsar site vary slightly from those of the Ouse Washes SAC, which are primarily located in East Cambridgeshire District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.</p>
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the</p>	<p>The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document affects the whole of the Local Authority area of Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the city council's Local Development Framework. Other development plan documents include the North</p>

<p>Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect the Ouse Washes?</p>	<p>West Cambridge area action plan and the Cambridge East area action plan. The Cambridge Local Plan will contain the following statutory requirements: core strategy; development control policies; site-specific allocations. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Title</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge</td> <td>2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report</td> <td>2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD</td> <td>2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD</td> <td>2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan 2006</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Title		Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013	Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012	Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	2011	Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010	Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2006	Cambridge Local Plan 2006	2006
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	Cambridgeshire County Council	
	Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
	South Cambridgeshire District Council	
	South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD	2007
	South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,	2010
	South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD	2007
	Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,	2008
	Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD	2011
	Orchard Park Design Guide SPD	2011
	Health Impact Assessment SPD	2011
	Landscape in New Developments SPD	2010
	District Design Guide SPD	2010
	Affordable Housing SPD	2010
	Listed Buildings SPD	2009
	Biodiversity SPD	2009
	Trees and Development sites SPD	2009
	Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009
	Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009
	Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD -	2009
	Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007
	South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD	2006
	Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007
	Huntingdonshire District Council	
	Huntingdonshire Core Strategy	2009
	Huntingdonshire Development Management DPD Proposed Submission, 2010	2010
	Huntingdon West Area Action Plan,	2011

	Local Plan to 2036	In progress
	Huntingdonshire Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD – Issues Report	2009
	Fenland District Council	
	Fenland Local Plan 1993	1993
	Fenland Local Plan Draft Core Strategy 2013	2013
	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	
	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Core Strategy	2011
	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies	2011

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:

Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does not propose any development that will take land from the Ouse Washes and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats. None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.	There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives relate to species of fauna within the Ouse Washes and Counter Drain. While the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to the Ouse Washes. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.	Due to the distance of the site from the city it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may	While the provision of an element of residential development resulting from the

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	<p>lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Plan are set to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation. However, no major proposals contained within the Draft Cambridge Local Plan, are within 5km of the Ouse Washes. Likewise in South Cambridgeshire there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 20,000 or less. No major proposals contained within the Cambridge Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire Plan or any other plans are within 5km of the Ouse Washes (Northstowe being 7km away from the nearest point on the Washes).</p> <p>Increasing the dwelling stock in South Cambridgeshire District could increase demand for countryside recreation. However, the site is some distance from the District. There are other countryside access opportunities, existing or proposed, available in more accessible locations to the major centres of population. This includes the Fen Drayton Lakes near Northstowe. New strategic open spaces are already planned, and the Green Infrastructure Strategy proposes new countryside recreation opportunities, to support growth in the area.</p> <p>There is a network of public rights of way through the Washes. The RSPB manages a nature reserve at Welches Dam, while the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust manage a reserve at Welney in Norfolk.</p>	<p>Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from the Ouse Washes leads to the conclusion that the Plan is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data. Therefore it is considered unlikely that the level of public use at the Ouse Washes will increase greatly as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>

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	<p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2011). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as the Ouse Washes.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the Ouse Washes as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	
Water quantity and quality	<p>All of the Cambridge City area drains into the Ouse Washes via the River Cam. Exceptional rainfall events cause the River Cam to Flood at Fen Road, Midsummer and Stourbridge Commons and along Riverside. Several of its tributaries flood as well, and development must not increase flood risk to these locations or elsewhere from both urban run off and additional wastewater from Cambridge Sewage Treatment Works.</p> <p>The increase in housing identified in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will place higher demand on water. However policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand, setting water consumption requirements in line with levels 5 and 6 of the code for sustainable homes. In addition, all new development will be required through policy to mitigate their</p>	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will be used to guide development and determine planning applications in the City. It will contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at the Ouse Washes. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, will not result in likely significant impacts on the nature conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>It is therefore felt that the impact of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 and other plans will not have a likely significant impact on the</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems through the Integrated Water Management and Water Cycle Policy. As the site allocations within Cambridge City are some distance away from the Ouse Washes. It is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will have no likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>While it is recognised that while there would be an increase in water consumption and in theory on water quality through increased run off as a result of site allocations proposed in Cambridge City and on the fringes of the City the potential impact will be kept to a minimum. It is also recognised that seasonal flooding plays an important role in maintaining the integrity of the Ouse Washes the Integrated Water Management Policy, will only permit development adjacent to a water body if it actively seeks to enhance the water body in terms of its hydromorphology, biodiversity potential and setting.</p> <p>As the allocation sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from the Ouse Washes, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have an impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality</p>	<p>Ouse Washes.</p> <p>Options are proposed in the South Cambridgeshire Issues and Options report to ensure developments protects water quality, insuring appropriate waste water infrastructure is available, and appropriate pollution control measures are included on sites. The Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy explored the impacts of existing planned development at Northstowe and Cambourne being served by Uttons Drive, and concluded no significant effects. In particular: The WwTW can make only a very minor contribution to total flow at Ouse Washes, and the distance from Uttons Drive WwTW to Ouse Washes is greater than 10 km by river, providing for considerable dilution and dispersal of any contamination between this potential source and potential receptor. Any requirement for HRA associated with additional sewage discharge rests with Anglian Water Services as the body promoting the change in consented discharge and the Environment Agency as the competent authority considering that revised consent. The Council will continue to work with Anglian Water, Cambridge water, and the environment Agency to explore infrastructure</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>from new developments. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a result of new development, many of the plans identified that are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004).</p> <p>The Habitats Directive aims to ensure biodiversity through the conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats, flora and fauna at designated Natura 2000 sites. Abstraction can only take place or continue if it is shown that it will not adversely affect the sites ecological integrity (Source: The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Document – Environment Agency, 2006).</p> <p>Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy Phase 2 findings - Ouse Washes SAC, Ramsar site and SSSI lies between the New Bedford River and the Old Bedford River to the east of Earith. The site is seasonally-flooded washland, internationally</p>	<p>requirements of sites, and ensure developments can be appropriately serviced.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRA's for the Minerals and Waste documents, including the allocations at Block Fen / Langwood Fen.</p>

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>important for birds. Recent reports identify that water levels across the Ouse Washes are increasingly too high in the Spring and Summer as a result of impeded seasonal drainage which itself is consequent upon siltation in the Hundred Foot Drain.</p> <p>Potential concerns associated with the Cambridge WCS are related to the discharge of sewage via the Uttons Drove WwTW, which would serve the proposed development at Northstowe. This discharges to the Swavesey Drain, which in turn feeds into the River Great Ouse upstream of Ouse Washes. Significant additional flow could exacerbate the existing problem associated with high Spring / Summer water levels. Significant deterioration in sewage effluent quality could also have adverse effects on standing water quality at Ouse Washes. However, any such risks need to be considered in the context of the following: The distance from Uttons Drove WwTW to Ouse Washes is greater than 10 km by river, providing for considerable dilution and dispersal of any contamination between this potential source and potential receptor.</p> <p>The WwTW can make only a very minor contribution to total flow at Ouse Washes, since the total catchment draining to the River Great Ouse at Earith is approximately 3000 km². For comparison, the mean flow from the sewage works discharge is currently estimated at 4332m³/day compared a mean flow in the Ouse in excess of 1,185,408 m³/day (which is the flow at Offord, upstream of Earith).</p>	

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>The current consented dry weather flow (i.e. foul sewage excluding surface drainage) at the works is 3350 m³/day. However, Anglian Water plc has submitted a proposal to Ofwat under PRO9 (i.e. spending proposals for the period 2010 to 2015) to increase the consent to 6992m³/day. Whilst the existing consent would not be able to accommodate additional influent from proposed development at Northstowe, the proposed new consent would.</p> <p>The proposed revised consent would have associated improvements in effluent quality, to ensure no deterioration in downstream water quality, specifically tightening of effluent quality to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemical Oxygen Demand - 10 mg/l (evidence in the Phase 2 WCS indicates the consent might need to be set to 9 mg/l to ensure no deterioration); • Ammonia - 5 mg/l; • Phosphate - 2 mg/l. <p>Thus, any requirement for HRA associated with additional sewage discharge arising at Northstowe rests with Anglian Water Services as the body promoting the change in consented discharge and the Environment Agency as the competent authority considering that revised consent. Based on the revised consents being negotiated between Anglian Water and the Environment Agency this will ensure that there is no deterioration in the downstream watercourse due to growth. Additional flow in the Swavesey Drain network could potentially result from an increase in the rate of surface runoff into</p>	

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	<p>watercourses as development is established at the Northstowe greenfield site. However, as this is being promoted as an Eco-Town it will have a high level of surface water attenuation which, with proposed on-site flood storage for events up to those with a 1 in 200 chance of occurring in any year, would result in run-off rates lower than existing greenfield.</p> <p>Thus, Ouse Washes SAC and Ramsar site can be screened out of any further assessment, but it is noted that implementation of the Northstowe development as planned is subject to approval of the proposed consent revision at Uttons Drove sewage treatment works. And hence further HRA may be required dependent upon the outcome of consenting process / details and appropriate implementation and management of SUDS.</p> <p>All sites mentioned are outside the Cambridge City Council boundary.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA's) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the Minerals and Waste policies and allocations, including the allocation at Block Fen / Langwood Fen. No adverse effects were concluded for the Ouse Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar from the policies and allocation contained within the Minerals and Waste documents.</p> <p>In South Cambridgeshire Development could theoretically have</p>	

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>an impact on water quantity, through run off from the sites, or water use. It could also have an impact on water quality, through additional waste products produced. The majority of the District of South Cambridgeshire drains into the River Great Ouse catchment. The Ouse Washes (SAC and Ramsar) form part of this river system. The Swavesey Drain tributary, which drains the northwest part of the District, joins the Great Ouse upstream of the washes. This drain is also utilised by the Uttons Drove wastewater treatment works, which is planned to be utilised to serve Northstowe, as well as Cambourne. It is noted that seasonal flooding plays an important role in the integrity of the Ouse Washes. The Great Ouse, including the Ouse washes, has been identified as a Eutrophic Sensitive Area (Eutrophication occurs where the nutrient richness of the water causes excess growth and decay of algae and other plants, leading to a lack of oxygen. This can be detrimental to wildlife).</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale. An Air Quality Policy will also be</p>	<p>As the Ouse Washes is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in new developments and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and the</p>

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>included in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014; this policy relates to air pollution from all potential sources and seeks to ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on air quality.</p> <p>As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from the Ouse Washes, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have a likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>The level of development proposed by the South Cambridgeshire District Councils Issues and Options Report could result in increased levels of atmospheric pollution, through the emissions created by new developments or increased journeys. However as the sites are not in close proximity to the site options proposed, it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on their nature or conservation objectives. The report also proposes options to promote sustainable forms of transport.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of Cambridge contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to the Ouse Washes. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p>	<p>implementation of an Air Quality policy through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 aim to reduce pollution levels.</p>

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

Overall Conclusions:
 The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031 SPD, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for the Ouse Washes. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from policies and allocations contained within the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents no adverse effects were identified on the Ouse Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar site.

Screening Matrix for the Portholme SAC

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the site</p>	<p>Portholme SAC</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 237708</p> <p>This site has been designated as a SAC due to it being the best example of lowland hay meadow (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) in the East of England. The site is over 90ha in size and is the largest surviving alluvial flood meadow, traditionally managed, in the UK. There has been a long history of favourable management at the site, with little of the site being subjected to agricultural improvement. As a result it demonstrates good conservation of both its structure and function. The site supports a small population of fritillary (<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>).</p>																		
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect the Ouse Washes?</p>	<p>The site is located outside of Cambridge City, within Huntingdonshire District Council's area.</p> <p>The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document affects the whole of the Local Authority area of Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the city council's Local Development Framework. Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan and the Cambridge East area action. The Cambridge Local Plan will contain the following statutory requirements: core strategy; development control policies; site-specific allocations. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the North West Cambridge area action plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p> <p>Other relevant policies:</p>																		
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Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007																		

Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council	
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031, South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2 – Part 1 Joint Consultation on Development Strategy and Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge	2013
Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD,	2008
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD	2009
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:	
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document	2011
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document	2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A – Mineral and Transport Proposals	2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map B – Waste Management Proposals	2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map C – Mineral Safeguarding Areas	2011
o The Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document	2011
o The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document	2011
o The RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD	2012
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Huntingdonshire District Council	
Huntingdonshire Core Strategy	2009
Huntingdonshire Development Management DPD Proposed Submission, 2010	2010
Huntingdon West Area Action Plan,	2011
Local Plan to 2036	In progress
Huntingdonshire Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD – Issues Report	2009

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does not propose any development that will take land from Portholme SAC and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.	There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species	None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site. The conservation objectives for the Portholme SAC relate to	Due to the distance of the site from the city it

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
outside the protected sites	species of flora located within the site. While the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to Portholme. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.	is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	<p>Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Plan are set to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation. However, no major proposals contained within the Draft Cambridge Local Plan, are within 5km of the site.</p> <p>In South Cambridgeshire increasing the dwelling stock in the district could increase demand for countryside recreation. However, the site is some distance from the District. There are other countryside access opportunities, existing or proposed, available in more accessible locations to the major centres of population. This includes the Fen Drayton Lakes near Northstowe. New strategic open spaces are already planned, and the Green Infrastructure Strategy proposes new countryside recreation opportunities, to support growth in the area.</p>	<p>While the provision of an element of residential development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from the Portholme SAC leads to the conclusion that the Plan is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data. Therefore it is considered unlikely that the level of public use at Portholme SAC will increase greatly as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Portholme is located within Huntingdonshire District Council's administrative area. The minimum dwelling provision between 2001 and 2021, as required by the RSS, for Huntingdonshire was 11,200 units. The majority of this development was to be concentrated in the most sustainable locations (i.e. market towns) with limited growth in large villages. Huntingdonshire District Council are currently in the process of developing a new Local Plan, their initial issues and options document was consulted on between 21 May and 24 June 2012. This sought initial comment on low, medium and high growth options. Within these are choices of where the homes could be built. Their Plan will include consideration of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone and other proposed development on the Airfield.. more than half of Huntingdonshire lies within 17.2 km of this site (the typical distance travelled to visit a countryside site for the day according to the most recent England Day Visits Survey) with Huntingdon, Brampton and Godmanchester all situated within 2km of the site</p> <p>Huntingdonshire monitors the progress of their Habitats Regulations Assessment and has measures in place to remedy this situation. They monitor standards for provision of new semi-natural greenspace for new developments in line with the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and ensure that Natural England ANGST criteria are met in order to reduce the pressure on European sites (specifically Portholme SAC, Rutland Water SPA and Orton Pit SAC) Any greenspace created to fulfil these standards will need to serve a similar recreational function to the European sites from which they are</p>	

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>intended to draw recreational users (i.e. primarily dog walking and the appreciation of nature). The policy should also include a note requiring any new open space to be provided in parallel with or in advance of the new development being occupied.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2011). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as Portholme.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Portholme SAC as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	
Water quantity and quality	<p>The increase in housing identified in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will place higher demand on water. However policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand, setting water consumption requirements in line with levels 5 and 6 of the code for sustainable homes. In addition, all new development will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems through the Integrated Water Management and Water Cycle Policy. As the site allocations</p>	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will be used to guide development and determine planning applications in the City. It will contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at the Portholme SAC. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, will not result in likely significant impacts on the nature conservation objectives of the site.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>within Cambridge City are some distance away from Portholme SAC, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will have no likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>While it is recognised that while there would be an increase in water consumption and in theory on water quality through increased run off as a result of site allocations proposed in Cambridge City and on the fringes of the City the potential impact will be kept to a minimum As the allocation sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Portholme it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have a likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p>	<p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRA's for the Minerals and Waste policies and allocations, including the borrowpits allocations at South West Brampton and West Brampton.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy Phase 2 findings (August 2011) - This site did not meet the criteria to be included in the assessment.</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire state that Development could theoretically have an impact on water quantity, through run off from the sites, or water use. It could also have an impact on water quality, through additional waste products produced. The hay meadows are located up stream on the River Ouse catchment. There are general options proposed in the options report to address water quality and flooding, and to protect designated sites.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA's) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the policies and allocations, including the mineral borrowpits at South West Brampton and West Brampton. No adverse effects were concluded for Portholme SAC owing to potential pathways being too long for effects to occur in relation to dust and the two borrowpit sites upstream from Portholme not intercepting significant volumes of flood flows.</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and	As Portholme SAC is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale. An Air Quality Policy will also be included in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014; this policy relates to air pollution from all potential sources and seeks to ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on air quality. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Portholme SAC, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City is unlikely to have a significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new development, which is hoped should lead to a reduction in levels of pollution in the immediate environs. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Portholme SAC. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The site is located close to the A14, however improvements are planned which will lead to the rerouting of the A14. This will lead to the removal of a significant amount of traffic away from the site and should lead to a reduction in levels of pollution.</p>	<p>changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in new developments and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and the implementation of an Air Quality policy through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 aim to reduce pollution levels.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRA's for the Minerals and Waste policies and allocations, including the borrowpit allocations at South West Brampton and West Brampton.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA's) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the policies and allocations, including the mineral borrowpits at South West Brampton and West Brampton. No adverse effects were concluded for Portholme SAC owing to potential pathways being too long for effects to occur in relation to dust and the two borrowpit sites upstream from Portholme not intercepting significant volumes of flood flows.</p>	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

Overall Conclusions:
 The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Portholme SAC. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from policies and allocations contained within the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents no adverse effects were identified on Portholme SAC.

Screening Matrix for the Breckland SAC

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the site</p>	<p>Breckland SAC</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL862948</p> <p>This site has been designated as a SAC due to its Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands, Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation and European dry heaths</p> <p>The site is over 7548.06 ha in size. Breckland in East Anglia is the most extensive surviving area of the rare grassland type CG7 <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Hieracium pilosella</i> – <i>Thymus praecox</i> grassland. The grassland is rich in rare species typical of dry, winter-cold, continental areas, and approaches the features of grassland types in central Europe more than almost any other semi-dry grassland found in the UK. The terrain is relatively flat, with few physical variations, but there are mosaics of calcareous grassland and heath/acid grassland, giving rise to patterns of structural variation.</p>												
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect the Ouse Washes?</p>	<p>The site is located outside of Cambridge City, within the unitary authority of Norfolk; Suffolk</p> <p>The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document affects the whole of the Local Authority area of Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the city council's Local Development Framework. Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan, and the Cambridge East area action plan. The Cambridge Local Plan will contain the following statutory requirements: core strategy; development control policies; site-specific allocations. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p> <p>Other relevant policies:</p>												
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Title</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge</td> <td>2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report</td> <td>2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD</td> <td>2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD</td> <td>2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD</td> <td>2006</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Title		Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013	Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012	Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	2011	Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010	Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2006
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Cambridge Local Plan 2006	2006
Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007
Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007
Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council	
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031, South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2 – Part 1 Joint Consultation on Development Strategy and Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge	2013
Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD,	2008
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD	2009
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:	
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document	o 2011
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document	o 2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A – Mineral and Transport Proposals	o 2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map B – Waste Management Proposals	o 2012
o Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map C – Mineral Safeguarding Areas	o 2011
o The Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document	o 2011
o The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document	o 2011
o The RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD	o 2012
Cambridgeshire County Council	
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
South Cambridgeshire District Council	
South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD	2007
South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,	2010
South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD	2007

	Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD, Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD Orchard Park Design Guide SPD Health Impact Assessment SPD Landscape in New Developments SPD District Design Guide SPD Affordable Housing SPD Listed Buildings SPD Biodiversity SPD Trees and Development sites SPD Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC) Open Space in New Developments SPD Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD Kings Lynn and West Norfolk King's Lynn & West Norfolk Core Strategy King's Lynn & West Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies SuffolkCounty Council • Waste Core Strategy • Minerals Core Strategy • Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD	2008 2011 2011 2011 2010 2010 2010 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2007 2006 2007 2011 2011 • 2011 • 2008 • 2009
THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does not propose any development that will take land from Breckland SAC and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.	There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.

Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	<p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p> <p>The conservation objectives relate to heathlands. While the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge; it will not have a significant impact on the sheathland due to the distance from the site. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.</p>	<p>Due to the distance of the site from the city it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.</p> <p>Allocations identified in South Cambridgeshire district Councils the Issues and Options Report is not likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.</p>
Recreational pressure and disturbance	<p>Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Plan are set to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation. However, no major proposals contained within the Draft Cambridge Local Plan, are within 5km of Breckland SAC.</p> <p>The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan proposes to increase the dwelling stock by 20,000 or less. Increasing the dwelling stock in the district could increase demand for countryside recreation. However, no options identified are within 5km of the site. Access to the wider site away from rights of way is limited. The site is a significant distance from development options identified in the Issues and Options Report.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the</p>	<p>While the provision of an element of residential development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from Breckland SAC Fen, leads to the conclusion that the Plan is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>It is considered unlikely that the level of public use of Breckland SAC will increase greatly as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>

	<p>Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2011). These proposals would be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as Breckland SAC.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Breckland SAC as a result of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	
<p>Water quantity and quality</p>	<p>The increase in housing identified in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will place higher demand on water. However policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand, setting water consumption requirements in line with levels 5 and 6 of the code for sustainable homes. In addition, all new development will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems through the Integrated Water Management and Water Cycle Policy. As the site allocations within Cambridge City are some distance away from Breckland SAC, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will have no likely significant impact on this site. As the site allocations within Cambridge City are some distance away from Breckland SAC, it is considered that the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with plans for development in Cambridge</p>	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will be used to guide development and determine planning applications in the City. It will contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at Breckland SAC. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, will be unlikely to have a significant impact on Breckland SAC.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects</p>

¹ Protected sites are often identified in compartments or units which together form a whole area.

	<p>City will have no likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Breckland SAC. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>In South Cambridgeshire Development could theoretically have an impact on water quantity, through run off from the sites, or water use. It could also have an impact on water quality, through additional waste products produced. There are general options proposed in the options report to address water quality and flooding, and to protect designated sites. The impact of water use is explored in the Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy. Cambridge Water Company's strategy to provide additional public water supply to developments at Cambridge would include abstracting the full licensed amount from the boreholes in the Thetford area with no additional abstraction over and above this. Between 2000 and 2010 the Environment Agency reviewed all permissions that were granted before the Habitats Regulations came into force (the 'review of consents'). Thus the abstraction licenses currently in force at Euston and Brettenham have been considered to have acceptable levels of risk of groundwater drawdown within the Breckland European sites. Proposed options regarding level off growth are lower than the level of growth of the East of England Plan which guided Cambridge Water Resource Management Plan.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a</p>	<p>were concluded in the HRA's for the Minerals and Waste policies and allocations, including the allocations for a clinical waste facility at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge and the Area of Search Allocation for a replacement Waste Water Treatment Works North of Ely.</p>
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	<p>result of new development, many of the plans identified which are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004). Any additional water abstraction from Wicken Fen can only take place if it is shown that it does not adversely affect the sites ecological integrity (Source: The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Document, Environment Agency October 2006).</p> <p>The water level problems identified as a vulnerability of the site primarily relate to its relationship with the river Cam and issues caused by flood protection measures local to the site introduced in the 1960's.</p> <p>Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy Phase 2 assessment findings (August 2011)</p> <p>Breckland SPA is designated for stone curlew, nightjar and woodlark, none of which are associated with water or wetland habitats. Breckland SAC is mostly associated with dry grassland (59%) and heath (20%), plus various woodland types (19%). Water and wetland habitats are relatively limited, totalling only 1.5% of the area and comprising a mix of rivers, standing waters, fens, bog and marsh.</p> <p>The HRA consideration under the Cambridge WCS relates to</p>	
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	<p>the potential to secure additional public water supply from existing major groundwater boreholes to the east of Thetford, and the effects that this could have on groundwater levels and on associated hydrological connections with habitats within the SPA or SAC.</p> <p>The existing boreholes are located near Euston in the Black Bourn valley and at Brettenham in the River Thet valley. Neither borehole site is directly associated with any Breckland SPA compartment. However, there are SPA compartments¹ associated with the Little Ouse River valley downstream of Euston and the River Thet valley downstream of Brettenham. Additionally, the Environment Agency's characterisation of river basins under the Water Framework Directive has identified that Breckland has a number of groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE), i.e. wetland systems that are supplied by groundwater as opposed to river water or direct rainfall and overland flow. Drawdown of groundwater levels as a result of additional abstraction could result in damage to associated GWDTEs.</p> <p>Since the groundwater aquifer has been identified as vulnerable to over-abstraction, no new consumptive abstractions will be licensed by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Cambridge Water Company's strategy to provide additional public water supply to developments at Cambridge would include abstracting the full licensed amount from the boreholes in the Thetford area with no additional abstraction over and above this. Additionally, the bulk transfer infrastructure owned and operated by Cambridge Water Company to transfer water from Thetford to Cambridge would not require modification.</p>	
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	<p>Between 2000 and 2010 the Environment Agency reviewed all permissions that were granted before the Habitats Regulations came into force (the 'review of consents'). Thus the abstraction licences currently in force at Euston and Brettenham have been considered to have acceptable levels of risk of groundwater drawdown within the Breckland European sites. Since this licensed abstraction will not change with the proposed developments at Cambridge, there is no risk that these would have an adverse impact on any Breckland SPA or SAC conservation objectives.</p> <p>Thus, Breckland SPA and SAC can be screened out of any further assessment.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA's) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the minerals and waste policies and allocations, including the proposed clinical waste facility at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge and the Ely North Area of Search for a replacement Waste Water Treatment Works. No adverse effects were concluded for Breckland SPA and SAC owing to the identified pathways being too great in distance.</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment</p>	<p>As Breckland SAC is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use</p>

	<p>of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale. An Air Quality Policy will also be included in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014; this policy relates to air pollution from all potential sources and seeks to ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on air quality.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Breckland SAC. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The level of development proposed by the South Cambridgeshire District Councils Issues and Options Report could result in increased levels of atmospheric pollution, through the emissions created by new developments or increased journeys. However as the sites are not in close proximity to the site options proposed, it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on their nature or conservation objectives. The options report proposes general policy requirements that development does not harm the identified European Sites and to address air quality.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA's) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the minerals</p>	<p>of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of new developments and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and the implementation of an Air Quality policy through the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 aim to reduce pollution levels.</p> <p>The adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents were subject to a full Habitats Regulations Assessment which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council as the relevant competent authorities. No adverse effects were concluded in the HRA's for the Minerals and Waste policies and allocations, including the allocations for a clinical waste facility at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge and the Area of Search Allocation for a replacement Waste Water Treatment Works North of Ely.</p>
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	<p>and waste policies and allocations, including the proposed clinical waste facility at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge and the Ely North Area of Search for a replacement Waste Water Treatment Works. No adverse effects were concluded for Breckland SPA and SAC owing to the identified pathways being too great in distance.</p>	
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<p>Agencies consulted</p>	<p>Natural England</p>
<p>Response to consultation</p>	<p>To follow</p>

<p>Overall Conclusions: The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Breckland SPA and SAC. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from policies and allocations contained within the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents no adverse effects were identified on Breckland SPA and SAC.</p>
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Appendix E: Equalities Impact Assessment

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment



Completing an Equality Impact Assessment will help you to think about what impact your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service may have on people that live in, work in or visit Cambridge, as well as on City Council staff.

The template is easy to use. You do not need to have specialist equalities knowledge to complete it. It asks you to make judgements based on evidence and experience. There are guidance notes on the intranet to help you. You can also get advice from David Kidston, Strategy and Partnerships Manager on 01223 457043 or email david.kidston@cambridge.gov.uk or from any member of the Joint Equalities Group.

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service:

Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Draft Submission Plan

2. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

Set out the vision, objectives and plan for the development of Cambridge between 2011 and 2031. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge.

3. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick those that apply)

- Residents
- Visitors
- Staff

A specific client group or groups (please state):

All people who live, work and visit Cambridge and the following groups:

SPECIFIC CONSULTATION BODIES

- Anglian Water
- Barton Parish Council
- British Gas
- Cambridge Crown Court
- Cambridge University Hospital (Addenbrooke's)
- Cambridge Water Company
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust
- Comberton Parish Council
- Coton Parish Council
- Cottenham Parish Council
- E.On Energy

3. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick those that apply)

- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- EDF Energy
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Fen Ditton Parish Council
- Fenland District Council
- Fulbourn Parish Council
- Girton Parish Council
- Grantchester Parish Council
- Great Shelford Parish Council
- Hauxton Parish Council
- Highways Agency
- Histon and Impington Parish Councils
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Horningsea Parish Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- Madingley Parish Council
- Milton Parish Council
- N Power
- National Grid Transco
- Natural England
- Network Rail
- Norfolk Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority
- Npower Renewables
- Orchard Park Community Council
- Peterborough City Council
- Scottish and Southern Electric
- Scottish Power
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Teversham Parish Council

COUNCILLORS AND MPS

- 42 x City Councillors
- All County Councillors (City Wards)
- Julian Huppert MP
- Andrew Lansley MP

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- Age Concern Cambridgeshire
- Arthur Rank Hospice Charity
- Cambridge Citizens Advise Bureau
- Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum
- Cambridge Federation of Residents' Associations
- Cambridge Interfaith Group
- Cambridgeshire Older Peoples Enterprise (COPE)
- Cambridgeshire Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium (CVSIC)
- Disability Cambridgeshire
- East of England Faiths Council
- Encompass Network

3. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick those that apply)

- Irish Traveller Movement in Britain
- National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups
- The Church of England Ely Diocese
- The COVER Group
- The East Anglian Gypsy Council
- The GET Group
- Traveller Solidarity Network
- Work Advice Volunteering Education Training (WAVET)

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Cam Valley Forum
- Cambridge Carbon Footprint
- Cambridge Friends of the Earth
- Cambridge Past, Present and Future
- Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Conservators of the River Cam
- Countryside Restoration Trust
- Hobson's Conduit Trust
- National Trust
- RSPB Eastern England Office
- The Wildlife Trust
- Transition Cambridge

DEVELOPERS/AGENTS

- Artek Design House
- Barratt Eastern Counties
- Barton Wilmore
- Beacon Planning Ltd
- Bellway Homes
- Berkeley Homes
- Bidwells
- Bovis Homes Ltd
- Brookgate
- Capita Symonds
- Carter Jonas
- Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologist
- Cheffins
- Countryside Properties
- DPP
- Drivers Jonas
- Estate Management and Building Service, University of Cambridge
- Gallagher Estates
- Grosvenor
- Home Builders Federation
- Icen Projects Ltd
- Januarys
- Liberty Property Trust
- RPS

3. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick those that apply)

- Savills
- Skanska UK Plc
- Taylor Vinters
- Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd
- Terrance O'Rourke
- The Home Builders Federation
- The Howard Group of Companies
- The Universities Superannuation Scheme
- Unex

BUSINESSES

- ARM Holdings
- Cambridge Cleantech
- Cambridge Energy Forum
- Cambridge Hoteliers Association
- Cambridge Network
- Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce
- CRACA
- Creative Front
- Ely Cathedral Business Group
- Encompass Network
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Future Business
- Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership
- Love Cambridge
- Marshalls Group of Companies
- One Nucleus
- Redgate Software
- Royal Mail Group Ltd
- St John's Innovation Centre

EDUCATION

- Anglia Ruskin University
- University of Cambridge
- All Colleges of the University of Cambridge
- The Bursars' Committee
- Sixth Form Colleges
- Private Schools
- Cambridge Regional College
- Language Schools
- Secondary Schools in Cambridge

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS

- All residents associations in Cambridge
- FeCRA (Federation of Cambridge Residents Associations)

OTHERS

- All who responded to the Issues and Options 1 and 2 Consultation
- Argyle Street Housing Cooperative

3. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick those that apply)

- BT Open Reach Newsites
- Cable and Wireless UK
- Cambridge Association of Architects
- Cambridge Cycling Campaign
- Cambridge Local Access Forum
- Cambridgeshire Campaign for Better Transport
- Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Design Council/CABE
- Fenners Lawn Residents Association Ltd
- Friends of Milton Road Library
- Local Strategic Partnership
- Mobile Operators Association
- Registered Social Landlords
- Shape East
- Sport England
- The Linchpin Project

4. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this? (Please tick)

- New
- Revised
- Existing

5. Responsible directorate and service

Directorate: Environment

Service: Planning

6. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

- No
- Yes (please give details):

See answer to question 3.

7. Potential impact

Please list and explain how this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could **positively** or **negatively** affect individuals from the following equalities groups.

When answering this question, please think about:

- The results of relevant consultation that you or others have completed (for example with residents, people that work in or visit Cambridge, service users, staff or partner organisations).
- Complaints information.
- Performance information.
- Information about people using your service (for example whether people from certain equalities groups use the service more or less than others).
- Inspection results.
- Comparisons with other organisations.
- The implementation of your piece of work (don't just assess what you think the impact will be after you have completed your work, but also think about what steps you might have to take to make sure that the implementation of your work does not negatively impact on people from a particular equality group).
- The relevant premises involved.
- Your communications.
- National research (local information is not always available, particularly for some equalities groups, so use national research to provide evidence for your conclusions).

(a) Age (any group of people of a particular age, including younger and older people)

Yes, a positive impact

The plan seeks to meet objectively assessed needs for homes and jobs (including affordable homes) in Cambridge, this includes needs for an aging and young population.

The plan includes policies that seek to ensure all residential development is built to lifetime homes standards and on schemes of more than 20 dwellings, 5% of units are built to wheelchair housing design standard or can easily be adapted to meet this standard. The plan also seeks the provision of specialist housing according to need (e.g. care homes and sheltered housing).

The Local Plan will also plan for infrastructure such as childrens play areas, benefiting families with young children.

The document is available for inspection in libraries for people who have difficulty getting into Council offices.

Potential issue – Although there is no evidence of any negative impact on young people, it is often difficult to engage with younger members of the community and officers may need to think about how young people can become involved in the policy making process.

- We have consulted various community organisations including Age Concern Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire Older Peoples Enterprise (COPE).

(b) Disability (including people with a physical impairment, sensory impairment, learning disability, mental health problem or other condition which has an impact on their daily life)

Yes, a positive impact

- the plan includes policies that seek to ensure all residential development is built to lifetime homes standards and on schemes of more than 20 dwellings, 5% of units are built to wheelchair housing design standard or can easily be adapted to meet this standard. The plan also seeks the provision of specialist housing according to need (e.g. care homes and sheltered housing.)

- the plan includes a policy that seeks to improve accessibility for all (including those with mobility issues)

- the plan includes policies that require high quality, inclusive design for all new developments as part of a strategy to achieve an accessible and sustainable environment.

- in addition to this, access issues will also be addressed through Building Regulations.

The document is available in large print on request, and officers can talk through issues with people who have difficulty reading.

The document is available for inspection in libraries for people who have difficulty getting into Council offices.

- We have consulted various community organisations including Disability Cambridgeshire.

(c) Gender

No, There is no evidence that the Local Plan will have differential impacts on people due to gender.

(d) Pregnancy and maternity

No, There is no evidence that the Local Plan will have differential impacts on people due to pregnancy and maternity.

(e) Transgender (including gender re-assignment)

No, There is no obvious evidence that the Local Plan will have differential impacts on people due to transgender (including gender re-assignment).

(f) Marriage and Civil Partnership

No, There is no evidence to show that this document will cause a differential impact on people due to marriage and civil partnership.

(g) Race or Ethnicity

No

- The document is written in plain English with minimal use of Jargon and the Council has a translations service available. There is a glossary included to explain technical terms used within the document.

- A policy sets out the criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites and will be used to guide the allocation of sites to meet the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population.

- We have consulted various community organisations including Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, The East Anglian Gypsy Council and Traveller Solidarity Network.

(h) Religion or Belief

No, There is no evidence to show that this document will cause a differential impact on people due to their religion or beliefs.

- We have consulted various community organisations including East of England Faiths Council and The Church of England Ely Diocese.

(i) Sexual Orientation

No, there is no evidence that the Local Plan will have differential impacts on people due to their sexual orientation.

(j) Other factor that may lead to inequality (please state):

8. If you have any additional comments please add them here

9. Conclusions and Next Steps

- If you have not identified any negative impacts, please sign off this form.
- If you have identified potential negative actions, you must complete the action plan at the end of this document to set out how you propose to mitigate the impact. If you do not feel that the potential negative impact can be mitigated, you must complete question 8 to explain why that is the case.
- If there is insufficient evidence to say whether or not there is likely to be a negative impact, please complete the action plan setting out what additional information you need to gather to complete the assessment.

All completed Equality Impact Assessments must be emailed to David Kidston, Strategy and Partnerships Manager, who will arrange for it to be published on the City Council's website. Email david.kidston@cambridge.gov.uk

10. Sign off

Name and job title of assessment lead officer: Stephen Miles, Planning Policy & Economic Development Officer

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted:
Ariadne Henry, CDO (Engagement & Inclusion)

Date of completion: 29th May 2013

Date of next review of the assessment: On next plan review, should the plan change significantly prior to submission (January 2014) an update to the EQIA will be carried out.

Action Plan

Equality Impact Assessment title:

Date of completion: 19th April 2013

Equality Group	Age
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	Potential issue – Although there is no evidence of any negative impact on young people, it is often difficult to engage with younger members of the community and officers may need to think about how young people can become involved in the policy making process.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	Ensure exhibitions are held outside of school / college times. Ensure consultation literature is readable and attractive to all ages. Investigate anything further that can be done to attract interest from young people (noting that political engagement from young people is an issue across the country). A pull out in Cambridge Matters. Longer than normal consultation period to allow for the fact that it runs over the summer holidays.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	Stephen Miles
Date action to be completed by	Prior to consultation (July 2013).

Equality Group	Disability
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

Equality Group	Gender
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

Equality Group	Pregnancy and Maternity
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

Equality Group	Transgender
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

Equality Group	Marriage and Civil Partnership
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

Equality Group	Race or Ethnicity
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

Equality Group	Religion or Belief
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

Equality Group	Sexual Orientation
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

Other factors that may lead to inequality	
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	No possible disadvantage or negative impact identified.
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	N/a.
Officer responsible for progressing the action	N/a.
Date action to be completed by	N/a.

**Appendix H: Cambridgeshire and
Peterborough
Memorandum of Co-operation
Supporting the Spatial Approach 2011 -
2031**

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation

Supporting the Spatial Approach 2011-2031



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Introduction: What is the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation?

Why was it produced?

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation has been produced by the local authorities to support the development of a coherent and comprehensive growth strategy across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. It has been developed in response to the removal of the statutory strategic planning tier¹.

This Memorandum builds upon a strong legacy of the local authorities working together, most notably in producing the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan 2003, which first set out the current spatial strategy for the wider area, and continuing through the East of England Plan and joint development strategy statements published in 2010 and 2012 (the 2012 Joint Statement is included as an appendix to this document).

What does it do?

The Memorandum aims to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Delivering sustainable development necessitates the local authorities actively working together across boundaries to “meet the development needs of their area”². This collaborative approach is enshrined in the duty to co-operate included in the Localism Act 2011. Appendix 1 reflects the outcomes of co-operation across the wider housing market area to establish the levels of provision for additional housing.

Recognising the primary role that individual local authorities have in addressing the duty to co-operate through their statutory Local Plans, the overarching aim of the Memorandum is to provide *additional* evidence that the duty has been addressed. It does this by demonstrating that the emerging district-level development strategies contribute to an area-wide strategic vision, objectives and spatial strategy, and by addressing strategic spatial planning issues across the area. In this sense it fulfils the role envisaged for jointly-prepared, non-statutory documents in the NPPF³.

What topics does it cover?

The Memorandum sets out the vision and objectives for the long-term development of the area, an overview of the evidence for future levels of growth, and the broad spatial approach that will help realise the vision and the area’s growth needs. These issues form this first part of the Memorandum, published in Spring 2013 to support the submission of Local Plans.

Additionally, a second part will address the main strategic planning priorities identified in the NPPF⁴ (see Figure 1 below). To ensure that the Memorandum is truly strategic, and therefore complementary to the emerging Local Plans, issues arising under each priority have been tested to assess whether they meet the principle of “greater than local”; that is, whether the issue affects more than one district. This second part of the Memorandum will be available later in 2013.

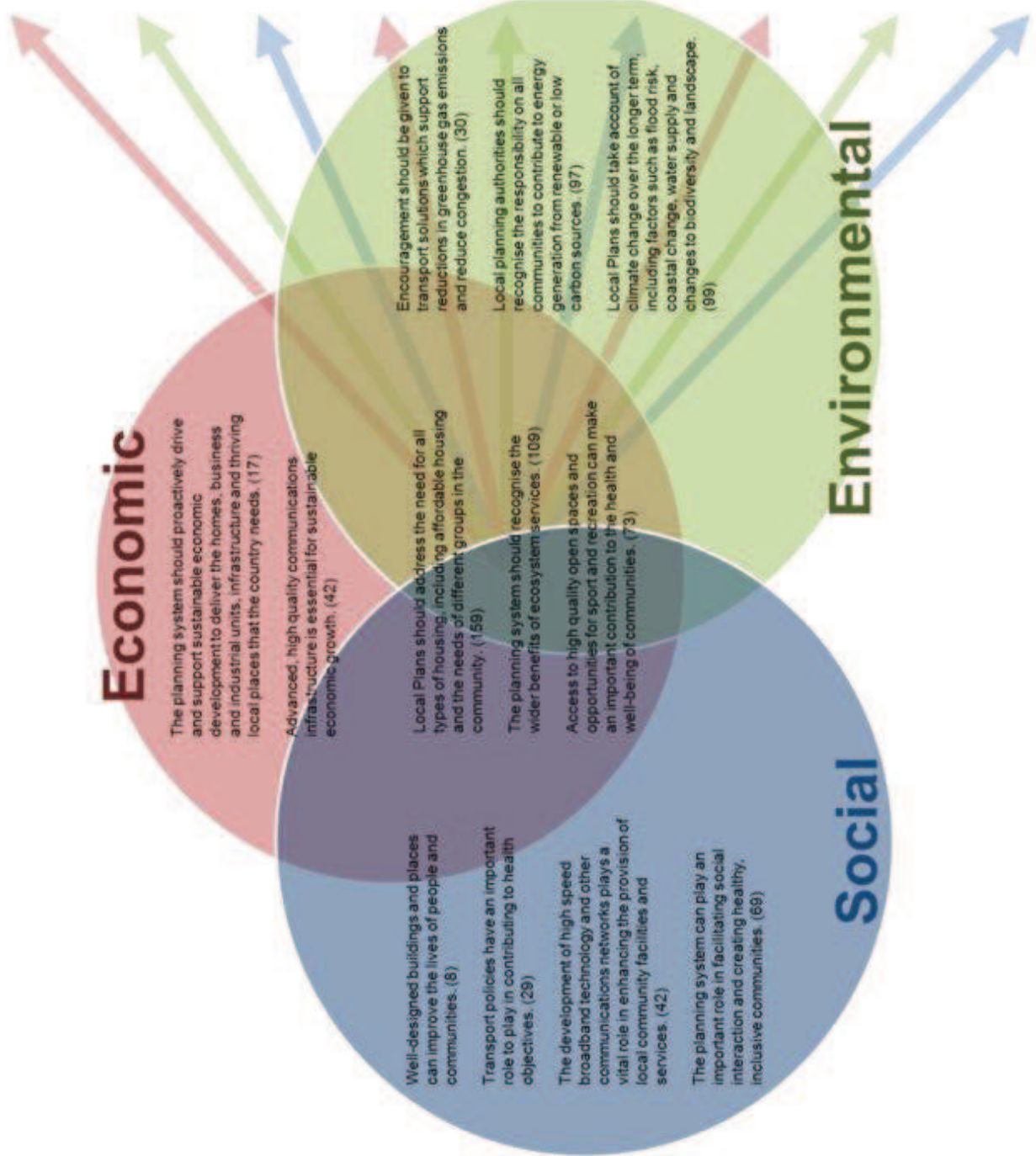
¹ The East of England Plan was revoked in January 2013.

² *National Planning Policy Framework*, paragraph 14.

³ *Ibid*, paragraph 181.

⁴ *Ibid*, paragraph 156.

Figure 1: Strategic priorities and the dimensions of sustainable development



What doesn't the Memorandum do?

In keeping with the principles of localism, this document respects the sovereignty of emerging Local Plans. Therefore, it does not set levels or locations for development or include prescriptive or directive policies.

What area does it cover?

The Memorandum focuses on the county of Cambridgeshire and the city of Peterborough. This area is covered by seven local authorities who worked together to create this document. These authorities are:

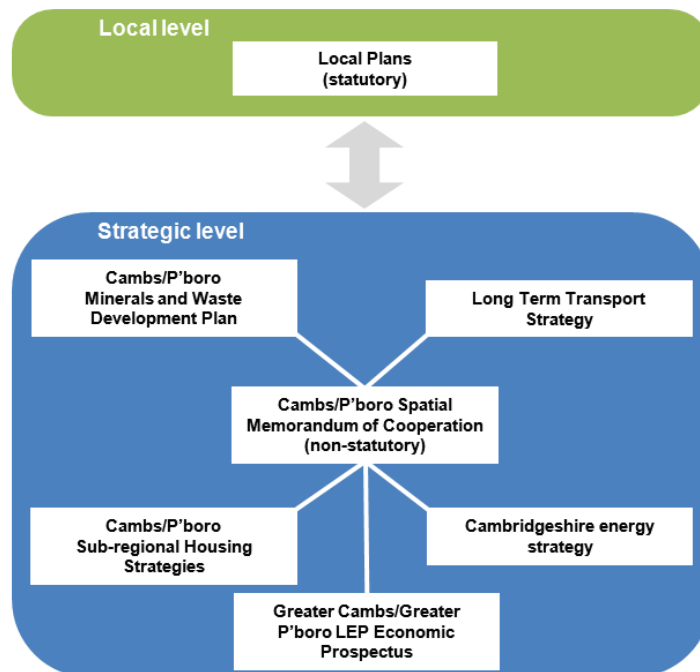
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Fenland District Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- Peterborough City Council
- South Cambridgeshire District Council

However, in line with the NPPF, the Memorandum takes account of several different functional geographies which overlap the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough area. These include the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership area, the respective Housing Market Areas for Cambridge and Peterborough, as well as the business planning areas covered by utilities providers and other stakeholders.

Who contributed to it?

The work has been developed alongside the LEP Economic Prospectus and the Cambridgeshire Long Term Transport Strategy. Figure 2 provides the context for the development of this strategic Memorandum.

Figure 2: Context of strategic planning work



What time-period does it cover?

This document mirrors current Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Plan horizons, looking for the most part to 2031, although it accounts for Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan horizon of 2036.

Spatial Portrait

The area covered by this Memorandum contains two cities, Cambridge and Peterborough, together with a number of market towns and numerous villages.

Cambridge is at the heart of a city region of international importance and reputation. It includes a world-class university, a strong knowledge-based economy and a built and natural environment that is second to none. Peterborough has a wide sphere of influence based around its diverse economy, good strategic road and rail links and is gaining momentum towards realising its ambition of being national 'environment capital'.

The area's economy has, as a whole, historically outperformed the national and regional economy and this continues to be the case, despite the challenges brought about by recession. However, economic prosperity is not spread evenly.

Many of the market towns in the south, including Huntingdon, St Neots and Ely, look to the Cambridge economy and services, although they continue to develop and strengthen their own local economies, retail and service offers. To the north there is a stronger relationship between places such as Ramsey and Whittlesey with Peterborough, while Wisbech is closer to King's Lynn.

The area contains a diverse range of natural environments. The Ouse and Nene Washes are of international importance for wildfowl and migratory birds, whilst low-lying fenland areas provide unique landscapes. Significant new and expanded habitat and green-space creation is a major objective for the area. Strategic examples include the award-winning Great Fen and Wicken Fen.

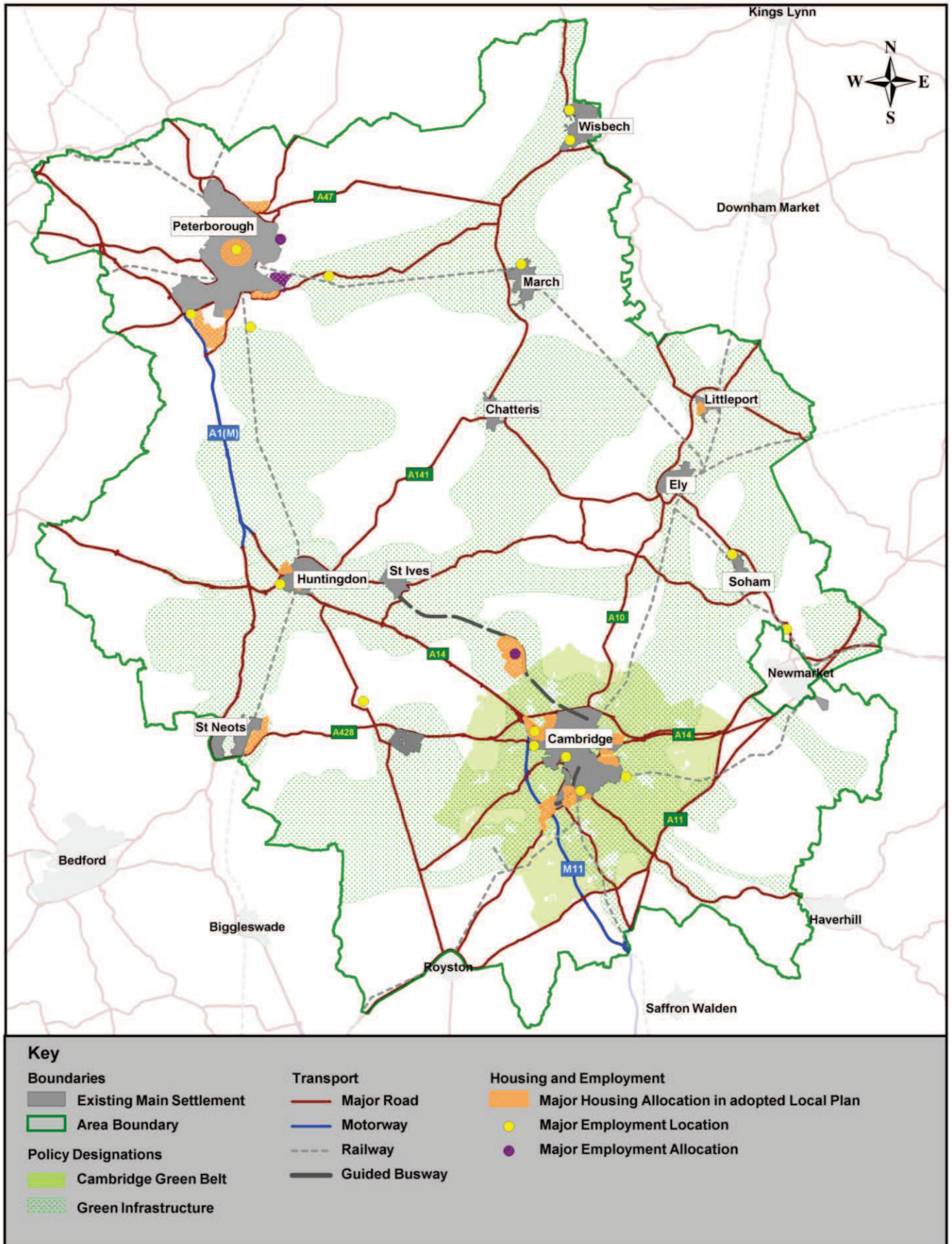
The area's economic strengths and related population growth have led to significant and continued pressure for growth over recent times. The development strategy established in the 2003 Structure Plan is currently being implemented, with major urban extensions and the new town of Northstowe coming forward. Cambridge University is planning a strategic expansion area to the north-west of the city, while the Addenbrookes biomedical campus has enhanced the institution's international reputation. Peterborough continues to implement a significant growth strategy through urban extensions, development at district centres and major city centre regeneration.

Housing affordability is acute in many parts of the strategic area, particularly to the south focused on Cambridge. It remains an important objective for the authorities to maximise affordable housing provision to support the social and economic well-being of the area and local communities.

The strategic road network is extremely busy and a number of key routes suffer congestion at peak times, particularly as a result of out-commuting from parts of the area. This reflects a need to create sustainable patterns of development, including access to public transport and a balance of jobs and homes.

The local authorities are working with government to address the current capacity challenges on the A14. There have been some successes in public transport, with the opening of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway, Peterborough's TravelChoice Initiative, and increased use of park and ride services. However, public transport services and use vary across the county. In rural areas, bus services tend to be less frequent with longer journey times, therefore these areas often rely on the private car for transport. The area is well served by the strategic rail network, with the East Coast Main Line, Fen Line and others providing links to London, Ipswich, Norwich and further afield. Recent years have seen an increase in rail patronage.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough in 2011



Economic and Demographic Framework: estimating development needs in the future

Evidence sources

Government policy requires local planning authorities to provide for the homes that the local population will need in the future. The principal sources of evidence for estimating how many people and jobs there will be in the future, and therefore how many homes will be needed, are demographic and economic projections and forecasts. No model can predict the future with absolute accuracy, but such forecasts provide the best estimate of future change using the data available. The Cambridgeshire authorities have considered housing demand across the Housing Market Area using a variety of national, sub-national and local models. The outputs from these, together with a wide range of other factors, are reflected in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

A robust yet pragmatic approach to using these projections must be applied, recognizing the inherent uncertainty in predicting future trends, while needing to plan for a particular number of jobs and houses. The approach taken to assessing housing need and demand is set out in detail in the Cambridge sub-region Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2012, chapter 12.¹

How many people?

Population growth is comprised of natural change (births and deaths) and migration (people moving in and out of an area). The assessment of population growth that has been undertaken takes account of economically-led population projections as well as demographically-led ones. Analysis of these projections suggests that 2011-31 there will be an increase of roughly 144,000 people in Cambridgeshire. Around 84% of this population growth is projected to consist of in-migration, a sign of the area's economic strengths and attractiveness to those seeking work.

Figure 3: Projected population change 2011-31

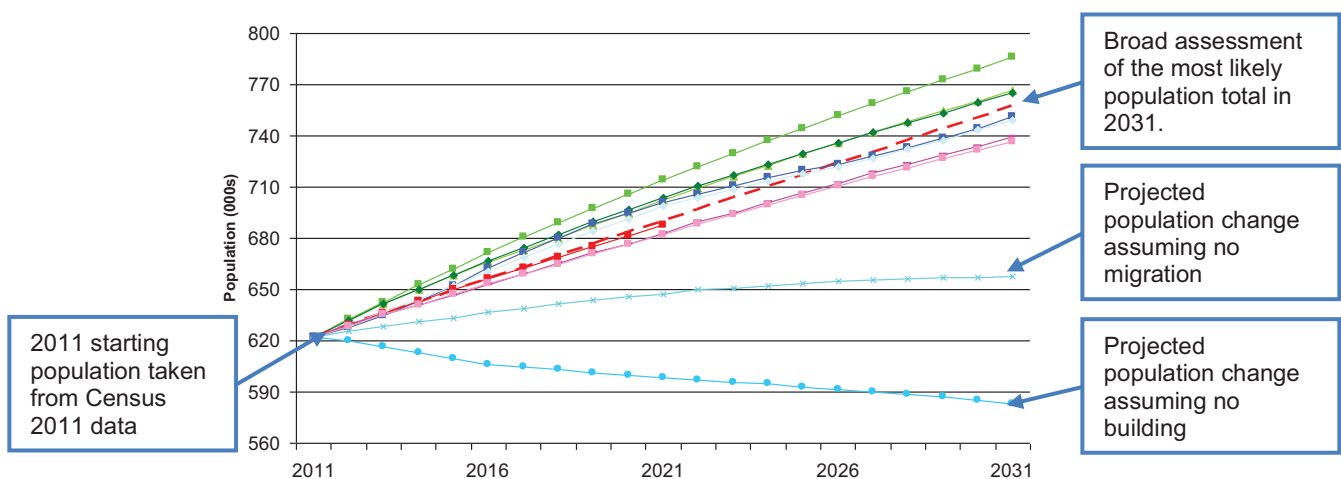


Table 1: Projected population change 2011-31

Area	2011	2031	Increase
Cambridgeshire	623,000	767,000	144,000

¹ Visit www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housing to view the Cambridge sub-region SHMA.

How many jobs?

The two available economic models² that project jobs numbers 2011-31 predict different trends of jobs change as the economy responds to the current recession. However, they show a similar total increase 2011-31 in the number of jobs arising in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (see Fig. 4). In terms of employment sectors, both models forecast strongest jobs growth in financial and business services, and jobs decline in manufacturing. These baseline forecasts don't include assumed jobs growth at Alconbury Enterprise Zone, which should result in a further 8,000 jobs. The conclusion that can be drawn is that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough economies will continue to perform strongly in a regional and national context, despite on-going economic challenges.

Figure 4: Projected Jobs Growth 2011-31

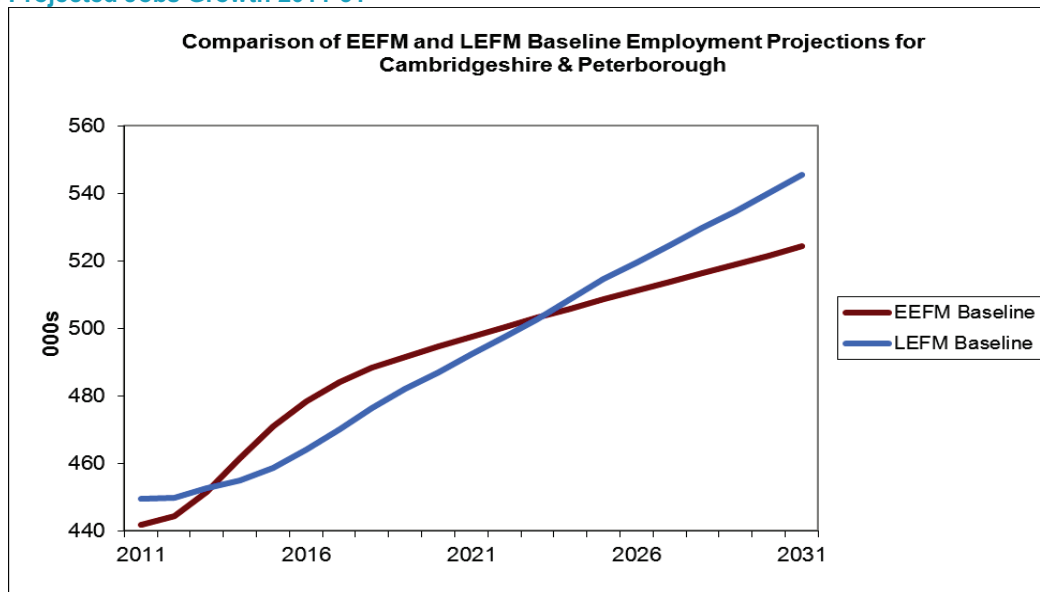


Table 2: Projected jobs growth 2011-31

Area	2011	2031	Increase
Cambridgeshire	325,000	396,000	71,000

How many homes?

The number of homes that are likely to be needed between 2011-31 is based upon our understanding of the jobs and people that will be in the area, as discussed above. These are derived from taking population figures at 2031 and applying assumed occupancy levels to achieve an indicative housing figure. The totals produced suggest that there will be a need 2011-31 for some 75,000 more homes in Cambridgeshire.

Table 3: Projected housing increase 2011-31

Area	2011	2031	Increase
Cambridgeshire	260,000	335,000	75,000

Peterborough

Peterborough's Local Development Framework, adopted in 2011, plans to provide 25,450 homes and 18,450 jobs between 2011 and 2026.

² The East of England Forecasting Model, Spring 2012 run (EEFM Baseline in Figure 4), and the Local Economy Forecasting Model spring 2012 run (LEFM Baseline in Figure 4).

Spatial Vision

By 2031 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will:

Offer attractive homes, jobs and a high quality of life in a range of distinctive urban and rural communities. This will provide opportunities for all residents and workers to achieve their maximum potential, and will facilitate healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

Have grown sustainably by locating new homes in and close to Cambridge and Peterborough and to other main centres of employment, including through planned urban extensions, and along key dedicated public transport routes, while avoiding dispersed or isolated new development which can increase unsustainable travel and restrict access to key services and facilities.

Be acknowledged as a world leader in innovation, new technologies, and knowledge-based business and research: yet more diverse in its economy across the area; including the expansion of appropriate-scale manufacturing and low carbon technologies, within and close to the main urban areas and at the Enterprise Zone at Alconbury.

Support the educational attainment and skills needed to realise the area's economic potential, via improved provision for further and higher education. In particular, the universities in Cambridge and Peterborough will have maintained and enhanced their reputations at national and international level as providers of high quality education and training.

Benefit from integrated transport networks, including being served by frequent high quality public transport within and between Cambridge, Peterborough and the market towns and district centres. There will be a closer relationship of homes to jobs and services, access to high quality routes for cycling and walking and good links to the countryside. A new station to the north of Cambridge and an enhanced east coast mainline will increase public transport accessibility, including to London.

Be an exemplar of low carbon living, efficient use of resources, sustainable development and green infrastructure; founded on Peterborough's eco-cluster and environment capital aspirations, Cambridge's emerging clean-tech cluster, the retention of Cambridge as a compact city, the development of Northstowe and the sustainable expansion of market towns and district centres with close links to village communities.

Be outstanding in the conservation and enhancement of its urban, rural and historic environment including vibrant city centres, attractive market towns, spacious fen landscapes, river valleys and a high degree of biodiversity.

Be well prepared for the impact of climate change and highly adapted to its effects, especially in the extensive low lying areas.

Spatial Objectives

<p>Development and growth</p>	<p>Plan for an overall level of growth that will support the economic, social and environmental needs of the area and result in sustainable patterns of development. Growth will need to be supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Making best use of existing transport and other infrastructure (including ICT) b) Future investment in transport and other necessary infrastructure to be provided by developer contributions and other identifiable resources. A strategic infrastructure plan will identify key priorities across the area together with likely sources of funding. <p>Transport investment will be focussed on facilitating sustainable modes of travel or improving essential access in growth areas to make optimum use of the resources likely to be available.</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p>Provide for a level and quality of housing growth to support the economic prospects and aspirations of local areas, while contributing to sustainable patterns of development across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and to the health and well-being of communities.</p> <p>Support the delivery of a high proportion of affordable homes, including homes of various sizes, types, tenures and costs to provide for the diversity of the area's housing and economic needs. The aim is to support the creation of mixed, balanced and cohesive communities.</p>
<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Economic prosperity will be promoted throughout the area. New development will be encouraged that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports the growth of a sustainable low carbon economy in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; • strengthens Peterborough and Cambridge's environment clusters, and both areas' high technology and knowledge-based clusters; and • is in locations that improve the alignment between homes and jobs. <p>Sustainable economic regeneration will be encouraged, particularly in Peterborough city centre, northern Cambridgeshire (for example, in the Nene port area), the rural areas and the urban centres of market towns.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>Sustainable transport opportunities will be required as a key component of new development.</p> <p>All growth and infrastructure investment is to be planned to minimise the need for unnecessary travel. Where travel and mobility is beneficial or essential, the use of public transport or cycling and walking is to be given priority.</p> <p>Home working, remote working and IT developments that reduce the need to travel are to be facilitated, including through Broadband.</p>

<p>Other infrastructure</p>	<p>The Connecting Cambridgeshire project (including Peterborough) will support economic growth and reduce the digital divide by providing superfast broadband access to at least 90% of existing premises, and better broadband to the rest, by 2015.</p> <p>Take a coordinated and forward-looking approach to energy, including generation, distribution and use. Renewable energy opportunities will be proactively identified and delivered. New development will achieve high energy efficiency standards, and opportunities for on-site energy generation will be considered where relevant</p>
<p>Water</p>	<p>Take a co-ordinated approach to water through water cycle studies to address water supply, quality, wastewater treatment and flood risk. High standards of water efficiency should be achieved in new development and flood risk assessments should be used effectively to ensure development is located appropriately.</p>
<p>Community and cultural infrastructure</p>	<p>Development should promote opportunities for a high quality of community life, including access to work opportunities, community facilities, safe walkable streets and a network of open spaces and green infrastructure.</p> <p>Cultural diversity, recreation and the arts are an integral part of existing and new communities and relevant facilities should be provided through new development.</p> <p>Priority will be given to regeneration and renewal in disadvantaged or declining communities.</p> <p>Community involvement will be essential to the design and implementation of all new communities and major developments.</p>
<p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Ensure that the overriding need to meet the challenge of climate change is recognised through the location and design of new development, ensuring that it is designed and constructed to take account of the current and predicted future effects of climate change. This includes achieving the highest possible standards in reducing CO₂ emissions in the built environment and transport choices.</p>
<p>The Natural Environment</p>	<p>To conserve and enhance the environment of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landscape and water resources (including the Cam, the Great Ouse and Nene and associated Washes) • habitats and species (biodiversity) • public access to and enjoyment of the County's environmental assets in urban and rural areas (green infrastructure) • minimising waste and pollution.

Spatial Approach

Background

The existing development strategy originated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 and with the support of all of the Cambridgeshire local authorities was incorporated in the East of England Plan (the Regional Spatial Strategy) published in 2008. These strategic plans informed the development of the City and District Councils' current Local Plan and Local Development Frameworks.

The key objective of the strategy is to secure sustainable development by locating new homes in and close to Cambridge and Peterborough and to other main centres of employment, while avoiding dispersed development which increases unsustainable travel and restricts access to key services and facilities. Further sustainable locations for growth focus mainly on Cambridgeshire's market towns and Peterborough's city and district centres, with one large new town (Northstowe) to be connected to Cambridge and other key locations through a new dedicated public transport option, the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.

Implementation of the strategy is on-going, with new urban extensions being delivered in Cambridge and Peterborough. Furthermore, the Busway is now operational and major developments, essential regeneration and infrastructure provision in Cambridgeshire's market towns continue to make positive progress.

The National Planning Policy Framework requires all local authorities to plan for sustainable development including planning positively for economic growth, with their local plans being prepared on the basis that objectively assessed development needs should be met. With the enactment of the Localism Act in 2011, all local authorities are now under a Duty to Co-operate in the preparation of their plans, both with each other and a range of other bodies.

Updating the Spatial Approach

The Cambridgeshire authorities are currently undertaking a review or roll forward of their existing plans. The need for this work results from a range of factors, including fostering continued economic growth, providing sufficient housing and the need for delivery of the necessary infrastructure to support the development of sustainable communities. The review or roll forward of plans will also need to take account of the fundamental changes that are likely to impact on the existing strategy – for example, the current unavailability of Cambridge Airport for housing development or the introduction of the Enterprise Zone at Alconbury. Peterborough City Council is not reviewing its existing development plan documents as these were recently adopted and provide an up-to-date and challenging growth strategy to 2026.

In undertaking the review or roll forward of their plans, the local authorities are clear that fundamentally they will continue to be guided by the strategic principles which underpinned the original growth strategy, first set out in the 2003 Structure Plan. Locating homes in and close to urban areas and to other main centres of employment is critical to ensure appropriate, sustainable development.

An updated approach across the area is informed fundamentally by an understanding of how much development is necessary over the defined period and where it will be located. Collective work undertaken by the local authorities to understand future population levels and the development needs arising from this, estimates that some 75,000 homes and

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71,000 jobs will need to be accommodated across Cambridgeshire by 2031. Peterborough is not reviewing its current plans and continues to address the challenging growth targets in its existing Core Strategy of 25,450 additional homes and 18,450 jobs by 2026.

Sustainable and deliverable locations and allocations in existing plans are likely to make up a significant proportion of the identified need for future land for homes and jobs. This is particularly the case where authorities have adopted core strategies or plans which have relatively long end dates. These existing allocations are founded on the principles of the existing overarching strategy and include development within and as major extensions to urban areas, and the planned new town of Northstowe.

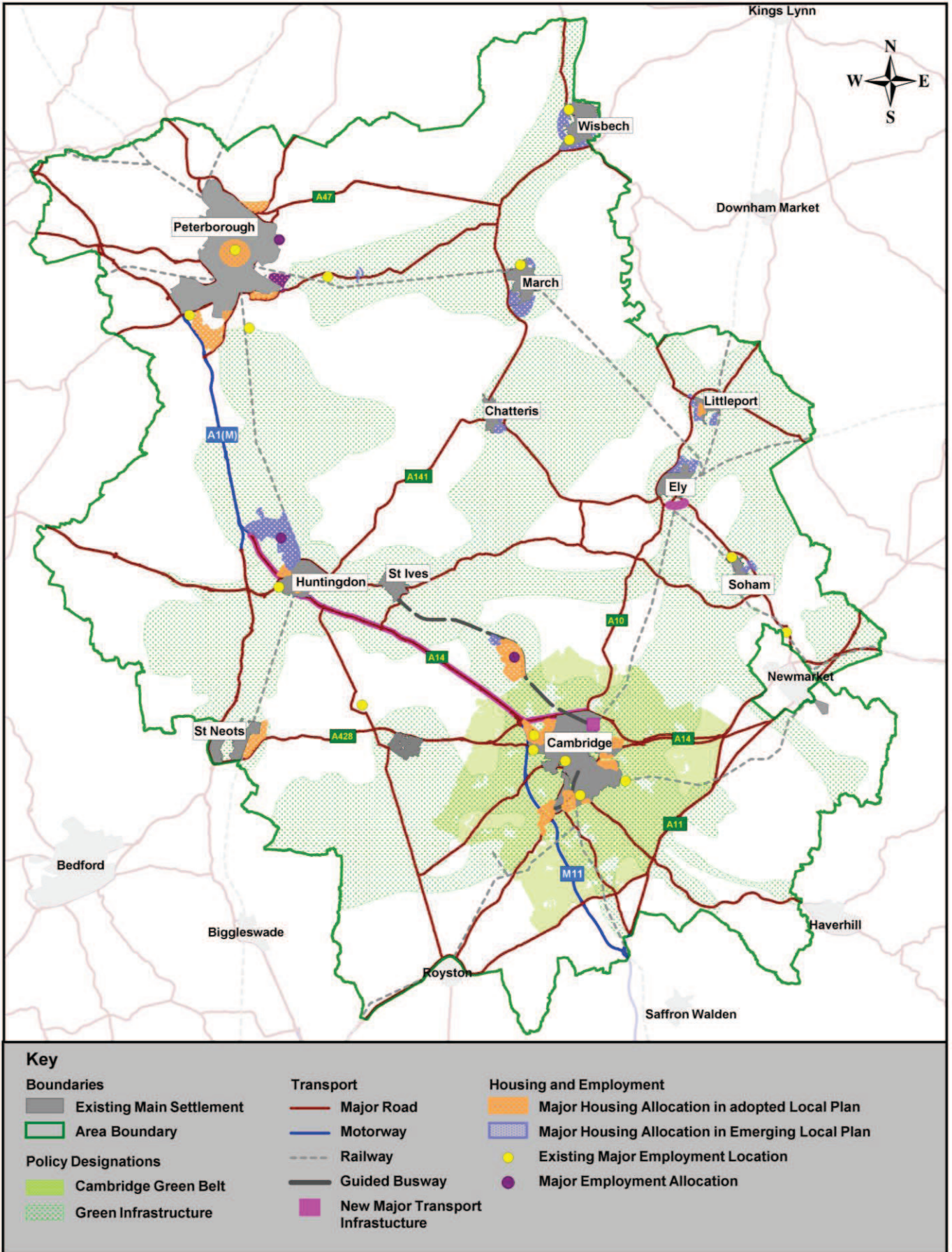
Further growth in Fenland will be directed towards the principal urban areas of March, Wisbech and Chatteris. A key objective is to ensure that growth complements and promotes sustainable economic regeneration. In East Cambridgeshire, a whole settlement masterplanning approach has been taken to planning for future development and this will lead to further planned development at Ely, Soham and to a lesser extent Littleport. The re-opening of Soham station and a southern bypass for Ely are important ambitions towards delivering sustainable growth. Increasing economic activity rates and diversifying the local economy remain important challenges in north Cambridgeshire as a whole.

Huntingdonshire will see a significant uplift in economic activity and population through the new Enterprise Zone on the former Alconbury Airfield. The increased population resulting from the creation of some 8,000 additional jobs will require a balanced and carefully planned approach to housing. Additional homes will be located close to these jobs and more generally population increases will be accommodated across the market towns and other sustainable locations. Ensuring sustainable travel choices are available is vital with the strategic scale of development anticipated at the Enterprise Zone. Key strategic elements could include a new rail station at Alconbury and links to the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire have a strong geographic relationship. Interdependencies between the two administrative areas are well-established through the location of key employment sites and patterns of travel to work. Urban capacity within Cambridge will be an important source of future development opportunities. This includes expanded employment opportunities around the proposed new Science Park rail station to the north of the city. The authorities will need to consider carefully the balance of development across their areas, taking account of the purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt, the sustainability of existing settlements and the opportunities to create new settlements. It is not expected that any unplanned strategic scale development, including any additional new settlements, will be accommodated within Cambridgeshire once the local plans are adopted.

Creating sustainable transport links between the main urban areas and centres of employment is a current and longer term strategic aim. Key elements of this network are already in place with the Guided Busway and emerging plans for a new rail station to the north of Cambridge. The further development of these linkages will build on the area's economic strengths, including its good links to London. Eventually, this should enable sustainable movement between Cambridge, Northstowe, the Enterprise Zone and Peterborough. This enhanced public transport network will in turn provide a focus for future sustainable growth.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough towards 2031



Scale (at A4): 1:400000

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Objectively Assessed Need for Additional Housing – Memorandum of Co-operation between the local authorities in the Cambridge Housing Market Area

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to have a clear understanding of housing needs in their area. To achieve this, they should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The SHMA should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period¹. This is a key part of the evidence base to address the NPPF requirement of ensuring that Local Plans meet the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, as far as is consistent with the policies set out in the Framework².
- 1.2 The Localism Act 2011 places a Duty to Co-operate on local planning authorities³. This requires them to engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in the preparation of development plan documents where this involves strategic matters. National policy in the NPPF adds to this statutory duty as it expects local planning authorities to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts.

2.0 The Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Market Area

- 2.1 The Cambridge Sub Region Housing Market Area comprises all five Cambridgeshire districts (Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire), plus the west Suffolk districts of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. Due to its historic and functional ties with Cambridgeshire, plus its own housing market area overlapping with the Cambridge Housing Market Area, Peterborough City Council has also collaborated with these local authorities.

3.0 Demonstrating the Duty to Co-operate

- 3.1 The seven districts within the housing market area, together with Peterborough City Council, have collaborated in recent months to meet the requirements of the NPPF set out in section 1.0. The outputs from this collaboration are a new chapter of the SHMA, which identifies the scale and mix of housing needed across the area by 2031 (and extending to 2036 for Huntingdonshire to meet its proposed local plan end date). Integral to this is a separate Technical Report, which provides an overview of the national, sub-national and local data drawn upon to inform the levels of housing need set out in the SHMA.
- 3.2 The outcome of this work is that an additional 93,000 homes are forecast to be needed across the housing market area between 2011 and 2031. The table below sets out the breakdown of this total figure in more detail.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 159.

² NPPF, paragraph 47.

³ Localism Act 2011, section 110.

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All dwelling change 2011 to 2031

District	All dwelling change 2011 to 2031
Cambridge	14,000
East Cambridgeshire	13,000
Fenland	12,000
Huntingdonshire	17,000 (21,000 to 2036)
South Cambridgeshire	19,000
Cambridgeshire	75,000
Forest Heath	7,000
St Edmundsbury	11,000
Housing sub-region	93,000

Source: Strategic Housing Market Assessment

- 3.3 In determining housing targets in their local plans, local authorities should take account of the requirements of national policy and local circumstances.
- 3.4 In this regard, it should be noted that the Peterborough housing market area overlaps into Cambridgeshire. Peterborough is the largest urban centre within the travel to work area for the Cambridgeshire sub-region and is a major employment location with good transport links and infrastructure. On the basis of currently available figures, it has a net daily in-commute from Cambridgeshire of around 7,000 people. Peterborough has an up to date Local Plan (Core Strategy adopted in 2011 and a Site Allocations DPD adopted in 2012) with a substantial housing growth target of 25,450 between 2009-26.
- 3.5 Based on this background and engagement between all the local authorities listed in section 2.0, under the Duty to Co-operate, it is acknowledged by the authorities that Peterborough, in its up to date Local Plan, has already accommodated a proportion of the housing need arising in the Cambridge Housing Market Area, and it has been agreed that this proportion could reasonably be assumed to amount to approximately 2,500 homes (i.e. around 10% of its overall housing target).
- 3.6 Separately, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire District Councils have made considerable progress to date with their local plan reviews and, therefore, have established a good understanding of their areas' development opportunities and constraints. They have also taken account of the July 2012 joint statement by Peterborough and the Cambridgeshire authorities which confirmed that the 'strategy is to secure sustainable development by locating new homes in and close to Cambridge and Peterborough and to other main centres of employment, while avoiding dispersed development'⁴.
- 3.7 Based on all of the above, and agreement between all the local authorities working within the Duty to Co-operate, it has been agreed that, in their Local Plans, provision should be made for 11,000 dwellings in Fenland and 11,500 dwellings in East Cambridgeshire, rather than the full identified need set out in the table above.
- 3.8 Overall, and taking account of the 2,500 dwelling element of the Cambridge HMA's need already met in Peterborough's Local Plan, this leaves 90,500

⁴ Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the local authorities, July 2012.

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dwellings to be provided in the Cambridge HMA to ensure that the full objectively assessed need for housing in the Cambridge HMA will be met in forthcoming Local Plan reviews. The level of provision to be made by district is set out in the table below.

All dwelling provision 2011 to 2031

District	All dwelling provision 2011 to 2031
Cambridge	14,000
East Cambridgeshire	11,500
Fenland	11,000
Huntingdonshire	17,000 (21,000 to 2036)
South Cambridgeshire	19,000
Cambridgeshire	72,500
Forest Heath	7,000
St Edmundsbury	11,000
Total	90,500

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The purpose of this memorandum is to formally record and make public the local authorities' agreement under the Duty to Cooperate to the position as set out in this Memorandum, subject to ratification by their full Council as part of their individual Local Plan preparation.
- 4.2 The eight authorities that form signatories to this memorandum agree, therefore, that the figures in the table above (and taking account of provision already met within Peterborough) represent the agreed level of provision by district in order to meet the overall identified need for additional housing within the Cambridge Sub Region Housing Market Area.

Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the local authorities¹

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2010 the Coalition Government announced its intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies (and by extension any 'saved' Structure Plan policies) and introduce a wholly locally-based planning system. In response to this changing policy environment the Cambridgeshire authorities issued a joint statement in autumn 2010 to set out their position in support of the existing, established development strategy for the County.
- 1.2 This statement updates and replaces that earlier one in the light of events since its publication in 2010. It is expanded to cover Peterborough in addition to Cambridgeshire, reflecting the history of joint working between the two areas, the shared objectives within the Local Enterprise Partnership, and the recent agreement to co-operate effectively and work together on strategic planning issues.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The existing development strategy originated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 and with the support of all of the Cambridgeshire local authorities was incorporated in the East of England Plan (the Regional Spatial Strategy) published in 2008. These strategic plans informed the development of the City and District Councils' Local Plan and Local Development Frameworks, which currently are being implemented.
- 2.2 The key objective of the strategy is to secure sustainable development by locating new homes in and close to Cambridge and Peterborough and to other main centres of employment, while avoiding dispersed development which increases unsustainable travel and restricts access to key services and facilities. Further sustainable locations for growth focus mainly on Cambridgeshire's market towns and Peterborough's district centres, with one large new town (Northstowe) to be connected to Cambridge and other key locations through a new dedicated public transport option, the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway.
- 2.3 Implementation of the strategy is on-going, with new urban extensions being delivered in Cambridge and Peterborough. With the Busway now up and running, significant development activity is underway in Cambridge's southern and north-west fringes and an application for a first phase for the new town of Northstowe has been submitted. Major developments, essential regeneration and infrastructure provision in Cambridgeshire's market towns continue to make positive progress.

3.0 National and Local Developments

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework, published recently, requires all local authorities to plan for sustainable development including planning positively for economic growth, with their local plans being prepared on the basis that

¹ Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Peterborough City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

objectively assessed development needs should be met. With the enactment of the Localism Act in 2011, all local authorities are now under a Duty to Co-operate in the preparation of their plans, both with each other and a range of other bodies.

- 3.2 The national economic situation has presented significant challenges in maintaining the pace of growth and the delivery of sufficient investment where it is most needed. In the face of these challenges, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local authorities have continued to take a positive attitude to delivery of the development strategy and have taken innovative approaches to funding challenges - for example, the equity investment in the southern fringe sites. This has enabled development to start earlier than would otherwise have been the case, whilst still securing a future financial return for the authorities, which can then be reinvested to support future high quality growth for the benefit of local communities.
- 3.3 The Greater Cambridge-Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership is now well-established and has secured the designation of an Enterprise Zone at the former Alconbury airfield. The County Council has also announced it is putting in place the funding to deliver a new rail station in the north of Cambridge, which will enhance public transport accessibility and provide some relief to congestion within the city. Work is now underway, led by the Department for Transport but working in partnership with the County and District Councils, to find a way forward for delivering improvements along the A14 corridor. The outcomes are critical in order to support a range of key development locations, including at Northstowe. An announcement from Government on the way forward is expected this summer.

4.0 The Response to these Challenges

- 4.1 Despite the clarity of and support for the existing development strategy, the local authorities realise the need to keep the broader, strategic perspective under consideration. As a result, all authorities except Peterborough City Council, which last year adopted a Core Strategy running to 2026, are undertaking a review or roll forward of their local plans.
- 4.2 The need for this work results from a range of factors, including fostering continued economic growth, providing sufficient housing and the need for delivery of the necessary infrastructure to support the development of sustainable communities. The review or roll forward of plans will also need to take account of the fundamental changes that are likely to impact on the existing strategy – for example, the current unavailability of Cambridge Airport for housing development or the introduction of the Enterprise Zone at Alconbury. With regard to the Enterprise Zone the local authorities will need to consider and effectively respond to the wider spatial implications of that designation as a matter of urgency. Nevertheless, it is critical that a combined clear focus and effort remains on the effective delivery of the existing ambitious strategy and the major developments that are part of it; and to recognise that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as a whole, still have more than adequate land coming forward to effectively deliver sustainable growth, which can be continued as the strategy is updated .
- 4.3 Preparation of these updated plans will take account of policies outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework, including wide community engagement in accordance with the principles of localism. This will enable engagement around a range of development needs, including community-based, locally-generated proposals as well as those of more strategic significance. Furthermore, the local authorities will continue their long history of close collaboration and joint working as part of their Duty to Co-operate. This will include jointly gathering appropriate

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forms of evidence to both inform their plans and to shape the formulation of their strategies. Their work will be supported and constructively challenged at a strategic level by a newly-formed Joint Strategic Planning Unit. Close links to the Local Enterprise Partnership will also be further developed.

- 4.4 In undertaking the review or roll forward of their plans, the local authorities are clear that fundamentally they will continue to be guided by the strategic principles which underpinned the original growth strategy, first set out in the 2003 Structure Plan. Locating homes in and close to urban areas and to other main centres of employment is critical to ensure appropriate, sustainable development. It is essential, therefore, that the future development needs of the wider area are considered and agreed through a strategic plan-led approach, which takes account of identified local and national priorities.
- 4.5 Pending this review of the strategy, the local authorities are clear that they remain committed to delivering the existing planned strategy, and that significant capacity exists in terms of housing and employment land supply as we recover from the recession. During the transition period leading up to the introduction of their new, updated local plans, the local authorities will continue to give full weight to current, adopted planning policies.

July 2012