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Cambridge City Council

DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

To: Scrutiny Sub Committee Members: Councillors Reid (Chair), Saunders (Vice-Chair), Blencowe, Brierley, Marchant-Daisley and Price

Alternates : Councillors Blackhurst and Herbert

Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change: Councillor Ward

Despatched: Monday, 20 May 2013

Date: Wednesday, 29 May 2013
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall
Contact: Toni Birkin **Direct Dial:** 01223 457013

AGENDA

1 CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN – TOWARDS 2031 – DRAFT LOCAL PLAN (Pages 5 - 270)

Attached Documents:

Committee Report Local Plan Part 2 29 May 2013
Appendix B Sustainability Appraisal (Draft Version)
Appendix C Habitats Regulations Assessment
Appendix D Equalities Impact Assessment

The Cambridge Local Plan – Towards 2031 Appendix documents are too large to attach to the agenda in hard copy format. All documents are published on the Council's website:

- (i) Main report and Appendices B, C & D are attached to the agenda document.
- (ii) Appendices A, E & F are accessible via the following hyperlink (please copy all lines as the address is split over several):

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/localplan2031/may2013dpssc/part2>

1 (Pages 5 - 270)

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To: Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change: Councillor Tim Ward

Report by: Head of Planning Services

Relevant scrutiny Development Plan 29/05/2013
committee: Scrutiny Sub Committee
Environment Scrutiny 11/06/2013
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 full composite version of the new Cambridge Local Plan.
- 1.2 Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee has on various occasions considered and commented on individual draft sections of the new Plan, and the final sections to be considered appear earlier on the agenda for this meeting.
- 1.3 The purpose of the report is to present the complete version of the Plan as currently drafted, including the sections of the Plan that the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee has seen previously (including changes requested by the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee) and the sections of the Plan that Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee will be considering for the first time at today's meeting.
- 1.4 The report recommends that the Plan should make its way to Environment Scrutiny Committee on 11 June, and thereafter, to Full Council.
- 1.5 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 Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-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 composite version of the full Cambridge Local Plan subject to any changes recommended by the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee, for consideration by Environment Scrutiny Committee on 11 June and Full Council on 27 June (including the endorsement of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Memorandum of Co-operation);
- To recommend to Environment Scrutiny Committee and 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 Local Plan (and associated Sustainability Appraisal and other appendices) versions put to Environment Scrutiny Committee and Full Council be agreed by the Executive Councillor in consultation with the Chair and Spokesperson.

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. 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 This report has the following appendices:

- Appendix A: Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (draft)
- Appendix B: Sustainability Appraisal (draft)
- Appendix C: Habitats Regulations Assessment (draft)
- Appendix D: Equalities Impact Assessment (draft)
- Appendix E: Statement of Consultation (draft)
- Appendix F: Cambridge Policies Map (draft)

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.
- 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 structure for the Plan at previous meetings. This has been modified slightly as the document has developed, and the new structure can be seen in the document at Appendix A.
- 3.16 The overall content of the Plan remains as previously discussed – namely an introduction; 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 main change to the structure of the Plan is bringing forward the chapter on the city centre, major sites and areas of change so that they are logically seen as an inherent part of the overall strategy of the Plan.
- 3.18 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

- 3.19 Following this Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee, the Plan will be presented to a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 11 June 2013.
- 3.20 It will then 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.
- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 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.
- 3.23 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.
- 3.24 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.

3.25 It is anticipated that submission will take place early in 2014.

3.26 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.

3.27 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.

3.28 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.

3.29 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 2011 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

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)
- Appendix B: Sustainability Appraisal (draft)
- Appendix C: Habitats Regulations Assessment (draft)
- Appendix D: Equalities Impact Assessment (draft)
- Appendix E: Statement of Consultation (draft)
- Appendix F: Cambridge Draft Submission Proposals Map – May 2013

7. Inspection of papers

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

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Appendix B: Sustainability Appraisal (Draft Version)

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Cambridge Local Plan

SA Report (Draft Version)

May 2013

Prepared for:



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N.B. This is a draft of the SA Report. The aim is to -

1) Present an appraisal of the draft plan as it stands at the current time, so that this information can inform Councillors' consideration. This information is presented in 'Part 3'.

2) Show Councillors how the SA Report (i.e. the document that is eventually Published alongside the Proposed Submission Plan) will be structured. The SA Report must be structured in a certain way so that it clearly provides legally required information.

Notes to Councillors are presented in **yellow boxes**, such as this.

INTRODUCTION

1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 URS is commissioned to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the emerging Cambridge Local Plan. SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft plan, and alternatives, in terms of sustainability issues, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising the positives. SA of Local Plans is a legal requirement.¹

2 SA EXPLAINED

2.1.1 It is a requirement that SA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.²

2.1.2 The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that *'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'*.³ The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

2.1.3 The SEA Regulations prescribe the information that must be contained within the report, which for the purposes of SA is known as **the 'SA Report'**. Providing this information essentially equates to answering the following **four questions**:

1. What's the scope of the SA?
2. What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?
 - Preparation of the draft plan must have been informed by at least one earlier plan-making / SA iteration at which point 'reasonable alternatives' are appraised.
3. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?
 - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
4. What happens next (including in relation to monitoring)?

2.1.4 These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present the information to be provided within the report under a list of ten points. **Table 1.1** 'makes the links between the ten Schedule 2 requirements and the four SA questions'.

3 STRUCTURE OF THIS SA REPORT

3.1.1 The four SA questions are answered in turn across the four subsequent 'Parts' of this Report.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require that an SA Report is published for consultation alongside the 'Proposed Submission' Plan document.

² Directive 2001/42/EC

³ Regulation 12(2)

Table 1.1: Questions that must be answered within the SA Report

SA REPORT QUESTION	SUB-QUESTION	CORRESPONDING REQUIREMENT (THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE...)
What's the scope of the SA?	What's the Plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and the relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes.
	What's the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant sustainability objectives, established at international / national level Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan
	What's the sustainability 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant aspects of the current state of the sustainability baseline and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan' Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan
	What are the key issues that should be a focus of SA?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan
What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of why the alternatives dealt with are 'reasonable') The likely significant effects on the sustainability baseline associated with alternatives An outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of the appraisal of alternatives / an explanation of how the draft plan reflects sustainability considerations.
What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects on the sustainability baseline associated with the draft plan The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan
What happens next (including monitoring)?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring

N.B. The right-hand column does not quote directly from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, but rather reflects a degree of interpretation (and is something of an outline). Appendix 1 considers the 'links' between Schedule 2 and the table above in detail.

PART 1: WHAT'S THE SCOPE OF THE SA?

4 INTRODUCTION (TO PART 1)

4.1.1 This is Part 1 of the SA Report, the aim of which is to introduce the reader to the scope of the SA. In particular, and as required by the SEA Regulations,⁴ this Chapter answers the following questions.

- What’s the Plan seeking to achieve?
- What’s the sustainability ‘context’?
- What’s the sustainability ‘baseline’?
- What are the key issues that should be a focus of SA?

5 WHAT IS THE PLAN SEEKING TO ACHIEVE?

In this Section the SA Report will present a summary of the broad scope of the Local Plan, i.e. explain that it seeks to establish a spatial strategy for growth and sets out policies for managing development.

6 WHAT’S THE SUSTAINABILITY ‘CONTEXT’?

In this Section the SA Report will present a summary of the ‘context review’ presented within the SA Scoping Report (2011), updated as necessary.

7 WHAT’S THE SUSTAINABILITY ‘BASELINE’?

In this Section the SA Report will present a summary of the ‘context review’ presented within the SA Scoping Report (2011), updated as necessary.

N.B. A similar summary was presented in Chapter 3 of the 2012 Interim SA Report (i.e. the document published as part of the Issues and Options consultation).

8 WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE A FOCUS OF THE APPRAISAL?

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Drawing on the review of the sustainability context and baseline, the SA Scoping Report was able to identify a range of sustainability issues that should be a particular focus of SA, ensuring it remains focused. Sustainability issues are listed in Table 8.1, below for each of the sustainability topic headings that were used as the basis for scoping. Taken together, the sustainability topics and issues provide a methodological framework for the appraisal of alternatives and the draft plan.

Table 8.1: Sustainability topics and issues (i.e. the SA framework)

Sustainability topic (Thematic)	Sustainability issues
Communities and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrest the trend in increased deprivation particularly within wards to the north and east of Cambridge; • Improve the health and well-being of Cambridge residents and reduce

⁴ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

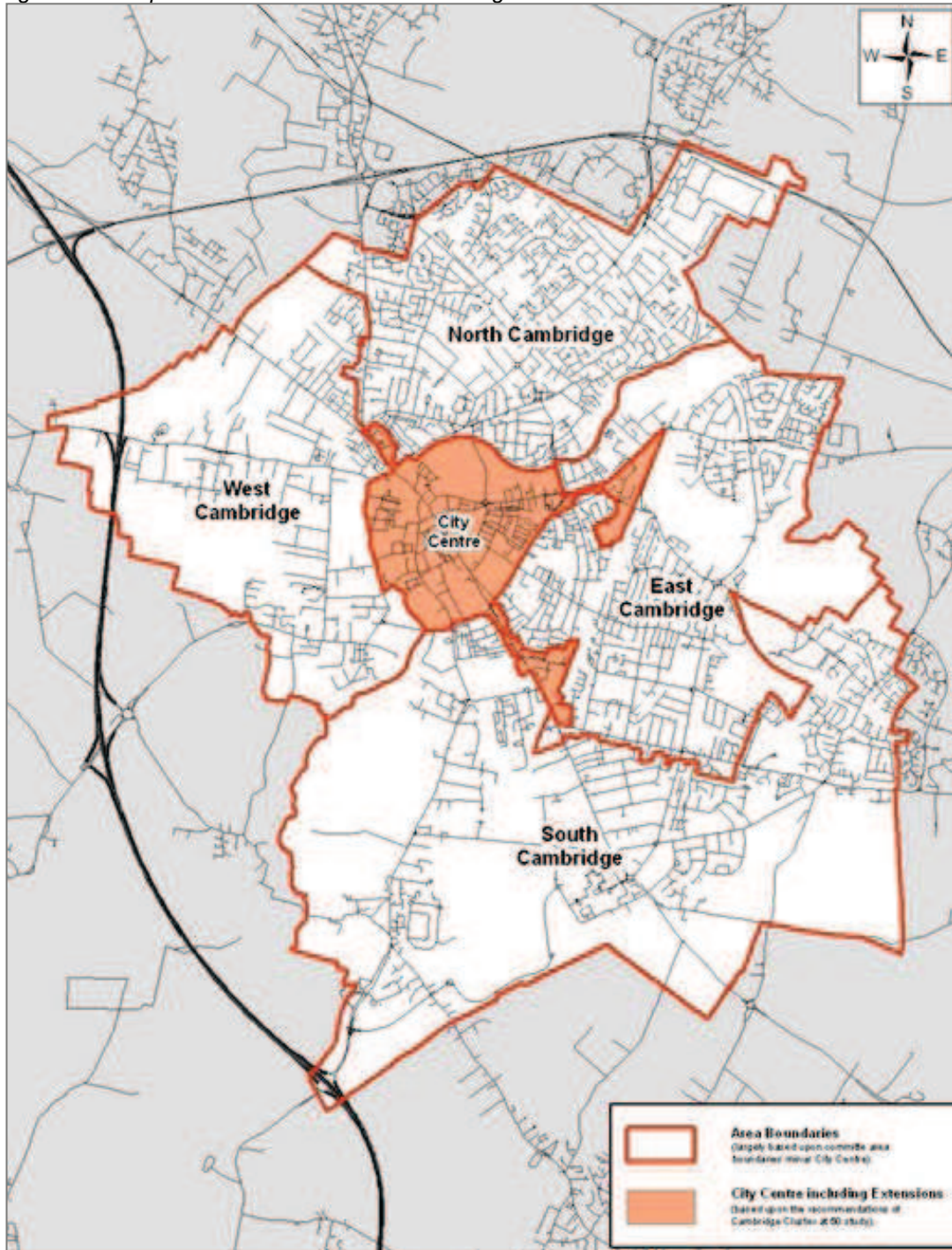
	<p>inequalities in health particularly in the north and east of Cambridge;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce inequalities in the educational achievement level of economically active adults and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work; • Capitalise on the ethnic diversity of the city and its contribution to vibrant and inclusive communities; • Protect and enhance community, leisure and open space provision, particularly in wards anticipated to experience significant population growth including Trumpington, Castle and Abbey; • Ensure the timely provision of primary and secondary education in the locations where it is needed; • Increase delivery of affordable and intermediate housing, in particular one and two bedroom homes; • Ensure that the design and size of new homes meet the needs of the existing and future population, including the elderly, disabled people and those in poor health; and • Improve air quality in and around the Cambridge city centre AQMA and along routes to the City including the A14.
<p>Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and capitalise on Cambridge’s position as one of the UK’s most competitive cities; • Address pockets of income and employment deprivation particularly in Abbey Ward and Kings Hedges; • Capitalise on the value that language schools/specialist tutorial colleges contribute to the local economy, but balance this against the increased impact this may have on the housing market; • Ensure provision of appropriate office space for small and growing high tech businesses and research sectors; • Consider the need for high-tech headquarters and high-tech manufacturing; • Consider whether and how to address the on-going loss of industrial floorspace; • Encourage more sustainable growth of tourism which recognises the pressure it places on the City’s transport infrastructure and accommodation need; • Ensure the continued vitality and viability of the city centre and safeguard the diversity of independent shops in areas such as along Mill Road; • Protect local shopping provision in district and local centres which provide for people’s everyday needs; and • Ensure adequate provision of convenience shopping in the north west of Cambridge.
<p>Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the high modal share of cycling in the city centre and encourage cycling for journeys over one mile; • Reduce the use of the private car and ensure greater access to frequent public transport; and • Capitalise on the opportunity of new development to discourage private car

	<p>use and promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport.</p>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure developments implement the highest standards of water efficiency and place no additional pressure on water scarcity in the region; • Improve the water quality of Cambridge’s water courses in line with the Water Framework Directive requirements; and • Ensure new development takes sewerage infrastructure into account.
Flood risk including climate change adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for the potential environmental, economic and social cost of flooding for all development proposals; • Protect and enhance existing natural flood risk management infrastructure and ensure all development incorporates sustainable drainage systems to minimise surface water flood risk; and • Ensure that new and existing communities are capable of adapting to climate change with consideration given to the role of green and blue infrastructure as well as the layout and massing of new developments.
Climate change mitigation and renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce transport emissions by encouraging cycling and promoting infrastructure for zero emissions vehicles; • Reduce carbon emissions from all aspects of new developments and ensure development meets the highest standards in low carbon design; • Account for the whole life carbon cost of new development and transport infrastructure; and • Ensure greater deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
Landscape, townscape and cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the protection and enhancement of the historic environment through appropriate design and scale of new development; • Actively promote the character and distinctiveness of the Conservation Areas; and • Ensure the scale of new development is sensitive to the existing key landmark buildings and low lying topography of the City.
Biodiversity and green infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and build on the success of positive conservation management on local wildlife sites and SSSIs; • Maintain and improve connectivity between existing green infrastructure in order to provide improved habitats for biodiversity and ensure no further fragmentation of key habitats as a result of new or infill development; • Capitalise on the opportunity for green infrastructure to help Cambridge adapt to the threats posed by climate change (particularly flooding), and to improve water quality; and • Ensure new development does not impact on biodiversity including no further loss of biodiversity rich farmland to development.
Sustainability topic (Spatial)	Sustainability issues
City centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the centre capitalises on the opportunities from growing business

	<p>sectors;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve the quality of the Centre as a place to live, work and spend leisure time, while ensuring a safe and welcoming environment; and • Ensure opportunities to reduce energy demand through renewable and low carbon technologies are maximised.
North Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address deprivation across quite expansive areas of the City's northern and north-eastern extents; • Address flood risk issues; • Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling (including to access the Cambridge Science Park); • Increase access to high quality open space, particularly within Arbury; • Support the achievement of identified priorities within the Chesterton / Ferry Lane and De Freville Conservation Areas; • Encourage high quality design and improve the quality of the public realm within some areas; and • Develop a co-ordinated policy with South Cambridgeshire District Council for the development of Northern Fringe East.
South Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address flood risk issues; • Consider the potential to address deprivation associated with areas to the East; • Work with developers to facilitate the achievement of successful new communities within the urban extensions; • Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting; • Support the achievement of identified priorities within Conservation Areas; and • Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling.
East Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting; • Address deprivation issues across quite expansive areas; • Maintain the character of particular neighbourhoods; and • Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling.
West Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting; • Maintain the exceptional character of the built environment and address priorities identified within the designated Conservation Areas; and • Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling.

8.1.2 Figure 8.1 overleaf presents a map of the five functional areas in Cambridge. The functional areas were identified at the scoping stage and are loosely based on the boundaries covered by the Council's Area Committees, although the area defined as the city centre has been widened in light of the 'Cluster at 50' Report, produced for the City Council by SQW.

Figure 8.1: Map of Functional Areas in Cambridge



PART 2: WHAT HAS PLAN-MAKING / SA INVOLVED UP TO THIS POINT?

'Part 2' of the SA Report aims to

- 1) Present appraisal findings that have previously been fed-back to the Council / published in Interim SA Reports
- 2) Explain the influence that this 'interim' appraisal has had on the development of the draft plan.

Part 2 is essentially an exercise in communicating what has gone on beforehand, i.e. in the past. It is nonetheless important to present this information at the current time as stakeholders do still have the opportunity to question the preferred approach / suggest alternative approaches.

9 INTRODUCTION (TO PART 2)

9.1.1 Two 'Interim' SA Reports have been produced to date –

- 1) In May 2012 an Interim SA Report was published for consultation alongside the Council's 'Issues and Options' consultation document.
 - This Interim SA Report presented an appraisal of some 201 'options'.
 - Some were mutually exclusive and hence were appraised as '**alternatives**', i.e. compared and contrasted in addition to being appraised in isolation.
 - Others were '**broad location options**', i.e. where there was a choice to be made, but no assumption that the options were mutually exclusive.
 - Others were 'stand-alone options', i.e. suggested approaches that consultees might wish to agree or disagree with.
- 2) In January 2013 an Interim SA Report was published for consultation alongside the Council's 'Issues and Options 2' consultation document (which was split in two 'Parts').
 - This Interim SA Report presented an appraisal of:
 - Six housing/employment development **site options** located within the Green Belt around the edge of Cambridge;
 - 33 **site options** located within the urban boundary of Cambridge City; and
 - The 'cumulative effects of some or all of the site options coming forward together', with an assessment presented for five geographical 'sectors' (City Centre, North, South, East and West).

9.1.2 A chapter below is dedicated to each of the two 'interim' SA steps (i.e. the appraisals undertaken in May 2012 and January 2013). Within each chapter the following is presented:

- 1) An introduction to those sets of policy alternatives, broad location options and site options that were the focus of appraisal and an explanation (in the form of 'outline reasons') of why focusing the appraisal in this way represented a 'reasonable' approach.
 - N.B. The SEA Regulations require that – as an interim SA step, i.e. prior to preparing the draft plan – there is an appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives'; hence, it is the interim appraisal of alternatives, broad location options and site options that is the focus of discussion here. The interim appraisal of 'standalone options' and 'cumulative effects of site options coming forward in combination' need *not* be a focus of discussion here.
- 2) An explanation (in the form of 'outline reasons') of why the preferred approach (as set out in the Proposed Submission Plan) was selected in-light of the appraisal of alternatives / site options.
 - It is the intention that reference to the influence of interim SA should serve to demonstrate that the Proposed Submission Plan has been prepared so as to reflect sustainability considerations.

10 INTERIM SA STEP 1 – MAY 2012

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 This chapter essentially ‘tells the story’ of the appraisal of alternatives and broad location options undertaken in May 2012 and how it has contributed to development of the Proposed Submission Plan.

10.2 Reasons for selecting the sets of alternatives / broad location options that were a focus of appraisal

10.2.1 **Table 10.1** presents the sets of alternatives / broad location options that were a focus of appraisal in the May 2012 Interim SA Report, along with ‘outline reasons for selecting these alternatives’ (i.e. a brief discussion of why it was reasonable to focus appraisal on these sets of alternatives / broad location options).

Table 10.1: Alternative approaches and broad location options that were focus of appraisal in the May 2012 Interim SA Report

Issue ⁵	Alternatives / broad location options considered ⁶	‘Outline reasons’ for this selection ⁷
Number of new homes / Broad spatial strategy	12,700 new homes to 2031 / Urban growth	<p>This column will give the background to the issue / options considered. It is largely a case of summarising the background text presented within the Issues and Options consultation document (2012).</p> <p>The aim of this table is to explain to readers / stakeholders why the approach taken to issues and options was ‘reasonable’</p>
	14,000 new homes to 2031 / The current development strategy	
	21,000 new homes to 2031/ Enhanced levels of urban and Green Belt growth	
	25,000 new homes to 2031 / Significantly increased levels of urban and Green Belt growth	
Level of employment provision	10,000 new jobs to 2031	
	15,000 new jobs to 2031	
	20,000 new jobs to 2031	
Broad location (for future development) options	Development within the Urban Area of Cambridge	
	Broad Location 1: Land to the North & South of Barton Road	
	Broad Location 2: Playing Fields off Granchester Road Newnham	
	Broad Location 3: Land West of Trumpington Road	
	Broad Location 4: Land west of Hauxton Road	
	Broad Location 5: Land South of	

⁵ Bold text indicates where options are entirely mutually exclusive.

⁶ A single asterisk (*) indicates that an option represents a continuation of the approach set out within the existing Local Plan. A double asterisk (**) indicates that an option represents a ‘do nothing’ approach, i.e. the option of not addressing the issue at hand.

⁷ Text provided by Cambridge City Council

Issue ⁵	Alternatives / broad location options considered ⁶	'Outline reasons' for this selection ⁷
	Addenbrookes Road Broad Location 6: Land South of Addenbrooke's and Southwest of Babraham Road Broad Location 7: Land between Babraham Road & Fulbourn Road Broad Locations 8, 9 and 10	
Settlement hierarchy	Maintain the current hierarchy of centres with new additions * Change the position of some centres within the hierarchy with new additions	
Cambridge East	Retain current allocation for development of an urban quarter * Remove the allocation, but safeguard the land for development post 2031. Remove the allocation and return the land back to the Green Belt	
Reduction of carbon emissions from new development	Detailed targets for onsite carbon emission reductions that relate to levels of the CfSH being sought Detailed targets for onsite carbon emissions reductions in line with the findings of Decarbonising Cambridge Continue to require a percentage of energy to come from renewable sources, but otherwise leave carbon reduction to Building Regulations *	
Water efficiency	Target of water neutrality Target of 80l/head/day Target of 105l/head/day	
Water efficiency in non-domestic buildings	Water neutrality Achieve the highest water efficiency levels practicable, i.e. utilise the BREEAM method and achieving the highest points available for all of the water criteria. Achieve high water efficiency standards, i.e. BREEAM rating of 'very good' to 'excellent'	
Tall buildings	Criteria based policy on the acceptability of tall buildings Policy identifying specific areas suitable for tall buildings Limits on building heights	
Enhancement of biodiversity	Within all development Within major developments only	

Issue ⁵	Alternatives / broad location options considered ⁶	'Outline reasons' for this selection ⁷
	Include reference to the enhancement of biodiversity within Option 64 (The design of the public realm, landscape and other external spaces)	
Proportion of affordable housing required of qualifying developments	30%	
	40% *	
	50%	
Qualifying threshold for affordable housing provision	Lower than current	
	Maintain current *	
Affordable housing contribution from new student accommodation?	Yes	
	No *	
Housing mix (tenure)	Develop a policy that specifies the tenure mix to be	
	Not specify the tenure mix in the Local Plan but address through planning applications drawing on the SHMA and Affordable Housing SPD (which would be reviewed regularly) **	
Housing mix (types and sizes)	General Policy specifying that a mix be achieved on sites providing new housing *	
	Policy specifying the mix of housing sizes and types to be achieved	
Density	No specific requirements (i.e. consider on a case by case basis in light of design considerations) **	
	Establish minimum density for the city centre only	
	Establish a minimum density for sites within 400m of district and local centres on high quality public transport routes	
	Establish a minimum density of 30dph for all new development sites	
Space standards (internal)	Minimum standards based on the level of occupancy	
	Minimum standards based on a range of dwelling types	
Space standards (external)	Minimum space standards for private outdoor amenity space only	
	General provision of private outdoor amenity space	

Issue ⁵	Alternatives / broad location options considered ⁶	'Outline reasons' for this selection ⁷
Space standards (internal/external)	No policy (market-led approach)**	
Lifetime homes standards	Standard applied to all new housing developments	
	A proportion of new homes to meet standard	
Garden infill	Criteria based policy to enable small scale residential development and infill development in the rear of gardens	
	Policy to restrict infill development in rear gardens	
Selective management of the economy	Continue with current approach (whereby employment uses that have an essential need for a Cambridge location or provide a service for the local population are given positive support) *	
	Amend the 'Selective Management of the Economy' policy to include some additional uses	
	No policy (market-led approach) **	
Protection of industrial and storage space	Continue with current approach (i.e. protection) *	
	Amend the policy of Protection of Industrial and Storage Space by deleting all protected sites (leaving a criteria based policy)	
	Amend the policy of Protection of Industrial and Storage Space by amending the criteria based policy to encourage other forms of employment development	
Protecting office space	No policy (market-led approach) **	
	Protect with a criteria based policy	
Promoting cluster development	Continue to promote *	
	No policy (market-led approach) **	
Social shared spaces (involving a mix of uses in employment areas)	Promote	
	No policy (market-led approach) **	
Densifying existing employment areas	Seek to densify	
	No policy (market-led approach) **	
Policy approach to shopping centres	Separate policy approach for different types of centre	
	Generic policy approach for all	
Policy approach to	Protection through policy	

Issue ⁵	Alternatives / broad location options considered ⁶	'Outline reasons' for this selection ⁷
neighbourhood shops and shopping parades	No policy (market-led approach) **	
University of Cambridge Staff and Student Housing	Continue to allocate new sites and new provision * Expand existing colleges rather than plan for new College's at North West Cambridge	
Anglia Ruskin University student hostel development	Support with affordable housing exemption * Support but removal of affordable housing exemption	
Speculative Student Hostel Accommodation	Limited to Anglia Ruskin University and the University of Cambridge Widened to include other established educational institutions	
Additional Hotel provision	Provision based on a high growth scenario of around 2,000 new bedrooms Provision based on a medium growth scenario of around 1,300 new bedrooms	
Retention of Hotels in the City Centre	Policy to ensure retention of hotels and guesthouses in the City Centre / prevent losses to other uses. No policy (market-led approach) **	
Open Space and Recreation	Update the standards in line with the Open Space and Recreation Strategy (2011) Maintain the current standards *	
Protection of Public Houses	No policy (market-led approach) ** Protection for all public houses Protect all public houses from redevelopment to alternative uses unless demonstrably not viable as a pub	
Former Public House sites	Safeguard current use where the loss of the current use to other uses (excluding A-uses and community facilities) would harm the vibrancy and vitality of the local area Allow the re-instatement of a public house use from a community facility, A1, A2, A3 or A5 use.	
Provision of community facilities	Support new facilities where there is an identified local need Support new facilities where development leads to an increased demand.	
Car parking	Maintain the current level of provision	

Issue ⁵	Alternatives / broad location options considered ⁶	'Outline reasons' for this selection ⁷
	Set new standards for residential developments only	
	Set new standards for all developments	
Car free development	Include a dedicated policy	
	Refer to car free development within other policies only *	
Modal split targets for new development	Establish a modal split target	
	Negotiate a target on a site-by-site basis *	
Travel Plans	Travel Plans for all sites that meet a certain threshold	
	Only require Travel Plans where officers feel it appropriate *	

10.3 Reasons for selecting the preferred approach (in-light of appraisal findings)

The Council has produced an 'audit trail' as part of the Statement of Consultation which explains the background to each of the policies presented within the draft plan as it currently stands. This takes into account the evidence base, issues arising from Issues and Options (2012) and Issues and Options 2 (2013) consultations, and the accompanying Interim SAs. Within this section of the SA Report there will be a need to summarise some of that information, in particular highlighting instances of A) the draft plan approach reflects SA findings; and B) the draft plan approach conflicts with SA findings (i.e. instances where the draft plan approach was determined on the basis of evidence other than the SA).

For example, it will be appropriate to explain that the reason the Plan has not taken forward 'water neutrality' is that...

While such an option offers the most innovative and progressive approach to water efficiency, it may prove difficult to implement and would also be the most expensive option, which may impact on viability (note that impacts on viability are a key element of the National Planning Policy Framework). There would also be inherent difficulties in applying retrofit measures to existing properties (a necessary step when seeking water neutrality), with associated on-going maintenance costs. Although this option has been rejected, it should, however, be noted that the draft Water Bill, which was published in July 2012, is giving consideration to charging mechanisms and connection charges that may enable water neutrality to be implemented in the future without the need for a specific planning policy.

11 INTERIM SA STEP 2 – JANUARY 2013

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 This chapter essentially ‘tells the story’ of the appraisal of site options undertaken in January 2013 and how it has contributed to development of the Proposed Submission Plan.

11.2 Reasons for selecting the site options that were a focus of appraisal

Here there is a need to summarise the process that the Council went through in order to:

- Identify ‘reasonable’ site allocation options that should then be the focus of detailed consideration (including SA)
- Screen out some site options as ‘unreasonable’, i.e. not worthy of detailed consideration / SA.

The information that must be summarised is presented within Chapter C of the ‘Issues and Options 2 – Part 2’ consultation document (January 2013).

11.3 Reasons for selecting the preferred sites (in-light of appraisal findings)

Here there is a need to summarise the reasons for choosing to allocate some of the ‘reasonable site options’ assessed whilst rejecting others. This information is largely presented in the Part 2 Sites Audit Trail, the Statement of Consultation [Appendix E to Part 2 Committee Report, 29 May 2013], and the May 2013 Supplement to the Technical Background Document – Part 2 Site Options Within and on the Edge of Cambridge (January 2013) [Appendix M to Part 1 Committee Report, 29 May 2013]. This section will:

1) Include a discussion of some of the more contentious site options, including A) those that were not allocated despite the SA suggesting that they perform relatively well; and B) those that were allocated despite the SA suggesting that they are constrained / are associated with locational issues that may be a challenge to resolve, albeit recognising that SA was only part of the evidence base.

2) Signpost readers to other documentation where they will find details of the Council’s reasons for site selection / rejection.

PART 3: WHAT ARE THE APPRAISAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AT THIS CURRENT STAGE?

12 INTRODUCTION (TO PART 3)

Part 3 presents an appraisal of 'the draft plan' as it stands at the current time. This appraisal is presented to Councillors with a view to informing consideration of the plan / decision-making. Sections 14 – 21 present an appraisal of 'the draft plan' by 'topics', while Sections 22 – 26 present an appraisal of 'the draft plan' by 'functional areas'. Reference should be made to Figure 8.1 in Part 1 of this report when reading Sections 22 – 26.

It is intended that Officers will consider the recommendations made below and make suggested changes to the policies which will be taken into account at Environment Scrutiny Committee and Full Council. In this way the findings of the SA have been used iteratively to guide the development of the Plan.

Part 3 of the SA Report document that is eventually Published alongside the Proposed Submission Plan will need to be up-to-date. Hence, if it is the case that changes are made to the plan between now and the time of Publication, then these changes will also need to be reflected in the appraisal.

13 METHODOLOGY

- 13.1.1 The appraisal identifies and evaluates 'likely significant effects' on the baseline associated with the plan, drawing on the sustainability topics ('thematic' and 'spatial') and issues identified through scoping (see Part 1) as a methodological framework.
- 13.1.2 Effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented within Regulations.⁸ So, for example, account is taken of the duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the appraisal as appropriate. The potential for 'cumulative' effects is also considered.
- 13.1.3 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline (now and in the future under a 'no plan' scenario). In light of this, there is a need to make considerable assumptions regarding how the plan will be implemented 'on the ground' and what the effect on particular receptors will be. Where there is a need to rely on assumptions, this is made explicit in the appraisal text.⁹ In many instances, given reasonable assumptions, it is not possible to predict likely significant effects, but it is possible to comment on the merits (or otherwise) of the plan in more general terms.

⁸ Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁹ It is worth noting that, as stated by Government Guidance (The Plan Making Manual, see <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=156210>): "Ultimately, the significance of an effect is a matter of judgment and should require no more than a clear and reasonable justification."

14 CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

14.1 Sustainability issues

- Reduce transport emissions by encouraging cycling and promoting infrastructure for zero emissions vehicles;
- Reduce carbon emissions from all aspects of new developments and ensure development meets the highest standards in low carbon design;
- Account for the whole life carbon cost of new development and transport infrastructure; and
- Ensure greater deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

14.2 Relevant plan policies

- *Section 2: Policy 5* Strategic Transport Infrastructure
- *Section 3: Policy 13* Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – general principles, **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus (Including Addenbrooke’s Hospital)
- *Section 4: Policy 27* Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use, **Policy 28** Allowable Solutions for Zero Carbon Development, **Policy 29** Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation, **Policy 30** Energy Efficiency Improvements in Existing Dwellings,
- *Section 7: Policy 57* Designing New Buildings, **Policy 63** Works to a heritage asset to address climate change
- *Section 9: Policy 80* Supporting Sustainable Access to Development, **Policy 81** Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development, **Policy 82** Parking Management, **Policy 83** Aviation Development,
- *Section 10: Policy 85* Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

14.3 Appraisal

14.3.1 With regards to transport emissions there are a number of policies that are relevant. Transport emissions, unlike emissions from other sources identified in the Scoping Report, have been rising nationally since the 1990s. In order to counter this and help achieve national targets, **Policy 5** sets out the strategic vision for transport infrastructure in the city. It requires that, in line with the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, development should achieve modal shift, i.e. a shift towards sustainable transport with greater priority given to pedestrians and cyclists.

14.3.2 **Policy 13** sets out the ‘general principles’ for the Opportunity Areas and Areas of Major Change (**Policies 14-25**), namely requiring higher densities of development at transport interchanges, for new development to be fully integrated into transport networks and be supportive of public transport and active travel; and additionally provide for public transport improvements including buses and park and ride services. Locating development in sustainable locations should reduce the need to travel and also reduce the need for motorised transport. The policy (and also **Policy 85**) also states that planning obligations shall be sought for transport infrastructure which should further achieve these aims. This will ensure that strategic new development will improve walking, cycling and public transport provision for existing and future residents, reducing per capita emissions from transport sources.

- 14.3.3 **Policies 80-82** seek to achieve modal shift by limiting accessibility to private vehicles; promoting sustainable transport; requiring Transport Plans to be submitted for major developments; restricting parking with 'maximum' parking allowances; enhancing the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and encouraging journeys made by cycling by requiring 'minimum' cycle parking spaces. Cambridge already has one of the highest percentages in Europe in terms of cycling and such policies would further improve infrastructure for current and future cyclists. In combination, these policies should reduce transport emissions and reduce pressure on the Air Quality Management Area.
- 14.3.4 **Policy 83** states that aviation development at Cambridge Airport will only be supported where it would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and on residential amenity. The phrasing of this policy implies that a 'non-significant' adverse environmental impact would be acceptable, and increased air transport at the airport could lead to negative effects in terms of climate change mitigation.
- 14.3.5 The plan has various policies which seek to reduce the level of emissions from buildings and development. **Policy 27** seeks carbon reduction through requiring residential development to achieve Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 (achieving 'zero carbon' by 2016) in line with national standards which are progressively tightening, and commercial development BREEAM level 'Very Good' (Excellent in 2016). Development should also follow the 'energy hierarchy' by firstly reducing the need for energy in the building's design, secondly using energy more efficiently, and thirdly supplying energy from renewable sources.
- 14.3.6 To meet 'zero carbon' requirements by 2016 **Policy 28** requires 'Allowable Solutions' to supply energy and lead to no net residual emissions for new development. Where solutions cannot be provided on-site or nearby, money can be pooled to invest on agreed schemes listed on the Energy Efficiency and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure Projects List, and **Policies 13 and 85** state that planning obligations will be used towards infrastructure, including renewable energy. **Policy 30** encourages retrofitting of existing buildings to improve their environmental performance and as such should lead to a reduction overall in domestic emissions. This should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of emissions as Cambridge is an historic city which has many older and energy-inefficient homes which will benefit from the policy. Permitted development rights apply to non-designated buildings (for example, replacing windows and internal insulation); whereas listed buildings and buildings of architectural merit (for example in Conservation Areas) will require planning permission where policies in the Plan will apply¹⁰. **Policy 63** allows in principle retrofitting of heritage assets, but it also explains when retrofitting would not be suitable.
- 14.3.7 **Policy 29** seeks to deliver renewable and low carbon energy schemes, subject to criteria; and **Policy 27** encourages connection to District Heating Networks (such as the one proposed at Addenbrooke's Hospital in **Policy 16**) and for new development to be 'future proofed' for potential future connection to the network, which could further lessen emissions through delivering low carbon heating. **Policy 57** requires new buildings to include design measures to reduce environmental impact, such as renewable energy systems, in an 'architecturally sensitive way'. This requirement could reduce the number of different technologies that could be employed, but is considered reasonable given the high architectural quality of the city. This requirement could be removed from the policy however as other design policies would still apply.
- 14.3.8 In terms of accounting for the lifetime carbon cost of development, **Policy 27** should lead to **significant positive effects** as it seeks to maximise resource efficiency through reusing materials from demolition and other waste streams, reducing emissions by reducing the need to quarry, extract or manufacture new materials.

¹⁰ See, for example, the Institute for Sustainability (2011) Managing Low Carbon Retrofit Projects [online] available at: <http://bob.instituteforsustainability.org.uk/knowledgebank/retrofitguides/guide-5/Pages/Download.aspx> (accessed 13/05/2013)

14.3.9 Generally the policies are stringent but it is noted that the majority contain the caveat ‘subject to viability’ which means that, in practice, not all developments will conform to the policy. This could lead to negative effects in terms of emissions which cumulatively could lead to a more significant negative effect in terms of this objective. It is recommended that officers work closely and collaboratively with developers and applicants to ensure that the requirements of the policies in the plan are met as fully as possible in order to ensure that as few developments as possible come forward without the necessary design features and infrastructure. The ‘viability’ caveat increases uncertainty over the implementation of the plan policies concerning emissions and renewable energy; however it increases certainty for development to come forward and lead to social and economic benefits.

14.4 Conclusions and recommendations

14.4.1 Overall the plan would lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the SA objectives: to reduce transport emissions by encouraging cycling and promoting infrastructure for zero emissions vehicles; reduce carbon emissions from all aspects of new developments and ensure development meets the highest standards in low carbon design; account for the whole life carbon cost of new development and transport infrastructure; and ensure greater deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. The plan would require new development to incorporate a high level of emissions reductions and in due course lead to zero carbon development; whilst other policies would contribute to reducing the environmental impact of existing development too (through retrofitting). District Heating Networks are proposed to lead to low carbon heat supply.

14.4.2 The embodied energy of construction materials would be reused and recycled in new construction which would reduce emissions used in the mining and manufacturing of new construction materials. Transport improvements would shift priority from the car to increase use of the sustainable transport modes of walking, cycling and public transport, and development would be located in sustainable places that reduce the need to travel. In combination, all of these policies should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of reducing emissions and increasing energy efficiency.

14.4.3 The following recommendations are made:

- Work closely with applicants to ensure that design features, mitigation and infrastructure is implemented as fully as possible, given viability constraints.

15 ECONOMY

15.1 Sustainability issues

- Maintain and capitalise on Cambridge's position as one of the UK's most competitive cities;
- Address pockets of income and employment deprivation particularly in Abbey Ward and Kings Hedges;
- Capitalise on the value that language schools/specialist tutorial colleges contribute to the local economy, but balance this against the increased impact this may have on the housing market;
- Ensure provision of appropriate office space for small and growing high tech businesses and research sectors;
- Consider the need for high-tech headquarters and high-tech manufacturing;
- Consider whether and how to address the on-going loss of industrial floorspace;
- Encourage more sustainable growth of tourism which recognises the pressure it places on the City's transport infrastructure and accommodation need;
- Ensure the continued vitality and viability of the city centre and safeguard the diversity of independent shops in areas such as along Mill Road;
- Protect local shopping provision in district and local centres which provide for people's everyday needs; and
- Ensure adequate provision of convenience shopping in the north west of Cambridge.

15.2 Relevant plan policies

- *Section 2:* **Policy 2** Spatial Strategy for the location of employment development, **Policy 6** Hierarchy of centres and Retail Capacity, **Policy 7** The River Cam
- *Section 3:* **Policy 9** The City Centre, **Policy 10** Development in the City Centre Primary Shopping Area, **Policy 11** Fitzroy/Burleigh Street/Grafton Area of Major Change, **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – general principles, **Policy 14** Northern Fringe East and land surrounding Cambridge Science Park Station, **Policy 12** Cambridge East, **Policy 15** South of Coldham's Lane, **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus (including Addenbrooke's Hospital), **Policy 17** Southern Fringe, **Policy 18** West Cambridge, **Policy 19** NIAB 1, **Policy 20** Station Areas East and West, **Policy 21** Mitcham's Corner Opportunity Area, **Policy 22** Eastern Gate Opportunity Area, **Policy 23** Mill Road Opportunity Area, **Policy 24** Cambridge Railway Station, Hills Road Corridor to the City Centre Opportunity Area, **Policy 25** Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area, **Policy 26** Site Specific Development Opportunities
- *Section 5:* **Policy 40** Development and Expansion of Business Space, **Policy 41** Protection of Business Space, **Policy 42** Connecting new developments to digital infrastructure, **Policy 43** University Faculty Development, **Policy 44** Specialist Colleges and Language Schools, **Policy 46** Development of Student Housing
- *Section 8:* **Policy 72** Development and change of use in district, local and neighbourhood centres, **Policy 77** Development and Expansion of Hotels, **Policy 78** Redevelopment or loss of hotels, **Policy 79** Visitor attractions
- *Section 9:* **Policy 80** Supporting Sustainable Access to Development, **Policy 81** Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development, **Policy 82** Parking Management, **Policy 83** Aviation Development, **Policy 84** Telecommunications

- *Section 10: Policy 85* Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

15.3 Appraisal

- 15.3.1 The Scoping Report highlights four main economic sectors in Cambridge: higher and further education and the related research institutes; high-tech business; retail; and tourism.
- 15.3.2 **Policy 43** seeks to support University Faculty Development for the development or redevelopment of faculty, research and administrative sites for both the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University. The Universities are key drivers of economic growth in the sub region and this policy would allow the Universities to grow. **Policy 44** allows for the development of existing and new specialist schools subject to criteria regarding accommodation, social and welfare facilities for non-local students. **Policy 46** sets out the requirements for student housing that allows the Universities and specialist colleges to grow. Specialist colleges and language schools contribute £78m to the local economy and this policy allows them to grow and boost the local economy, whereas the previous Local Plan prevented the expansion of new language schools and specialist schools/tutorial colleges within Cambridge. As such, the plan would lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of economic growth at the Universities and specialist schools.
- 15.3.3 **Policy 2** sets the target for 12ha of employment land to be delivered over the plan period. Provision has been made for varied employment opportunities however with a particular focus on knowledge based industries and institutions, of which there will be a range of sites and sizes. **Policy 40** supports proposals that help reinforce the existing high technology and research cluster of Cambridge. Delivering such a quantum of employment land of varying sizes should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of ensuring provision of appropriate office space for small and growing high tech businesses and research sectors and high tech headquarters, whilst also providing the potential for high tech manufacturing. The provision of employment land and support for the Universities (as described above) should capitalise upon Cambridge's reputation and maintain Cambridge's competitiveness in attracting investment and business.
- 15.3.4 **Policy 41** seeks to address the loss of industrial floorspace by affording greater protection to 'Protected Industrial Land' and by establishing a presumption against the loss of all other protected employment land. This should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of maintaining the supply of a range of industrial land for businesses that underpin the research and knowledge-based industries in Cambridge that are so important to the national, regional and local economy.
- 15.3.5 **Policy 6** sets out the capacity for 14,141m² of additional comparison retail floorspace to 2022. The policy is clear that this should be directed to centres in line with the sequential approach set out in the NPPF, and taking into account the hierarchy of centres¹¹. The majority is to be delivered in the city centre (**Policies 9, 10 and 11**) but provision is also made for small scale retail at the Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas (**Policies 13-26**) in order to create mixed-use developments. **Policy 11** the Fitzroy / Burleigh Street / Grafton Area of Major Change is the primary focus for providing additional comparison retail in the City Centre, redeveloping and/or expanding the site for retail and leisure use with residential and student accommodation on the upper floors.

¹¹In Cambridge, the hierarchy is set out in Policy 6 and places the City Centre at the top of the hierarchy; then district centres; local centres; and finally neighbourhood centres.

- 15.3.6 **Policy 23** seeks to support proposals to improve and refurbish shops and frontages along Mill Road in order to add to the vitality and viability of the street, protect and enhance its unique character, and develop arts and cultural facilities. Large units would be resisted in order to safeguard the independent nature of the shops in the area. **Policy 72** sets the policy for changes of use and development at district, local and neighbourhood centres, focussing development to the larger centres in line with the retail hierarchy. The level of retail development proposed and the hierarchical approach to retail development should protect the vitality and viability of the city centre and Mill Road into the future, leading to **significant positive effects**.
- 15.3.7 The Scoping Report highlights that tourism makes a significant contribution to the local economy; however the current Local Plan has a policy of ‘managing rather than promoting’ tourism. In order to promote the sustainable growth of tourism, policies allow for the development and expansion of high quality hotels in sustainable locations (**Policy 77**); prohibit the loss of hotels and accommodation along public transport corridors (unless no longer viable – **Policy 78**); and support proposals for new visitor attractions (**Policy 79**) providing that they complement the existing cultural heritage of the city and are limited in scale. **Policy 7** requires development proposals along the River Cam corridor to take account of and support as appropriate tourism and recreational facilities. These approaches should reduce strain on the public transport network and attractions by reducing the number of day trips and diversifying the tourist ‘offer’ of the city; although it is noted that this approach is aspirational and may result in a ‘mini-break’ culture through greater hotel accommodation provision. Other policies seek to preserve the character of Cambridge (a key attraction to tourists) and as such the plan should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of promoting the sustainable growth of tourism.
- 15.3.8 In terms of addressing income and employment deprivation at Kings Hedges and Abbey Ward, the majority of development is focussed at the south, west and centre of Cambridge (rather than the north and east where Kings Hedges and Abbey Ward are located). Protected industrial land is generally in the north east ‘quarter’ of Cambridge which should preserve existing employment uses, which are generally lower-skilled and lower-paid, for residents of deprived areas at Kings Hedges and Abbey Ward. Of the Areas of Major Change, **Policy 14** could be beneficial to Kings Hedges and Abbey Ward as it proposes 5.26ha¹² of “high quality mixed use development, including employment uses such as B1, B2 and B8 uses as well as a range of supporting uses, commercial, retail and residential uses” which could lead to employment opportunities on-site and improved access to employment in other areas via the busway and rail station. Employment opportunities are likely to be of greater benefit to higher-qualified and skilled workers and less beneficial to residents of Kings Hedges and Abbey Ward due to the focus on research and high-tech sectors; although a mix of employment is envisaged including retail and other supporting sectors to the ‘Cambridge Cluster’ uses. Providing that King’s Hedges and Abbey Ward are sufficiently connected to areas across the city they should be able to take advantage of the new job opportunities that the plan creates, which could lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of income and employment deprivation.
- 15.3.9 Several other policies set to be included in the Local Plan could have implications for the economy:
- **Policy 3** sets out the spatial strategy for the location of residential development. Delivery of 14,000 new dwellings over the plan period would provide new homes for employees, could help address housing affordability issues for businesses and could help attract businesses to the area, leading to positive effects in terms of competitiveness and the economy.

¹² CLP Proposals Schedule Draft

- **Policy 80** seeks to support development schemes that prioritise sustainable access to development by public transport, walking and cycling. This could lead to negative effects through reducing attractiveness to some businesses.
- **Policy 81** states that development will be permitted where the transport impact is shown to be acceptable in accordance with national and local policy tests.
- **Policy 82** sets the thresholds for parking spaces. This could lead to negative effects through reducing attractiveness to some businesses.
- **Policy 83** allows, in principle, development at the airport which could provide a competitive advantage to Cambridge.
- **Policy 84** development and installation of telecommunications equipment could keep Cambridge at the forefront of innovation and communications, providing a competitive advantage.
- **Policy 85** the costs of infrastructure provision could potentially discourage businesses from locating; however, there is no evidence to suggest that this will be the case given that other authorities will also be requiring contributions to infrastructure.

15.4 Conclusions and recommendations

15.4.1 The plan as appraised should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of encouraging economic growth through capitalising on the four strengths of Cambridge’s economy: higher and further education and the related research institutes; high-tech business; retail; and tourism. The plan proposes sustainable growth in all of these sectors and includes criteria to protect against negative or undesirable effects. Development in research and high-tech sectors should improve Cambridge’s competitiveness in terms of business, whilst retail growth and tourism development should increase the city’s attractiveness to shoppers, visitors and tourists. Support for the Universities and specialist tutorial colleges/language schools would also increase their value in the local economy providing that suitable accommodation is provided.

15.4.2 Recommendations:

- Ensure that new employment areas have strong transport links to Kings Hedges and Abbey Ward areas so that residents of these income and employment deprived areas can take advantage of new employment opportunities elsewhere in the city. It is notable that no policy is directed specifically at addressing problems of deprivation in these areas, albeit it is recognised that Cambridge is a compact City and hence wherever employment is located it will be relatively easy to access by public transport or bike.

16 FLOOD RISK INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

16.1 Sustainability issues

- Account for the potential environmental, economic and social cost of flooding for all development proposals;
- Protect and enhance existing natural flood risk management infrastructure and ensure all development incorporates sustainable drainage systems to minimise surface water flood risk; and
- Ensure that new and existing communities are capable of adapting to climate change with consideration given to the role of green and blue infrastructure as well as the layout and massing of new developments.

16.2 Relevant plan policies

- *Section 3: Policy 13* Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – general principles; **Policy 26** Site Specific Development Opportunities
- *Section 4: Policy 27* Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use, **Policy 31** Integrated Water Management and the Water Cycle, **Policy 32** Flood Risk
- *Section 7: Policy 52*, Protecting Garden Land and the Subdivision of Existing Dwelling Plots, *Policy 59* Designing Landscape and the Public Realm, **Policy 60** Designing Landscape and the Public Realm, **Policy 63** Works to a heritage asset to address climate change, **Policy 66** Paving over front gardens, **Policy 67** Protection of Open Space, **Policy 68** Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development, **Policy 69** Protection of sites of local nature conservation importance, **Policy 71** Trees
- *Section 10: Policy 85* Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

16.3 Appraisal

16.3.1 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment identifies that the majority of the rivers and watercourses in Cambridge currently pose a flood risk and that this will be exacerbated in the future due to climate change. As such new development should not lead to further flood risk, and ideally should improve the existing and future situation for current and future residents.

16.3.2 **Policy 32** sets out the general policy regarding flood risk requiring development to be in line with the sequential test¹³, and that proposals should reduce surface water runoff rates so that they are no greater than what would have been the case for a greenfield or undeveloped site. **Policy 26** requires proposed developments to make provision for any amelioration and mitigation needed to address issues of flooding. **Policy 32** also highlights the fact that new development has the potential to reduce flood risk elsewhere in the city. Preventing impermeable driveways (**Policy 66**) and protecting gardens from development (**Policy 53**) will also reduce runoff rates and increase infiltration, preventing increased flood risk.

¹³ The sequential test is set out in the NPPF and directs development to areas that have the lowest risk of flooding.

- 16.3.3 **Policy 31** sets out the policy towards handling water and highlights the need for SuDS to reduce flood risk with developments required to integrate the principles of water sensitive urban design. When SuDS are combined with high quality landscaping they can deliver multi-functional green and blue infrastructure which can deliver a range of benefits. **Policy 26** requires the integration of proposed and existing sustainable drainage measures on site. **Policy 59** (criterion h) requires landscaping to incorporate trees, surface water management and microclimate into landscape and public realm schemes and also for planting to be climate resilient, which should contribute towards mitigating the urban heat island effect through providing vegetation which cools the environment through transpiration and providing shade. This effect should be added to by **Policy 31** which allows green roofs and **Policy 71** which protects mature trees.
- 16.3.4 **Policy 27** requires new development to provide a 'Sustainability Statement' as part of the Design and Access Statement, which seeks to influence designer/developer thinking in the scheme from the outset and ensure that new development is able to adapt to climate change. This should include sustainable design features and contribute towards water efficiency with a figure of 80 litres/head/day set for all new residential development. Sustainable design features such as passive solar design and passive ventilation can result in warmer buildings in winter and cooler buildings in summer respectively. Water efficiency measures should help adapt to reduced water availability, and conserving and reusing water would reduce water use in times of drought. **Policy 63** allows (in principle) works to a heritage asset in order to address climate change, which should help protect against risks that climate change may bring.
- 16.3.5 **Policies 13** and **85** require infrastructure to support development, including open space, recreation, green infrastructure, drains and flood defences. **Policy 26** requires the integration of proposed and existing sustainable drainage measures on site. Taken together these requirements should ensure the delivery of critical infrastructure which should help Cambridge to manage flood risk and adapt to the risks of climate change.

16.4 Conclusions and recommendations

- 16.4.1 Policies in the Local Plan do not allow for development to increase flood risk and they also seek to improve the baseline situation through infrastructure provision. Gardens and open spaces should be protected which will help protect against flood risk. SuDS schemes and multi-functional green and blue infrastructure should provide links and routes for species to migrate. 'Climate-proof' species and planting should ensure that landscaping is tolerant to heat and drought and also saturation. Protecting open space, trees, gardens and natural areas should help mitigate the urban heat island effect through encouraging transpiration, 'urban cooling' and providing shade.
- 16.4.2 Encouraging sustainable design techniques in order to capture solar gain during winter and provide natural ventilation and cooling in the summer should help protect against heat stress for people, particularly vulnerable people, older and younger people.
- 16.4.3 Measuring against the baseline situation, the plan should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of climate change adaptation and flood risk by ensuring that new development is resilient to climate change and contributes towards reducing flood risk across the city.
- 16.4.4 No recommendations are made.

17 LANDSCAPE, TOWNSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

17.1 Sustainability issues

- To ensure the protection and enhancement of the historic environment through appropriate design and scale of new development;
- To actively promote the character and distinctiveness of the Conservation Areas; and
- To ensure the scale of new development is sensitive to the existing key landmark buildings and low lying topography of the City.

17.2 Relevant plan policies

- *Section 2:* **Policy 1** The presumption in favour of sustainable development; **Policy 2** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Employment Development; **Policy 4** The Cambridge Green Belt; **Policy 7** The River Cam; **Policy 8** Setting of the City
- *Section 3:* **Policy 9** The City Centre; **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus, including Addenbrooke’s hospital; **Policy 17** Southern Fringe Areas of Major Change; **Policy 18** West Cambridge Area of Major Change; **Policy 25** Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area; **Policy 26** Site Specific Proposals
- *Section 4:* **Policy 29** Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation; **Policy 31** Integrated water management and the water cycle; **Policy 34** Light Pollution Control
- *Section 6:* **Policy 49** Gypsies and Travellers
- *Section 7:* **Policy 55** Responding to Context; **Policy 56** Creating Successful Places; **Policy 57** Designing New Buildings; **Policy 58** Altering and Extending Existing Buildings; **Policy 59** Designing Landscape and the Public Realm; **Policy 60** Tall Buildings and the Skyline in Cambridge; **Policy 61** Conservation and Enhancement of Cambridge’s Historic Environment; **Policy 62** Local Heritage Assets; **Policy 63** Works to a heritage asset to address climate change; **Policy 64** Shopfronts, Signage and Shop Security Measures; **Policy 65** Visual Pollution; **Policy 66** Paving over front gardens; **Policy 67** Protection of open space; **Policy 68** Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development
- *Section 8:* **Policy 79** Visitor Attractions

17.3 Appraisal

- 17.3.1 The Local Plan is likely to have implications for identified landscape, townscape and cultural heritage issues as any level of development has the potential to impact, both positively and negatively on the setting, character and townscape and landscape quality of an area.
- 17.3.2 Cambridge has a rich and varied townscape which contains a high concentration of historic assets. The varied character of Cambridge is evident in the large number of Conservation Areas that have been established to protect the distinctive character of different parts of the City. Cambridge has 868 Listed Buildings: 66 grade I, 52 grade II* and 750 grade II. Cambridge also has five Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 11 Historic Parks and Gardens and 11 Conservation Areas covering a total of 838 hectares. There are also in excess of 1,000 Buildings of Local Interest. Within the centre, the college grounds of Christ’s, Clare, Emmanuel, King’s, Queens’, St John’s, Trinity Hall and Trinity Colleges are all registered by English Heritage as being of ‘special interest’.
- 17.3.3 A significant number of the policies are identified to have a potential impact on the landscape, townscape and cultural heritage sustainability objectives. The key policies that have the potential to lead to significant positive or adverse impacts are discussed below.

- 17.3.4 Area-wide policies such as **Policy 4** (The Cambridge Green Belt) seek to protect the Green Belt from development unless very special circumstances can justify it. This policy should prevent inappropriate development in the Green Belt, thereby helping to preserve the unique setting and special character of the city. Similarly **Policy 8** (Setting of the City) seeks to ensure that the area between the urban edge and the countryside is protected from inappropriate development. The policy will only allow planning permission to be granted for development proposals on the urban edge where it can demonstrate that it “responds to, conserves and enhances the landscape setting, approaches and special character of the city”.
- 17.3.5 **Policy 7** (The River Cam) aims to ensure that the special character of the River Cam and its corridor is protected. Its requirement for the design of development proposals to “enhance views to and from the river” should help maintain the quality and distinctiveness of the Cam’s landscape character.
- 17.3.6 Section 3 includes a number of policies (Policies 9, 13, 16 – 18, 25 and 26) that seek to protect and enhance the historic character of areas in the city that are expected to face major development change over the lifetime of the plan. **Policy 9** (City Centre) sets out a range of criteria that all development proposals within the City Centre boundary must comply with in order to gain planning permission. In particular it requires any new development or redevelopment to “preserve or enhance heritage assets and their setting, green spaces and the River Cam”. It further states that a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be produced in order to improve the public realm in the City Centre; a key focus of this will be to improve connections between the historic core and Fitzroy / Burleigh Street areas of the City Centre.
- 17.3.7 In particular, **Policy 13** sets out a number of design principles that it expects all development proposals (with the exception of minor development) on sites in Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas to follow, such as “development should develop a new, strong landscape framework which is guided by and incorporates existing and historic character and positive features”.
- 17.3.8 **Policy 25** requires development proposals to preserve and enhance the special historic character and appearance of heritage assets, including the Conservation Area and listed buildings and their settings in the Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area. This approach should lead to positive impacts in terms of requiring new development to promote the character and distinctiveness of the conservation area.
- 17.3.9 **Policy 26** sets out the criteria which the ‘Site Specific Development Opportunities’ will be subject to, which includes design considerations and following other policy requirements in the plan. Specific sites in the green belt (sites GB1 to GB4) are required to incorporate sensitive design including landscaping, buffers, and particularly at sites GB1 and 2 the retention of the country lane appearance and character of Worts’ Causeway including its verges, hedgerows and bridleway. Any archaeological remains should also remain preserved in situ. Such requirements should ensure that any potential landscape or archaeological heritage impacts are mitigated.
- 17.3.10 All of the policies in Section 7 (**Policies 55 – 71**) seek to ensure that the character of Cambridge is protected and enhanced. In particular, **Policy 55** (Responding to Context) requires proposals to “identify and respond positively to existing features of natural, historic or local importance on and close to proposed development sites”, as well as “use appropriate local characteristics to help inform the use, siting, massing, scale, form, materials and landscape design”. In doing so this policy should ensure that the character and distinctiveness of Cambridge’s Conservation Areas is both protected and enhanced and in doing so should positively contribute to the sustainability objective.

- 17.3.11 **Policy 56** (Creating Successful Places) seeks to ensure that development positively enhances the townscape by creating “attractive and appropriately scaled built frontages” and by using “materials, finishes and street furniture suitable to the location and context”. Similarly, **Policy 57** (Designing New Buildings) requires new developments to “have a positive impact on their setting in terms of location on the site, height, scale and form, materials and detailing, ground floor activity, wider townscape and landscape impacts and available views”. Both policies should help ensure that Cambridge’s historic environment is protected and enhanced. **Policy 58** sets out the requirements for proposals involving the alteration and extension to existing buildings and will ensure that such proposals are only granted planning permission where they can demonstrate that they will not adversely affect the character and appearance of listed buildings or appearance of Conservation Areas and local heritage assets.
- 17.3.12 **Policy 60** (Tall Buildings and the Skyline in Cambridge) aims to protect Cambridge’s distinct and world-renowned skyline by requiring any development proposals for tall buildings (i.e. proposals for developments that will be significantly taller than the buildings that surround them and/or exceed 19m within the historic core) to demonstrate how they have taken account of the prevailing context and more distant views to enhance the skyline. Policy 60 has current precedent within the current 2006 Cambridge Local Plan, specifically Policy 3/13 (Tall Buildings and the Skyline). It is also notable that an abbreviated version of the Council’s document ‘*Guidance for the application of Policy 3/13 (Tall Buildings and the Skyline) of the Cambridge Local Plan*’ (2006) will be included in the appendix to the plan to provide a more detailed explanation and methodology for the application of Policy 60. The inclusion of this policy / guidance will help to contribute to the sustainability objective of ensuring that the scale of new development is sensitive to the existing key landmark buildings and low lying topography of the City.
- 17.3.13 **Policy 61** (Conservation and Enhancement of Cambridge’s Historic Environment) specifically seeks to conserve and enhance Cambridge’s historic environment. The policy requires development proposals in a Conservation Area to retain buildings and spaces whose loss would cause harm to the character of the Conservation Area; and for developments to contribute to the local distinctiveness, built form and scale of heritage assets. Similarly, **Policy 62** sets out a general presumption in favour of the retention of local heritage assets. The requirements of these policies should have positive impacts on the townscape sustainability objectives by helping to ensure that Cambridge’s distinct historic environment is protected and enhanced throughout the duration of the plan period.
- 17.3.14 **Policy 65** (Visual Pollution) sets out the policy regarding fixed and mobile advertising, street furniture, signage, telecommunications cabinets and other items on the street that may constitute visual pollution in the public realm. When subject to regulatory approval, such items would only be permitted where they would have no adverse impact on the character and setting of the area; they do not impede pedestrian or vehicular movement; they have a clear purpose and avoid street clutter; and their design is in-keeping with their setting. Such criteria should help preserve the special character of the city and lead to positive effects in terms of townscape and built heritage.
- 17.3.15 It is also worth noting that the following policies included in the Local Plan are also likely to have implications for landscape, townscape and cultural heritage objectives, albeit to a lesser extent:
- **Policy 1** *The presumption in favour of sustainable development*
 - **Policy 2** *Spatial Strategy for the Location of Employment Development*
 - **Policy 31** *Integrated water management and the water*
 - **Policy 34** *Light Pollution Control*
 - **Policy 49** *Gypsies and Travellers*
 - **Policy 59** *Designing Landscape and the Public Realm*

- **Policy 63** *Works to a heritage asset to address climate change*
- **Policy 64** *Shopfronts, Signage and Shop Security Measures*
- **Policy 66** *Paving over front gardens*
- **Policy 67** *Protection of open space*
- **Policy 68** *Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development*

17.4 Conclusions and recommendations

17.4.1 In spite of the scale of new development proposed, taken as a whole the policies presented in the Local Plan are expected to result in positive effects in terms of the landscape, townscape and cultural heritage objectives. The plan contains a number of policies, particularly those in Section 7 (Protecting and Enhancing the Character of Cambridge) that should continue to provide a good level of protection to the designated Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and heritage assets in Cambridge. Many of the policies presented in Section 3 (City Centre, Areas of Major Change, Opportunity Areas and Site Specific Proposals) include criteria that will ensure development is only supported where it can demonstrate that it will protect and enhance the character of specific areas in the city. In addition, the plan’s policy on restricting development from the Green Belt except in very special circumstances (Policy 4), should help to preserve the setting and special character of Cambridge’s historic centre.

17.4.2 No recommendations are made.

18 TRANSPORT

18.1 Sustainability issues

- To build on the high modal share of cycling in the city centre and encourage cycling for journeys over one mile;
- To reduce the use of the private car and ensure greater access to frequent public transport; and
- To capitalise on the opportunity of new development to discourage private car use and promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport.

18.2 Relevant plan policies

- *Section 2: The Spatial Strategy for Cambridge to 2031* - **Policy 1** The presumption in favour of sustainable development; **Policy 2** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Employment Development; **Policy 3** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Residential Development; **Policy 4** The Cambridge Green Belt; **Policy 5** Strategic Transport Infrastructure; **Policy 6** Hierarchy of Centres and Retail Capacity
- *Section 3: City Centre, Areas of Major Change, Opportunity Areas and Site Specific Proposals* – **Policy 9** The City Centre; **Policy 11** Fitzroy/Burleigh Street/Grafton Area of Major Change; **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 14** Northern Fringe East and land surrounding Cambridge Science Park Station; **Policy 15** South of Coldham’s Lane; **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus, including Addenbrooke’s hospital; **Policy 17** Southern Fringe Areas of Major Change; **Policy 18** West Cambridge Area of Major Change; **Policy 19** Darwin Green Area of Major Change; **Policy 20** Station Areas East and West; **Policy 21** Mitcham’s Corner Opportunity Area; **Policy 22** Eastern Gate Opportunity Area; **Policy 23** Mill Road Opportunity Area; **Policy 24** Cambridge Railway Station, Hills Road Corridor to the City Centre Opportunity Area; **Policy 25** Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area; **Policy 26** Site Specific Development Opportunities
- *Section 4: Responding to Climate Change and Managing Resources* - **Policy 27** Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use
- *Section 5: University Faculty Development* - **Policy 43** University Faculty Development
- *Section 6: Maintaining a balanced supply of housing* – **Policy 46** Development of Student Housing; **Policy 47** Specialist Housing; **Policy 49** Gypsies and Travellers
- *Section 7: Protecting and Enhancing the Character of Cambridge* – **Policy 56** Creating Successful Places; **Policy 57** Designing New Buildings
- *Section 8: Services and local facilities* - **Policy 77** Development and Expansion Of Hotels; **Policy 79** Visitor Attractions
- *Section 9: Providing the Infrastructure to Support Development* - **Policy 80** Supporting Sustainable Access to Development; **Policy 81** Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development; **Policy 83** Parking Management; **Policy 83** Aviation Development
- *Section 10: Delivery* – **Policy 85** Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

18.3 Appraisal

- 18.3.1 The Local Plan is likely to have implications for the identified transport issues as all new development has the potential to impact on existing transport infrastructure.

- 18.3.2 Cycling levels within Cambridge are amongst the highest in Europe. A large proportion of those that work and live in Cambridge cycle (36%) or walk (19%) to work regularly. However, pressure on the transport network (already acknowledged to be 'seriously constrained' in many areas) is expected to increase as a result of planned growth.
- 18.3.3 **Policy 3** sets out the overall development strategy for the location of residential development and seeks to focus the majority of new development in and around the urban area of Cambridge. Concentrating new development within the urban area where there are already well established local centres offering a wide range of existing facilities should help to maximize the number of residents accessing services and facilities locally, thereby reducing the requirement for/frequency of longer distance journeys being made and should help to reduce the use of the private car.
- 18.3.4 **Policy 80** (Supporting Sustainable Access to Development) is the main policy regarding transport and accessibility in the City and identifies the key transport-related elements that development proposals must demonstrate in order to be supported in planning terms. The policy requires new developments to prioritise access by sustainable modes of travel (walking, cycling and public transport) over car use which should contribute to positive sustainability outcomes. It also requires major development on the edge of Cambridge and in the urban extensions to be supported by high quality public transport links that are within highly walkable and cyclable travel distance of development. Requiring high quality public transport provision to be integrated with new development on the edge of Cambridge should lead to positive outcomes by increasing the use of public transport in these areas and minimising residents' use of private cars for travelling into Cambridge.
- 18.3.5 **Policy 82** (Parking Management) sets out the maximum levels of parking provision for cars and the minimum levels of parking provision for bicycles that the Council requires for residential and non-residential development across the city. The policy places a restriction on car parking spaces yet is flexibly worded in that it allows for levels to be reduced where lower car use can reasonably be expected. The relatively high cycling space requirements, coupled with the restrictions on car parking spaces, are likely to make parking/storage of bicycles at new developments across Cambridge easier and should help reduce the use of the private car thus further increasing the use of sustainable modes of travel, particularly cycling, in the city and reducing pressure on the transport network. **Policy 46** (Development of Student Housing) should further support this approach as it only allows new student housing in locations that are well served by sustainable transport modes; and subject to the condition that appropriate management arrangements are in place to ensure students do not keep cars in Cambridge.
- 18.3.6 **Policy 5** (Strategic Transport Infrastructure) requires development proposals to be consistent with and contribute to the implementation of the Transport Strategies and priorities set out in the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. The policy places an emphasis on securing a modal shift and increasing the use of more sustainable forms of transport, requiring developers to work with Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Councils to achieve the objectives and implement the Cambridge specific proposals in the LTP, including the implementation of transport schemes that will improve linkages across the region. This should help to ensure that new developments capitalise on opportunities identified in the LTP and in doing so help increase provision and use of more sustainable transport modes across Cambridge.
- 18.3.7 **Policy 81** (Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development) requires development schemes to make reasonable and proportionate financial contributions/mitigation measures where necessary to make the transport network impact of development acceptable. The policy could be strengthened / reworded to make it clearer what type of infrastructure the financial contributions would be used for (i.e. to clarify whether this would include sustainable transport infrastructure to create a virtuous circle).

- 18.3.8 **Policy 56** (Creating Successful Places) requires development proposals to demonstrate a range of criteria in order to result in well-designed development. The policy requires proposals to create streets which respond to their role and function whilst not allowing vehicular traffic to dominate however, as it is currently worded, the policy does not include any criteria relating to the need to provide access to sustainable modes of transport. The policy wording could better contribute to positive sustainability outcomes by emphasising the need for proposals to be accessible by foot / bicycle paths and public transport.
- 18.3.9 The policies in **Section 3** seek to manage change in key areas of the city and on specific sites where new development is expected to come forward during the plan period, in doing so the policies present a range of criteria which state what development proposals are expected to do in order to gain planning permission. The majority of these policies include requirements for development proposals to promote/provide access by sustainable modes of transport (i.e. by making provision for walking and cycling and making improvements for pedestrians and cyclists such as through the creation of new pedestrian and cycle routes and the inclusion of managed cycle parking facilities etc.) which should help contribute to discouraging private car use and the use of sustainable modes of transport in the city. **Policy 20** (Station Areas East and West) seek to regenerate the area around the train station into a vibrant, mixed-use development centred around an accessible, high quality and improved transport interchange. This policy should help to promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport at this location therefore having significant positive contributions to the transport objectives.
- 18.3.10 In addition, **Policy 26** (Site Specific Development Opportunities) requires new development at these sites to have 'satisfactory access and other infrastructure provision'. Specific sites GB1 and GB2 in the Green Belt are subject to additional requirements including the retention of Wort's Causeway as a bus-only route during peak periods; a green link to the Green Belt for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists; and the provision of a single access and crossover onto Babraham Road – all of which should help reduce car use and promote sustainable transport.

18.4 Conclusions and recommendations

- 18.4.1 Overall the policies in the Plan are expected to have positive outcomes for the transport objectives. In particular the overall development strategy for the location of residential development seeks to ensure that new residential development is located in and around the urban area of Cambridge which should capitalise on the opportunity for new residential development to discourage private car use and encourage more sustainable modes of transport. **Policy 80** requires new development to prioritise access by sustainable modes of travel (walking, cycling and public transport) over car use which should also contribute to positive sustainability outcomes. In addition it requires major development on the edge of Cambridge and in the urban extensions to be supported by high quality public transport links that are within (or will be made to be within) highly walkable and cyclable travel distance of development thus helping to promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport. Given the constrained nature of Cambridge's transport network the Plan seeks to make the best use of existing infrastructure by promoting a compact urban form; achieving a modal shift to sustainable transport and reducing the need to travel; all of which should to address historic rises in transport emissions.
- 18.4.2 The following recommendations are made:
- **Policy 81** (Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development) could be strengthened and reworded to make it clearer what type of infrastructure the financial contributions would be used for. This policy would better support the transport objectives if these contributions were to be directed towards sustainable transport infrastructure.
 - **Policy 56** (Creating Successful Places) could be reworded to emphasise the need for proposals to be accessible by sustainable modes of transport such as through the inclusion of foot / cycle paths and public transport.

19 BIODIVERSITY

19.1 Sustainability issues

- Maintain and build on the success of positive conservation management on local wildlife sites and SSSIs;
- Maintain and improve connectivity between existing green infrastructure in order to provide improved habitats for biodiversity and ensure no further fragmentation of key habitats as a result of new or infill development;
- Capitalise on the opportunity for green infrastructure to help Cambridge adapt to the threats posed by climate change (particularly flooding), and to improve water quality;
- Ensure new development does not impact on biodiversity including no further loss of biodiversity rich farmland to development; and
- Improve the water quality of Cambridge's water courses in line with the Water Framework Directive requirements.

19.2 Relevant plan policies

- *Section 2:* **Policy 2** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Employment Development; **Policy 3** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Residential Development; **Policy 4** The Cambridge Green Belt; **Policy 7** The River Cam; **Policy 8** Setting of the City
- *Section 3:* **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 14** Northern Fringe East and land surrounding Cambridge Science Park Station; **Policy 15** South of Coldham's Lane; **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus, including Addenbrooke's hospital; **Policy 17** Southern Fringe Areas of Major Change; **Policy 17** Southern Fringe Areas of Major Change; **Policy 19** Darwin Green Area of Major Change; **Policy 20** Station Areas East and West; **Policy 25** Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area
- *Section 4:* **Policy 27** Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use; **Policy 29** Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation; **Policy 31** Integrated water management and the water cycle; **Policy 34** Light Pollution Control; **Policy 35:** Protection of Human Health From Noise and Vibration
- *Section 6:* **Policy 52** Protecting Garden Land and the Subdivision of Existing Dwelling Plots; **Policy 54:** Residential Moorings
- *Section 7:* **Policy 55** Responding to Context; **Policy 56** Creating Successful Places; **Policy 57** Designing New Buildings; **Policy 59** Designing Landscape and the Public Realm; **Policy 66** Paving over front gardens; **Policy 67:** Protection of open space; **Policy 68:** Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development; **Policy 69** Protection of sites of local nature conservation importance; **Policy 70** Protection of Priority Species and habitats; **Policy 71** Trees
- *Section 10: Delivery –* **Policy 85** Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

19.3 Appraisal

- 19.3.1 Cambridge is home to a range of different habitats, which support many different species. A number of these habitats and species are protected through their designation as part of a network of SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites (City and County). Cambridge's biodiversity is not restricted to these protected areas. The large areas of farmland surrounding the city, particularly to the east and west, support a number of key species, including farmland birds. Meanwhile, Cambridge's green infrastructure provides vital links across the landscape for biodiversity, including the key corridor provided by the River Cam.

- 19.3.2 The policies set out in the Local Plan are likely to have implications for the area's biodiversity assets given the potential for direct loss of habitat and loss of landscape connectivity that can occur as a result of development. In addition the indirect impacts of new development may have adverse effects on biodiversity; for example as a result of pollution, or due to disturbance linked to increased population levels.
- 19.3.3 A number of the policies set out in the Local Plan seek to guide development to the most appropriate locations within the City. **Policies 2 and 40** seek to direct employment-related development to the city centre and other key employment areas, which may have help to minimise effects on biodiversity. This approach could potentially be further strengthened by following the approach of Policy 3 which makes clear the need for development to make best use of previously developed land. However, it would also be important to take into account the fact that brownfield sites will often be of greater biodiversity importance than greenfield (Green Belt) sites. In light of this fact, it is also important to draw attention to Policy 4, which focuses on protecting the Green Belt.
- 19.3.4 The spatial strategy for Cambridge includes **Policy 8**, which looks to support development that conserves or enhances biodiversity in the wider landscape, including green corridors, and which brings about landscape improvements. As such, it is predicted that this policy will result in positive effects for biodiversity. Nonetheless, this Policy could potentially be strengthened by ensuring that impacts of development on the ecological network of Cambridge as a whole are considered. This could involve criteria emphasising the need to protect and provide green linkages between areas of wildlife value (both designated and non-designated); plus which call on developers to recognise the potential multiple benefits of strategic green infrastructure provision. Alternatively, a standalone green infrastructure policy would add weight to these landscape scale considerations.
- 19.3.5 **Policy 13** sets out general principles for the areas of major change and opportunity areas. It notes that development should seek to protect open spaces and calls for the undertaking of strategic landscaping, which could potentially result in positive effects in terms of biodiversity. However, the Policy could be strengthened by making clearer the need to consider the role of such spaces and landscaping in the wider green infrastructure network of the City in order to maximise gains for biodiversity. Green infrastructure could also be listed under the 'infrastructure being sought' section of the Policy, particularly given the multi-functional nature of such spaces¹⁴; for example supporting leisure opportunities in addition to biodiversity. Similar improvement could be made to **Policy 57** in terms of its reference to improving the public realm, open space and landscaped areas.
- 19.3.6 Policies focused on 'green infrastructure' should lead to biodiversity benefits. These include **Policy 16** (landscaping & buffer areas); **Policy 17** and **Policy 19** (open space and recreation including allotments); **Policy 20** (open green spaces in the Station West area); and **Policy 25** (the creation and enhancement of areas of public open space). These policies could potentially be improved by making explicit the need to consider such spaces as a part of a wider green infrastructure network across the City.
- 19.3.7 An increased emphasis on the provision of green infrastructure in the above policies would be supported through **Policy 85** which notes that planning obligations and/or a future CIL could be required in order to deliver green infrastructure. The securing of finance to create and enhance green infrastructure has the potential to generate **significant positive effects** in terms of Cambridge's biodiversity.
- 19.3.8 The Local Plan also calls for development activities to consider how buildings themselves can support biodiversity in the built environment through **Policy 57**, which is likely to lead to positive effects for biodiversity. The supporting text to the policy could perhaps go further in terms of offering examples of how this could be achieved (it is assumed that green roofs may be encouraged in practice). It is notable that **Policy 68**, which focuses on the provision of

¹⁴ This would also help to deliver the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

open space in residential proposals, does not currently encourage consideration of the biodiversity value of such spaces, or their integration in the wider green infrastructure network.

- 19.3.9 Opportunities for development to integrate the principles of sustainable design and construction is the focus of **Policy 27**, with the supporting text noting that climate adaptation can include the use of include green roofs and enhanced tree canopies. Such emphasis may help to support biodiversity as a co-benefit of adaptation. In a similar manner, positive effects are predicted as a result of **Policy 59**. This policy focuses on landscape and the public realm and calls for species to be selected to enhance biodiversity through native planting, or the planting of species capable of adapting to the changing climate.
- 19.3.10 The potential impacts of development on biodiversity are the focus of several policies in the Local Plan. For instance, **Policy 34** notes that development proposals with external lighting, or that involve changes to existing external lighting, will be permitted only when impacts on wildlife are minimised, likely minimising negative effects. In contrast, **Policy 35** represents a missed opportunity to highlight the impacts that excess noise and vibration can have on wildlife in addition to human health.
- 19.3.11 Another missed opportunity can be found in **Policy 52** which, despite highlighting the importance of gardens as semi-natural habitat for local wildlife in its supporting text, does not mention the need to protect such features of wildlife importance in the Policy itself. Improvements to this policy could secure positive effects, as is the case with **Policy 66** which notes that proposals for the paving over of front gardens will only be permitted where they will not result in a net loss of biodiversity.
- 19.3.12 The approach set out in **Policy 67** looks to ensure that development proposals do not harm the character, or lead to the loss of, open space of environmental value, which should lead to positive effect in terms of biodiversity. This policy could however be strengthened by noting that, where it is necessary to re-provide open space of environmental value in an alternative location, that such relocations should be made with consideration to the green infrastructure network of the City as a whole (in addition to factors currently considered by the Policy, such as walking distance).
- 19.3.13 The protection of designated areas is the focus of **Policy 69** which sets out criteria for the protection of designated sites of local nature conservation importance; these criteria will allow development only if it does not lead to an adverse effect or loss (whole or part) of a Local Nature Reserve, or, where appropriate, that suitable levels of mitigation are achieved. Such protection of the City's most important wildlife sites should result in positive effects. However, as is the case with **Policy 67**, this policy could be strengthened by making clear that, where required, replacement habitat should be provided in a suitable location within the Cambridge green infrastructure network in order to ensure that ecological connectivity is maintained or enhanced.
- 19.3.14 **Policy 70** also sets out to protect the Cambridge's key biodiversity assets, noting that if significant harm to the population or conservation status of a protected species, priority species or priority habitat resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated, then planning permission will be refused. As such this is likely to lead to positive effects in terms of biodiversity
- 19.3.15 The protection of the City's designated biodiversity is also incorporated into policies relating to the Local Plan's Local Plan's City Centre, Areas of Major Change, Opportunity Areas, and site specific proposals. Specifically, **Policy 14** takes into account the existing Local Nature Reserve at Bramblefield, and calls for the provision of appropriate ecological mitigation measures, either on, or off-site, if necessary. Also resulting in positive effects is **Policy 15**, which calls for development South of Coldham's Lane to recognise existing sites of local nature conservation importance within and surrounding the site, and where development is proposed, calls for appropriate ecological mitigation measures. **Policy 26** requires biodiversity enhancement, creation of ecological corridors, the retention of hedgerows and, specifically at

site GB1 (land north of Wort’s Causeway), the policy requires buffer areas at Netherhall Farm Meadow County Wildlife Site to protect and enhance the meadow, and the retention of safe relocation of bat roosts.

19.3.16 The spatial strategy for Cambridge notes the importance of the River Cam as a green corridor through the City and sets out criteria to enhance the natural resources and adjacent natural spaces of the river through **Policy 7**, which is likely to lead to positive effects. The water environment is also the focus of **Policy 31**, which notes that development adjacent to a water body should actively seek to enhance it, including in terms of its biodiversity potential. This Policy also calls for any flat roof to be a green or brown roof, potentially boosting biodiversity. Protection for the water environment is also supported by **Policy 54**, which seeks to ensure that residential moorings have no significant negative effect on the ecological value of the River Cam.

19.3.17 Several other policies set to be included in the Local Plan could have implications for biodiversity:

- **Policy 29** calls for the adverse environmental effects of renewable and low carbon energy developments to be considered, potentially minimising negative effects for biodiversity.
- **Policy 55** calls for consideration of the wider context in which development will occur, including natural features, potentially minimising negative effects for biodiversity.
- **Policy 71** is likely to result in positive effects as it calls for the protection of trees of value, whilst noting that particular consideration should be given to veteran or ancient trees in order to preserve their ecological value.

19.4 Conclusions and recommendations

19.4.1 Taken together, the policies set out in the Local Plan are likely to result in no net loss of biodiversity despite the scale of new development proposed and could lead to positive effects; with significant positive effects in terms of green infrastructure. Of importance is the Plan’s focus on directing development into urban areas and brownfield sites, protecting biodiversity in the wider landscape and designated areas, and encouraging and protecting biodiversity in the built environment. The effect of the policies could be strengthened in some ways; in particular by bringing a greater focus on wider ecological network of the City, including highlighting the potential for achieving multiple benefits through the provision of strategic green infrastructure.

19.4.2 The following recommendations are made:

Encourage additional focus on prioritising brownfield development

- Increased consideration of the role that new or existing green space can play as part of the wider ecological network of the city, including as green infrastructure (promoting the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy)
- Highlight the need to consider the impacts of noise on wildlife in addition to human health
- Encourage consideration of the wildlife value of gardens
- Ensure that replacement green space is positioned with reference to the City’s wider green infrastructure network in order to maximise benefits

20 WATER

20.1 Sustainability issues

- Ensure developments implement the highest standards of water efficiency and place no additional pressure on water scarcity in the region;
- Improve the water quality of Cambridge's water courses in line with the Water Framework Directive requirements; and
- Ensure new development takes sewerage infrastructure into account.

20.2 Relevant plan policies:

- *Section 2:* **Policy 2** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Employment Development; **Policy 3** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Residential Development; **Policy 6** Hierarchy of Centres and Retail Capacity; **Policy 7** The River Cam
- *Section 3:* **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus, including Addenbrooke's hospital
- *Section 4:* **Policy 27** Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use; **Policy 31** Integrated water management and the water cycle; **Policy 32** Flood Risk
- *Section 6:* **Policy 54:** Residential Moorings
- *Section 7:* **Policy 57** Designing New Buildings

20.3 Appraisal

- 20.3.1 Cambridge is an area of severe water stress. Adding to this strain on supplies is the higher average per capita use of water in the City (131 litres per person per day in comparison to the national target¹⁵ of 80 litres per person day), which is above recommended levels although it is noted that the Cambridge average is lower than the national average of water use (150 litres/head/day). In future, under a business as usual scenario, new housing in the City could raise demand for water by over a third. Such demand, plus the wider impacts of development on the water environment, may also lead to declines in the quality of the water in Cambridge. As such, the policies set out in the Local Plan have a key role to play in securing the water supply and environment of the City in future years.
- 20.3.2 The spatial strategy set out in the Local Plan includes policies dictating the amount of development to be expected in the City to 2031. **Policy 2** notes that an additional 12 hectares of employment land are to be brought into use over the Plan period, with **Policy 3** meanwhile requiring the delivery of 14,000 additional dwellings. This level of development may place additional strain on the quality and availability of the City's water resources, both through direct impacts (through abstraction) and indirect impacts (such as pollution).

¹⁵ Set by the Environment Agency

- 20.3.3 The scale of development proposed, the vulnerability of Cambridge to water stress, and the importance of achieving and maintaining a good quality water environment in the City make the criteria set out in **Policy 27** of particular importance. This Policy notes that all development should make use of available opportunities to integrate the principles of sustainable design and construction into the design of proposals. Specifically, in order to prevent exacerbating Cambridge's severe water stress, the Policy calls for new homes to achieve consumption levels of 80 litres per capita per day; a level which would be in line with recommended levels of use. In addition, water efficiency in new non-residential development will be required to increase by over half against baseline performance in order to achieve the BREEAM standards outlined. As a result of these criteria **significant positive effects** are predicted. Nonetheless, it is notable that the Policy allows for these minimum standards to be bypassed if efficiency measures are not economically or technically viable and so the effectiveness of this Policy in addressing water related issues is somewhat dependent on how this proviso is applied. Given that these standards are the minimum to be required and the extent of the area's water stress, it is suggested that this condition should be removed. It is noted that the option of calling for 'water neutrality'¹⁶ has been previously considered and discounted (see discussion in Part 2).
- 20.3.4 Another key element of the Local Plan in terms of addressing Cambridge's water issues in the context of development growth is **Policy 31**. The approach set out in this Policy calls for water to be re-used where practicable, offsetting potable water demand and that a water sensitive approach is taken to the design of the development. In addition to these supply and demand focused considerations, the Policy supports improvements in water quality through its requirement that development adjacent to a water body actively seeks to enhance the water body in terms of its hydromorphology and biodiversity potential.
- 20.3.5 The protection of the City's water bodies is also supported through the approach outlined in **Policy 7** (the River Cam) and **Policy 31** (Integrated Water Management and the Water Cycle). These call for development to where possible raise the quality of the river, enhance its natural resources, and where possible bring about re-naturalisation, and so should result in positive effects. Protection for the water environment is also supported by **Policy 54**. This Policy focuses on residential moorings and looks to ensure that such moorings have no significant negative effect on the ecological value of the River Cam.
- 20.3.6 The approach set out in **Policy 32**, which focuses on flood risk, requires that all foul and surface water flows from new development are discharged to locations that have the capacity to receive them. There is however the potential for such discharges to result in the pollution of watercourses, with negative implications for water quality. This Policy could therefore be strengthened by referencing the potential for pollution from run-off can be minimised through SuDS design (given that SuDS can reduce pollution by trapping and breaking down pollutants before they enter the watercourse). However, it is noted that the integration of SUDs into the design of all new development is an integral element of Policy 31.
- 20.3.7 Several other policies set to be included in the Local Plan could have implications for water:
- **Policy 16** notes that the existing watercourse in the Cambridge Biomedical Campus area is to be retained and integrated by new development, with likely positive effects.
 - **Policy 57** is likely to have positive implications as it calls for design measures to reduce the environmental impact of new buildings.

¹⁶ A water neutrality strategy involves a range of measures designed to offset the predicted increase in water that would result from a new development in a business-as-usual scenario. This predicted increase is limited by implementing water efficiency measures for the new buildings. The remaining increase is then be offset by reducing water use in existing buildings. (Source: Environment Agency Briefing Notes [online] available at: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Research/Water_Neutrality_definition_.pdf)

20.4 Conclusions and recommendations

20.4.1 Given that Cambridge is poised to see large amounts of growth, particularly in terms of residential development, it is important that the Plan pays close regard to preserving water supply and quality in the City. On the whole, it is successful in this regard, incorporating strong requirements on new development to incorporate water efficiency measures and to adopt a water sensitive approach; plus where possible protect or improve the quality of Cambridge's water courses. The approach outlined could however be strengthened through the removal of the technical and economic viability considerations that are currently attached to the Plan's minimum water efficiency targets and the pursuit of water neutrality wherever possible.

20.4.2 The following recommendations are made:

- Strengthen the call for increased water efficiency in new development by removing the conditions relating to technical and economic viability
- Encourage flood risk management in new development to take into account the role SuDS can play in reducing the pollution of watercourses

21 COMMUNITY & WELLBEING

21.1 Sustainability issues

- Arrest the trend in increased deprivation particularly within wards to the north and east of Cambridge;
- Improve the health and well-being of Cambridge residents and reduce inequalities in health particularly in the north and east of Cambridge;
- Reduce inequalities in the educational achievement level of economically active adults and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work;
- Capitalise on the ethnic diversity of the city and its contribution to vibrant and inclusive communities;
- Protect and enhance community, leisure and open space provision, particularly in wards anticipated to experience significant population growth including Trumpington, Castle and Abbey;
- Ensure the timely provision of primary and secondary education in the locations where it is needed;
- Increase delivery of affordable and intermediate housing, in particular one and two bedroom homes;
- Ensure that the design and size of new homes meet the needs of the existing and future population, including the elderly, disabled people and those in poor health; and
- Improve air quality in and around the Cambridge city centre AQMA and along routes to the City including the A14.

21.2 Relevant plan policies

- *Section 2:* **Policy 3** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Residential Development; **Policy 5** Strategic Transport Infrastructure; **Policy 7** The River Cam; **Policy 8** Setting of the City
- *Section 3:* **Policy 9** The City Centre; **Policy 10** Development in the City Centre Primary Shopping Area; **Policy 11** Fitzroy / Burleigh Street/Grafton Area of Major Change; **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 12** Cambridge East; **Policy 15** South of Coldham’s Lane; **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus and Addenbrooke’s Hospital; **Policy 17** Southern Fringe and Areas of Major Change; **Policy 18** (West Cambridge Area of Major Change); **Policy 19** Darwin Green Area of Major Change; **Policy 20** Station Areas East and West; **Policy 21** Mitcham’s Corner Opportunity Area; **Policy 23:** Mill Road Opportunity Area; **Policy 26** Site Specific Development Opportunities
- *Section 4:* **Policy 27:** Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use ; **Policy 29** Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation; **Policy 30** Energy Efficiency Improvements in Existing Dwellings; **Policy 33** Contaminated Land; **Policy 34** Light Pollution Control; **Policy 35** Protection of Human Health From Noise and Vibration; **Policy 36** Air Quality, Odour and Dust
- *Section 5:* **Policy 44** Specialist Colleges and Language Schools
- *Section 6:* **Policy 45** Affordable Housing and Dwelling Mix; **Policy 46** Development of Student Housing; **Policy 47** Specialist Housing; **Policy 48** Housing in Multiple Occupation; **Policy 49** Gypsies and Travellers; **Policy 50** Residential Space Standards; **Policy 51** Lifetime Homes and Lifetime Neighbourhoods; **Policy 52** Protecting Garden Land and the Subdivision of Existing Dwelling Plots; **Policy 53** Flat Conversions; **Policy 54** Residential Moorings

- *Section 7: Policy 56* Creating Successful Places; **Policy 57** Designing New Buildings; **Policy 59** Designing Landscape and the Public Realm; **Policy 67** Protection of open space; **Policy 68** Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development
- *Section 8: Policy 72* Development and Change of Use in District, Local and Neighbourhood Centres; **Policy 73** Community and Leisure Facilities; **Policy 74** Education facilities; **Policy 75** Healthcare facilities; **Policy 76** Protection of Public Houses
- *Section 9: Policy 80* Supporting Sustainable Access to Development; **Policy 81** Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development; **Policy 82** Parking Management; **Policy 83** Aviation Development,
- *Section 10: Policy 85* Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

21.3 Appraisal

- 21.3.1 Cambridge is a prosperous City with a highly qualified population. However, areas of deprivation persist and a significant proportion of the population have no qualifications. Access to housing is an acute problem for many, with steep average wage to house price ratios affecting the ability of those who work in the City to live there. House affordability trends are likely to continue in the future given the large increase in the City's population expected by 2031.
- 21.3.2 The policies set out in the Local Plan are therefore likely to have important implications for community and wellbeing in the City given the potential for development to both relieve these pressures (for example, through increasing housing) and exacerbate existing issues (for example, through a higher local population placing greater demand on community facilities).
- 21.3.3 A key provision of the Local Plan is the housing target set out in **Policy 3** of the spatial strategy. This calls for the delivery of no less than 14,000 additional dwellings in the City by 2031.
- 21.3.4 The consideration of alternatives during the Interim SA¹⁷ stage suggested that that a higher quantum of housing could be pursued (up to 21,000 homes – Option 3) whilst still promoting sustainable development. Subsequently the Council has determined a housing target of 14,000 homes¹⁸ which is in line with Option 2 considered as part of the Interim SA. The Interim SA said of Option 2 “*overall this represents a more balanced approach to development than Option 1. The identified need for greater housing, including affordable housing, is met to a greater extent, while new development on the Green Belt is minimal. However, despite the increased provision of housing under this Option, there will still be a significant shortfall of affordable houses, which will impact on the levels of deprivation within Cambridge... Given that this Option requires the release of land from the Green Belt, the impact on the landscape and townscape and biodiversity is assessed to be negative*”. Since the objectively assessed housing need in Cambridge has been demonstrated through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment to be 14,000 homes, the Council's preferred option can be said to meet identified need (without leading to significant release of Green Belt so avoiding many landscape, townscape and biodiversity impacts) and, as such, would lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of ensuring housing delivery.

¹⁷ URS (2012) The Cambridge Local Plan: Interim SA Report [online] available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/www.cambridge.gov.uk/files/docs/local-plan-review-sustainability-appraisal.pdf> (accessed 05/2013)

¹⁸ Cambridge City Council (2013) Strategic Housing Market Assessment – to be published

- 21.3.5 The proportion of affordable housing to be delivered by 2031 is the focus of **Policy 45**. A graduated approach to the percentage of affordable housing required from new residential developments is adopted by the Policy, with this being based upon what is considered to be viable for most schemes of particular sizes in the City. Through this approach, developments of 10 units are to provide 20% affordable housing, building to 40% for those developments of 15 units or more. However, given the scale of housing need in the City, this Policy appears likely to lead to limited positive effects as a result of an under provision of affordable housing. Pursuit of higher affordable housing targets would likely bring about more positive effects on community and wellbeing (as a result of reduced housing need, even given that need could never be met entirely over the Plan period). However, this was not considered viable following assessment¹⁹ 'against' Paragraph 173 of the National Planning Policy Framework, which makes it clear that the sites and scale of development identified in the Local Plan should not be subject to such a scale of obligations and policy burdens that their ability to be developed viably is threatened.²⁰
- 21.3.6 The Local Plan considers the accommodation needs of the Gypsy & Traveller population in **Policy 49**; which notes that provision is to be made for at least one permanent pitch for Gypsies and Travellers between 2011 and 2031. This figure is in line with the findings of the 2011 Cambridge sub-Regional GTANA²¹ which found that a new pitch would be required to address the demand created by newly forming families and so should result in positive effects. The criteria outlined are based on previous national guidance, and good practice guidance along with the current requirements sets out in the National Planning Policy Framework. This policy can be used to guide the location of permanent, transit and emergency stopping provision for Gypsy and Traveller sites in Cambridge, in order to support the health and wellbeing of gypsies and travellers.
- 21.3.7 The high level approach set out in the vision and strategy for Cambridge is supplemented by policies and proposals that seek to promote and manage change in key areas of the City and on specific sites. In terms of these areas of change **Policy 13** sets out a series of general principles. It notes that development should seek to protect existing public assets, including open space and leisure facilities, and that where the loss of such assets is unavoidable appropriate mitigation is undertaken to offset the loss. In addition, the Policy states that planning obligations are to be used as a mechanism to gain contributions towards affordable housing, recreation and open space, education and lifelong learning, community facilities, and public art. These measures appear likely to result in a number of gains for community and wellbeing in these key areas, potentially with **significant positive effects**.
- 21.3.8 A key area of major change over the plan period will be Cambridge City Centre. **Policy 9** states that this area will be the primary focus of development that addresses retail, leisure, cultural, and other needs appropriate to its role as a multi-functional regional centre. The Policy notes that new development should add to the vitality of the Centre, but could be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria calling for such development to take into account and address the needs of the community. Also of importance in this area is **Policy 10**, which looks to promote community facilities in this key area (in upper floors) and protect existing assets (such as arts and crafts market), so likely resulting in positive effects.

¹⁹ The potential impacts of this policy on viability have been taken into account in a suite of viability documents produced on behalf of the Council. These are the Cambridge City Council Local Plan – Community Infrastructure Levy Viability Assessment; the Cambridge City Council Local Plan - SHLAA and Potential Site Allocations High Level Viability Assessment; and the Cambridge City Council Local Plan – Student Housing Affordable Housing Study.

²⁰ Specifically, the NPPF states that: "In order to ensure viability, the costs of any requirements for affordable housing, standards, infrastructure contributions or other requirements should, when taking account of the normal cost of development and mitigation, provide competitive returns to a willing landowner and willing developer to enable the development to be deliverable."

²¹ Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group (2011) Cambridge sub-Regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment [online] available at <http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-plan-cvibase%202011%20GTANA.pdf> (accessed 05/2013)

- 21.3.9 A large number of policies set out to provide guidance to developers in areas of major change which may have positive effects on community and wellbeing. These include **Policies 17 and 19** (the provision of community facilities, education facilities, local shopping & services, and open space & recreation); **Policy 11** (expansion or redevelopment of retail or leisure uses); **Policy 15** (establishment of recreation and commercial uses); **Policy 18** (provision of community facilities & amenities); Policy 20 (principal land uses to include open spaces and community uses); **Policy 21** (shops and services); and **Policy 23** (development of arts and cultural facilities). **Policy 26** details a list of site specific development opportunities considered suitable for residential, residential moorings, employment, university use or mixed use which should lead to positive effects on community and wellbeing through providing housing, leisure, retail and employment opportunities.
- 21.3.10 The provisions and protection of important community facilities is a focus of a number of more wide-ranging policies. **Policy 85** is vital with regards to provision of such facilities. It states that new development must be supported by required infrastructure and, where existing infrastructure will be placed under strain due to the impact of new development, improvements to existing infrastructure or compensatory provision should be made. These measures should help to ensure that there is no reduction in the City's overall provision of community related infrastructure. In addition, the Policy makes clear that planning obligations and/or future CIL money could be used to provide key community infrastructure. As a result, this Policy is predicted to result in **significant positive effects**.
- 21.3.11 The open space of the City is valuable to the health and wellbeing of its residents. The protection of such space is therefore an important consideration and one that is addressed by **Policy 67** which states that development proposals will not be permitted which would harm the character of, or lead to the loss of, open space of recreational importance unless it can be satisfactorily replaced. In addition to these protective measures, **Policy 68** calls for all residential development proposals to contribute to the provision of open space and recreation facilities on-site, with this provision to address local deficiencies where possible. The focus on both protection and provision set out through these Policies should result in **significant positive effects** given the additional demand that is likely to be placed on these spaces through development and a growing population, plus the need to improve health outcomes through increased physical activity.
- 21.3.12 Also likely to lead to **significant positive effects** is **Policy 73** which notes that new or enhanced community or leisure facilities are to be permitted where appropriate. The policy should have the effect of ensuring that facilities come forwards in areas of deficiency and, hence, should help to ensure that high quality facilities are 'accessible'. In addition, this Policy sets out criteria relating to the loss of facilities. These state that the loss of a facility or site last in use as a community facility or leisure facility will be permitted only if it can be suitably replaced or relocated, or is no longer needed; so providing a high degree of protection.
- 21.3.13 The establishment of new educational facilities is the focus of **Policy 74**. It notes that proposals for new or enhanced education facilities will be permitted where the scale, range, quality and accessibility of education facilities are improved, whilst also suggesting that developers should engage with the Children's Services Authority at the earliest opportunity. These measures should help to ensure that appropriate education provision is secured with positive effects. However, given the importance of such facilities to community and wellbeing, it is suggested that this Policy could be strengthened by including specific reference to their protection from re-development (in a way that supplements Policy 73).

- 21.3.14 The approach set out in **Policy 75** looks to ensure that new or enhanced healthcare facilities are permitted when they improve the scale, range, quality and accessibility of provision; they are located in the area they are expected to serve; and where possible and appropriate they are co-located with complementary services. This should help to guarantee the creation of health infrastructure that benefits all members of local communities, resulting in positive effects. However, given the importance of such facilities to community and wellbeing, it is suggested that this Policy could be strengthened by including specific reference to their protection from re-development (in a way that supplements Policy 73).
- 21.3.15 The health impacts of development form the focus of a number of policies within the Local Plan. These include **Policy 35** which states that development will be permitted only where it is demonstrated that it will not lead to significant adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on health and amenity from noise and vibration. This measure is expected to have positive effects in terms of health and wellbeing. Also likely to lead to positive effects in this manner are **Policy 12** which calls for residential proposals in Cambridge East to demonstrate that any environmental and health impacts (including noise) from the airport can be acceptably mitigated for residents of new development, and **Policy 83**, which notes that aviation development at Cambridge Airport will only be supported where it will not have a significant adverse impact on residential amenity.
- 21.3.16 The protection of health is also a concern of **Policy 36** which states that development will be permitted only where it can be demonstrated that it does not lead to significant adverse effects on health or amenity from polluting or malodorous odour emissions, or from dust or smoke emissions to air. The Policy also specifically looks to prevent adverse effects on air quality in AQMAs or the creation of new ones; plus the prevention of adverse effects on human health as a result of development within AQMAs. The prevention of pollution forms an element of the strategic approach to transport infrastructure set out in **Policy 5**. This seeks to ensure that pressure on the AQMA in the City Centre is eased through reduced transport emissions and promotes access by sustainable transport to facilities across Cambridge. These policies could potentially result in **significant positive effects** in terms of health and wellbeing given the poor air quality to be found in areas of the City.
- 21.3.17 Mitigating the transport impact of new development in the City is the focus of **Policy 81**. This Policy notes that development will only be permitted where the impact on transport networks is shown to be acceptable, including transport assessments where appropriate, and calls for Travel Plans to be produced for major developments. This should help to ensure that the impacts of transport on determinants of wellbeing (such as air quality) are addressed, whilst also states a shift to sustainable transport modes with its associated benefits (such as increased walking and cycling). Promoting the positive benefits of this approach are **Policy 80**, which will allow development where it demonstrates that prioritisation of access is by walking, cycling and public transport; and **Policy 82** which looks to allow car free and car capped development where appropriate, to ensure a minimum level of cycle parking, and to limit car parking levels.
- 21.3.18 Considerations of impacts upon air quality is an element of **Policy 29**, which is looks to ensure that proposals for renewable and low-carbon energy generation do not result in negative effects; particularly within or close to AQMAs or where air pollution levels are approaching EU Limit Values. This is likely to lead to positive effects in terms of health and wellbeing. In addition, the Policy calls for the noise related impacts of such developments to be addressed.
- 21.3.19 Another important aspect of the shift to a low carbon future is improvements in energy efficiency. This matter is addressed by **Policy 27** and **Policy 30**. The former Policy sets out standards for new development, with residential properties to achieve a minimum of level 4 of the Code for Sustainable homes by 2014. Meanwhile, **Policy 30** focuses on improving energy efficiency where applications are made for extensions and conversions to residential properties. Collectively these policies should help to lower running costs and reduce fuel poverty, resulting in benefits in terms of community and wellbeing.

- 21.3.20 The achievement of high standards of construction in residential development more generally is the focus of **Policy 50**. This states that new residential developments are only to be permitted where they provide reasonable living conditions, including in terms of room sizes and direct access to an area of private amenity space. This is likely to lead to positive effects and is further supported by **Policy 51**, which notes that all housing development should adopt the Lifetime Homes Standard and that a percentage of homes should meet the Wheelchair Housing Design Standard; and Policy 47 which calls for housing for people with specific housing needs (such as the elderly and disabled) to be suitable for the intended occupiers, plus accessible to local shops, services, public transport and community facilities. These latter policies are likely to be particularly important for sectors of Cambridge's population and so may lead to **significant positive effects**.
- 21.3.21 Another aspect of community wellbeing which can be a focus of design is the issue of crime. This matter is addressed through **Policy 56** which calls for new development to be designed to remove the threat, or perceived threat, of crime and improve community safety. This is likely to result in positive effects, as is the Policy's focus on new developments meeting the principles of inclusive design, in particular for those with disabilities, the elderly and those with young children. **Policy 34** also has implications for crime, stating that proposals which incorporate new external lighting, or changes to existing external lighting, should utilise the bare minimum required; balancing concerns over public safety, crime and residential amenity (in terms of light pollution). This balancing of considerations is likely to result in positive effects.
- 21.3.22 Several other policies set to be included in the Local Plan could have implications for community & wellbeing:
- **Policy 7** is likely to lead to positive effects as it seeks to where possible raise the quality of open spaces adjacent to the River Cam.
 - **Policy 8** promotes access to the countryside or open space from development on the urban edge and calls for landscape improvements, with likely positive effects.
 - **Policy 16** states that development proposals at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus will be approved where it can be demonstrated that such proposals are required to meet local, regional or national health care needs, likely leading to positive effects.
 - **Policy 33** is likely to result in positive effects as it focuses on ensuring that contaminated land does not result in adverse health impacts.
 - **Policy 44** will not permit the development of specialist language schools unless they provide residential accommodation and social and amenity facilities, for all non-local students, with likely positive effects.
 - **Policy 46** only permits student housing where it is provided for students attending full-time courses of an academic year or longer and meets identified needs of an existing educational institution. Development would not be allowed to result in the loss of existing marketing or affordable housing and the loss of student housing would also be resisted, likely leading to positive effects.
 - **Policy 48** states that proposals for large houses in multiple occupation must not harm residential amenity and must be accessible to local services, likely leading to positive effects.
 - **Policy 52** notes that development on part of a garden or group of gardens will only be permitted where amenity and privacy is appropriately protected and so is likely to result in positive effects, although the need for residential accommodation should be balanced against the environmental impacts.
 - **Policy 53** will allow flat conversions only where there will be a good standard of amenity for its occupiers and negative impacts on neighbouring properties are avoided, likely resulting in positive effects.

- **Policy 54** states that residential moorings will be permitted where close to existing services and amenities and where there is no significant negative effect on local amenity, so likely leading to positive effects.
- **Policy 57** may lead to positive effects as it will support new buildings only where they are convenient, safe and accessible for all users.
- **Policy 59** calls for design of landscape and the public realm which considers the needs of all users and adopts the principles of inclusive design and so is likely to lead to positive effects.
- **Policy 72** notes that development and change of use in district, local and neighbourhood centres must not give rise to a detrimental effect on the amenity of the area, with likely positive effects.
- **Policy 76** is likely to lead to positive effects as it seeks to ensure that public houses are only lost when a site is no longer needed within the community as a public house, or as another form of community facility.

21.4 Conclusions and recommendations

21.4.1 Cambridge is an area facing significant changes in the future, and so development over the plan period must be capable of addressing the new and expanding demands that will be placed on the city and its infrastructure if current levels of community and wellbeing are to be maintained and improved. On the whole the plan is successful in this regard, with a number of policies addressing the protection of existing community facilities, although some policies could be strengthened in this respect; and the provision of new facilities to address emerging needs, including the securing of finances where appropriate. One of the most significant issues facing the city today and in future is that of housing, and the plan meets the identified housing need as set out in the SHMA²² and as such should lead to **significant positive effects**.

21.4.2 The following recommendations are made:

- Policy could perhaps go further in terms of explicitly requiring that development proposals in the City Centre take into account and reflect identified needs associated with the local community.
- Include criteria setting out conditions that would apply should development result in the loss of educational and healthcare facilities
- Broaden considerations of the impact of renewable and low-carbon energy generation to include all forms of energy infrastructure
- Make explicit the need to consider the potential health impacts of aviation development at Cambridge Airport.

²² Cambridge City Council (2013) Strategic Housing Market Assessment – to be published.

22 CITY CENTRE

22.1 Relevant sustainability objectives:

- Ensure the centre capitalises on the opportunities from growing business sectors;
- Maintain and improve the quality of the centre as a place to live, work and spend leisure time, while ensuring a safe and welcoming environment; and
- Ensure opportunities to reduce energy demand through renewable and low carbon technologies are maximised.

22.2 Relevant plan policies:

22.2.1 Whilst all policies included in the plan will apply to this functional area to some extent, the following have particular relevance given the opportunities, issues, and constraints specific to this area of the city.

- *Section 2:* **Policy 5** Strategic Transport Infrastructure; **Policy 6** Hierarchy of Centres and Meeting Retail Need; **Policy 7:** The River Cam
- *Section 3:* **Policy 9** The City Centre; **Policy 10** Development in the City Centre Primary Shopping Area; **Policy 11** Fitzroy / Burleigh Street/ Grafton Area of Major Change; **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 22** Eastern Gate Opportunity Area; **Policy 23** Mill Road Opportunity Area; **Policy 24** Cambridge Railway Station, Hills Road Corridor to the City Centre Opportunity Area; **Policy 25** Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area
- *Section 4:* **Policy 27** Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use; **Policy 29** Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation; **Policy 36** Air Quality, Odour and Dust
- *Section 5:* **Policy 40** Development and Expansion of Business Space; **Policy 43** University Faculty Development;
- *Section 7:* **Policy 55** Responding to Context; **Policy 60** Tall Buildings and the Skyline in Cambridge; **Policy 61** Conservation and Enhancement of Cambridge’s Historic Environment
- *Section 8:* **Policy 73** Community and leisure facilities; **Policy 77** Development and Expansion of Hotels; **Policy 78** Redevelopment or Loss of Hotels; **Policy 79** Visitor Attractions

22.3 Appraisal

22.3.1 Cambridge city centre is both historic yet modern, supporting a world famous university and a growing service and high tech economy. It is also a regional shopping destination and benefits from a high quality civic environment and open space provision. However, the centre faces a number of challenges and opportunities as a result of economic growth and an increasing and changing population.

22.3.2 These challenges and opportunities include increased demand for city centre office space; the need for improvement to retail and service offerings; and increased pressures on maintaining the high quality public realm resulting from rising resident and visitor numbers. There is also the need to improve connectivity between the city centre and key employment sites, and to take advantage of the opportunities for District Heating that the area presents.

- 22.3.3 The importance of the city centre and the pressures it faces is the focus of **Policy 9**. This policy notes that Cambridge city centre will be the primary focus for developments attracting a large number of people and for meeting retail, leisure, cultural and other needs; including the establishment of a suitable mix of uses. In addition to focusing such developments in the centre, the policy also recognises the need for protection and enhancement of historic assets, green spaces, and the public realm, in order that the impacts of development are appropriately mitigated and the benefits captured. As a result of this balanced approach to growing business sectors and maintaining the quality of the centre, **significant positive effects** are predicted.
- 22.3.4 Cambridge's key economic position as a regional centre is addressed by **Policy 6**, which states that retail and other main town centre uses are directed to the centres in line with the sequential approach set out in the NPPF. Any retail developments proposed outside these centres will be subject to a retail impact assessment if greater than 2,500m² or below this level where a proposal could have a cumulative impact or an impact on the role or health of nearby centres. In addition, the policy notes that a capacity for 14,141m² net of comparison retail floorspace to 2022 has been identified. This is to be met by following a 'City Centre First' approach. Directing retail development and other appropriate uses to the centre may result in **significant positive effects** through its support of the area's economy. The policy's supporting text could be strengthened to explain how monitoring of retail and leisure capacity will be managed in the period beyond 2022 through stating that it is likely that the retail and leisure study will need to be updated during the plan period.
- 22.3.5 In terms of the economy of the city as a whole **Policy 40** notes that demand for offices space has contracted to the city centre, where there is now strong demand for such premises. As a result, the policy is to encourage suitable new offices, research and development and research facilities to come forward in the city centre. This should ensure that such development comes forward where it is most required, so supporting the city centre and wider city economies with positive effects.
- 22.3.6 Another key driver of the local economy is the city's universities. These key facilities are the focus of **Policy 40**, which states that development or redevelopment of university related faculty, research and administrative sites will be supported in the city centre. In addition, this policy calls for development to take advantage of opportunities to improve circulation for pedestrians and cyclists, together with public realm improvements; in turn helping to protect and enhance the locale in addition to supporting the economy of the area. With this being the case, positive effects are predicted. It is also noted that the allocation of two sites in the city centre for university uses may help to create and maintain profitable relationships between businesses and academic researchers.
- 22.3.7 In terms of the retail growth that is to occur in the city centre, **Policy 10** indicates that A1 uses will be supported. It also indicates that proposals for other 'A Class', leisure and tourism uses which are suitable in a centre will be supported were they complement the retail function of the area. The policy also seeks to protect retail uses in the primary and secondary frontages. This includes criteria stating that the loss of centre uses at ground floor level to non-centre uses within primary and secondary frontages will not be permitted, unless it can be demonstrated that the use is no longer viable. These measures to encourage and protect such uses are likely to produce positive effects in terms of the local economy. In addition, the policy will support a mix of uses, including residential and community facilities on upper floors, whilst also protecting and promoting the two outdoor markets. Together these measures should help to ensure **significant positive effects** in terms of the local economy and the quality of the centre.

- 22.3.8 A particular focus for the development of additional comparison retail in the city centre, along with other mixed uses, will be the Fitzroy/Burleigh Street/Grafton Area of Major Change. Specific guidance for development in this area will be provided through **Policy 11**. This policy notes that the precise quantum of development to take place in the area is to be subject to testing and demonstration through the development of a masterplan. This should help to provide flexibility to developers whilst ensuring that an optimum outcome is achieved. In addition, the policy calls for townscape and public realm improvements and a focus on providing access by sustainable modes of transport which should result in wider benefits. Given the varying quality of shops and the public realm in this area currently, this policy approach should result in positive effects.
- 22.3.9 Transport and public realm improvements are an important element of the changes proposed for the Eastern Gate Opportunity Area through **Policy 22**. The quality and character of the area has suffered as a result of unsympathetic development in the 1970s. To address these issues the policy calls for development proposals to realise the potential of underused spaces and to deliver a series of co-ordinated streetscape and public realm improvements. Key projects include the provision of pedestrian/cycle crossings and continuous cycle lanes at Newmarket Road and East Road. These measures should result in positive effects for the area. Nonetheless, the policy could be strengthened by adding a requirement for development proposals in the area to prioritise sustainable forms of transport more generally (e.g. wording in **Policy 24**: *'promote and co-ordinate the use of sustainable transport modes'*).
- 22.3.10 Another area of the city centre requiring improvements to transport and the public realm is the Cambridge Railway Station, Hills Road Corridor. Streets and junctions within the area are congested with traffic and pedestrians experiencing a poor quality public realm. Given these issues, **Policy 24** calls for development in this area which results in an improved, high quality green link connecting the city centre to the station, including a pedestrian and cycle route. This should result in positive effects in terms of accessibility, and wider benefits in terms of an improved environment. This policy could however be improved by making explicit the need for improvements to the environment for cyclists as an element of the coordinated streetscape and public realm improvements that development proposals are to deliver (e.g. wording from **Policy 25**: *'create safer streets with priority for pedestrians and cyclists'*).
- 22.3.11 In the historic core of the city is the Old Press/Mill Lane Opportunity Area. This area is the subject of **Policy 25**, which notes that as the University of Cambridge is interested in relocating some of its activities away from the site this presents a number of opportunities. The policy recognises that these include the chance for new development to enhance the public realm and the setting of heritage assets; address existing conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians; and reuse and redevelop buildings for a range of land uses. A focus on both preserving and enhancing the special historic character of this area, and achieving complementary and compatible land uses should result in positive effects. In addition, the policy is strong in terms of its support for sustainable transport, calling for a minimisation of non-essential car parking; the provision of high quality, well designed areas of cycle parking; and the creation of safer streets with priority for pedestrians and cyclists; with further positive effects.
- 22.3.12 The historic assets of the city centre are likely to be further protected through the provisions of **Policy 55**. This policy states that development will be supported where it is demonstrated that it responds positively to its context, including features of natural, historic or local importance. Further protection is likely to be provided by **Policy 61**, which sets out to conserve or enhance the significance of the heritage assets of the city, and to retain buildings and spaces whose loss would cause harm to the character of a conservation area. These policies should help to ensure that the historic core of the city centre is protected from development that is unsuitable, thus resulting in a range of social and economic benefits, and **significant positive effects**.

- 22.3.13 The Council's appraisal of the city's historic core²³ found that large parts of the River Cam corridor are of very high significance. This significance is likely to be protected and enhanced through **Policy 7**, which calls for development proposals along the corridor to enhance the unique physical, natural and culturally distinctive landscape of the River Cam and take account of and support as appropriate the tourism and recreational facilities in the corridor. This should help to protect this key feature of the historic and natural landscape of the city centre, whilst supporting growth in tourism and so the local economy, thus resulting in positive effects.
- 22.3.14 Also likely to be important to tourism growth, and so to the economy of the city centre, are the criteria set out in **Policy 77** and **Policy 78**. The former will focus the proposals for the development and expansion of hotels in the centre; the latter meanwhile looks to prevent development which would result in the loss of existing hotels and guest houses within the city centre unless they are no longer viable. Further support to tourism is provided through **Policy 79**, which balances making the most of opportunities for growth with the protection of the centre's unique environment and key infrastructure. It does so by calling for proposals for new visitor attractions within the centre to complement the existing cultural heritage of the city, to assist the diversification of the offer, and to have good public transport accessibility. Given the importance of tourism to the Cambridge economy, and the impacts that such activity could potentially have on the centre, these policies are likely to collectively result in **significant positive effects**.
- 22.3.15 The increased amount of development likely to come forward over the plan period could lead to impacts on air quality. This is likely to be of particular importance in the city centre given the poor air quality in much of this area. For instance, all of the individual development sites proposed for the city centre are within or adjacent to an AQMA. Of these sites, all could have an adverse effect on air quality, with one of these sites potentially resulting in a significant adverse effect (the New Museums Site). This could potentially result in negative effects on human health. However, protection against such adverse effects is likely to be provided by **Policy 36** which looks to prevent adverse effects on air quality in AQMAs, and the creation of a new one; plus the prevention of adverse effects on human health as a result of development within AQMAs. As a result, this policy may lead to **significant positive effects**.
- 22.3.16 The prevention of pollution forms an element of the strategic approach to transport infrastructure set out in the **Policy 5**. This seeks to ensure that pressure on the AQMA in the city centre is eased through reduced transport emissions and promotes access by sustainable transport to facilities across Cambridge. The promotion of access is likely to be important for community life also, as distance from a train station tends to be high for many of the individual sites brought forward (excluding those on Hills Road), as the train station is at the edge of the city centre area. This policy could therefore result in **significant positive effects**.
- 22.3.17 Another aspect of environmental protection that is likely to be important in the city centre area is that of climate change mitigation. This is due to the identified potential opportunity for district heating in central Cambridge. The approach outlined in **Policy 27** should help to ensure that this opportunity is taken, by calling for major development proposals within the Strategic District Heating Area to connect to existing heat networks or networks under construction, where possible. The policy will also be supportive of the future proofing of developments so that they are capable of connecting to future heat networks. As such, this policy is considered likely to result in **significant positive effects**. This approach could however be strengthened by stating more clearly which development will be considered to be 'major' and by adjusting the wording of the policy to make clear that it will only be relaxed where the establishment of a connection 'significantly' impacts on the viability of a scheme.
- 22.3.18 Several other policies set to be included in the Local Plan could have implications for the City Centre:

²³ Cambridge City Council (2006) Historic Core Appraisal [online] Available from: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/historic-core-appraisal>

- **Policy 13** notes that development should be of higher densities in the city centre, so likely resulting in positive economic effects.
- **Policy 73** should lead to positive effects on the economy as it will permit enhanced community or leisure facilities only if they do not have a negative impact upon the vitality and viability of the city centre, including its evening economy.
- **Policy 60** looks to protect the city’s heritage assets from the impacts that tall buildings may have, with positive implications given the concentration of such assets in the city centre’s historic core.

22.4 Conclusions and recommendations

22.4.1 The policies set out to address development in the city centre area, or that may have an effect on it through their general provisions, are on the whole likely to result in positive effects. This is as a result of a balancing of both the need to grow the local economy to take full advantage of the opportunities presented, and the need to protect and enhance the centre’s assets, community, and infrastructure from the impacts of development and future demographic and economic change. The policies for the Opportunity Areas could however be improved by making stronger reference to the need for a built environment that prioritises sustainable means of transport and provides appropriate supporting infrastructure, with this being of particular importance given the poor air quality in the city centre.

22.4.2 The following recommendations are made:

- The supporting text for Policy 6 could be strengthened to explain how monitoring of retail and leisure capacity will be managed in the period beyond 2022;
- Provide details on how the economic impacts of site allocations that result in the loss of employment space will be identified and addressed;
- Make explicit the need to create a safer and improved environment for cyclists in a number of the centre’s Opportunity Areas;
- Call of development proposals in a number of the centre’s Opportunity Areas to promote and prioritise the use of sustainable forms of transport; and
- Ensure that ‘major’ development in the Strategic Heating area is defined and that conditions are only relaxed where there is a ‘significant’ impact on viability.

23 NORTH CAMBRIDGE

23.1 Relevant sustainability objectives:

- Address deprivation across quite expansive areas of the city's northern and north-eastern extents;
- Address flood risk issues;
- Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling (including to access the Cambridge Science Park);
- Increase access to high quality open space, particularly within Arbury;
- Support the achievement of identified priorities within the Chesterton / Ferry Lane and De Freville Conservation Areas;
- Encourage high quality design and improve the quality of the public realm within some areas; and
- Develop a co-ordinated policy with South Cambridgeshire District Council for the development of Northern Fringe East.

23.2 Relevant plan policies:

23.2.1 Whilst all policies included in the plan will apply to this functional area to some extent, the following have particular relevance given the opportunities, issues, and constraints specific to this area of the city.

- *Section 2: Policy 2* Spatial Strategy for the Location of Employment Development; **Policy 3** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Residential Development
- *Section 3: Policy 13* Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 14** Northern Fringe East and Land Surrounding Cambridge Science Park; **Policy 21** Mitcham's Corner Opportunity Area; **Policy 26** Site Specific Development Opportunities
- *Section 4: Policy 31* Integrated water management and the water cycle; **Policy 32** Flood Risk
- *Section 5: Policy 40* Development and Expansion of Business Space; **Policy 41** Protection of Business Space
- *Section 6: Policy 52* Protecting Garden Land and the Subdivision of Existing Dwelling Plots
- *Section 7: Policy 55* Responding to Context; **Policy 56** Creating Successful Places; **Policy 59** Designing Landscape and the Public Realm; **Policy 61** Conservation and Enhancement of Cambridge's Historic Environment; **Policy 66** Paving over front gardens; **Policy 67** Protection of Open Space; **Policy 68** Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development
- *Section 9: Policy 80* Supporting Sustainable Access to Development); **Policy 81** Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development; **Policy 82** Parking Management
- *Section 10: Policy 85* Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

23.3 Appraisal

- 23.3.1 The North Cambridge Functional Area is generally more deprived towards the north and east, with the worst performing Super Output Area (SOA) in Cambridge (in terms of 'overall' deprivation according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation) located on the northern extent of King's Hedges ward. Adjacent to this area are also the second and fifth most deprived SOAs in the city. The sixth most deprived SOA in the city is located to the east of the Northern Area. New development and growth can benefit these deprived areas to the north and east through creating new employment opportunities, housing, and other forms of infrastructure including open space provision and public transport.
- 23.3.2 **Policy 13** sets out the general principles for development at the Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas, of which two (**Policies 14** and **21**) fall within the North Cambridge Functional Area. Additionally, a number of Site Specific Development Opportunities are located in the area under **Policy 26**. Taken together these policies provide for a significant amount of development in the area, with which it will be important to deliver contributions towards meeting the sustainability objectives for the area.
- 23.3.3 The Northern Fringe Area of Major Change (**Policy 14**) is located to the north east of the area and seeks to deliver an employment-focused area centred around a new train station at the Cambridge Science Park. The area is allocated for high quality mixed use development, including employment uses such as B1, B2 and B8 uses as well as a range of supporting commercial, retail and residential uses, however the final quantum and distribution of uses will be determined through an Area Action Plan. Development in this area of Cambridge which contains the most deprived Super Output Areas in the city should deliver increase employment opportunities and lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of addressing deprivation in the North Cambridge Functional Area.
- 23.3.4 A sustainability objective in North Cambridge is to encourage high quality design and improve the quality of the public realm. In this respect, **Policies 55, 56** and **59** should be of benefit. **Policy 55** seeks to protect and enhance the special character of Cambridge by encouraging development that responds to its context. **Policy 56** supports development that is designed to be attractive, high quality, accessible, inclusive and safe, positively enhancing the townscape. **Policy 59** concerns landscape and the public realm and states that external spaces, landscape, public realm, and boundary treatments must be designed as an integral part of new development proposals and co-ordinated with adjacent sites and phases. Taken together these policies should ensure that development proposals lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of encouraging proposals that lead to high quality design and an improved public realm.
- 23.3.5 An Opportunity Area is designated at Mitcham's Corner (**Policy 21**) where redevelopment proposals which deliver a mix of uses including local shops and services with residential at upper floors will be supported. Development here could lead to positive effects in terms of encouraging regeneration and attracting investment, which in turn could lead to additional employment opportunities for the residents of the area. The main aim of the Opportunity Area is to improve the quality and character of the area and create a 'sense of place' which should make the area more vibrant, restoring the balance between people and vehicles. The 1970s gyratory system has created an unpleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists which is difficult to navigate and has eroded the character of the area. Public realm improvements aim to create a low speed environment giving pedestrians and cyclists greater priority, de-cluttering the street scene and creating opportunities for new public spaces. As such the Opportunity Area should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of encouraging high quality design and public realm in this area of the city.

- 23.3.6 A recognised sustainability objective of the plan is to capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport, walking and cycling including access to the Cambridge Science Park. Transport **Policies 80, 81 and 82** seek to promote sustainable transport and reduce reliance on the car; while **Policy 13** requires proposals to be of higher densities around key transport interchanges, District Centres and Local Centres. Additionally **Policy 85** requires new development to be supported by the required infrastructure at the appropriate stage, including transport infrastructure.
- 23.3.7 **Policies 14 and 21** both require improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure in an attempt to achieve modal shift towards sustainable transport modes. **Policy 21** should rebalance the road network in favour of walking and cycling by removing / remodelling the gyratory; whilst **Policy 14** seeks to link the proposed new station at Cambridge Science Park to the Science Park itself and the Busway. This should improve accessibility both in and out of the area and ensure that new employment opportunities are within easy reach. These provisions should result in **significant positive effects** in terms of encouraging public transport, walking and cycling whilst also increasing access to employment opportunities from more deprived parts of the city.
- 23.3.8 Arbury has the lowest amount of Protected Open Space in Cambridge and the spaces that are available are considered to be of insufficient quality, size and proximity to housing. King's Hedges ward has more open space but is of similar poor quality whereas to the south, West and East Chesterton have greater provision of open space.
- 23.3.9 In terms of general open space policies; **Policy 68** requires residential development proposals to contribute to the provision of open space and recreation facilities on-site or off-site through developer contributions. Open space is protected under **Policy 67** whereby development is only permitted where replacement space (of greater quality and/or quantity) is provided in the area; and **Policy 59** requires external spaces, landscape, public realm and boundary treatments to be designed as an integral part of new development proposals. Additionally **Policy 85** requires the provision of infrastructure alongside development including open space.
- 23.3.10 Specific to the North Cambridge Functional Area, development that comes forward should increase provision by following the above policies in the plan. At Mitcham's Corner (**Policy 21**) a criterion states that development proposals should create opportunities for new public spaces. Mitcham's Corner is at the southern extent of Arbury ward which should increase open space provision for residents. Notably, just west of Arbury ward is the NIAB 1 Area of Major Change (**Policy 19**) which requires provision of open space as part of the development; which should benefit residents to the north of the ward. Taken as a whole, policies in the plan should increase open space provision in North Cambridge – particularly in Arbury – and should lead to **significant positive effects**.
- 23.3.11 There is a need for the plan to support the achievement of identified priorities within Conservation Areas (CAs). Such areas in North Cambridge are De Freville CA, Chesterton CA and Ferry Lane CA. Conservation areas are addressed by **Policy 61** which seeks to ensure the conservation and enhancement of Cambridge's historic environment. This policy alongside other design policies which require consideration of the relationship between the site and its surroundings should help to ensure adequate protection of the Conservation Areas.

- 23.3.12 Specifically within Chesterton and Ferry Lane CAs, negative issues relate to the road network and inappropriate modern development. Busy traffic along the High Street led to traffic calming interventions (including raised tables and speed bumps) in the 1990s which has resulted in a loss of historic character. Poor quality commercial frontages and modern development that does not take into account the context and character of the CA has had a detrimental impact on the street scene. The transport policies appraised above (**Policies 80, 81 and 82**) should help to reduce reliance on the car and subsequently traffic; whilst the design policies (**Policies 55, 56 and 59**) along with **Policy 61** (for conservation of the historic environment) should ensure that new proposals contribute to, rather than detract from, the character of the area. The policies are appraised to lead to positive effects as without comprehensive redevelopment of the inappropriate buildings and remodelling/reconfiguring of the High Street such issues are likely to remain in the CAs.
- 23.3.13 The Cambridge Surface Water Management Plan identifies three areas within North Cambridge as 'wetspots' i.e. at particular risk of flooding. These include King's Hedges/Arbury as the highest ranked spot; North Chesterton (3rd) and South Chesterton (5th). The Management Plan states that there is a need for increased maintenance of watercourses and surface water drains; and the uptake of engineering options including attenuation features, such as swales, basins and wetlands and source control elements such as permeable paving and rain gardens. **Policies 31 and 32** set out the Cambridge approach to Integrated Water Management and Flood Risk respectively and **Policy 66** requires paving in front gardens to consist of permeable surfaces. In particular, **Policy 32** requires no increase in flood risk and, for previously developed land, proposals should reduce flood risk.
- 23.3.14 Taken together the above policies fulfil the requirements of the Surface Water Management Plan and should reduce flood risk in the Functional Area. As such the plan should lead to **significant positive effects** through reducing flood risk.
- 23.3.15 Several other policies set to be included in the Local Plan could have implications for North Cambridge:
- **Policy 41** Protection of Employment sites – one site (south of King's Hedges Road) is designated as a Protected Industrial Site which could lead to positive effects in terms of employment and deprivation in the north east of the Functional Area;
 - **Policy 52** Protection of Garden Land and Subdivision of Existing Dwelling Plots – this policy would afford greater protection to gardens, with likely positive effects in terms of flood risk.

23.4 Conclusions and recommendations

- 23.4.1 The Local Plan has been appraised to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of most of the sustainability objectives identified in the North Cambridge Functional Area. The level of growth proposed at the Northern Fringe East and the associated transport improvements at Cambridge Science Park Station should help to achieve modal shift and lead to employment opportunities, particularly for those in the north east of the Functional Area that are amongst the most deprived in the city.
- 23.4.2 A number of policies seek to protect and enhance the quantity and quality of provision and improve access to open space. Wider sustainable transport policies seek to achieve modal shift and in combination with historic environment and design policies should benefit conservation areas by reducing the impact of traffic and inappropriate development. Flood risk (in particular surface water flood risk) in the area should be reduced by policies requiring sustainable drainage infrastructure, attenuation features, wetland creation and permeable paving.
- 23.4.3 The following recommendations are made:

- Ensure that open space infrastructure spending from development in the North Cambridge area goes towards quality improvements in areas of deficiency; particularly Arbury.
- Prioritise remodelling the High Street in the Chesterton and Ferry Lane Conservation Areas as an infrastructure scheme in **Policy 85** in order to reduce heavy traffic and restore the historic character of the areas.

24 SOUTH CAMBRIDGE

24.1 Relevant sustainability objectives:

- Address flood risk issues;
- Consider the potential to address deprivation associated with areas to the East;
- Work with developers to facilitate the achievement of successful new communities within the urban extensions;
- Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting;
- Support the achievement of identified priorities within Conservation Areas; and
- Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling

24.2 Relevant plan policies:

24.2.1 Whilst all policies included in the plan will apply to this functional area to some extent, the following have particular relevance given the opportunities, issues, and constraints specific to this area of the city.

- *Section 2:* **Policy 2** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Employment Development; **Policy 3** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Residential Development; **Policy 4** The Cambridge Green Belt; **Policy 5** Strategic Transport Infrastructure; **Policy 8** Setting of the City
- *Section 3:* **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 15** Land South of Coldham’s Lane; **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus – including Addenbrooke’s Hospital; **Policy 17** Southern Fringe; **Policy 26** Site Specific Development Opportunities
- *Section 4:* **Policy 31** Integrated water management and the water cycle; **Policy 32** Flood Risk
- *Section 5:* **Policy 40** Development and Expansion of Business Space; **Policy 41** Protection of Business Space
- *Section 6:* **Policy 52** Protecting Garden Land and the Subdivision of Existing Dwelling Plots
- *Section 7:* **Policy 56** Responding to Context; **Policy 57** Creating Successful Places; **Policy 60** Designing Landscape and the Public Realm; **Policy 62** Conservation and Enhancement of Cambridge’s Historic Environment; **Policy 66** Paving over front gardens; **Policy 67** Protection of Open Space; **Policy 68** Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development
- *Section 8:* **Policy 74** Community and Leisure Facilities; **Policy 75** Education Facilities; **Policy 76** Healthcare Facilities
- *Section 9:* **Policy 80** Supporting Sustainable Access to Development; **Policy 81** Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development; **Policy 82** Parking Management
- *Section 10:* **Policy 85** Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

24.3 Appraisal

24.3.1 The South Cambridge Functional Area is generally more deprived towards the east. New development and growth can benefit the deprived areas to the east through creating new employment opportunities, housing, and other forms of infrastructure including open space provision and public transport.

- 24.3.2 **Policy 3** sets out the spatial strategy regarding residential development whilst **Policy 2** sets out the spatial strategy for employment development. **Policy 13** sets out the general principles for development at the Areas of Major Change, of which three (**Policies 15, 16 and 17**) fall within the South Cambridge Functional Area. Additionally, a number of Site Specific Development Opportunities are located in the area under **Policy 26**. Taken together these policies provide for a significant amount of development in the area, with which it will be important to deliver successful new communities.
- 24.3.3 **Policy 13** sets the general principles for development in Areas of Major Change. Development must include necessary infrastructure and provide a community strategy to demonstrate how the development will integrate with existing communities and create successful new communities. **Policy 57** seeks to create successful places that are designed to be attractive, high quality, accessible, inclusive and safe. Consideration of the need to link existing and new communities together, and also consideration of the design of the new community and how it will function, should have a **significant positive effect** in terms of creating successful new communities and also addressing deprivation through linking deprived communities to new development.
- 24.3.4 **Policy 17** Southern Fringe Area of Major Change seeks to deliver high quality new neighbourhoods for Cambridge including a mix of residential properties (including affordable housing); community infrastructure including a health centre, library and meeting rooms; education including up to 5.6 hectares for a secondary school and a primary school; local shopping and services; and open space and recreation including allotments and children’s play areas. Through providing such development and supporting infrastructure in line with **policies 13 and 57** above this should also lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of creating successful communities.
- 24.3.5 Employment land in the Areas of Major Change is set to be delivered through **Policy 16** Cambridge Biomedical Campus including Addenbrooke’s Hospital and **Policy 15** South of Coldham’s Lane. **Policy 16** seeks to deliver development at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus for healthcare needs or biomedical/biotechnology research with associated supporting activities including a hotel, seminar conference centre, and small scale amenities. **Policy 15** seeks to deliver small scale commercial land to the north of the railway. **Policy 26** makes provision for 9.97ha of additional employment land above the previous Local Plan allocations. These new employment opportunities should benefit the more deprived areas in the east of the Functional Area and lead to **significant positive effects**.
- 24.3.6 A recognised sustainability objective of the plan is to capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport, walking and cycling. The Site Appraisal Interim SA highlights that many of the sites have poor access to community infrastructure and poor provision of cycle infrastructure. Transport **Policies 80, 81 and 82** seek to promote sustainable transport and reduce reliance on the car; while **Policy 13** requires proposals to be of higher densities around key transport interchanges, District Centres and Local Centres. Additionally **Policy 85** requires new development to be supported by the required infrastructure at the appropriate stage, including that of transport infrastructure.
- 24.3.7 **Policies 15, 16 and 17** all require improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure, and specifically extending conventional bus services to meet the needs of the resident and working population, linking to the Cambridge Busway, Park and Ride and ensuring transport links between different Areas of Major Change. These provisions should result in **significant positive effects** in terms of encouraging use of public transport, walking and cycling whilst also increasing access to employment opportunities from more deprived parts of the city.

- 24.3.8 The South Cambridge Functional Area contains Green Belt land and a large amount of open space, although much of it is private land and inaccessible to the public. In terms of the Green Belt, **Policies 4 and 8** apply. **Policy 8** requires development proposals on the urban edge, within green corridors, green belt and open space to conserve and enhance landscape setting, promote access to the countryside / open space where appropriate, and include landscape improvement proposals that improve visual amenity and enhance biodiversity.
- 24.3.9 **Policy 68** requires residential development proposals to contribute to the provision of open space and recreation facilities on-site or off-site through developer contributions. Open space is protected under **Policy 67** and **Policy 59** which require landscape, public realm and boundary treatments to be designed as an integral part of new development proposals, co-ordinated with adjacent sites.
- 24.3.10 **Policy 26** allocates four sites for Green Belt land release and details a list of criteria which would need to be met in order for development to occur. These criteria relate to landscaping and preserving the existing character of the Green Belt. Other sites on the urban fringe are allocated under **Policies 16** and **17**.
- 24.3.11 Development would lead to some loss of the Green Belt however the policies in the plan should lead to improvements and enhancements in access to and quality of urban open spaces. Providing that the negative landscape and visual effects of development in the Green Belt are mitigated in line with plan policies, there would likely be no adverse effects and as such it would lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of maintaining and enhancing open spaces, green spaces and the Green Belt setting.
- 24.3.12 There is a need for the plan to support the achievement of identified priorities within Conservation Areas. Conservation areas are addressed by **Policy 61** which seeks to ensure the conservation and enhancement of Cambridge's historic environment. This policy alongside other design policies which require consideration of the relationship between the site and its surroundings should help to ensure adequate protection of the Conservation Areas.
- 24.3.13 Specifically within South Cambridge; high levels of parking is an issue which needs to be addressed at Brooklands Avenue Conservation Area and addressing heavy traffic on the High Street is a key concern in the Trumpington Conservation Area. As discussed in the appraisal above, transport **Policies 80 to 82** and transport infrastructure requirements in **Policies 15 to 17** should contribute towards addressing the transport-related issues in the Conservation Areas. Development in the wider Functional Area should help to achieve modal shift to public transport, walking and cycling, and reduce reliance on the car, as such it should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of achieving identified priorities in Conservation Areas.
- 24.3.14 The Cambridge Surface Water Management Plan identifies Cherry Hinton as a 'wet spot' i.e. at particular risk of flooding. The Management Plan states that there is a need for increased maintenance of watercourses and surface water drains; and the uptake of engineering options including attenuation features, such as swales, basins and wetlands and source control elements such as permeable paving and rain gardens. **Policies 31** and **32** set out the Cambridge approach to Integrated Water Management and Flood Risk respectively and **Policy 66** requires paving in front gardens to consist of permeable surfaces. In particular, **Policy 32** requires no increase in flood risk and, for previously developed land, proposals should reduce flood risk.
- 24.3.15 Taken together the above policies fulfil the requirements of the Surface Water Management Plan and should reduce flood risk in the Functional Area, particularly at Cherry Hinton. As such the Plan should lead to **significant positive effects** through reducing flood risk.
- 24.3.16 Several other policies set to be included in the Local Plan could have implications for South Cambridge:

- **Policy 41** Protection of Employment sites – one site (north of West Anglia Branch Line) is designated as a Protected Industrial Site which could lead to positive effects in terms of employment and deprivation in the east of the Functional Area;
- **Policy 52** Protection of Garden Land and Subdivision of Existing Dwelling Plots – this policy would afford greater protection to gardens, with likely positive effects in terms of flood risk; and
- **Policy 73** Community and Leisure Facilities; **Policy 74** Education Facilities; and **Policy 75** Healthcare Facilities - Facilities provided as part of development could reduce the distance necessary to travel to access such facilities, likely leading to positive effects in terms of sustainable transport.

24.4 Conclusions and recommendations

24.4.1 The Local Plan has been appraised to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of all of the relevant sustainability objectives in the South Cambridge Functional Area. The level of growth proposed and the associated transport and community infrastructure should lead to the delivery of successful new communities that are integrated with other areas, particularly those in the east that are generally more deprived. Development requiring the release of the Green Belt is subject to policies that mitigate for the loss of land by improving the quality and public access to open space whilst ensuring there is no residual adverse landscape or visual impact. Sustainable transport policies seek to achieve modal shift and in combination with historic environment policies should benefit conservation areas by reducing the impact of traffic and parking. And, finally, flood risk at Cherry Hinton should be reduced by requiring sustainable drainage infrastructure, attenuation features, wetland creation and permeable paving.

24.4.2 No recommendations are made.

25 EAST CAMBRIDGE

25.1 Relevant sustainability objectives:

- Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting;
- Address deprivation across quite expansive areas;
- Maintain the character of particular neighbourhoods; and
- Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling.

25.2 Relevant plan policies:

25.2.1 Whilst all policies included in the plan will apply to this functional area to some extent, the following have particular relevance given the opportunities, issues, and constraints specific to this area of the city.

- *Section 2:* **Policy 2** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Employment Development; **Policy 3** Spatial Strategy for the Location of Residential Development; **Policy 5** Strategic Transport Infrastructure; **Policy 8** Setting of the City
- *Section 3:* **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 12** Cambridge East; **Policy 15** Land South of Coldham’s Lane; **Policy 20** Station Areas East and West; **Policy 23** Mill Road Opportunity Area; **Policy 24** Cambridge Railway Station, Hills Road Corridor to the City Centre Opportunity Area; **Policy 26** Site Specific Development Opportunities
- *Section 5:* **Policy 40** Development and Expansion of Business Space; **Policy 41** Protection of Business Space
- *Section 7:* **Policy 55** Responding to Context; **Policy 56** Creating Successful Places; **Policy 59** Designing Landscape and the Public Realm; **Policy 61** Conservation and Enhancement of Cambridge’s Historic Environment; **Policy 67** Protection of Open Space; **Policy 68** Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development
- *Section 9:* **Policy 80** Supporting Sustainable Access to Development; **Policy 81** Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development; **Policy 82** Parking Management
- *Section 10:* **Policy 85** Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

25.3 Appraisal

25.3.1 The East Cambridge Functional Area is generally more deprived towards the north within Abbey ward and also to the east although to a lesser extent). The third, fourth and tenth most deprived Super Output Areas in Cambridge are found within the East Cambridge Functional Area. New development and growth can benefit these deprived areas to the north and east through creating new employment opportunities, housing, and other forms of infrastructure including open space provision and public transport.

25.3.2 Policy 13 sets out the general principles for development in the Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas, of which four (**Policies 15, 20, 23 and 24**) fall within the East Cambridge Functional Area. Additionally, a number of residential Site Specific Development Opportunities are located in the area under **Policy 26**. Taken together these policies provide for a significant amount of development in the area, with which it will be important to deliver contributions towards meeting the sustainability objectives for the area.

- 25.3.3 **Policy 12** (Cambridge East) safeguards land at Cambridge Airport for redevelopment beyond the plan period. Three adjacent smaller residential sites are allocated to come forward during the plan period; one of these is located almost entirely within South Cambridgeshire. **Policy 15** makes provision for commercial uses on closed landfill sites (although the commercial land is located in neighbouring South Cambridge Functional Area). **Policy 20** (Station Areas East and West) sets out the land use mix for development around the train station which includes B1 employment land, a mix of A-class uses and supporting uses such as hotels and community uses. **Policy 23** (Mill Road Opportunity Area) allocates three sites for residential development and seeks to improve the diversity, vitality and viability of a distinctive area of the city.
- 25.3.4 The main location of new employment opportunities is based around the train station although the designation of Opportunity Areas could lead to additional employment. The scale of employment proposed is likely to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of employment; however the degree to which this benefits residents of Abbey Ward through addressing deprivation will depend on how accessible the new employment opportunities are, both in the nature of the employment (for example in terms of skills and qualifications required) and how well-served the area is by public transport, walking and cycling.
- 25.3.5 A sustainability objective in the East Cambridge Functional Area is to maintain the character of particular neighbourhoods. In this respect, **Policies 55, 56 and 59** should be of benefit. **Policy 55** seeks to protect and enhance the special character of Cambridge by encouraging development that responds to its context. **Policy 56** supports development that is designed to be attractive, high quality, accessible, inclusive and safe, positively enhancing the townscape. **Policy 59** concerns landscape and the public realm and states that external spaces, landscape, public realm, and boundary treatments must be designed as an integral part of new development proposals and co-ordinated with adjacent sites and phases. Taken together these policies should ensure that development proposals lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of maintaining the character of neighbourhoods and leading to high quality development.
- 25.3.6 Development proposed in the Section Three policies (**Policies 9-26**) allocate complementary land uses together (for example residential development in residential areas and employment uses in accessible location adjacent to other employment uses) which should respect the character of such locations and neighbourhoods. Opportunity Areas are designated at Mill Road (**Policy 23**) and Cambridge Railway Station, Hills Road Corridor to the City Centre Opportunity Area (**Policy 24**).
- 25.3.7 Mill Road is a district centre that is cherished for the variety of its independent shops and its arts and cultural role. **Policy 23** seeks to retain the character of the area by not allowing the amalgamation of small units into larger units, in all but exceptional circumstances in order to support smaller independent traders, which should have the benefit of encouraging diversity and supporting the established businesses that characterise the area. To strengthen the distinctiveness of Mill Road and ensure its long term success and viability, the policy seeks to encourage the development of arts and cultural facilities and intends to deliver a series of co-ordinated streetscape and public realm improvements; including a better pedestrian environment. These measures should help to both support and protect the strong community in the area and aid the local economy thus creating positive effects. However, whilst Mill Road is an extremely busy and narrow road which creates conflicts between cars, buses and cyclists, this issue is not strongly addressed. It is suggested that the policy could be improved by calling for development proposals to improve the environment for cyclists (e.g. wording from **Policy 25**: *'create safer streets with priority for pedestrians and cyclists'*) and to prioritise sustainable transport more generally (e.g. wording in **Policy 24**: *'promote and co-ordinate the use of sustainable transport modes'*).

- 25.3.8 **Policy 24** refers to the local centre on Hills Road, the proposed centre at the station area and linkages to Cambridge Leisure Park. The policy aims to deliver and reinforce a sense of place through streetscape and public realm improvements including key projects which seek to promote the character and distinctiveness of the area. Through the place-specific Opportunity Area policies that seek to retain and enhance what makes these areas special the Local Plan should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of maintaining the character of particular neighbourhoods in the city.
- 25.3.9 A recognised sustainability objective of the plan is to capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport, walking and cycling. Transport **Policies 80, 81 and 82** seek to promote sustainable transport and reduce reliance on the car; while **Policy 13** requires proposals to be of higher densities around key transport interchanges, District Centres and Local Centres. Additionally **Policy 85** requires new development to be supported by the required infrastructure at the appropriate stage, including that of transport infrastructure.
- 25.3.10 A key policy in the East Cambridge Functional Area is **Policy 20**. The policy aspires to deliver a major regenerated multi-modal transport interchange which serves Cambridge and the wider sub-region, focused on the existing rail station. In addition to this there would be improved cycling and walking routes and facilities including the potential for future improvements for pedestrians and cyclists between Station Areas East and West, the main location for employment land delivery in the Functional Area. By focusing development at a sustainable location and increasing the capacity of public transport and linkages between modes this should lead to **significant positive benefits** in terms of encouraging use of sustainable transport.
- 25.3.11 These benefits are enhanced by **Policy 15** which makes provision for upgrading of existing public routes to support increased pedestrian and cycle access to the country park. **Policies 23 and 24** seek to create a low speed traffic environment, widen pavements and introduce more pedestrian crossings which should have the benefit of increasing safety for cyclists and pedestrians and further encourage modal shift.
- 25.3.12 The quality of open space is varied in East Cambridge and, in Romsey ward in particular, provision is low and only 36% of the spaces are publicly accessible. In terms of general open space policies; **Policy 68** requires residential development proposals to contribute to the provision of open space and recreation facilities on-site or off-site through developer contributions. Open space is protected under **Policy 67** whereby development is only permitted where replacement space (of greater quality and/or quality) is provided in the area; and **Policy 59** requires external spaces, landscape, public realm and boundary treatments to be designed as an integral part of new development proposals. For development on the urban edge, within green corridors, green belt and open space, **Policy 8** requires development proposals to conserve and enhance landscape setting, promote access to the countryside / open space where appropriate, and include landscape improvement proposals that improve visual amenity and enhance biodiversity. Additionally **Policy 85** requires the provision of infrastructure alongside development including open space.
- 25.3.13 Specifically within East Cambridge, **Policy 15** proposes the delivery of an Urban Country Park to serve the east of the city. As part of the scheme there would be public access and landscape improvements, and future management and funding arrangements for the on-going maintenance of the park. In addition **Policy 20** specifies a need for open spaces, both hard surfaced and green. The more general city-wide policies and provision of a new, high quality and accessible urban park should increase the quality of provision and lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of open space provision.
- 25.3.14 Several other policies set to be included in the Local Plan could have implications for South Cambridge:

25.3.15 **Policy 40** Development and Expansion of Business Space – this policy states that new offices, research and development and research facilities are encouraged around the train station, which could lead to positive effects in terms of addressing deprivation and encouraging sustainable transport.

25.3.16 **Policy 41** Protection of Employment sites – three sites are designated as Protected Industrial Site which could lead to positive effects in terms of employment and deprivation in the north east of the Functional Area.

25.4 **Conclusions and recommendations**

25.4.1 The Local Plan has been appraised to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of most of the sustainability objectives identified in the East Cambridge Functional Area. The level of growth proposed at sustainable locations should help address deprivation and encourage use of sustainable modes of transport. The Opportunity Area policies and wider design policies should ensure that the character of neighbourhoods is maintained and enhanced. Plan policies seek to protect and enhance the quantity and quality of open space provision and the creation of a new urban country park should improve access to and quality of provision.

25.4.2 Recommendation:

- Ensure that transport links and the new multi-modal transport interchange at the rail station allow new employment opportunities surrounding the train station to be accessed by deprived areas in Abbey Ward.

26 WEST CAMBRIDGE

26.1 Relevant sustainability objectives:

- Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting;
- Maintain the exceptional character of the built environment and address priorities identified within the designated Conservation Areas; and
- Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling.

26.2 Relevant plan policies:

26.2.1 Whilst all policies included in the plan will apply to this functional area to some extent, the following have particular relevance given the opportunities, issues, and constraints specific to this area of the city.

- *Section 2:* **Policy 4** The Cambridge Green Belt; **Policy 5** Strategic Transport Infrastructure; **Policy 8** Setting of the City
- *Section 3:* **Policy 13** Areas of Major Change and Opportunity Areas – General Principles; **Policy 18** West Cambridge Area of Major Change; **Policy 19** NIAB 1 Major Area of Change
- *Section 4:* **Policy 34** Light Pollution Control; **Policy 35** Protection of Human Health From Noise and Vibration
- *Section 5:* **Policy 40** Development and Expansion of Business Space; **Policy 43** University Faculty Development
- *Section 7:* **Policy 55** Responding to Context; **Policy 61** Conservation and Enhancement of Cambridge’s Historic Environment; **Policy 62** Local Heritage Assets; **Policy 67** Protection of open space; **Policy 68** Open Space and Recreation Provision; **Policy 69** Protection of sites of local nature conservation importance; **Policy 71** Trees
- *Section 9:* **Policy 80** Supporting Sustainable Access to Development; **Policy 81** Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development; **Policy 82** Parking Management
- *Section 10:* **Policy 85** Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

26.3 Appraisal

26.3.1 West Cambridge is a generally affluent area and one in which large parts are dominated by College uses. There are significant areas of open space in the area; however, much is for College use and so publically accessible areas are relatively limited. There are a number of key heritage assets in the area, including conservation areas at Newnham Croft, Storey’s Way, Conduit Head Road, and the West Cambridge conservation area. The outskirts of the West Cambridge area lie adjacent to countryside, including areas of Green Belt designation.

26.3.2 It is important that this key area is able to contribute to both the Cambridge economy and to addressing the demographic changes that will be affecting the city in future years. In order to do so to maximum effect, development in the area will require both support and restriction. As such, the provisions of the Local Plan are likely to have a range of implications.

- 26.3.3 In terms of the development of the West Cambridge economy, **Policy 40** is likely to be of importance due to its focus on supporting research and development in this area. This should help to build on existing economic strengths, with positive effects. In addition, the policy notes that larger employment sites, with multiple occupiers, should 'consider' whether they want to provide shared social spaces within the site. This is with the rationale of enhancing the vitality and attractiveness of such sites. This approach is in response to the Cambridge Cluster Study (2011) which found that the lack of a social aspect on newer peripheral employment sites makes them less attractive places to locate to. As such, this policy should result in positive effects. However, the approach could be strengthened by stating that such development 'must' provide shared social spaces, in order to help ensure viability.
- 26.3.4 A key element of the Cambridge and national economy is the city's universities, with this being one of the reasons why so many high technology and knowledge-based employers decide to locate in the area. Of note in this respect is **Policy 45** which states that the continued development of faculty, research and administrative sites in West Cambridge are to be supported, likely leading to positive effects.
- 26.3.5 One such site of university growth in Cambridge will be in the West Cambridge Area of Major Change, which is the focus of **Policy 18**. In this location, the University of Cambridge is seeking to intensify development on existing sites, with the principal land uses to be faculty development, research institutes, and commercial research and development. Additional uses will also be supported where they add to the social spaces and vibrancy of the area. As a result, this policy is likely to support both economic and social gains in the area. It is however important to note that increased activity as a result of development at this site could put further pressure on the environment, and on the amenity of nearby residents; with particular concerns highlighted as being impacts on biodiversity and noise and light pollution. In order to address these potential issues the policy states that densification will only be supported if the masterplan takes account of the full range of employment uses and supporting facilities and amenities, respects the adjacent important Green Belt setting, and respects other neighbouring residential uses. In addition, the policy calls for a comprehensive transport strategy for the site to be developed to minimise reliance on private car, and for access to be provided to key sites in the city (e.g. the railway station) for all. Overall, this policy addresses the need for economic growth in the area, whilst also providing for the protection and enhancement of social and environmental assets; it should therefore result in **significant positive effects**. Nonetheless, the policy could be improved by making explicit the need for the provision of publically accessible green space given the limited levels available currently. In addition, the need to protect biodiversity could be made clearer given the direct and indirect impacts that densification could have. Both of these goals could potentially be met by calling for suitable green infrastructure to be incorporated into any masterplan.

- 26.3.6 Another major driver of change in the city in future is the expected growth in the size of its population. In order to ensure the wellbeing of the future population, and to secure economic growth, suitable residential accommodation will be required. A large degree of the provision of housing in West Cambridge (with some overlap into North Cambridge) is to take place in NIAB 1 Major Area of Change. This area is the focus of **Policy 19** which notes that a new neighbourhood is to be established. This will include a mix of residential properties, including 40% affordable housing, and so is likely to lead to benefits given the level of demand for such housing in the city. In addition, the policy looks to ensure that the neighbourhood is supported by complementary uses (community facilities, open space etc.) and so should ensure that the level of provision of such facilities is high, with social benefits. Sustainable transport is also well supported, as development is expected to provide for walking, cycling, and a direct link for public transport. However, this approach could be strengthened by calling for a comprehensive transport strategy to be produced for the development (as is the case for **Policy 18**). This may be of particular importance given the position of the area on the outskirts of the city. In addition, it is noted that key constraints on the site include noise pollution from the A14 and footpaths crossing the site. The policy could therefore be improved by making explicit the need for development proposals / master plans to take into account these issues. Despite these concerns, the policy balances residential growth with protection well and is likely to lead to **significant positive effects** overall.
- 26.3.7 Both Areas of Major Change proposed in the West Cambridge area may have adverse effects in terms of neighbouring amenity due to the scale and type of development proposed. In addition to the provisions made in the Area of Major Change policies themselves (**Policies 18** and **19**), other Local Plan Policies are of relevance to addressing these concerns. These include **Policy 34**, which looks to limit the impact of light pollution; and **Policy 35**, which focuses on the protection of human health from noise and vibration. These policies are likely to help prevent adverse effects resulting from large scale development in the area and so should lead to positive effects.
- 26.3.8 A key consideration given the scale of development proposed in West Cambridge is that of infrastructure provision. **Policy 85** is vital in this regard. It states that new development must be supported by required infrastructure and, where existing infrastructure will be placed under strain due to the impact of new development, improvements to existing infrastructure or compensatory provision should be made. It also states that planning obligations and / or a CIL could be required in order to provide such infrastructure, including public transport, education, healthcare community facilities and open space. These measures should help to ensure that there is no reduction in the area's key infrastructure and that, where appropriate, some degree of funding new infrastructure is provided. Also of relevance in this respect is **Policy 13**. This notes that development in Areas of Major Change should seek to protect existing public assets, including open space and leisure facilities, and that where the loss of such assets is unavoidable appropriate mitigation is undertaken to offset the loss. Given the two Major Areas of Change in West Cambridge, and the scale of development proposed, these policies are likely to lead to **significant positive effects**.
- 26.3.9 In terms of transport it is notable that one site in West Cambridge allocated through the plan has constraints, with Mount Pleasant House having poor cycling conditions. In cases such as these, the provisions of the plan's wider focused transport policies will be important. These include **Policy 5**, which requires development proposals to contribute to the implementation the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan; and **Policy 80**, which identifies the key transport related elements that development proposals must demonstrate and which requires new developments to prioritise access by sustainable modes of travel. **Policies 81** and **82** also seek to promote sustainable transport and reduce reliance on the car; while **Policy 85** requires new development to be supported by the required infrastructure at the appropriate stage, including that of transport infrastructure. Given the amount of development to be brought forward over the plan-period and the peripheral location of much of this development, these policies appear likely to result in **significant positive effects**.

- 26.3.10 In terms of the green infrastructure available for community use, publically accessible open space is a key concern in West Cambridge; in all just 7% of open space in Castle Ward and 25% of open space in Newnham Ward is accessible. Given such limitations, **Policy 68** in particular should result in benefits as it calls for all residential development proposals to contribute to the provision of open space and recreation facilities onsite, with this provision to address local deficiencies where possible. This approach is further supported by **Policy 67**. This states that development proposals will not be permitted which will harm the character of, or lead to the loss of, open space of recreational importance unless it can be satisfactorily replaced. The focus on both protection and provision set out through these policies should result in **significant positive effects** in the area.
- 26.3.11 Another important type of open space in the West Cambridge Functional Area is the Green Belt, with Newnham Ward lying adjacent to the countryside, with areas of Green Belt running through and around the built-up area. Such areas are recognised for their role in providing for sport and recreation, amenity and biodiversity. With this being the case, **Policy 4** is likely to result in positive social and environmental effects given its focus on protecting the Green Belt from development except in very special circumstances. Similarly **Policy 8** (Setting of the City) seeks to ensure that the area between the urban edge and the countryside is protected from inappropriate development, by requiring proposals to demonstrate that they respond to, conserve, and enhance the landscape setting; again with likely positive effects.
- 26.3.12 The landscape setting of the city is a concern of a number of the Local plan policies, with these potentially being of importance in West Cambridge given the area's landscape assets, including views over the city from Castle Mound and the Backs. The protection of such assets is likely to be supported through **Policy 55** which notes that development is to use appropriate local characteristics to help inform the use, siting, massing, scale, form, materials and landscape design of new development. This should help to ensure development is well integrated with its immediate locality and the wider city, with positive effects.
- 26.3.13 The provisions of **Policy 55** are also important in terms of the protection of the heritage assets of West Cambridge. These assets are numerous and include conservation areas at Newnham Croft, Storey's Way, Conduit Head Road, and West Cambridge. This policy requires proposals to identify and respond positively to existing features of natural, historic, or local importance on and close to proposed development sites. Further protection is likely to be provided by **Policy 61**, which sets out to conserve or enhance the significance of the heritage assets of the city, and to retain buildings and spaces whose loss would cause harm to the character of a conservation area; and **Policy 62**, which sets out a general presumption in favour of the retention of local heritage assets. Given the scale of proposed development, and the sensitivity and significance of the area's heritage assets, these policies are likely to result in **significant positive effects**. For instance, they may help to ensure that any potential impacts of development at Mount Pleasant House (which could impact on a nearby historic park and garden, a building of local interest, and local archaeology).
- 26.3.14 Another asset that will be important to conserve in the West Cambridge area will be its sites of biodiversity importance, with impacts possible through development, such as in the West Cambridge Area of Major Change. The protection of designated areas is the focus of **Policy 69**, which sets out criteria for the protection of sites of local nature conservation importance. Such protection should result in positive effects. In addition, it is notable that there are a number of Tree Preservation Orders on the sites allocated at Mount Pleasant House. **Policy 71** is likely to have positive effects with regards to these assets, noting that development proposals should preserve, protect and enhance existing trees and hedges that have amenity value.

26.4 Conclusions and recommendations

26.4.1 Both the policies put forward to address the development issues of West Cambridge specifically, and those wider policies of particular relevance to development in this area, are considered likely to result in positive effects overall. This is due to an appropriate balancing of growth and protection, with development only to be brought forward where it is demonstrated that social and environmental assets are to be preserved or enhanced. There is however some opportunity to tighten the criteria in some of the policies outlined, and to make explicit certain additional requirements.

26.4.2 The following recommendations are made:

- Ensure that peripheral employment sites incorporate social spaces;
- Make explicit the need for the provision of publically accessible green space and biodiversity protection in the West Cambridge Area of Major Change;
- Call for a comprehensive transport strategy to be produced alongside development proposals in the NIAB 1 Area of Major Change; and
- Ensure that development proposals in the NIAB 1 Area of Major Change take into account the area's noise pollution and footpath related constraints

PART 4: WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS (INCLUDING MONITORING)?

27 INTRODUCTION (TO PART 4)

The SA Report must include...

- A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring

27.1.1 This Part of the SA Report explains the next steps that will be taken as part of the plan-making / SA process, including in relation to monitoring.

28 PLAN FINALISATION, ADOPTION AND MONITORING

28.1 Plan finalisation and adoption

There will be a need to explain to readers that:

once the period for public representations (i.e. 'Publication') has finished the main issues raised will be identified and summarised by the Council, who will then consider whether the plan can still be deemed to be 'sound'. Assuming that this is the case, the Plan (and the summary of representations received) will be submitted for Examination. At Examination the Inspector will consider representations before then reporting back on the Plan's soundness. Once found to be 'sound' the Plan will be formally adopted by the Council.

28.2 Monitoring

There is a need to present 'measures envisaged concerning monitoring (which should be identified in-light of the appraisal findings presented in Part 3). These will be based upon the implementation and monitoring tables in Appendix M of the draft Local Plan.

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Appendix C: 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.

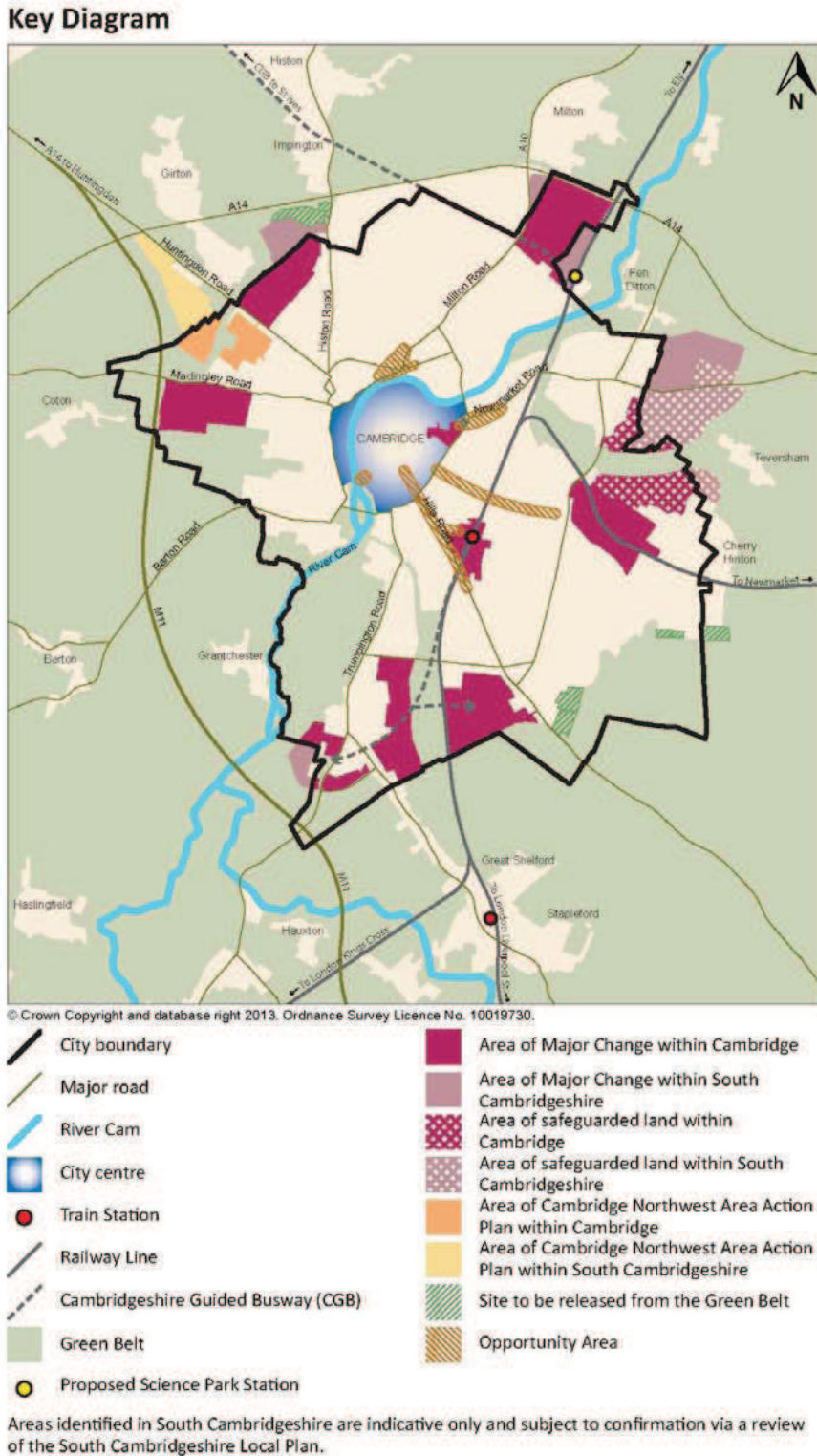
2.4 The LDF currently comprises a number of development plan documents (DPDs) and supplementary planning documents (SPDs) as shown in table 1 below.

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.

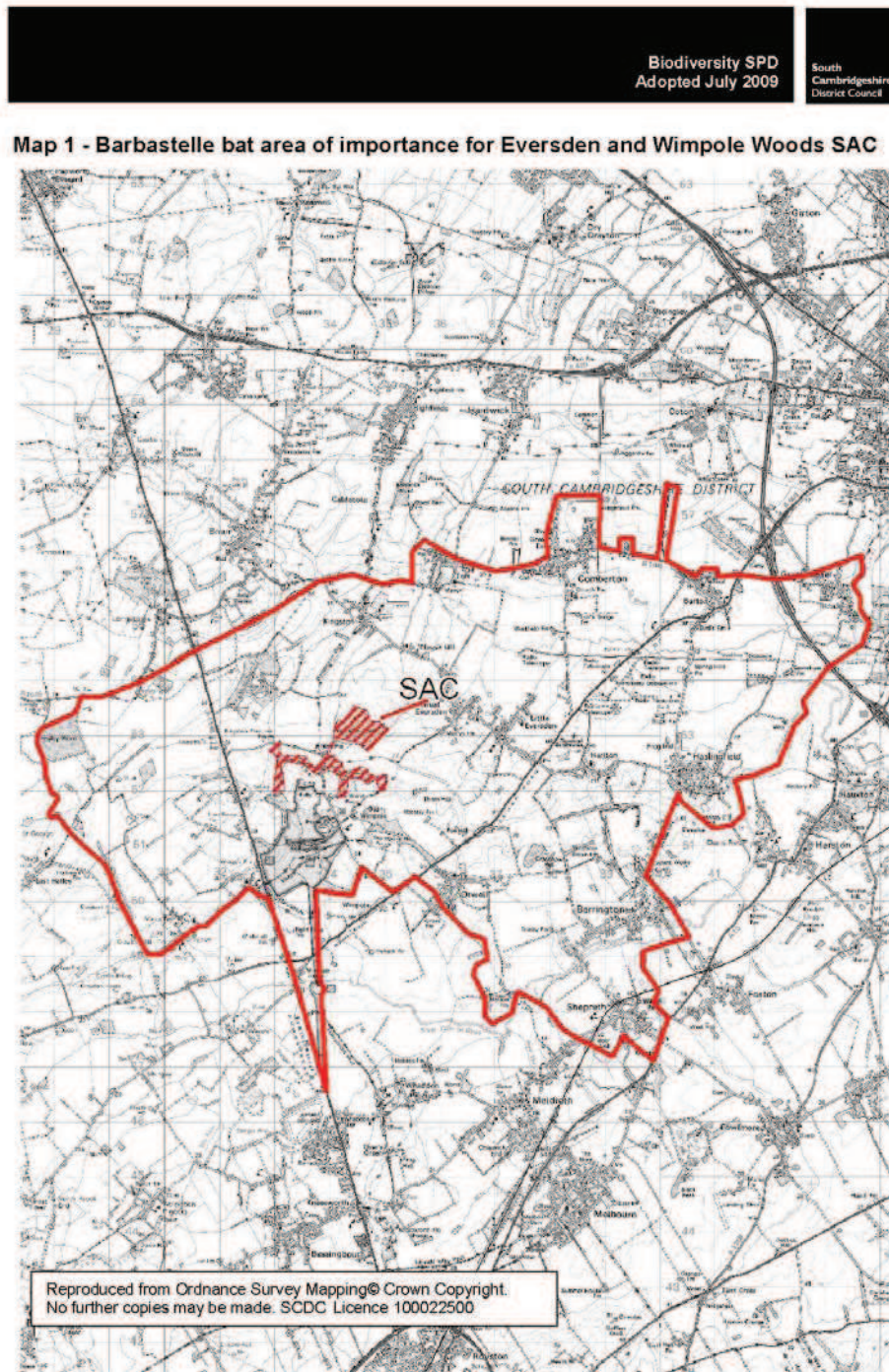
The Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document published by South Cambridgeshire District Council in July 2009 (see Appendix 1) mapped out the main area of importance to Barbastelle bats, and this is shown on the map below (and is in Map 1 of their report). It reflects the landscape and habitat of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

	<p>Document</p> <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 <p>Cambridgeshire County Council</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire District Council</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD</p> <p>Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,</p> <p>Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD</p> <p>Orchard Park Design Guide SPD</p> <p>Health Impact Assessment SPD</p> <p>Landscape in New Developments SPD</p> <p>District Design Guide SPD</p> <p>Affordable Housing SPD</p> <p>Listed Buildings SPD</p> <p>Biodiversity SPD</p> <p>Trees and Development sites SPD</p> <p>Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)</p> <p>Open Space in New Developments SPD</p> <p>Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD</p> <p>Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD</p> <p>Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD</p> <p>Huntingdonshire District Council</p> <p>Huntingdonshire Core Strategy</p> <p>Huntingdonshire Development Management DPD Proposed Submission, 2010</p> <p>Huntingdon West Area Action Plan,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2011 o 2012 <p>2011</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2008</p> <p>2011</p> <p>2011</p> <p>2011</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2007</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2010</p> <p>2011</p>
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	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		Not relevant
Changes in pollution levels	The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to	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	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
<p>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</p> <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>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 Options Report	2012												
Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	2011												
Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010												
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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
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
	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)	
	Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031, Rural Vision 2031	• 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	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</p> <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

<p>Overall Conclusions:</p> <p>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.</p>

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
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
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	<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 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.</p>	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	<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 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</p>	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>

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	<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>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary in East Cambridgeshire District Council's area.</p>								
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect Chippenham Fen?</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></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> </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
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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
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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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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>

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	<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>

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	<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>

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	<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>	

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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>Fenland SAC did not meet the criteria to be included in the assessment</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>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>																				
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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	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
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o The Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document	o	2011
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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

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	Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009
	Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009
	Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009
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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
	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

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 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.

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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	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
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	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

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>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>

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>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>

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>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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	<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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	<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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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>																		
	<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> <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> </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	Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007	Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007
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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	2013
Joint Consultation on Development Strategy and Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge	
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
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

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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
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

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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>

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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>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>	

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	<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>

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	<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 borrowpit allocations at South West Brampton and West Brampton.</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>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. 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 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
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	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	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>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 D: 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.