



## **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 1994<sup>1</sup>. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 this was

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

replaced by the The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010<sup>2</sup>. This was consequently amended by the The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012<sup>3</sup>, which came into force on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

1.2.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012<sup>4</sup> 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 Ramsar<sup>5</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012<sup>6</sup>.

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.

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> 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

<sup>6</sup>

### 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.

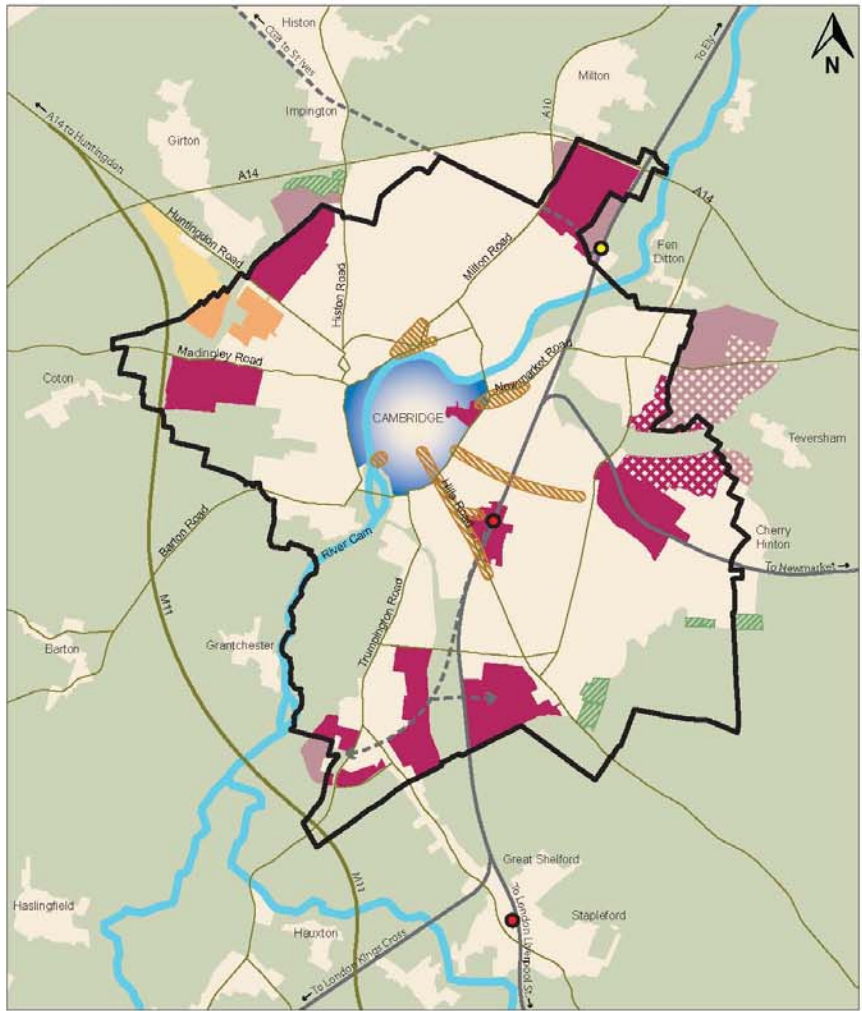
**Table 1:** Cambridge Local Development Framework

<b>Document Name</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>
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

Key Diagram



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- City boundary
- Major road
- River Cam
- City centre
- Train Station
- Railway Line
- Cambridgeshire Guided Busway (CGB)
- Green Belt
- Proposed Science Park Station
- Area of Major Change within Cambridge
- Area of Major Change within South Cambridgeshire
- Area of safeguarded land within Cambridge
- Area of safeguarded land within South Cambridgeshire
- Area of Cambridge Northwest Area Action Plan within Cambridge
- Area of Cambridge Northwest Area Action Plan within South Cambridgeshire
- Site to be released from the Green Belt
- Opportunity Area

Areas identified in South Cambridgeshire are indicative only and subject to confirmation via a review of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

### 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*<sup>7</sup>, which came into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/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 9<sup>th</sup> 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

**Appendix 1: Summary of other relevant plans and strategies**

Title	Date of Adoption	
<b>Cambridge City Council</b>		
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.
<b>Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>		
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.
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>		
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Proposals Map C</li> <li>o Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A: Minerals and Transport Zones and Proposals Map B: Waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 2011</li> <li>o 2012</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>○ Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document</li> <li>○ The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document</li> <li>○ RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2011</li> <li>○ 2011</li> <li>○ 2012</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• Guides long term mineral and waste management development in this area</li> <li>• Sets out advice which will improve the design and sustainability of new waste management facilities</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
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.
<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>		
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.
<b>Huntingdonshire District Council</b>		
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
<b>East Cambridgeshire District Council</b>		
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	
		the policies to be considered for planning proposals. Allocations of land for specific purposes were to be considered in separate documents e.g. the Allocated Sites DPD and The Ely Area Action Plan. The rate of growth currently envisaged by the Core Strategy would result in an additional 3398 dwellings in Ely by 2025, 1100 of these outside the settlement boundary.
Review of East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy including Ely Area Action Plan Options Paper	Due 2013	The Council is in the process of reviewing their Core Strategy. It will be replaced by the 'East Cambridgeshire Local Plan'. This will be a single plan which includes a vision for growth and strategic policies - and identifies sites for future development and the delivery of infrastructure. The new Local Plan will cover the period up to 2031.
Ely Area Action Plan Options Paper and Site Allocations Option Paper	2010	This work has been fed into the Review of the Core Strategy to identify site specific options.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ely Masterplan</li> <li>• The Soham Vision Masterplan (2010)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2009</li> <li>• 2010</li> </ul>	<p>These will be fed into the Review of the Core Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ely Masterplan proposes in the long term a step change in the scale of Ely, to bring it up to a population of 27,000 by 2031, which could provide the population base to support a comprehensive range of services and facilities. An increase in Ely's critical mass would also enhance the level of employment self-sufficiency: that is the proportion of Ely's population working locally. The infrastructure investment associated with growth would help tackle existing congestion points and enhance walking, cycling and public transport.</li> <li>• The Soham vision is to transform the town's linear structure into that of a cruciform structure. To establish four new town gateways as a key development opportunity to play a significant role in the sustainable growth of the district. To attract jobs and investment by promoting the</li> </ul>

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Littleport Masterplan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2011</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burwell Masterplan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2013</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic issues and village vision issues and options consultations and technical work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2011/2012</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>

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"> <li>• Ashley Conservation Area</li> <li>• Burwell High Town Conservation Area</li> <li>• Burwell North Street Conservation Area</li> <li>• Haddenham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Hill Row Haddenham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Soham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Ely Conservation Area</li> <li>• Stretham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Dullingham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Littleport Conservation Area Appraisal</li> <li>• Little Downham Conservation Area Appraisal</li> <li>• Sutton Conservation Area Appraisal</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shop Fronts Design Guide</li> <li>• County Wildlife Sites</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations (Oct.2011 - updated version).</li> <li>• SPD on Developer Contributions – a review of the current SPD – expected to be adopted May 2013.</li> <li>• Design Guide SPD (</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2011</li> <li>• Due 2013</li> <li>• Due 2013</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li> <li>• Due 2013</li> <li>• 2012</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance for the design of shop fronts</li> <li>• The document has been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to Policy CS6–Environment, and Policy EN6-Biodiversity and Geology in the Core Strategy.</li> <li>• Guidance on developer contributions and planning obligations</li> <li>• Review of current SPD to include guidance and clarity on Community Infrastructure Levy.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A building design guide for East Cambridgeshire</li> </ul>

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contaminated Land - Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminate</li> </ul>
<b>Fenland District Council</b>		
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.
<b>North Hertfordshire District Council</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations – Originally adopted in April 1996</li> <li>Now working on a new Local Plan</li> </ul>	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
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.
<b>Central Bedfordshire</b>		
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	
		<a href="http://www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk/corestrategy.html">http://www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk/corestrategy.html</a>
<b>Bedford Borough Council</b>		
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
<b>Forest Heath</b>		
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.
<b>St Edmundsbury Borough Council</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>St Edmundsbury Core Strategy Development Plan Document</i></li>   <li>• Rural Site Allocations Preferred Options DPD</li>   <li>• Draft Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031 and Rural Vision 2031</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li>   <li>• 2010</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>• 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.</li>   <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Kings Lynn and West Norfolk</b>		
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.
<b>Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council</b>		
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.
<b>Hertfordshire County Council</b>		
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.
<b>Suffolk County Council</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Core Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2011</li> </ul>	The Core Strategies set out the key

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minerals Core Strategy</li> <li>• Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008</li> <li>• 2009</li> </ul>	<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 Centroid<sup>8</sup>** : 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

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<sup>8</sup> 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 PSA<sup>9</sup> targets. 39.88% of the area is in favourable condition<sup>10</sup> 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,

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

<sup>10</sup> 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 branches<sup>11</sup>.

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.

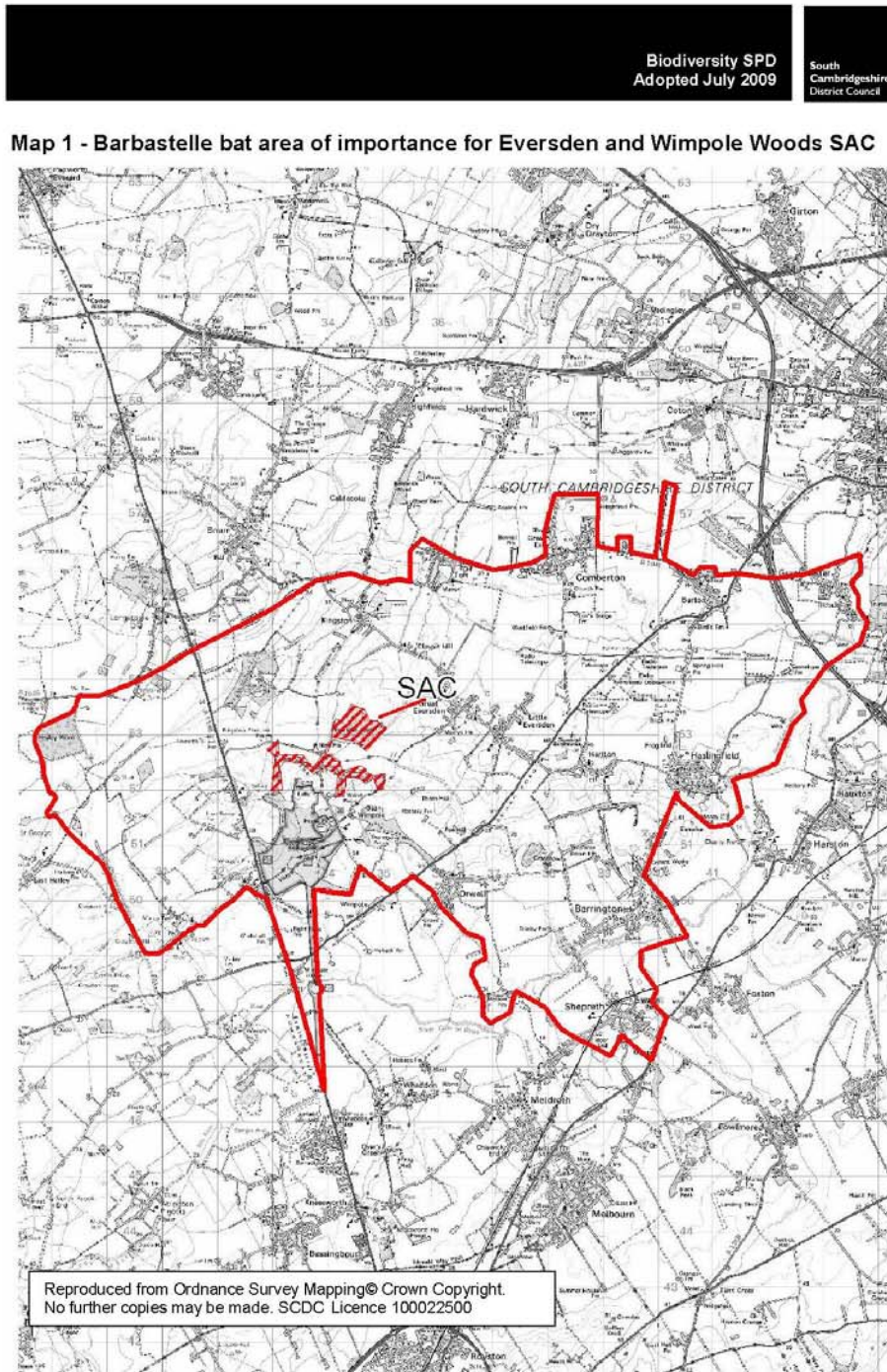
### **Vulnerability**

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.

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<sup>11</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. platyrytnchus*, 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 oedicanus* (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 corvids<sup>12</sup> 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

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<sup>12</sup> 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:**



**Map 4**

**Map 5**

















## APPENDIX 4 – HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING MATRIX

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

Other relevant plans:

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

	Document	
	o The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document	o 2011
	o The RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD	o 2012
	<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	
	Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
	<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
	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
	<b>Huntingdonshire District Council</b>	
	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
	<b>Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council</b>	
	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
	<b>Hertfordshire County Council</b>	
	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
	<b>Central Bedfordshire</b>	
	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

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
Land take by development	<p>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.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from these woods.</p>	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.

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
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>



<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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 &amp; 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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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	This is not relevant for the conservation objectives of this site Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy findings (August 2011) - The site did not meet the criteria to be included in the assessment	Not relevant
Changes in pollution levels	The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to	As the Eversden and Wimpole Woods are not

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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 &amp; 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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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

<b>Overall Conclusions:</b>
<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><b>Devil's Dyke SAC</b>  <b>Grid Ref:</b> TL 611622</p> <p><b>Reason for designation:</b>  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 – 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" data-bbox="539 1091 2045 1326"> <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 2006	2006/9
Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007
Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007
Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
<b>Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council</b>	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:	
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<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD,	2010
South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD	2007

Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,	2008
Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD	2011
Orchard Park Design Guide SPD	2011
Health Impact Assessment SPD	2011
Landscape in New Developments SPD	2010
District Design Guide SPD	2010
Affordable Housing SPD	2010
Listed Buildings SPD	2009
Biodiversity SPD	2009
Trees and Development sites SPD	2009
Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009
Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009
Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009
Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007
South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD	2006
Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007
<b>East Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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"> <li>• Ashley Conservation Area</li> <li>• Burwell High Town Conservation Area</li> <li>• Burwell North Street Conservation Area</li> <li>• Haddenham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Hill Row Haddenham Conservation Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Ely Conservation Area</li> <li>• Stretham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Dullingham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Littleport Conservation Area Appraisal</li> <li>• Little Downham Conservation Area Appraisal</li> <li>• Sutton Conservation Area Appraisal</li> <li>• Shop Fronts Design Guide</li> <li>• County Wildlife Sites</li> <li>• Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations (Oct.2011 - updated version).</li> <li>• SPD on Developer Contributions – a review of the current SPD – expected to be adopted May 2013.</li> <li>• Design Guide SPD</li> <li>• Contaminated Land - Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2011</li> <li>• Due 2013</li> <li>• Due 2013</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2011</li> <li>• Due 2013</li>   <li>• 2012</li> <li>• 2010</li> </ul>
<b>Forest Heath</b>		
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	
<b>St Edmundsbury Borough Council</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Edmunds bury Core Strategy Development Plan Document</li> <li>• Rural Site Allocations Preferred Options DPD (2010)</li> <li>• Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031, Rural Vision 2031</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li>   <li>• 2010</li> </ul>	



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<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
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>	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 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.	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.
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>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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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	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.	Not relevant
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 of allocated land offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation,	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

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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

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

## Screening Matrix for the Fenland SAC and Ramsar Sites

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives for the Site</p>	<p><b>Fenland SAC comprised of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wicken Fen;</b></li> <li>• <b>Chippenham Fen; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Woodwalton Fen</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Reason for designation:</b></p> <p>This site has been designated as a SAC due to the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Molinia</i> meadow on calcareous, peaty or clayey silt laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>);</li> <li>• Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of <i>Caricion davallianae</i>;</li> <li>• Significant presence of Spined Loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>); and</li> <li>• Presence of Great Crested Newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)</li> </ul> <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><b>Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar site</b></p> <p><b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 555700</p> <p><b>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site:</b>  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>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 Wicken 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" data-bbox="524 957 2047 1335"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="524 957 1704 994">Title</th> <th data-bbox="1704 957 2047 994"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 994 1704 1062">Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge</td> <td data-bbox="1704 994 2047 1062">2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1062 1704 1099">Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report</td> <td data-bbox="1704 1062 2047 1099">2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1099 1704 1136">Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1704 1099 2047 1136">2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1136 1704 1173">Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1704 1136 2047 1173">2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1173 1704 1209">Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1704 1173 2047 1209">2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1209 1704 1246">Cambridge Local Plan 2006</td> <td data-bbox="1704 1209 2047 1246">2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1246 1704 1283">Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,</td> <td data-bbox="1704 1246 2047 1283">2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1283 1704 1319">Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,</td> <td data-bbox="1704 1283 2047 1319">2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 1319 1704 1335">Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1704 1319 2047 1335">2008</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	Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Edmunds bury Core Strategy Development Plan Document</li> <li>• Rural Site Allocations Preferred Options DPD (2010)</li> <li>• Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031, Rural Vision 2031</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li> <li>• 2010</li> </ul>
<b>SuffolkCounty Council</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Core Strategy</li> <li>• Minerals Core Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li> <li>• 2008</li> </ul>

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

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>.</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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
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 runoff 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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>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><b>Chippenham Fen SAC and Ramsar Site</b></p> <p><b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 648697</p> <p><b>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site:</b>          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" data-bbox="472 1161 2047 1327"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="background-color: #008080; color: white;">Title</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 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
<b>Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council</b>	
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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
<b>East Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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"> <li>• Ashley Conservation Area</li> <li>• Burwell High Town Conservation Area</li> <li>• Burwell North Street Conservation Area</li> <li>• Haddenham Conservation Area</li> <li>• Hill Row Haddenham Conservation Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> <li>• 2010</li> </ul>

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minerals Core Strategy</li> <li>• Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008</li> <li>• 2009</li> </ul>
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<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
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	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>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 species listed as important to the integrity of the site.</p>
Recreational pressure and disturbance	Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside 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	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

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>	



<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	Fenland SAC did not meet the criteria to be included in the assessment	
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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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><b>Woodwalton Fen SAC and Ramsar Site</b></p> <p><b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 230840</p> <p><b>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site:</b> 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 persicifloia</i> and fen wood rush <i>Luzula pallescens</i>.</p> <p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, in Huntingdonshire District Council's area.</p>																				
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect Woodwalton 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" data-bbox="450 991 2051 1343"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="450 991 1854 1027">Title</th> <th data-bbox="1854 991 2051 1027"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1027 1854 1064">Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1027 2051 1064">2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1064 1854 1101">Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1064 2051 1101">2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1101 1854 1137">Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1101 2051 1137">2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1137 1854 1174">Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1137 2051 1174">2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1174 1854 1211">Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1174 2051 1211">2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1211 1854 1248">Cambridge Local Plan 2006</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1211 2051 1248">2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1248 1854 1284">Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1248 2051 1284">2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1284 1854 1321">Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1284 2051 1321">2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="450 1321 1854 1343">Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1854 1321 2051 1343">2008</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	Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
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Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007																				
Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007																				
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<b>Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council</b>	
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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
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	Public Art SPD - Adopted January 2009 (SCDC)	2009
	Open Space in New Developments SPD	2009
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	South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD	2006
	Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007
	<b>Huntingdonshire District Council</b>	
	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
	<b>Fenland District Council</b>	
	Fenland Local Plan 1993	1993
	Fenland Local Plan Draft Core Strategy 2013	2013

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
Land take by development	<p>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.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives relate to species of plant within the fen. 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

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	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.	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 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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>



<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<p>quality.</p> <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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	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.	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

<b>Overall Conclusions:</b>
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><b>The Ouse Washes</b></p> <p><b>Grid Reference:</b> 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><b>Reason for designation as a SAC:</b> 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><b>Reason for designation as an SPA</b> 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><b>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site</b> The Ouse Washes have been designated as a Ramsar site for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Particularly good example of a natural or near-natural wetland, characteristic of its biogeographical region;</li> <li>• The site supports a number of rare species of flora and fauna;</li> <li>• The site supports a diverse collection of rare breeding waterfowl associated with seasonally flooding wet grassland;</li> <li>• The Washes are of international importance by virtue of regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl;</li> <li>• The Washes are important internationally for supporting certain species during the winter</li> </ul> <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>

Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect the Ouse Washes?

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).

Other relevant plans:

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

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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
<b>Huntingdonshire District Council</b>	
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
	<b>Fenland District Council</b>	
	Fenland Local Plan 1993	1993
	Fenland Local Plan Draft Core Strategy 2013	2013
	<b>Kings Lynn and West Norfolk</b>	
	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Core Strategy	2011
	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies	2011

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
Land take by development	<p>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.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives relate to species of 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



<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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 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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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 Drove, 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 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. 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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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 km<sup>2</sup>. For comparison, the mean flow from the sewage works discharge is currently estimated at 4332m<sup>3</sup>/day compared a mean flow in the Ouse in excess of 1,185,408 m<sup>3</sup>/day (which is the flow at Offord, upstream of Earith).</p>	

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<p>The current consented dry weather flow (i.e. foul sewage excluding surface drainage) at the works is 3350 m<sup>3</sup>/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 6992m<sup>3</sup>/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"> <li>• 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);</li> <li>• Ammonia - 5 mg/l;</li> <li>• Phosphate - 2 mg/l.</li> </ul> <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>	

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>	

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>



<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

<b>Overall Conclusions:</b>
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><b>Portholme SAC</b></p> <p><b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 237708</p> <p>This site has been designated as a SAC due 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>The site is located outside of Cambridge City, within Huntingdonshire District Council's area.</p>																		
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect the Ouse Washes?</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" data-bbox="443 1023 2029 1337"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="443 1023 1823 1058">Title</th> <th data-bbox="1823 1023 2029 1058"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1058 1823 1093">Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge</td> <td data-bbox="1823 1058 2029 1093">2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1093 1823 1128">Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report</td> <td data-bbox="1823 1093 2029 1128">2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1128 1823 1163">Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1823 1128 2029 1163">2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1163 1823 1198">Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1823 1163 2029 1198">2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1198 1823 1233">Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1823 1198 2029 1233">2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1233 1823 1268">Cambridge Local Plan 2006</td> <td data-bbox="1823 1233 2029 1268">2006</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1268 1823 1303">Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,</td> <td data-bbox="1823 1268 2029 1303">2007</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="443 1303 1823 1337">Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,</td> <td data-bbox="1823 1303 2029 1337">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 Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007																		

Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
<b>Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council</b>	
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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
	<b>Huntingdonshire District Council</b>	
	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

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
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.  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	The conservation objectives for the Portholme SAC relate to	Due to the distance of the site from the city it

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>



<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	<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>

<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>		
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>
	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.	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	To follow

<b>Overall Conclusions:</b>
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><b>Breckland SAC</b></p> <p><b>Grid Reference:</b> 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>The site is located outside of Cambridge City, within the unitary authority of Norfolk; Suffolk</p>												
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 could affect the Ouse Washes?</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" data-bbox="454 1091 1946 1332"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="454 1091 1711 1126">Title</th> <th data-bbox="1711 1091 1946 1126"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1126 1711 1193">Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge</td> <td data-bbox="1711 1126 1946 1193">2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1193 1711 1230">Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report</td> <td data-bbox="1711 1193 1946 1230">2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1230 1711 1267">Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1711 1230 1946 1267">2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1267 1711 1303">Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1711 1267 1946 1303">2010</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1303 1711 1332">Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD</td> <td data-bbox="1711 1303 1946 1332">2006</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Title		Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013	Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012	Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	2011	Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010	Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2006
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Cambridge Local Plan 2006	2006
Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007
Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007
Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008
<b>Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council</b>	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:	
o Cambridge and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document	o 2011
o Cambridge and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document	o 2012
o Cambridge and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A – Mineral and Transport Proposals	o 2012
o Cambridge and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Proposals Map B – Waste Management Proposals	o 2012
o Cambridge 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
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b>	
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011
<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>	
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	
	<b>Kings Lynn and West Norfolk</b>		
	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Core Strategy	2011	
	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies	2011	
	<b>SuffolkCounty Council</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Core Strategy</li> <li>• Minerals Core Strategy</li> <li>• Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011</li> <li>• 2008</li> <li>• 2009</li> </ul>	
<b>THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:</b>			
<b>Nature of Potential Impact</b>	<b>How the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site</b>	<b>Why these effects are not considered to be significant</b>	
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.	

	None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.	
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	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.	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.  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.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	Development resulting from the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will include site allocations for residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Draft Plan are set to increase the dwelling stock in the city to 14,000 by 2031 could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation. However, no major proposals contained within the Draft Cambridge Local Plan, are within 5km of Breckland SAC.  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.  In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the	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.  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>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>	
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 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>

<sup>1</sup> 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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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).

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.

**Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy Phase 2 assessment findings (August 2011)**

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.

The HRA consideration under the Cambridge WCS relates to

	<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 compartments<sup>1</sup> associated with the Little Ouse River valley downstream of Euston and the River Thet valley downstream of Brettenham. Additionally, the Environment Agency's characterisation of river basins under the Water Framework Directive has identified that Breckland has a number of groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE), i.e. wetland systems that are supplied by groundwater as opposed to river water or direct rainfall and overland flow. Drawdown of groundwater levels as a result of additional abstraction could result in damage to associated GWDTEs.</p> <p>Since the groundwater aquifer has been identified as vulnerable to over-abstraction, no new consumptive abstractions will be licensed by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Cambridge Water Company's strategy to provide additional public water supply to developments at Cambridge would include abstracting the full licensed amount from the boreholes in the Thetford area with no additional abstraction over and above this. Additionally, the bulk transfer infrastructure owned and operated by Cambridge Water Company to transfer water from Thetford to Cambridge would not require modification.</p>	
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	<p>Between 2000 and 2010 the Environment Agency reviewed all permissions that were granted before the Habitats Regulations came into force (the 'review of consents'). Thus the abstraction licences currently in force at Euston and Brettenham have been considered to have acceptable levels of risk of groundwater drawdown within the Breckland European sites. Since this licensed abstraction will not change with the proposed developments at Cambridge, there is no risk that these would have an adverse impact on any Breckland SPA or SAC conservation objectives.</p> <p>Thus, Breckland SPA and SAC can be screened out of any further assessment.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA's) for the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF documents considered potential impacts (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) with all the minerals and waste policies and allocations, including the proposed clinical waste facility at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge and the Ely North Area of Search for a replacement Waste Water Treatment Works. No adverse effects were concluded for Breckland SPA and SAC owing to the identified pathways being too great in distance.</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Policies aimed at providing good access to services and facilities, should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of any new development site. The redevelopment</p>	<p>As Breckland SAC is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to encourage the use</p>

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

<b>Overall Conclusions:</b>
<p>The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 - Towards 2031, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for 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>