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# Greater Cambridge Local Plan

## Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Prepared by LUC  
September 2019

**Project Title:** Greater Cambridge Local Plan SA

**Client:** South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council

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# Greater Cambridge Local Plan

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Planning & EIA  
Design  
Landscape Planning  
Landscape Management  
Ecology  
Mapping & Visualisation

LUC LONDON  
250 Waterloo Road  
London  
SE1 8RD  
T +44 (0)20 7383 5784  
[london@landuse.co.uk](mailto:london@landuse.co.uk)

Offices also  
in:  
Bristol  
Glasgow  
Edinburgh



FS 566056  
EMS 566057

Land Use Consultants  
Ltd  
Registered in England  
Registered number:  
2549296  
Registered Office:  
250 Waterloo Road,  
London, SE1 8RD  
LUC uses 100%  
recycled paper

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A Non-Technical Summary has been produced and is available as a separate document.

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council (the Councils) commissioned LUC in July 2019 to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Health Impact Assessment and (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of their Local Plan.
- 1.2 SA is an assessment process designed to consider and report upon the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies, including their reasonable alternatives. SA iteratively informs the plan-making process by helping to refine the contents of such documents, so that they maximise the benefits of sustainable development and avoid, or at least minimise, the potential for adverse effects.
- 1.3 The purpose of a Scoping Report is to provide the context for and determine the scope of the SA of the Local Plan and to set out the assessment framework for undertaking the later stages of the SA. It also explains the approach that will be taken to the HIA and EqIA (both of which will be reported on as part of the SA/SEA).
- 1.4 The Scoping Report contains chapters on a number of sustainability topics, each of which starts by setting out the policy context of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, before describing the current and likely future environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area. This contextual information is used to identify the key sustainability issues and opportunities that the Local Plan can address. The key sustainability issues and opportunities are then used to develop a framework of SA Objectives used to appraise the likely significant effects of the constituent parts of the Local Plan, including strategic policies, site allocations and development management policies. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the proposed approach to the SA, in particular:
  - 1) Whether the scope of the SA is appropriate for considering the role of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to help meet and manage the growth needs and development ambition of Greater Cambridge.
  - 2) Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA policy context that should be included.
  - 3) Whether the baseline information provided is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.
  - 4) Whether there are any additional SA issues relevant to the Local Plan that should be included.
  - 5) Whether the SA Framework is appropriate and includes a suitable set of SA objectives and site-based assumptions for assessing the effects of the options included within the Greater Cambridge Local Plan and reasonable alternatives.

## Greater Cambridge Local Plan

- 1.5 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have committed to preparing a joint Local Plan for their combined area, referred to as Greater Cambridge, a strand of work which originated as part of the City Deal agreement with central government established in 2014. The individual Councils both adopted separate Local Plans in October 2018, which set out the development needs of the local authority areas up to 2031.
- 1.6 The adopted Local Plans acknowledged the commitment to an early review of their local plans beginning in 2019. This decision to take forward the early review of the Local Plans was made in order to establish what impact the anticipated changed infrastructure landscape and economic growth in the area might have on housing need and other aspects of spatial and transport planning. Further, during Examination of the individual plans, a number of issues were highlighted for specific attention. These related to the assessment of housing needs, progress in delivering the development strategy and in particular the proposed new settlements and provision to meet the requirements of caravan dwellers.
- 1.7 The plan period for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is yet to be determined, but is likely to cover the period to either 2040 or 2050. It will replace policies contained within the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018). The Joint Local Development Scheme 2018 identified that the Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination at the end of summer 2022. Public consultation on the Issues and Options for the plan is proposed for late 2019.
- 1.8 The location and extent of the Greater Cambridge Plan Area, which incorporates both Council areas, is shown in **Figure 1.1**.



Greater Cambridge SA

Figure 1.1: Location of Greater Cambridge Plan Area

Cambridge City Council Boundary

South Cambridgeshire District Council Boundary

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000



## Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.9 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC), as transposed into law in England by the SEA Regulations<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.
- 1.10 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>2</sup>), whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken in Greater Cambridge. From here on, the term ‘SA’ should therefore be taken to mean ‘SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations’.
- 1.11 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown in **Figure 1.2** below:

**Figure 1.2 Main stages in Sustainability Appraisal**

<b>Stage A:</b> Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
<b>Stage B:</b> Developing and refining options and assessing effects
<b>Stage C:</b> Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
<b>Stage D:</b> Consulting on the Local Plan and the SA report
<b>Stage E:</b> Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

### Health Impact Assessment

- 1.12 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) aims to ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. HIA of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will be carried out and integrated into the SA and will make recommendations for how the health-related impacts of the Local Plan can be optimised as the options are developed into detailed policies.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 1.13 The requirement to undertake formal Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of plans was introduced in the Equality Act 2010, but was abolished in 2012. Despite this, authorities are still required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act, namely the Public Sector Duty which requires public authorities to have due regard for equalities considerations when exercising their functions. The SA will consider whether the Local Plan is likely to disproportionately affect any groups with particular ‘protected characteristics’ under the Equality Act, as well as whether the

<sup>1</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1633)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

Local Plan may disproportionately affect any other groups, such as different socio-economic groups.

## Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.14 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2010 and again in 2012 and 2017<sup>3</sup>. The Regulations translate Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) and 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) into UK law. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.
- 1.15 The HRA will be undertaken separately but the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of potential development locations on biodiversity).

## Approach to Scoping

- 1.16 **Figure 1.3** below sets out the tasks involved in the Scoping stage.

### Figure 1.3 Stages in SA Scoping

**Stage A1:** Setting out the policy context for the SA of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan i.e. key Government policies and strategies that influence what the Local Plan and the SA needs to consider.

**Stage A2:** Setting out the baseline for the SA of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan i.e. the current and likely future environmental, social and economic conditions in Greater Cambridge.

**Stage A3:** Drawing on A1 and A2, identify the particular sustainability problems and/or opportunities ('issues') that the Local Plan and SA should address.

**Stage A4:** Drawing on A1, A2 and A3, develop a framework of SA Objectives and assessment criteria to appraise the constituent parts of the Local Plan in isolation and in combination.

**Stage A5:** Consulting on the scope of the SA.

- 1.17 This Scoping Report fulfils the requirements set out above with a view to establishing the likely significant effects of constituent parts of the Local Plan in isolation and in combination. In accordance with national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), published on-line by the Government, the Scoping Report should be proportionate and relevant to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, focussing on what is needed to identify and assess the likely significant effects.

## Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

- 1.18 **Table 1.1** below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan). This

<sup>3</sup> *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 1012) consolidate the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments.

table will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met through the SA process.

**Table 1.1 Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations**

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<b>Environmental Report</b> <p>Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:</p> <p>implementing the plan or programme; and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2).</p>	The full SA Report produced to accompany consultation on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will constitute the 'environmental report' as well, and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	<b>Chapters 1 to 10.</b>
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.	
The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	
The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as: (a) biodiversity;	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) population;</li> <li>(c) human health;</li> <li>(d) fauna;</li> <li>(e) flora;</li> <li>(f) soil;</li> <li>(g) water;</li> <li>(h) air;</li> <li>(i) climatic factors;</li> <li>(j) material assets;</li> <li>(k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</li> <li>(l) landscape; and</li> <li>(m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).</li> </ul>	
<p>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of:</p> <p>current knowledge and methods of assessment;</p> <p>the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme;</p> <p>the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and</p> <p>the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.</p> <p>(Regulation 12 (3))</p>	<p>This Scoping Report and the Environmental Reports will adhere to this requirement.</p>
<p><b>Consultation</b></p>	

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<p>When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(5))</p>	<p>This Scoping Report will be published for consultation with the three statutory bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England), other stakeholders and the public.</p>
<p>Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with regulation 12 and its accompanying report ("the relevant documents") shall be made available for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation.</p> <p>As soon as reasonable practical after the preparation of the relevant documents, the responsible authority shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>send a copy of those documents to each consultation body;</li> <li>take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority's opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned, required under the Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Directive ("the public consultees");</li> <li>inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be viewed, and the period within which, opinions must be sent.</li> </ul> <p>The period referred to in paragraph (2) (d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents.</p> <p>(Regulation 13 (1), (2), and (3))</p>	<p>Public consultation on the Local Plan and accompanying SA Reports will take place as the Local Plan develops.</p>
<p>Where a responsible authority, other than the Secretary of State, is of the opinion that a plan or programme for which it is the responsible authority is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State, it shall, as soon as</p>	<p>Unlikely to be relevant to the Local Plan, as there will be no effects beyond the UK.</p>

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<p>reasonable practicable after forming that opinion:</p> <p>notify the Secretary of State of its opinion and of the reasons for it; and</p> <p>supply the Secretary of State with a copy of the plan or programme concerned, and of the accompanying environmental report.</p> <p>(Regulation 14 (1))</p>	
<p>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)</p> <p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme for which an environmental assessment has been carried out under these Regulations, the responsible authority shall:</p> <p>make a copy of the plan or programme and its accompanying environmental report available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge.</p> <p>(Regulation 16(1))</p>	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
<p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme:</p> <p>the responsible authority shall inform (i) the consultation bodies; (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of state, the Secretary of State,</p> <p>that the plan or programme has been adopted, and a statement containing the following particulars:</p> <p>how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;</p> <p>how the environmental report has been taken into account;</p> <p>how opinions expressed in response to: (i) the invitation in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account;</p> <p>how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account;</p> <p>the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and</p> <p>the measures that are to be taken to monitor the</p>	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

<b>SEA Regulations' Requirements</b>	<b>Covered in this Scoping Report?</b>
significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.	
<b>Monitoring</b> The responsible authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. (Regulation 17(1))	Requirement will be met after adoption of the new Local Plan.

## Structure of the Scoping Report

- 1.19 This chapter describes the background to the production of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA and other assessment processes. The remainder of this Scoping Report is structured around a set of SA subject areas designed to draw out the full range of possible sustainability effects generated by the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, including all the SEA topics listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (2004).
- 1.20 **Chapter 2** describes the relationship of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan with other plans and programmes. Each of the subsequent chapters set out the policy context and baseline for each SA subject area. The subject area chapters are as follows:
- **Chapter 3:** Population Growth, Health and Wellbeing.
  - **Chapter 4:** Economy.
  - **Chapter 5:** Transport Connections and Travel Habits.
  - **Chapter 6:** Air, Land and Water Quality.
  - **Chapter 7:** Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.
  - **Chapter 8:** Biodiversity.
  - **Chapter 9:** Historic Environment.
  - **Chapter 10:** Landscape.
- 1.21 SEA Guidance recognises that data gaps will exist, but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. Where there are data gaps in the baseline and forthcoming reports, these are highlighted in the text. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis. Relevant baseline information will be updated during the SA process as and when data is published.
- 1.22 **Chapters 3 to 10** highlight the key sustainability issues for the Greater Cambridge plan area for each subject area and set out their likely evolution without the new jointly prepared Local Plan.

1.23 **Chapter 11** sets out the SA Framework and explains how this has been developed.

## 2 The current adopted Local Plans and relationship with other plans and programmes

### The Existing Spatial Strategy

- 2.1 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are already pursuing a significant growth strategy, set out in their last round of plan making. A significant proportion of development is to be centred on the edges of Cambridge, as is shown within **Figure 2.1** below, complemented by a new settlement at Northstowe, to the north west of the city, a major extension to Cambourne to the west, and new settlements planned at Bourn Airfield, also to the west, and north of Waterbeach to the north, both of which are in the early stages of planning.

#### Cambridge Local Plan<sup>4</sup>

- 2.2 The spatial strategy for Cambridge sets out the City's approach to planning for a compact city through focusing new development in accessible locations, reusing previously developed land and completing the delivery of planned new urban neighbourhoods, and small Green Belt releases where exceptional circumstances exist. Sufficient land for housing, jobs and education/research, and supporting land uses to meet objectively assessed needs, is allocated at locations and in amounts compatible with a compact city strategy. Emphasis is placed on the need to provide strategic transport infrastructure with a focus on sustainable modes. Continued protection is given to the Cambridge Green Belt, the River Cam corridor and the setting of the historic city. A network of centres is defined to meet appropriate retail and services, and to secure the diversity, vitality and viability of the city centre and district and local centres.
- 2.3 The need for new housing in Cambridge is high and the Local Plan sets out how the objectively assessed need for 14,000 additional homes between 2011 and 2031 can be achieved. This is through development of sites within the urban area of Cambridge, sites on the edge of Cambridge including large-scale housing developments which are underway on sites at Trumpington Meadows, Clay Farm, Glebe Farm, the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), and the University of Cambridge's North West Cambridge site and through two small Green Belt releases. The Councils agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding that the housing trajectories for both areas be considered together for the purposes of housing delivery, including calculations of 5 year housing land supply, and this is reflected in both the Cambridge Local Plan and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.4 South Cambridgeshire aims to bring together the economy, social and natural environments to ensure a sustainable future for the District over the period to 2031 and beyond. There will be considerable change, not least with significant

<sup>4</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Cambridge Local Plan [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6890/local-plan-2018.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2018) South Cambridgeshire Local Plan [online] Available at: [https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918\\_sml.pdf](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918_sml.pdf)

developments already planned at the new town of Northstowe and on the Cambridge fringes as well as in surrounding areas such as at Alconbury Enterprise Zone, and further major new developments to meet additional needs to 2031. As part of a sequential policy of encouraging a more sustainable pattern of living, only limited development to meet local needs will take place within villages in the District, with most of that limited development focussed into the larger, more sustainable villages. The emphasis will be on providing quality homes for all, including affordable housing to meet local needs, located where it has good access to services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport, to ensure the creation of sustainable and balanced communities. The major development sites include:

2.5 Edge of Cambridge:

- Trumpington Meadows – 600 homes, with planning permission as part of a wider development of 1,200 which includes land in Cambridge City Council's area.
- North West Cambridge – 1,155 homes in South Cambridgeshire with planning permission as part of a wider development of 3,000 homes which includes land in Cambridge City Council's area, to meet the needs of Cambridge University.
- Land between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road – named Darwin Green, originally allocated for 1,100 homes but the capacity assumption has been revised to 900 dwellings in the light of pre-application discussions to allow a more appropriate density of development. Policy SS/2 identifies a larger site boundary than in the Site Specific Policies DPD, bringing capacity to approximately 1,000 dwellings.
- Land north of Newmarket Road – Outline Planning permission granted in 2016 for development of approximately 1,300 homes.
- Land north of Cherry Hinton – The Cambridge East AAP identified that it may be possible for this area to come forward ahead of relocation of the airport. Policy SS/3 identifies 420 homes in South Cambridgeshire as part of a wider development of 1,200 homes which includes land in Cambridge City Council's area.

2.6 New settlements:

- Northstowe – a new town of 10,000 homes, the first phase of which was granted planning permission in 2014 for 1,500 homes and a development framework plan for the whole new settlement agreed at the same time. Phase 2, 3,500 homes, was granted outline planning permission in 2017.
- A new town north of Waterbeach for approximately 8,000 to 9,000 homes.
- A new village based on Bourn Airfield for approximately 3,500 homes.
- A major expansion of Cambourne for a fourth linked village of 1,200 homes, all of which by 2031. It should be noted that planning permission has been granted for a larger site at Cambourne West comprising 2,350 homes.

SA Greater Cambridge  
Local Plan and North East  
Cambridge Area Action Plan

Figure 2.1: Spatial Strategy for  
Greater Cambridge

**Greater Cambridge**

Railway Station

Railway Line

Motorway Junction

M11 Motorway

A Road

Guided Busway

Safeguarded Land

Major Development Site Allocated  
in the Adopted Local Plans

North East Cambridge

Cambridge & South Cambridge  
Local Plans

1. Northstowe
2. New Town north of Waterbeach
3. Cambourne West
4. Bourn Airfield New Village
5. West Cambridge
6. North West Cambridge
7. Darwin Green
8. Orchard Park
9. Cambridge East – North of  
Newmarket Road
10. Cambridge East – North of  
Cherry Hinton
11. Trumpington Meadows
12. Clay Farm
13. Cambridge Biomedical  
Campus
14. Land at Worts Causeway

Number of Constraints\*

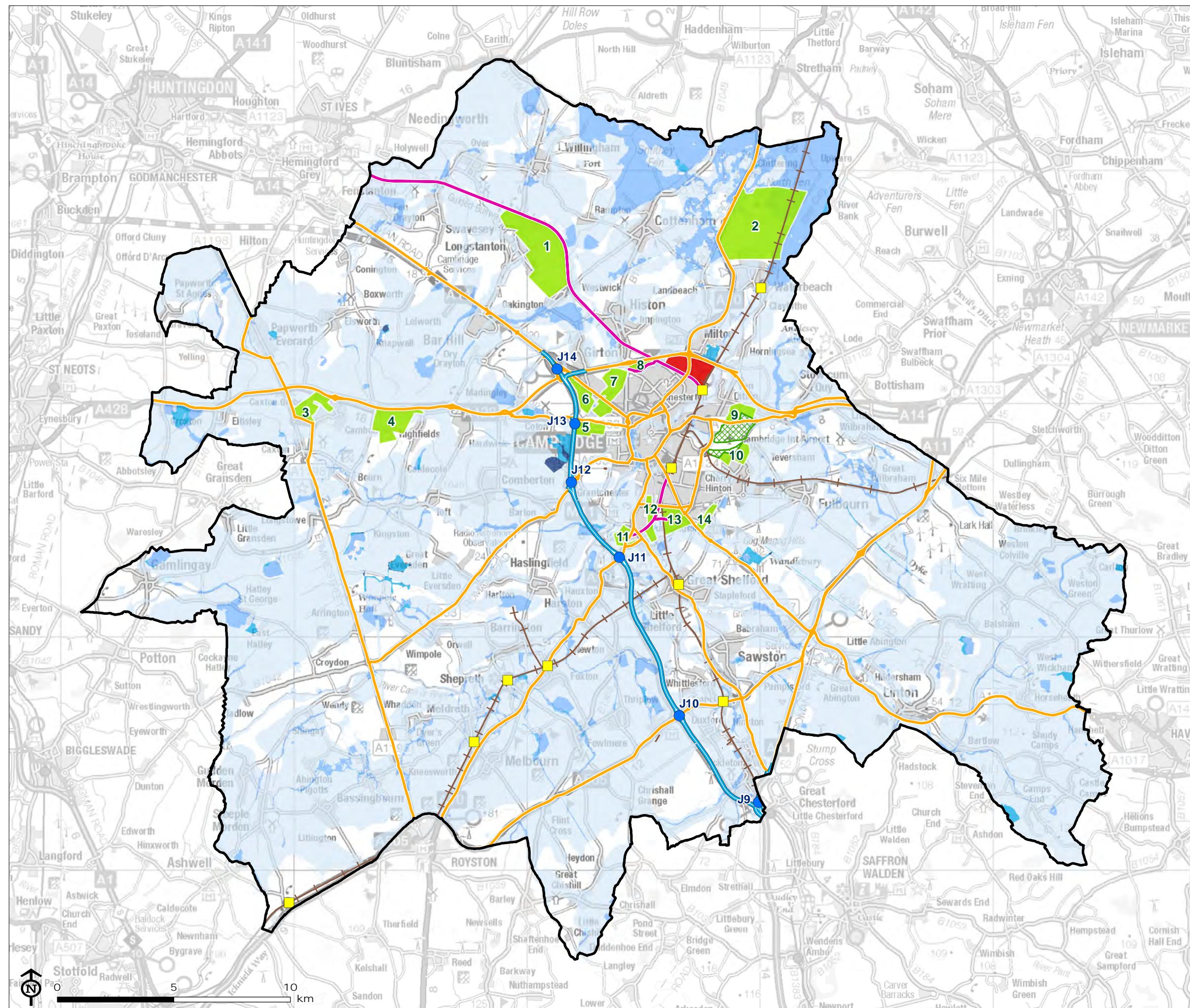
1

2

3

4

\*Constraints include BMV grades 1 & 2, SSSI,  
country park, SAC, ancient woodland, local  
nature reserve, registered parks & garden,  
scheduled monument, flood zones 2 & 3



## Relationship with other Plans and Programmes

- 2.7 Schedule 2(1) of the SEA Regulations requires the SA to report upon the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of “its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes”.

### Key International Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 2.8 At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the ‘SEA Directive’) and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the ‘Habitats Directive’) are particularly significant as they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken in relation to the emerging Local Plan. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the Local Plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on international nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.
- 2.9 There are a wide range of other international agreements and EU Directives, which have been transposed into UK law and national policy, which are summarised in the relevant subject area chapters.

### National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.10 The most significant national policy context for the Local Plan is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was originally published in 2012 and revised in 2018, then again in 2019<sup>6</sup>. The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which states:
- “Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.”
- 2.11 The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that plans should:
- “Be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;
  - Be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable;
  - Be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees;
  - Contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals;
  - Be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and
  - Serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area”.

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

- 2.12 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- “Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
  - Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
  - Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and.
  - Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”
- 2.13 The NPPF also promotes well-designed places and development, and plans should “at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations.”
- 2.14 Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development, including qualitative aspects such as design of places, landscapes, and development.
- 2.15 The NPPF also states that:
- “Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).”

### Neighbourhood Plans

- 2.16 The Localism Act (2011) sought to move decision-making away from central government and towards local communities. Part of this included the introduction of Neighbourhood Planning.
- 2.17 Neighbourhood Plans must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF and be in ‘general conformity’ with the Local Plan for the area. Once adopted, Neighbourhood Plans form part of the statutory development plan for the district or borough within which they are located. The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of Neighbourhood Plan-making, stating that:
- “Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area.”
- 2.18 The NPPF also states that Neighbourhood Plans “can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development”, but they should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies in a Local Plan covering the neighbourhood area or undermine those strategic policies. Within this context, Neighbourhood Plans typically include policies to deliver:
- Site allocations for small and medium-sized housing.

- The provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level.
  - Establishing design principles.
  - Conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment.
- 2.19 Within Cambridge City, no neighbourhood plans have yet been submitted or adopted. Within South Cambridgeshire, one neighbourhood plan has been formally adopted – the Greater Abington Former Land Settlement Association Estate Neighbourhood Plan, which was ‘made’ (formally adopted) in February 2019. Seventeen other Neighbourhood Areas have been designated by the Council and plans are at various stages of preparation.<sup>7</sup>

### **Local Plans in adjoining local authorities**

- 2.20 Development in Greater Cambridge will not be delivered in isolation from those areas around it. The effect of delivering new development and supporting infrastructure will often be transmitted across administrative boundaries. As such it will be important to consider the cumulative effect of delivering new development with consideration for growth being proposed in neighbouring authority areas.
- 2.21 Greater Cambridge is bordered by the following local authority areas, for which the following Local Plan documents are currently adopted or are in preparation:
- To the south, Uttlesford District Council adopted the Uttlesford Local Plan in 2005. Following a Review, the new Uttlesford Local Plan (which will guide development up to 2033) was submitted for examination in January 2019.<sup>8</sup> The Inspector’s report is expected in autumn 2019. The new document plans for the provision of over 14,000 new homes across the district by 2033. The emerging plan also sets out guidance for three new Garden Communities at Easton Park, West of Braintree and North Uttlesford. The latter of the three lies on the southern border of South Cambridgeshire and will provide for 5,000 homes.
  - To the east, St Edmundsbury Borough Council adopted the St Edmundsbury Local Plan in December 2010, to guide development up to 2031.<sup>9</sup> The Core Strategy requires the provision of a minimum of 10,000 homes between 2011 and 2021, with the towns of Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill to be the focus of development (the latter lies on the eastern edge of South Cambridgeshire District). In April 2019 the Borough Council joined with Forest Heath District Council to develop the emerging West Suffolk Local Plan, which is in the early stages of preparation and adoption is currently planned for 2023.
  - To the north east, East Cambridgeshire District Council adopted the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan in April 2015.<sup>10</sup> The Local Plan was undergoing review when in February 2019 the Council formally withdrew the emerging plan. As such the 2015 Plan remains in place, which sets out plans for the provision of 11,500 new homes, with the majority focused on the market towns of Ely, Soham and Littleport.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-plans/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/8248/Uttesford-Regulation-19-Pre-submission-Local-Plan/pdf/Reg\\_19\\_local\\_plan\\_21.06.18\\_low\\_res\\_for\\_web.pdf](https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/8248/Uttesford-Regulation-19-Pre-submission-Local-Plan/pdf/Reg_19_local_plan_21.06.18_low_res_for_web.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning\\_Policies/local\\_plans/upload/Core-Strategy-December-2010.pdf](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/local_plans/upload/Core-Strategy-December-2010.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Local%20Plan%20April%202015%20-%20front%20cover%20and%20inside%20front%20cover\\_.pdf](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Local%20Plan%20April%202015%20-%20front%20cover%20and%20inside%20front%20cover_.pdf)

- To the north west, Huntingdonshire District Council adopted its existing Local Plan in May 2019, which covers the period up to 2036,<sup>11</sup> replacing the previous Core Strategy adopted in 2009. The plan sets out provision of 20,100 new homes in the District, and directs development to two strategic expansion locations in Alconbury (4,225 homes) and St Neots East (3,265 homes), with the latter lying close to the western boundary of South Cambridgeshire.
- To the south west, the emerging Central Bedfordshire Local Plan<sup>12</sup> was submitted for Examination in April 2018 and hearings concluded in July 2019. Once adopted the plan is set to guide development until 2035 and originally planned for 20-30,000 new homes, however this provision was scaled back during consultation to up to 20,000 homes. The plan will replace the existing South Bedfordshire Local Development Framework (adopted in 2004) and the North Bedfordshire Local Development Framework (adopted in 2009).
- To the south, the existing North Hertfordshire Local Development Plan was adopted in 1996. The emerging Local Plan set to replace it was submitted for Examination in June 2017 and hearings concluded in March 2018. Once adopted, the new plan<sup>13</sup> will cover the period 2011-2031 and sets out provision for at least 14,000 new homes, the majority of which will be provided in the Stevenage area.
- To the south east, the emerging Braintree Local Plan<sup>14</sup> was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 along with minor modifications made post consultation. Once adopted the plan is set to guide development until 2033. The Local Plan consists of two parts: Section 1, which is shared with other North Essex authorities and is currently undergoing Examination, and Section 2, which is specific to Braintree.

### Oxford-Cambridge Arc

- 2.22 In March 2016, the National Infrastructure Commission was asked by the Government to consider how to maximise the potential of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford corridor as a single, knowledge-intensive cluster that competes on a global stage, protecting the area's high quality environment, and securing the homes and jobs that the area needs. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc forms a broad arc around the north and west of London's Green Belt, encompassing Northampton, Daventry and Wellingborough to the north, and Luton and Aylesbury to the south.
- 2.23 The Commission identified opportunities to create well-designed, well-connected new communities and deliver one million new homes and jobs in the area by 2050, while respecting the natural environment and without making changes to existing Green Belt protections. Central to achieving this vision are completion of the new East-West Rail line connecting Oxford and Cambridge by 2030 and accelerating the development and construction of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway<sup>15</sup>.
- 2.24 The Government has recently published a paper setting out their ambitions for the Arc (the geographical area located between Oxford and Cambridge) together with a joint declaration agreed by local authorities and local enterprise partnerships across

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/3872/190516-final-adopted-local-plan-to-2036.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/migrated\\_images/pre-submission-local-plan-compressed-v2\\_tcm3-27081.pdf](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/migrated_images/pre-submission-local-plan-compressed-v2_tcm3-27081.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/sites/northherts-cms/files/LP1%20Proposed%20Submission%20Local%20Plan.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/local\\_development\\_framework\\_and\\_planning\\_policy/701/new\\_local\\_plan](https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/local_development_framework_and_planning_policy/701/new_local_plan)

<sup>15</sup> National Infrastructure Commission (Nov 2017) Partnering for Prosperity: a new deal for the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Arc

the area. The Government wishes to maximise the economic potential of the Arc. To achieve this it will require a substantial increase in the delivery of new homes and substantial investment in new infrastructure and technology. The Government has given a clear commitment that this will not be at the expense of the environment.

2.25 The joint declaration sets out four thematic areas:

- **Productivity** – supporting businesses to maximise the Arc's economic prosperity, including through the skills needed to enable communities to benefit from the jobs created.
- **Place-making** – creating places valued by local communities, including the delivery of sufficient, affordable and high-quality homes, to increase affordability and support growth in the Arc, as well as wider services including health and education.
- **Connectivity** – delivering the infrastructure communities need, including transport and digital connectivity, as well as utilities.
- **Environment** – ensuring ambitions for growth are met and leaving the environment in a better state for future generations.

2.26 The Government will be preparing, with local stakeholders, a spatial vision or strategy for the Arc as a whole<sup>16</sup>.

### Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan

- 2.27 The 2011 Minerals and Waste Plan notes the significant growth planned for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region will require the raw materials to support this growth, and to manage the waste created by new development. The Vision outlines that, to deliver the growth agenda, there will be an increased use of recycled and secondary aggregates in preference to 'land won' materials. However, where this is not practicable, a steady supply of minerals will be maintained in the form of sand and gravel and brick clay (bricks). In particular major infrastructure projects, such as improvements to the A14, will be facilitated through the supply of minerals. Within the Greater Cambridge area, the dominant minerals are sand and gravel and chalk, with brick clay more dominant around Peterborough.
- 2.28 The Plan describes how a 'realistic approach' will be taken to minerals in order to deliver greater certainty to the industry and to local communities, and that economic mineral resource will be safeguarded by designating Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) to avoid needless sterilisation.
- 2.29 Finally the Vision notes that as mineral extraction progresses across the area, particularly in respect of sand and gravel, there may be restoration of workings, providing for biodiversity, amenity and recreational uses.<sup>17</sup>
- 2.30 Currently, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are in the process of reviewing their joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan. The consultation on the Further Draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) The Oxford-Cambridge Arc [Online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/799993/OxCam\\_Arc\\_Ambition.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799993/OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council (2011) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan: Core Strategy [Online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core\\_Strategy\\_Adopted\\_19July\\_2011.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core_Strategy_Adopted_19July_2011.pdf?inline=true)

Waste Plan ran from 15 March to 9 May 2019. Once adopted it will replace the current Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

### Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategic Spatial Framework

- 2.31 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Authorities have agreed to create a non-statutory spatial framework to support delivery of more than 90,000 new jobs and over 100,000 new homes by 2036, and to establish the area's future growth needs and ambitions beyond that to 2050. The document aims to set out how the Combined Authority will support the implementation of development strategies in Local Plans to 2036, define the Combined Authority's ambitions and indicate opportunities for the development of the spatial framework and signal how Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authorities are working collaboratively and strategically to achieve growth.
- 2.32 The Plan aims to address the strategic spatial issues through five ambitions: becoming the UK's capital of innovation and productivity; healthy, thriving and prosperous communities; access to a good job within easy reach of home; a workforce for the modern world founded on investment in skills and education; and environmentally sustainable.<sup>18</sup>

### Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan

- 2.33 In May 2017 a Mayor was directly elected and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was formed as part of a devolution deal agreed with central Government. This authority has strategic transport powers and the Mayor sets out the overall regional transport strategy. Currently, while the full plan is emerging, an interim document, formed from an amalgamation of the two County Council Local Transport Plans, outlines strategic priorities.<sup>19</sup>
- 2.34 The interim Plan recognises the significance of transport in the growing economy. It summarises the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan (LTP3), which deals with major challenges including: a dispersed rural population and accessibility challenges; providing sustainable, viable and attractive alternatives to the private car; addressing the causes of road accidents; reducing the length of commutes; and minimising the environmental impact of transport. The user hierarchy for both plans prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.
- 2.35 The emerging joint Local Transport Plan will seek to address historic deficits in transport investment, challenge traditional approaches and move toward a fully integrated, multi-modal transport system to support more active travel choices.

<sup>18</sup> Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (undated) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategic Spatial Framework (Non Statutory) Towards a Sustainable Growth Strategy to 2050 [online] Available at: [https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Combined-Authority/Item-2\\_1-Appendix-1-280318.pdf](https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Combined-Authority/Item-2_1-Appendix-1-280318.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (2017) Interim Local Transport Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Transport/Interim-Transport-Plan-170628.pdf>

### 3 Population, Health and Wellbeing

#### Policy Context

##### International

- 3.1 **United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters** (the 'Aarhus Convention') (1998): Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.
- 3.2 **United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration)** (2002): Sets a broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.
- 3.3 **European Environmental Noise Directive** (2002): Sets out a hierarchy for the avoidance, prevention and reduction in adverse effects associated with environmental noise, including noise generated by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.

##### National

- 3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>20</sup> sets out the following:
  - The NPPF promotes healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social integration, are safe and accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles.
  - One of the core planning principles is to “take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community”.
  - Local plans should “contain policies to optimise the use of land in their area and meet as much of the identified need for housing as possible”. To determine the minimum number of homes needed strategic policies should be informed by the application of the standard method set out in national planning guidance, or a justified alternative approach.
  - “A network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation is important for the health and well-being of communities”.
  - “Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development” and requires development supported by planning decisions to function well and add to the overall quality of the area over its lifetime. Planning decisions should result in development which is of a quality which incorporates good architecture and appropriate and effective landscaping as to promote visual attractiveness, raises

<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

the standard more generally in the area, and addresses the connections between people and places.

- The promotion of retaining and enhancing of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports, cultural venues and places of worship.
- Developments should create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.
- There is a need to take a “proactive, positive and collaborative approach” to bring forward development that will “widen choice in education”, including sufficient choice of school places.
- Paragraph 72 states that “The supply of large numbers of new homes can often be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns, provided they are well located and designed and supported by the necessary infrastructure and facilities”. As such the NPPF provides support for the identification of locations which are suitable for this type of development in a manner which would help to meet needs identified in a sustainable way.

3.2 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)<sup>21</sup> sets out the following:

- Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure, are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making.

3.3 **Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Report: Ready for Ageing?**<sup>22</sup>: warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report states that “longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises”. The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

3.4 **Fair Society, Healthy Lives**<sup>23</sup>: Investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is “overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities”.

3.5 **Planning Policy for Traveller Sites**<sup>24</sup>: Sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, replacing the older version published in March 2012. The Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

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<sup>21</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>22</sup> Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] Available at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/l201213/lselect/lpublic/140/140.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> The Marmot Review (2011) Fair Society, Healthy Lives. [online] Available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning policy for traveller sites [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/457420/Final\\_planning\\_and\\_travellers\\_policy.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Final_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf)

- 3.6 **Laying the foundations: a housing strategy for England**<sup>25</sup>: Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.
- 3.7 **Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England**<sup>26</sup>: Sets out how the Government's approach to public health challenges will:
- Protect the population from health threats – led by central government, with a strong system to the frontline.
  - Empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone's health and wellbeing, and tackle the wider factors that influence it.
  - Focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework.
  - Reflect the Government's core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier.
  - Balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a 'ladder' of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation.
- 3.8 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**<sup>27</sup>: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. It identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: using and managing land sustainably; and connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:
- Using and managing land sustainably:
    - Embed an 'environmental net gain' principle for development, including housing and infrastructure.
  - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing:
    - Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services.
    - Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
    - 'Green' our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.

<sup>25</sup> HM Government (2011) Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7532/2033676.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7532/2033676.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> HM Government (2010) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/216096/dh\\_127424.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216096/dh_127424.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

- Make 2019 a year of action for the environment, working with Step Up To Serve and other partners to help children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.

### Sub-national

- 3.9 **Homes for our future: Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019-2023<sup>28</sup>**: Sets out the strategic direction for housing activity in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District. Its purpose is to set the context as to how both councils aim to meet the housing challenges facing the area, setting out key priorities for action. These include:
- Increasing the delivery of homes, including affordable housing, along with sustainable transport and other infrastructure, to meet housing need.
  - Diversifying the housing market & accelerating housing delivery.
  - Achieving a high standard of design and quality of new homes and communities.
  - Improving housing conditions and making best use of existing homes.
  - Promoting health and wellbeing through housing.
  - Preventing and tackling homelessness and rough sleeping.
  - Working with key partners to innovate and maximise resources available.
- 3.10 **South Cambridgeshire Empty Homes Strategy 2012-2016<sup>29</sup>**: Aims to clearly set out: the current situation of empty homes in South Cambridgeshire; their work so far to bring empty homes back into use; their future priorities for tackling empty homes; when they will achieve this; and how.
- 3.11 **South Cambridgeshire Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023<sup>30</sup>**: Identifies four themes that need to be taken forward over the 5 year period: working closer with partner agencies to prevent homelessness; new private rent initiatives; access to information; and access to accommodation and support.
- 3.12 **Cambridge Anti-Poverty Strategy 2017-2020<sup>31</sup>**: Aims to improve the standard of living and daily lives of those residents in Cambridge who are currently experiencing poverty; and to help alleviate issues that can lead households on low incomes to experience financial pressures.
- 3.13 **Cambridgeshire Strategy for Supporting New Communities<sup>32</sup>**: Sets out three visions that provide the foundation to the strategy:
- Ensure that infrastructure in new communities is designed to meet the needs of the community now and in the future.
  - Support the development of a self-supporting, healthy and resilient community by helping to build people's capacity to help themselves and

<sup>28</sup> Greater Cambridge (2019) Homes for our future: Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019-2023 [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/13250/greater-cambridge-housing-strategy-2019-2023.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2012) Empty Homes Strategy 2012-2016 [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/5717/empty-homes-strategy-2012-2016.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019) Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023 [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/13206/homelessness-strategy.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> Cambridge City Council (2017) Anti-Poverty Strategy 2017-2020 [online] Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3814/170920\\_revised\\_anti-poverty\\_strategy\\_2017-2020 - final\\_v2.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3814/170920_revised_anti-poverty_strategy_2017-2020 - final_v2.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) Strategy for Supporting New Communities 2015-2020 [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/CCC\\_Supporting\\_New\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Final.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/CCC_Supporting_New_Communities_Strategy_Final.pdf?inline=true)

others in order to create a good place to live, improve outcomes, support economic prosperity and make people less reliant on public services.

- Ensure that where people's needs are greater than can be met within community resources they are supported by the right services and are helped to return to independence.

- 3.14 **South Cambridgeshire Design Guide SPD (2010)**<sup>33</sup>: Produced to expand on district-wide policies and ensure that design is an integral part of the development process, in a way that respects the local context. An emerging SPD for Greater Cambridge is currently undergoing consultation and will replace the existing SPD when adopted.
- 3.15 **Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2007)**<sup>34</sup>: Produced to provide guidance on the policies within the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 that relate to sustainability. An emerging SPD for Greater Cambridge is currently undergoing consultation and will replace the existing SPD when adopted.
- 3.16 **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)**<sup>35</sup>: Outlines how the broader historic environment makes an important contribution to sense of places, sense of time and local identity and distinctiveness. The challenges highlighted including the impact of farming, the impact of climate change and development, lack of visibility of some assets, and conflicts between conservation and public access.
- 3.17 **South Cambridgeshire Recreation and Open Space Study (2013)**<sup>36</sup>: Provides an audit of the quantity and quality of existing provision in the district and assesses the need for future provision.
- 3.18 **Cambridge Open Space and Recreation Strategy (2011)**<sup>37</sup>: Discusses the findings of the Open Space and Recreation Assessment. It breaks the information down by ward and provides data on the deficits in each ward and the ward's strengths and weaknesses in terms of open space provision. It also discusses the level of provision proposed in the urban extensions to the City, which have not been assessed in this Strategy, as they have not yet been delivered on site.
- 3.19 **Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015-2031**<sup>38</sup>: Aims to provide accessible community sport and leisure facilities for swimming, fitness and sports hall sports/activities for all residents. This includes both formal and informal spaces.
- 3.20 **Greater Cambridge Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2015-2031**<sup>39</sup>: The vision for future provision of sport and leisure facilities is: 'to enable opportunities for increased and more regular physical activity, particularly from those in areas of deprivation, and in new settlements, to improve community health and well-being,

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<sup>33</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2010) District Design Guide [online] Available at: <https://www.scamps.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/district-design-guide-spd/>

<sup>34</sup> Cambridge City Council (2007) Sustainable Design and Construction SPD [online] Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2355/sustaincomspd\\_web.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2355/sustaincomspd_web.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Forum (2011) Green Infrastructure Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2013) Recreation and Open Space Study [online] Available at: <https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/10290/recreation-open-space-study-2013.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Cambridge City Council (2011) Open Space and Recreation Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2467/open-space-and-recreation-strategy-2011.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (2016) Playing Pitch Strategy [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/df/coredocs/RD-CSF/rd-csf-190.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2015-2031 (2016) [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/df/coredocs/RD-CSF/rd-csf-200.pdf>

by facilitating provision of, and access to, a range of quality, accessible and sustainable facilities in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District’.

- 3.21 **South Cambridgeshire Services and Facilities Study (2014)**<sup>40</sup>: Aims to collate services and facilities data for all settlements within the district to provide and document an evidence base for the review of the settlement hierarchy and for future community/neighbourhood planning.
- 3.22 **Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Areas (2009)**<sup>41</sup>: Reviewed all existing air quality information across the regions, identified the key causes in each management area and assessed the necessary actions needed to improve pollutant levels in those areas.
- 3.23 **Cambridge City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023 (2019 update)**<sup>42</sup>: Sets out Cambridge City Council’s priority actions for improving areas of poor air quality in the city and maintaining a good level of air quality in a growing city.
- 3.24 **South Cambridgeshire Local Air Quality Strategy 2008-2013**<sup>43</sup>: Sets out three objectives for the long term vision of the Council which include: enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work, work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future and deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community.
- 3.25 **Cambridge City Council Contaminated Land Strategy (2009)**<sup>44</sup>: Builds on the City Council’s Medium Term Objectives which include:
- To promote Cambridge as a sustainable city, in particular by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the amount of waste going into landfill in the City and sub-region.
  - Ensure that residents and other service users have an entirely positive experience of dealing with the Council.
  - Maintain a healthy, safe and enjoyable city for all, with thriving and viable neighbourhood.
  - Lead the growth of Cambridge to achieve attractive, sustainable new neighbourhoods, including affordable housing, close to a good range of facilities, and supported by transport networks so that people can opt not to use the car.
- 3.26 **South Cambridgeshire Contaminated Land Strategy (2001)**<sup>45</sup>: Sets out South Cambridgeshire District Council’s strategy on how it proposes to identify contaminated land within its boundaries. It supports the following objectives:
- Maintaining, improving and developing sympathetically the character, environment, economy and social fabric of our villages.

<sup>40</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2014) Services and Facilities Study [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/stages-in-the-preparation-of-the-local-plan-2018/services-and-facilities-study/>

<sup>42</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023, Version 2, 2019 update [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3451/air-quality-action-plan-2018.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023, Version 2, 2019 update [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3451/air-quality-action-plan-2018.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2008) Local Air Quality Strategy 2008-2013 [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6728/air-quality-strategy.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> Cambridge City Council (2009) Contaminated Land Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3025/contaminated-land-strategy.pdf>

<sup>45</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2001) Contaminated Land Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/7919/contaminatedlandstrategy-2001-final-version.pdf>

- Promoting a healthier environment to enable our communities to lead healthier lives, by its own actions and active partnership with others.
  - Working towards a more sustainable future for everyone living and working in South Cambridgeshire, balancing the needs of the present and future generations.
- 3.27 **Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Development Strategy (2012)**<sup>46</sup>: Reviews what sustainable development means in the context of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and to ensure that the sustainability of different broad spatial options for locating new developments are assessed.
- 3.28 **Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire Infrastructure Delivery Study (2015)**<sup>47</sup>: aims to assess the infrastructure requirements, costs and known funding relating to planned growth, particularly the strategic sites, and identify any phasing issues that might affect the proposed growth and advice on the future delivery of infrastructure needed to support the planned growth.

## Current Baseline

### Population

- 3.29 Greater Cambridge consists of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District. Cambridge covers an area of approximately 4,070 hectares and is located on the River Cam about 60 miles north-east of London. Cambridge has a population density of 30.4 persons per hectare, significantly higher than that of the rest of the County which has an average density of 2 persons per hectare. Cambridge is the main settlement within a rapidly growing sub-region.<sup>48</sup> South Cambridgeshire covers an area of 90,163 hectares and has a population density of 1.6 persons per hectare, below the County's average.<sup>49</sup> South Cambridgeshire is located centrally in the East of England region at the junction of the M11/A14 roads and with direct rail access to London and to Stansted Airport. South Cambridgeshire is a largely rural district which surrounds the city of Cambridge and comprises over 100 villages, none currently larger than 8,000 persons. It is surrounded by a ring of market towns just beyond its borders, which are generally 10-15 miles from Cambridge.<sup>50</sup>
- 3.30 The 2011 Census demonstrates that ethnic minorities constituted around 17.5% of the total population of Cambridge. People of Asian ethnicity were the largest group in the city (7.4%) next to those of white ethnicity, followed by Chinese (3.6%), those of mixed ethnicity (3.2%) and those of black ethnicity (1.7%).<sup>51</sup> In South Cambridgeshire there is a very high proportion of white ethnicity (93.3%). Some 5%

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<sup>46</sup> Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Strategic Planning Unit (2012) Sustainable Development Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2531/sustainable-development-strategy-review.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Cambridge City Council & South Cambridgeshire District Council (2015) Infrastructure Delivery Study [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/rd-mc-080.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> UK Census Data (2011) South Cambridgeshire [online] Available at: <http://www.ukcensusdata.com/south-cambridgeshire-e07000012#sthash.wX4JIA0f.dpbs>

<sup>50</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2018) South Cambridgeshire Local Plan [online] Available at: [https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918\\_sml.pdf](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918_sml.pdf)

<sup>51</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

of the population is mixed ethnicity, 3.7% is of Asian ethnicity and 0.9% is of black ethnicity.<sup>52</sup>

- 3.31 The latest population estimates put the population of Cambridge at 125,758 and South Cambridgeshire at 157,519 for 2018.<sup>53</sup> The population of Greater Cambridge is expected to increase by 26% between 2011 and 2031. The demographic profile is also changing, with the proportion of those aged over 65 significantly increasing, especially within South Cambridgeshire. At the other end of the spectrum, Cambridge has one of the ‘youngest’ populations in the country. People aged 24 and under, including students, make up around 37% of the City’s population.<sup>54</sup> In the 2016/17 year (most recent figures available), 19,529 people studied at the University of Cambridge in comparison to 19,320 in 2015/16. Anglia Ruskin University has however seen a decline in its student population, from 11,397 in 2016/17 to 9,425 in 2017/18.<sup>55</sup>
- 3.32 The average age of people in South Cambridgeshire is 40, compared to Cambridge where the average age is 36.<sup>56</sup> However, as the population of the County increases, so will the number of older people. Countywide, the number of people aged 65+ is expected to increase by 54% by 2021 although again there are variations across the districts with the greatest increase being seen in South Cambridgeshire with 80%.<sup>57</sup>

## Housing

### Provision and affordability

- 3.33 Sustained population and employment growth has led to a housing shortage within Cambridge, with high house prices and low levels of housing affordability. Cambridge is frequently ranked as one of the most unaffordable places to live within the UK. The Greater Cambridge housing trajectory published in December 2017 shows that it is not anticipated that there will be a surplus in terms of delivery over and above that required to meet the housing requirements in the Local Plans until 2020/2021 as major sites begin to deliver.<sup>58</sup>
- 3.34 In the year to March 2019, house sales were down by 20%, since 2015, in Cambridge in line with the decline in London, with a decrease in housing sales and valuations from 1,299 to 1,029. Over the same time period, Cambridge’s average price based on sales and valuation has increased from £524,192 to £528,517, while in South Cambridgeshire the average price has decreased from £430,376 to £423,541. This drop represented the largest in the region. Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire average prices of ‘real’ sales is well above the other districts, and

<sup>52</sup> NOMIS (2011) Local Area Report [online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E07000012>

<sup>53</sup> ONS (2018) Population Estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: Mid-2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalescotlandandnorthernireland>

<sup>54</sup> Greater Cambridge (2019) Homes for our future: Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019-2023 [online] Available at: <https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/13250/greater-cambridge-housing-strategy-2019-2023.pdf>

<sup>55</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>56</sup> Census Demographics (2018) [online] Available at: <http://localstats.co.uk/census-demographics/england/east-of-england/cambridge>

<sup>57</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The\\_Local\\_Transport\\_Plan\\_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The_Local_Transport_Plan_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>58</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

significantly higher than the regional and national averages.<sup>59</sup> The highest values in Cambridge are on the fringes of the city centre, particularly towards the south and west. For South Cambridgeshire, the values are higher in the south of the authority and lower to the north.

- 3.35 Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are some of the least affordable areas in the country outside of London. They stand out in the East of England as areas with particularly constrained affordability. In Cambridge the median house price is now 12.2 times the median income of those working in the area, compared with 9.3 in South Cambridgeshire and 7.5 nationally. Although the level of new market supply is high it is not well aligned with local incomes, with most homes only affordable for those with incomes of £45,000 or more.<sup>60</sup> The net affordable housing need for Cambridge is 10,402 homes and 5,573 homes for South Cambridgeshire, a total of 15,975 homes over the plan period (2011-2031). Of the 51,240 dwellings in Cambridge only 7,040 are social housing (general housing, sheltered housing, supported housing, temporary housing, and miscellaneous leases).<sup>61</sup> Within South Cambridgeshire, in the last six years there has been a fall in the proportion of social rented affordable housing completed. Some of this shortfall has been made up by the provision of 'affordable rent' housing.<sup>62</sup>
- 3.36 The housing trajectory for both Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire was considered in the preparation of the new Local Plans and is shown below:

**Table 3.1 Distribution of housing across the development sequence in the Local Plans<sup>63 64</sup>**

	Existing Completions and Commitments (both areas)	New Sites Cambridge	New Sites South Cambridgeshire	Total	%
Cambridge Urban Area	5,358	1,470	0	6,282	19
Edge of Cambridge	11,370	890	410	12,670	35
New settlements and Cambourne West	3,445	0	4,610	8,055	23

<sup>59</sup> Cambridgeshire Insight (2019) Housing Market Bulletin [online] Available at: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housing/local-housing-knowledge/our-housing-market/housing-market-bulletins/>

<sup>60</sup> Savills (2017) Detailed Affordability Analysis [online] Available at: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/savills-greater-cambridge-report-june-2017.pdf>

<sup>61</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>62</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12905/south-cambs-amr-2017-2018-final.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Cambridge Local Plan [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6890/local-plan-2018.pdf>

<sup>64</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2018) South Cambridgeshire Local Plan [online] Available at: [https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918\\_sml.pdf](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918_sml.pdf)

	Existing Completions and Commitments (both areas)	New Sites Cambridge	New Sites South Cambridgeshire	Total	%
Rural Area (including windfalls)	7,284	0	936	8,220	23
Total	27,457	2,360	5,956	35,773	100

- 3.37 The development strategy identified in the Local Plans includes development at all stages in the sequence across both areas. The strategy has 35% of all new development planned on the edge of Cambridge and 23% of new settlements within South Cambridgeshire.
- 3.38 Oxford and Cambridge colleges collectively own more land than the Church of England and have a portfolio of properties across the UK worth £3.5 billion and amount to 51,000 hectares – an area more than four times the size of Manchester. The two major Cambridge landowners are St. John’s and Trinity Colleges, which have 10,500 hectares worth £1.1 billion and make up more than half of the 17,000 hectares owned by Cambridge colleges.<sup>65</sup> A significant proportion of land within the city centre, including residential properties, is owned and operated by the University colleges, much of it as student accommodation.
- 3.39 There are an estimated 46,132 students in Cambridge with a need for some form of accommodation. Of these, 22,410 are housed in purpose built student accommodation (PBSA), an estimated 9,157 are in shared housing, 12,129 are in existing family housing and there is no information for 2,436 students. 91% of undergraduates and 55% of postgraduates at the University of Cambridge are in University or College maintained accommodation, compared to 11% of undergraduates and 15% of postgraduates at Anglia Ruskin University. Anglia Ruskin University is therefore currently dependent upon housing 4,285 undergraduates and 785 postgraduates in shared housing, a total of 5,070 students, occupying at least 1,000 shared houses, assuming an average of 5 students to each shared house. The University of Cambridge’s current planning framework envisages an expansion in undergraduate numbers of 0.5% per year for the next ten years, and in postgraduate numbers of 2% per year. A total of 8,959 student rooms would need to be built in PBSA, for both universities, by 2026 if both the current and the future potential levels of student accommodation were to be met. If PBSA is not available to meet future growth, then by 2026, between 656 (based on 5 students per shared house) and 821 (based on 3.5 students per shared house) additional existing houses would need to be converted into shared student accommodation in order to meet demand.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>65</sup> The Guardian (2018) Oxford and Cambridge University Colleges own Property worth £3.5bn [online] Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/may/29/oxford-and-cambridge-university-colleges-own-property-worth-35bn>

<sup>66</sup> Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research (2017) Assessment of Student Housing Demand and Supply for Cambridge City Council [online] Available at: [https://www.cohpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/Projects/Start-Year/2016/Assessment-Student-Housing-Demand-Supply-Cambridge-City-Council-Oxford-City-Council/Cambridge\\_Student\\_Housing/DownloadTemplate/at\\_download/file](https://www.cohpr.landecon.cam.ac.uk/Projects/Start-Year/2016/Assessment-Student-Housing-Demand-Supply-Cambridge-City-Council-Oxford-City-Council/Cambridge_Student_Housing/DownloadTemplate/at_download/file)

- 3.40 In Cambridge, the number of homelessness decisions was recorded as 67 and the number of people accepted as homeless and in priority need was 38 between April 2017 and March 2018. Within the same time frame, there were 765 recorded instances of rough sleeping in Cambridge and 175 individuals recorded sleeping rough.<sup>67</sup>
- 3.41 In South Cambridgeshire, levels of homelessness are rising with an increase of 62% in homeless approaches between 2012/13 and 2017/18 and a 55% increase in acceptances between 2012/13 and 2017/18. The highest age category of homeless acceptances is those aged between 25 to 44, who make up around 50% of all homeless applications. Based on current trends, homeless acceptances are expected to rise significantly with a potential worst case scenario of a 7-fold increase in case load.<sup>68</sup>

### Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.42 There are only 2 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Cambridge, both living on a mobile home park not conditioned for occupancy by Gypsies and Travellers. Neither household has any current or future accommodation needs.<sup>69</sup>
- 3.43 According to MHCLG data, South Cambridgeshire had a total of 598 traveller caravans in 2019. Compared to 2016, with a total of 433, this is an increase of 38%.<sup>70</sup> Gypsies and Travellers were identified separately for the first time in the 2011 Census. The 2011 census identified 0.3% of the population of South Cambridgeshire as Gypsies and Travellers. However, this may not give a true reflection of the actual Gypsy and Traveller community in the district, which was previously estimated to be 1.0% by the Cambridge Sub-Region Traveller Needs Assessment.<sup>71</sup> According to the 2016 Cambridge Sub-Region Traveller Needs Assessment, there were 11 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in South Cambridgeshire that meet the new definition<sup>72</sup>, 194 ‘unknown’ households that may meet the new definition and 81 households that do not meet the new definition. The 2016 assessment concluded that there was a need for 20 additional pitches, however there were 29 vacant pitches, resulting in an estimated excess of 9 pitches to accommodate Gypsy or Traveller households in South Cambridgeshire.<sup>73</sup>

### Education

- 3.44 The City of Cambridge is home to the University of Cambridge (which is made up of 31 colleges), Anglia Ruskin University, and host to a branch of the Open University. Language schools also make an important contribution to the city’s economy. There are 22 accredited schools in the Cambridge area employing over 300 staff. Fees

<sup>67</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>68</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019) Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023 [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/13206/homelessness-strategy.pdf>

<sup>69</sup> Opinion Research Services (2016) Cambridgeshire, King’s Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough and West Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/RD-STRAT/rd-strat-221.pdf>

<sup>70</sup> MHCLG (2019) Traveller Caravan Count: January 2019 [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/traveller-caravan-count-january-2019>

<sup>71</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2015-2017) Equality Scheme 2015-2020 [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12894/scdc-equality-scheme-2015-2020.pdf>

<sup>72</sup> In determining whether persons are “gypsies and travellers” for the purposes of this planning policy, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters: a) whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life. b) The reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life. c) Whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances. For the purposes of this planning policy, “travelling showpeople” means: Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.

<sup>73</sup> Opinion Research Services (2016) Cambridgeshire, King’s Lynn & West Norfolk, Peterborough and West Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/RD-STRAT/rd-strat-221.pdf>

and accommodation generate around £50 million per annum and spend in the local area is thought to exceed £78 million per annum.<sup>74</sup> **Figure 3.2** shows the location of education facilities in Greater Cambridge.

- 3.45 With respect to the local population, of the 119,342 residents aged 16 and over in the District of South Cambridgeshire in 2011, 15.3% have no qualifications, 11.1% have Level 1 qualifications, 14.4% have Level 2 qualifications, 11.3% have Level 3 qualifications and 40.1% have Level 4 qualifications and above. Of the 106,007 residents aged 16 and over in the City of Cambridge in 2011, 11.9% have no qualifications, 6.9% have Level 1 qualifications, 8.6% have Level 2 qualifications, 16.9% have Level 3 qualifications and 47.3% have Level 4 qualifications and above.<sup>75</sup> Overall, within the County, 71% of children are achieving a good level of development at early years.<sup>76</sup>
- 3.46 Although academic attainment at key stage 2 and at GCSE level has improved between 2013 and 2015 in Cambridgeshire for pupils who primarily speak a Central or Eastern European language at home, attainment remains below that of pupils who primarily speak English. Data was analysed at low geographical areas for proxies of vulnerability factors and concluded that there are areas outside of those most deprived that would benefit from additional prevention work. Within Cambridge City, poor performance for all pupils within EYFS, KS2 and KS3 is significantly worse than Cambridgeshire. With regard to South Cambridgeshire for the same indicator, the District does significantly better than the County.<sup>77</sup>
- 3.47 Cambridge City is expected to see increases in both primary and secondary school pupils over the next five and ten years. It also experienced net gains in pupil numbers in 2015/16 for primary and secondary. However in South Cambridgeshire, primary schools may expect decreases in pupil numbers over the next five years but an overall increase over the next ten years. In contrast secondary schools may expect increases over the next five and ten years. The District experienced a net cohort gain in primary numbers but a net cohort loss in secondary number in 2015/16.<sup>78</sup>

## Deprivation

- 3.48 Although generally affluent, there are pockets of deprivation in the north of Cambridge City, which is shown in **Figure 3.1** below. When considering all Indices of Deprivation (2015), Cambridge City contains 69 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of which two are within the 20% most deprived; however the majority of the City's LSOAs lie within the least deprived. South Cambridgeshire contains 96 LSOAs and the majority of them are within the least deprived in the country. Only 4 of the 96 LSOAs lie within the 50% most deprived.<sup>79</sup> LSOAs are geographic areas of around 1,500 population that are used by the Office for National Statistics for many of its statistical outputs.

<sup>74</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>75</sup> NOMIS (2011) Local Area Reports [online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E07000008>

<sup>76</sup> Cambridgeshire Insight Children, Young People & Education [online] Available at: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/children-and-young-people/report/view/b4f7b0c938074dfbb0979d4a0510e8cb/E10000003>

<sup>77</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2017) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment [online] Available at: [https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/CCC-JSNA-summary-report-2016-2017-FINAL\\_20181123.pdf](https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/CCC-JSNA-summary-report-2016-2017-FINAL_20181123.pdf)

<sup>78</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2016) Annual Pupil Projections for Cambridgeshire [online] Available at: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Annual-Pupil-Projections-for-cambridgeshire.pdf>

<sup>79</sup> Indices of Deprivation 2015 explorer (2015) [online] Available at: <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html>

- 3.49 In Cambridge in 2016 it was estimated that 11.5% (5,632) of households were classed as being fuel poor. In contrast, 8% (5,031) were classed as being fuel poor in 2016 within South Cambridgeshire. Cambridge had a higher figure than Cambridgeshire at the time which was 9.3%; however, South Cambridgeshire had a lower figure comparatively. These figures are reflective of household income, household energy requirements and fuel prices in a given area.<sup>80</sup>

## Health

- 3.50 Health is a cross-cutting topic and as such many topic areas explored in this Scoping Report influence health either directly or indirectly. Whilst this section focuses on direct indicators of health, the Health Impact Assessment in **Chapter 11** sets out the links between other topics and health. **Figure 3.2** shows the location of health facilities across Greater Cambridge.
- 3.51 The 2011 Census statistics suggest that health in Cambridge is generally good with 86.7% of the population reporting themselves to be in very good or good health. Some 9.7% state they are in fair health, with only 2.9% and 0.8% in bad or very bad health respectively. Furthermore, 87% of the population state that their day to day activities are not limited by their health, 7.5% state that they are limited a little and 5.5% limited a lot. Estimated levels of adult excess weight and physical activity are better than the England average. With regard to South Cambridgeshire, the statistics suggest that health is generally good as well with 86.2% of the population reporting themselves to be in very good or good health. Some 10.6% state they are in fair health, with only 2.5% and 0.7% in bad or very bad health respectively. Furthermore, 86.1% of the population state that their day to day activities are not limited by their health, 8.4% state that they are limited a little and 5.6% limited a lot.<sup>81</sup> Estimated levels of adult excess weight and physical activity are better than the England average. **Figure 3.3** shows how levels of health deprivation vary spatially across Greater Cambridge.
- 3.52 Average life expectancy within Cambridge is slightly above the national average, being 80.6 for males and 84.1 for females. Life expectancy is 10.1 years lower for men and 9.9 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Cambridge than in the least deprived areas.
- 3.53 Average life expectancy within South Cambridgeshire is slightly above the national average, 82.3 for males and 85.2 for females. Life expectancy is 4.2 years lower for men and 0.5 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of South Cambridgeshire than in the least deprived areas.<sup>82</sup>

## Open spaces, sports and recreation

- 3.54 There is a total of 217.6 hectares of informal open space across the South Cambridgeshire District. However, the availability of informal play space in housing areas varies greatly across the District. 50 villages lack any kind of Informal Play space provision, and the majority of villages fall short of meeting the existing standard of 0.4 hectares per 1,000 population. **Figure 3.2** shows the extent of publicly accessible open space across Greater Cambridge.

<sup>80</sup> Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2016) Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2018 [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2018>

<sup>81</sup> NOMIS (2011) Local Area Reports [online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E07000008>

<sup>82</sup> Public Health England (2018) Profiles for East of England [online] Available at: [https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/area-search-results/E12000006?search\\_type=list-child-areas&place\\_name=East%20of%20England](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/area-search-results/E12000006?search_type=list-child-areas&place_name=East%20of%20England)

- 3.55 The current standard for outdoor sport is 1.6 hectares per 1,000 population. 53% of the villages within South Cambridgeshire fail to meet this standard. 28 villages have no formal outdoor sport provision at all. The 2013 study shows that new developments such as Cambourne and Highfields Caldecote have significantly increased provision. The total number of additional hectares has increased from 198 hectares in 2005 to 225 hectares in 2013, a total of 27 additional hectares. The overall ratio per 1,000 population has remained relatively constant at 1.52 hectares, due to increases in population. An assessment of the quality of outdoor sports was carried out and the average score for quality was 65%. These included individual scores for bowls greens, grass pitches, all weather pitches and formal multi use games and tennis court areas.
- 3.56 The majority of the playing pitches in South Cambridgeshire are provided and maintained by Parish Councils, and many sites have the dual role of providing invaluable green space within the villages in the District.
- 3.57 Overall, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District have a good range of existing sport and leisure facilities across the area; however, some are now ageing i.e. Melbourn, Impington, Frank Lee, along with Abbey & Parkside Pools and Kelsey Kerridge, and will require large scale investment and/or replacement in future years.<sup>83</sup>
- 3.58 Based on local context and the supply and demand analysis undertaken by the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy (2016), there is a need to consider additional provision of sports halls, swimming pools and fitness suites across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District, as well provision of some other facilities, to meet future demand as a result of population growth. Also, there are some existing facilities in Cambridge to which community access cannot be gained, due to planning conditions.<sup>84</sup>
- 3.59 The standards set by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners recommend that there should be 20 allotment plots per 1,000 households and the 1969 Thorpe report recommends provision of 0.2 hectares per 1,000 population or a minimum of 15 plots per 1,000 households. This would equate to a total provision of 28.68 hectares for South Cambridgeshire. The 2013 study shows that 85.41 hectares are available, which is 56.33 hectares in excess of the area based on recommended provision.<sup>85</sup>
- 3.60 Across Cambridge City, there are some 743.59 hectares of Protected Open Space on 305 sites, of which 348.35 hectares on 163 sites are publicly accessible. Overall, this equates to approximately 6.2 hectares of Protected Open Space per 1,000 people based on mid-2009 population estimates, of which 2.9 hectares per 1,000 people is publicly accessible. Open spaces are not evenly distributed, with many suburbs experiencing a relative scarcity of open space in comparison with the City Centre and the west of the City.

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<sup>83</sup> Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (2016) Playing Pitch Strategy [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/RD-CSF/rd-csf-190.pdf>

<sup>84</sup> Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2015-2031 (2016) [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/RD-CSF/rd-csf-200.pdf>

<sup>85</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2013) Recreation and Open Space Study [online] Available at: <https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/10290/recreation-open-space-study-2013.pdf>

- 3.61 Within the City, Protected Open Spaces have been sub-divided into categories, given their main purpose. **Table 3.2** indicates the amounts of each typology of open space.<sup>86</sup>

**Table 3.2 Primary Function of open spaces in Cambridge City**

Typology	Sites	Total Hectares
Allotments	22	35.87
Amenity Green Space	79	37.81
Cemeteries and Churchyards	13	17.84
Civic Spaces	4	1.07
Provision for children and young people	28	5.24
Natural and semi-natural green spaces	39	170.29
Parks and gardens	57	257.95
Outdoor Sports Facilities	63	217.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>743.59</b>

### Crime

- 3.62 Within Cambridgeshire, anti-social behaviour and violent crime are two principal contributors of crime together accounting for just below half of all crimes committed.<sup>87</sup>
- 3.63 Nationally, average crime rates are lower in rural areas than urban areas. For example, in 2016/17, the rate of violence was 14.1 per 1,000 population in predominantly rural areas compared to 22.2 per 1,000 population in predominantly urban areas. This would suggest that the rural areas of South Cambridgeshire would similarly have a lower rate of violence than the more built up areas of Cambridge.<sup>88</sup>

### Air and noise pollution

- 3.64 Air and noise pollution are issues for the health of residents, workers and students in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. There is one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) within South Cambridgeshire, along the A14 between Bar Hill and

<sup>86</sup> Cambridge City Council (2011) Open Space and Recreation Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2467/open-space-and-recreation-strategy-2011.pdf>

<sup>87</sup> UK Crime Stats (2019) Crime in Cambridgeshire County Council [online] Available at: <https://ukcrimestats.com/Subdivisions/CTY/2218/>

<sup>88</sup> Crime, January 2018 [online] Available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/676118/Crime\\_Jan\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/676118/Crime_Jan_2018.pdf)

Milton, where levels of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> exceed the UK and EU air quality standards. The City of Cambridge declared an AQMA in 2004 where levels of (NO<sub>2</sub>) exceed the UK and EU air quality standards.<sup>89</sup> High concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> can act as an irritant causing inflammation of the airways and, by affecting the immune cells in the lungs, can increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. Additionally, high concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> have a close relationship with increased mortality.<sup>90</sup>

**Chapter 5** considers air pollution in Greater Cambridge in more detail.

- 3.65 Noise is a common problem arising from transport, and studies have shown it can have major negative direct and indirect effects on health and well-being, on quality of life and on wildlife. Exposure to noise can increase stress levels, disrupt communications and disturb sleep. There is scope for transport's noise emissions to be reduced, by cutting the number of cars on the road, low-noise road surfacing, noise barriers, and many other measures.
- 3.66 In response to EU Directive 2002/49/EC, the Government implemented the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006. These regulations deem highway authorities (including Cambridgeshire County Council) to be "noisemaking authorities" in agglomerations of more than 100,000 people (such as Cambridge) or on roads which carry more than six million journeys per year (such as the A1, A1(M), A11 and A14, all managed by the Highways Agency).<sup>91</sup> The Councils have commissioned a Noise Assessment which is currently being undertaken.

**Table 3.3 Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge and likely evolution without the Local Plan**

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the Local Plan	Relevant SA objectives
<p>The population structure of South Cambridgeshire reflects an ageing population. This has the potential to result in pressure on the capacity of local services and facilities including healthcare and ensuring the right type of homes are provided. However, Cambridge has one of the 'youngest' populations in the country which needs different housing and social needs. To</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is likely that services and facilities will still be delivered. Population growth and demographic change is accounted for through many policies within the Cambridge Local Plan, including Policies 56 and 73 which support the creation of accessible, high quality, inclusive and safe developments and the provision of new or improved community, sports and leisure facilities. Similarly, within the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, Policies SC/3 and SC/4 aim to meet community needs and protect village services and facilities. However, it is</p>	<p>SA objective 2</p>

<sup>89</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Air Quality Annual Status Report [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/7417/air-quality-annual-status-report-2019.pdf>

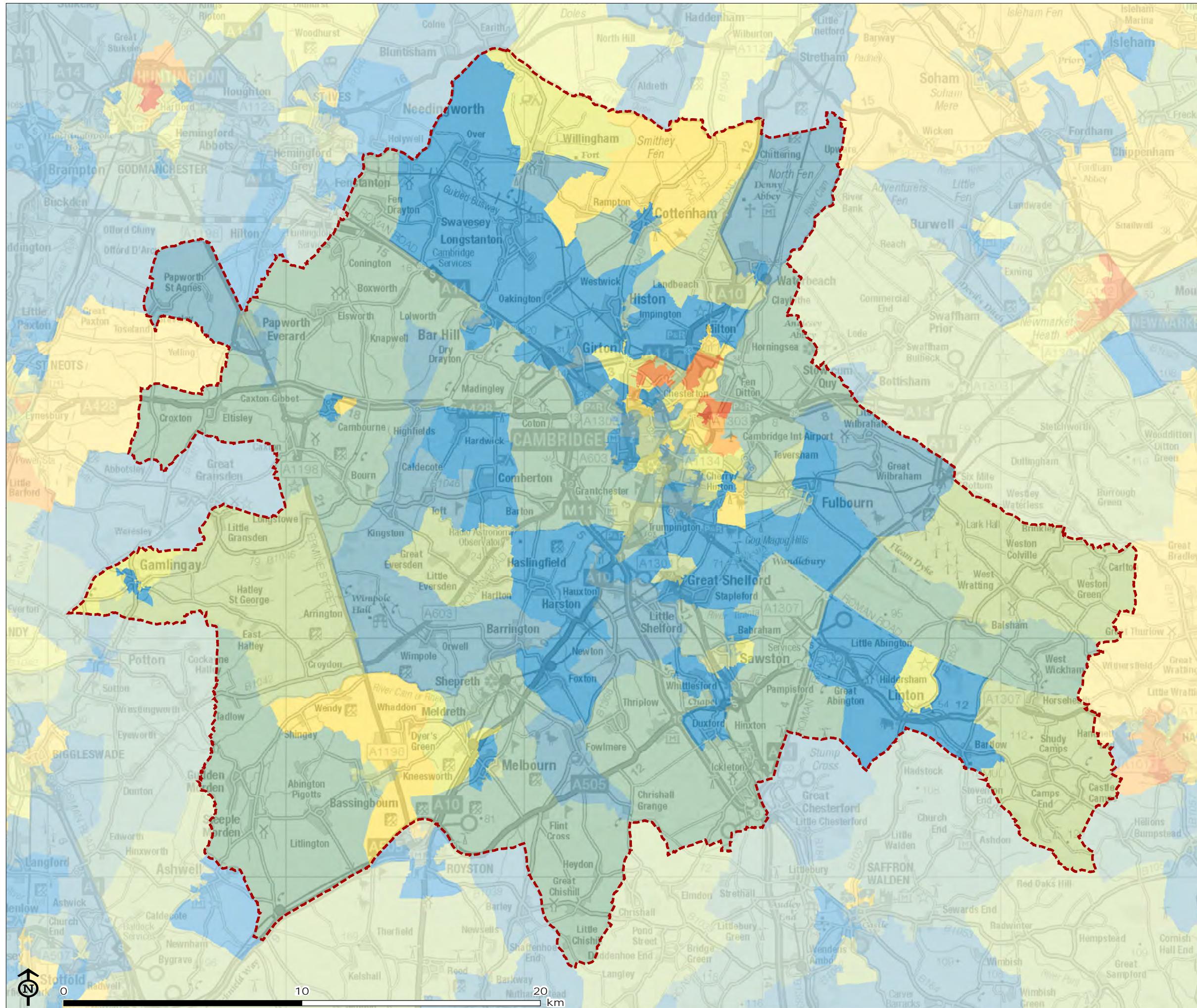
<sup>90</sup> South Cambridgeshire (2018) Air Quality Annual Status Report [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12663/annual-status-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>91</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The\\_Local\\_Transport\\_Plan\\_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The_Local_Transport_Plan_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true)

accommodate future provision of student accommodation more student rooms will need to be built by 2026.	less likely that provision supported through these policies will be in appropriate locations, or of sufficient quality and quantity to keep pace with demands of particular groups. The Local Plan offers an opportunity to deliver the required services and facilities in a coherent, sustainable manner alongside new development.	
Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are some of the least affordable areas in the country outside of London. House prices in Cambridge are high comparable to the regional and national average and sustained population and employment growth has led to a housing shortage within Cambridge, with high house prices and low levels of housing affordability.	Without the Local Plan it is likely that house prices will continue to be an issue across Greater Cambridge. Policy 45 in the Cambridge Local Plan seeks to address the amount of affordable housing for each residential development. Policy H/10 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan aims to do the same. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to facilitate and expedite the delivery of affordable housing and private market accommodation which will also help to meet the needs of more specialist groups including older people. The new Local Plan presents the opportunity to consider supporting the provision of a more appropriate mix of new homes to meet the requirements of local families.	SA objective 1
Overall, Greater Cambridge is not a deprived area. However, there are disparities between the least and the most deprived areas in Greater Cambridge. Two wards within Cambridge are within 20% of the most deprived in the UK.	Without the Local Plan there is potential for issues of disparity to become more apparent in Greater Cambridge. Policies 45, 46 and 51 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy H/10 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan seek to address the issue of access to housing, including student housing, within Greater Cambridge, while Policies 72 and 73 of the Cambridge Local Pan and Policies HQ/1, SC/3 and SC/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Pan seek to support the provision of services and facilities, through high quality design, which are likely to help address improve living standards in Greater Cambridge. These policies would	SA objective 1 SA objective 2 SA objective 3 SA objective 4

	<p>continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan. However, the new Local Plan presents the opportunity to build on these policies to ensure that indicators of disparity such as access to housing, income deprivation, health deprivation, employment deprivation, living environment deprivation and education skills deprivation are appropriately addressed. This approach will also allow for changing circumstances in Greater Cambridge to be more appropriately addressed.</p>	
Health in Greater Cambridge is generally recorded as being at reasonably good level or higher. However, there are inequalities displayed between the most and least deprived areas of Greater Cambridge in terms of health.	<p>The topic of health is intertwined with many policies throughout the current Local Plans of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. This includes Policies 5, 56 and 73 from the Cambridge Local Plan and Policies TI/2, HQ/1, SC/3 and SC/4 which seek to encourage active modes of transport, create socially inclusive and adaptable environments and provide new or improved community facilities or services. However, without the Local Plan, policies will be less suitable to help prevent the continued inequalities between the most and least deprived areas of Greater Cambridge. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to address health deprivation in Greater Cambridge by supporting the provision of healthcare facilities and other relevant improvements at areas of most need.</p>	SA objective 2 SA objective 3 SA objective 4 SA objective 13
The provision of green space varies throughout Greater Cambridge. For example, open spaces are not evenly distributed, with many suburbs experiencing a relative paucity of open space in comparison with the City Centre and the west of the City. A deficiency in recreational or open	Policies 59 and 67 of the Cambridge Local Plan ensure external spaces are designed as an integral part of new developments and that open space will not be lost or harmed by new development. Within the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, Policy SC/1 outlines sites which are to be allocated to meet local need for open space. However, without the Local Plan there is potential that the quality of open spaces will deteriorate and	SA objective 2 SA objective 4

<p>space provision has been identified in a number of specific areas including provision for informal play space and outdoor sports. There is also potential for new development to result in loss of access to open spaces and elements of green infrastructure as well as impacts upon their quality.</p>	<p>access to these types of provisions in certain areas will remain limited. The Local Plan offers the opportunity to better address the changing circumstances in the plan area by ensuring the protection and enhancement of access to and quality of open space and services and facilities. The process will also allow for new local green spaces to be planned and incorporated alongside new development.</p>	
<p>In general Greater Cambridge is a relatively safe sub-region in which to live. In recent years however certain types of crime such as violent crime, anti-social behaviour and illegal drug use have increased in Greater Cambridge.</p>	<p>Policy 56 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy HQ/1 of South Cambridgeshire's Local Plan set out design principles for new development in Greater Cambridge and these include the incorporation of measures to reduce opportunities for crime. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to build on the requirement of these policies to encourage aims to make the local environment and streets safer, for example through relevant approaches to 'designing out' crime. Any new policy would make a contribution to achieving this aim alongside other local and national measures.</p>	<p>SA objective 4</p>



Greater Cambridge SA

Figure 3.1: Indices of Multiple Deprivation

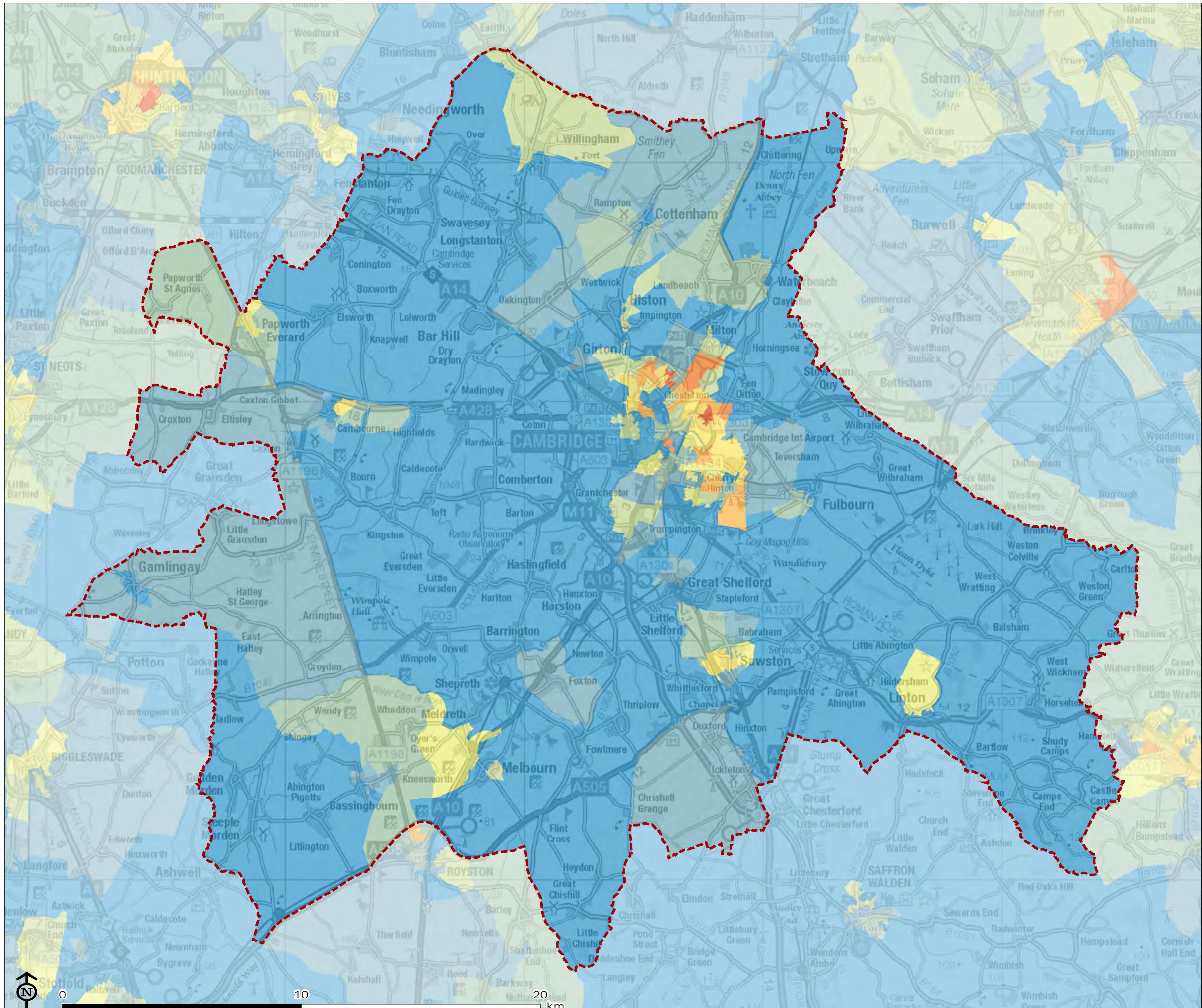
Greater Cambridge

- 0 - 10% (most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived)

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000



## Figure 3.2 Education Facilities, Health Facilities and Open Space in Greater Cambridge



## 4 Economy

### Policy Context

#### International

- 4.1 There are no specific international or European economic policy agreements relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan and the SA, although there are a large number of trading agreements, regulations and standards that set down the basis of trade within the European Union (subject to changes post-Brexit) and with other nations.

#### National

- 4.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>92</sup> sets out the following:

- The economic role of the planning system is to contribute towards building a “strong, responsive and competitive economy” by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation. There is also a requirement for the planning system to identify and coordinate the provision of infrastructure.
- Planning policies should address the specific locational requirements of different sectors.
- Local planning authorities should incorporate planning policies which “support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation”.
- When considering edge of centre and out of centre proposals, preference should be given to accessible sites which are well connected to the town centre. Sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas should be supported, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings.
- The NPPF requires Local Plans to “set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration.”

- 4.3 **National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**<sup>93</sup>: Reiterates the importance for Local Plans to include a positive strategy for town centres to enable sustainable economic growth and provide a wide range of social and environmental benefits.

- 4.4 **The Local Growth White Paper (2010)**<sup>94</sup>: Highlights the importance of economic policy that focusses on the delivery of strong, sustainable and balanced growth of

<sup>92</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

<sup>93</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>94</sup> Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (2010) Local Growth: Realising Every Place's Potential. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-growth-realising-every-places-potential-hc-7961>

income and employment over the long-term, growth which is broad-based industrially and geographically to provide equality of access and opportunity and build businesses that are competitive internationally.

4.5 **Rural White Paper 2000 (Our Countryside: the future – A fair deal for rural England)<sup>95</sup>:** Sets out the Government's Rural Policy Objectives:

- To facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside, tackling poverty in rural areas.
- To maintain and stimulate communities, and secure access to services which is equitable in all the circumstances, for those who live or work in the countryside.
- To conserve and enhance rural landscapes and the diversity and abundance of wildlife (including the habitats on which it depends).
- To promote government responsiveness to rural communities through better working together between central departments, local government, and government agencies and better co-operation with non-government bodies.

4.6 **LEP Network Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017)<sup>96</sup>:** The aim of the document is to ensure that all relevant local action and

investment is used in a way that maximises the impact it has across the Government's strategy. Consultation responses set out how the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will work with Government using existing and additional resources to develop and implement a long term Industrial Strategy.

### Sub-national

4.7 **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Industrial Strategy (2019)<sup>97</sup>:** Sets out a summary of the wider economic context and identifies priorities that work across the three other local industrial strategies, including the Oxford-Cambridge Arc ('the Arc'). These include:

- Working together collaboratively across all of the foundations of productivity to ensure that the implementation of the four Local Industrial Strategies maximises the economic potential of the wider Arc region.
- Harnessing the collective strength of the Arc's research base – driving greater collaboration on science and research; developing a network of 'living labs' to trial and commercialise new technologies; and growing the role of the Arc as a global research and innovation hub.
- Bringing employers and skills providers together to understand the current and future skills needs, and planning provision to meet them.
- Maximising the economic benefits of new transport, energy and digital infrastructure within the Arc.
- Developing an improved business support and finance programme for high growth companies, a shared approach to commercial premises and an

<sup>95</sup> HM Government (2000) Rural White Paper (Our Countryside: the future – A fair deal for rural England) [online] Available at: <http://www.tourisminsights.info/ONLINEPUB/DEFRA/DEFRA%20PDFS/RURAL%20WHITE%20PAPER%20-%20FULL%20REPORT.pdf>

<sup>96</sup> LEP Network (2017) Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation [Online] Available at: <https://www.lepnetwork.net/media/1470/lep-network-industrial-strategy-response-april-2017-final.pdf>

<sup>97</sup> HM Government (2019) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Industrial Strategy [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/818886/Cambridge\\_SINGLE\\_PAGE.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/818886/Cambridge_SINGLE_PAGE.pdf)

Internationalisation Delivery Plan to encourage greater trade and inward investment in the Arc.

- 4.8 **Combined Authority Business Plan 2019-2020**<sup>98</sup>: Aims to create a clear, deliverable and fundable set of priorities and schemes which feeds the growth strategy for the combined authority.
- 4.9 **Partnering for Prosperity: A new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc**<sup>99</sup>: Provides Government with proposals and options to maximise the potential of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc as a connected, knowledge-intensive cluster that competes on a global stage, protecting the area's high quality environment, and securing the homes and jobs that the area needs.
- 4.10 Cambridge Cluster at 50, The Cambridge economy retrospect and prospect<sup>100</sup>: Aims to:
- Better understand the performance of the Cambridge economy currently (including the impacts of recession), and the factors that underpin and explain this.
  - Understand long term opportunities and threats for the economy of Cambridge, taking into account changes in government policy and also the different aspirations of new generations of Cambridge-based businesses and residents.
  - Understand the potential synergies and conflicts that exist in relation to Cambridge's different economic roles, both now and looking forward.
  - Examine the constraints to economic growth – infrastructural, workforce-related, spatial, attitudinal, and institutional – and to distil what might be done to address these.
  - Understand – in broad terms – the spatial implications of the above.
- 4.11 **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Economic Review (2018)**<sup>101</sup>: Provides an overview of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority area and includes 14 key recommendations and another 13 subsidiary recommendations for how the combined authority can sustain its own economy and support the UK economy.
- 4.12 **Cambridge Retail and Leisure Study Update 2013**<sup>102</sup>: Reviews the quality of existing provision and the need for additional retail floor space and leisure uses in Cambridge.
- 4.13 **Cambridge City Centre Capacity Study (2013)**<sup>103</sup>: Examines the capacity of Cambridge city centre to meet the needs of the district and the wider sub-region in the period to 2031. The study will form part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan. The objectives of the study are:
- To review the current uses in and functionality of the city centre.

<sup>98</sup> Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (2019) Combined Authority Business Plan 2019-20 [online] Available at: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/CPCA-Business-Plan-2019-20-dps.pdf>

<sup>99</sup> National Infrastructure Commission (2017) Partnering for Prosperity: A new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc [online] Available at: <https://www.nic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Partnering-for-Prosperity.pdf>

<sup>100</sup> SQW (2011) Cambridge Cluster at 50, The Cambridge economy retrospect and prospect [online] Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2505/cambridge\\_cluster\\_at\\_50\\_report\\_06042011.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2505/cambridge_cluster_at_50_report_06042011.pdf)

<sup>101</sup> CPIER (2018) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Economic Review Final Report [online] Available at: <https://www.cpiier.org.uk/media/1671/cpiier-report-151118-download.pdf>

<sup>102</sup> GVA (2013) Cambridge Retail and Leisure Study [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/RD-E-130.pdf>

<sup>103</sup> ARUP (2013) Cambridge City Centre Capacity Study [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/RD-E-120.pdf>

- To explore the existing and future proposed growth of the city and the surrounding sub-region.
- To consider how the city can accommodate the growth without compromising the environment.
- To identify physical opportunities to increase the capacity of the city centre, in terms of development sites.
- To review the boundary of the city centre, as defined in the adopted Local Plan, to assess whether there is a need for revision.
- To define the primary and secondary retail frontages and primary shopping area.
- To assess the potential for alternative management of uses to free up potential capacity.
- To identify potential transport schemes and public realm improvements, which may increase the capacity of the city centre.

## Current Baseline

- 4.14 The city of Cambridge is an acknowledged world leader in higher education, research and knowledge based industries. Biotechnology, health services and other specialist services also play a major role within the local economy, known as the 'Cambridge Phenomenon'. In 2010, the City had 18,771 jobs within 528 high technology firms. By 2012, employment levels had increased to 19,705 but the numbers of firms had reduced to 465. The economy of the South Cambridgeshire District is also driven by the 'Cambridge Phenomenon' due to its proximity to Cambridge University and Addenbrooke's Hospital. In 2010, South Cambridgeshire had 21,088 jobs within 592 high technology firms, although by 2012 this had decreased slightly to 20,825 jobs in 534 firms<sup>104</sup>. More recent data using a different methodology and definitions suggests that since 2012, business and employment in the 'Knowledge Intensive' sectors in Greater Cambridge has increased at a fast rate<sup>105</sup>.
- 4.15 Cambridge's skilled workforce and culture of innovation attract both talent and investment from around the world. AstraZeneca, the pharmaceutical company, opened its global R&D and HQ at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus in 2018, creating up to 2,000 new jobs. Combining biomedical research, patient care and education on a single site, the Campus hosts an emerging cluster of biotech and life sciences firms, and is expected to become one of the leading biomedical centres in the world by 2020.<sup>106</sup>
- 4.16 South Cambridgeshire has a range of business and research parks including Cambridge Science Park, Granta Park, and the Babraham Institute. There are a significantly higher proportion of micro businesses than regionally or nationally with 86% of businesses employing fewer than 10 people. In addition, there is a

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<sup>104</sup> Hi-tech businesses & employment (Cambridgeshire County Council's hi-tech 'community' database), from Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Economic Assessment Interactive Atlas 2015 [online] Available at: <http://atlas.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/Economy16/Business/atlas.html>

<sup>105</sup> Cambridge Cluster data [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridgeahead.co.uk/cambridge-cluster/>

<sup>106</sup> Steer Davies Gleave (2018) Greater Cambridge Mass Transit Options Assessment Report [online] Available at: <https://citydeal-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.greatercambridge.org.uk/futureinvestmentstrategy/Cambridge%20Mass%20Transit%20Options%20Assessment%20Report%20Final%202.pdf>

significant agricultural sector with many farms diversifying into other sectors, particularly tourism.<sup>107</sup> **Figure 4.1** shows the location of key employment areas within Greater Cambridge.

- 4.17 Currently, education makes up the largest industry within the city of Cambridge with 22.3% of the working population employed in this sector. The next largest industries are human health and social work activities with 15.5% and professional, scientific and technical activities with 14.6%. However, in South Cambridgeshire professional, scientific and technical activities make up the largest industry with 24.1% of the working population employed in this sector. The next largest industries are manufacturing with 13.3% and human health and social work activities with 12.0%.
- 4.18 In terms of occupation, professional occupation workers are the largest employment group for South Cambridgeshire (31.9%) followed by managers, directors and senior officials (15.6%). In the city of Cambridge 41.6% of workers are within professional occupations followed by associate professional & technical (17.8%).<sup>108</sup>
- 4.19 Cambridge provides approximately 103,300 employee jobs, of which approximately 70,300 (54%) are full-time and 33,000 are part-time (46%). The source of full-time employment is split between the public sector providing 14,300 jobs (20%) of the total and the private sector providing 56,000 jobs (80%). The other 33,000 part-time jobs are split between the public sector providing 5,200 jobs (16%) of the total and the private sector providing 27,800 jobs (84%). Employee jobs exclude self-employed, Government-supported trainees and HM Forces.<sup>109</sup> South Cambridgeshire provides 83,000 employee jobs, of which approximately 60,000 (72.3%) are full-time and 23,000 are part-time (27.7%).<sup>110</sup> The District has consistently shown over 80% of the working age population as economically active, even though there are more employed residents in the District than the number of jobs (workplace population). The number of active businesses in the District has increased by nearly 30% between 2004 and 2017. During the same period, annually the number of new businesses opening has outweighed the number of businesses closing, except for in 2009 and 2010 when the effects of the recession were being felt in the District.<sup>111</sup>
- 4.20 Of the 10 local authorities surrounding Cambridge, there are a higher proportion of persons commuting into (51,299 persons) Cambridge than persons commuting out (16,388 persons). Overall, commuting results in a workday population increase of 34,911 in Cambridge compared to the resident population. South Cambridgeshire has the highest proportion of workers commuting into (23,367 persons) Cambridge and the highest proportion of workers from Cambridge commute to South Cambridgeshire (8,272 persons) compared to the other areas persons commute to, such as the City of London (1,018 persons). With regard to South Cambridgeshire, 4,718 more people commute out of the district to work than commute in, with 23,367

<sup>107</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2018) South Cambridgeshire Local Plan [online] Available at: [https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918\\_sml.pdf](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918_sml.pdf)

<sup>108</sup> NOMIS (2017) Labour Market Profile [online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157209/report.aspx>

<sup>109</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>110</sup> NOMIS (2017) Labour Market Profile [online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157209/report.aspx>

<sup>111</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12905/south-cambs-amr-2017-2018-final.pdf>

persons commuting to Cambridge, as stated above, and with 1,112 persons who commute to the City of London.<sup>112</sup>

- 4.21 The proportion of commuting trips originating from outside the city is significantly greater for the ‘fringe’ employment sites, such as the Science Park and Biomedical Campus, where future growth is expected to be focused. 59% of trips to the Science Park originate from outside of Cambridge City, with 29% from outside Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire; similarly, 46% and 17% of trips to south east Cambridge (including the Biomedical Campus) originate from outside Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire respectively.<sup>113</sup>
- 4.22 Unemployment levels in Cambridge City are relatively low (2.9%) which is below the regional average of 3.4% and below the national average of 4.2%.<sup>114</sup> Cambridge’s labour demand is higher than its available workforce, with a job-to working age population ratio of 1.29; this is an increase from 1.20 in 2015.<sup>115</sup> In comparison, South Cambridgeshire has an unemployment rate of 2.2% which is below the averages of Cambridge City, the region and the nation.<sup>116</sup>
- 4.23 The Oxford-Cambridge Arc (the Arc) is home to 3.7 million people and currently supports over 2 million jobs, contributing £111 billion of annual Gross Value Added (GVA) to the UK economy per year. The area between Oxford and Cambridge, incorporating the ceremonial county areas of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire forms a core spine that the Government has labelled the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. There are also vital links beyond the Arc. For example, there are important connections with the Midlands, with the M4 corridor and Heathrow Airport, with London and the Greater South East, and with the rest of East Anglia.
- 4.24 In 2019 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a report on the Government’s ambitions and joint declaration between Government and local partners for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. The report illustrates that productivity in the Arc as a whole is around 2.55% higher than the UK average. In addition, the Arc’s economy appears to be more resilient than the national average, with 2.5 percentage point growth in GVA per head between 2009 and 2010, compared to 1.7 percentage points in England and Wales as whole.<sup>117</sup>
- 4.25 The UK is due to leave the European Union in October 2019. It is uncertain what effect this will have on the Greater Cambridge economy, particularly given its world-renowned status within the education, research and knowledge based industries.

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<sup>112</sup> NOMIS (2001) Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work [online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/wu03uk/chart>

<sup>113</sup> Cambridge City Council (2016) Climate Change Strategy 2016-2021 [online] Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3230/climate\\_change\\_strategy\\_2016-21.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3230/climate_change_strategy_2016-21.pdf)

<sup>114</sup> NOMIS (2019) Labour Market Profile [online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157205/report.aspx?town=cambridge>

<sup>115</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>116</sup> NOMIS (2019) Labour Market Profile [online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157209/report.aspx>

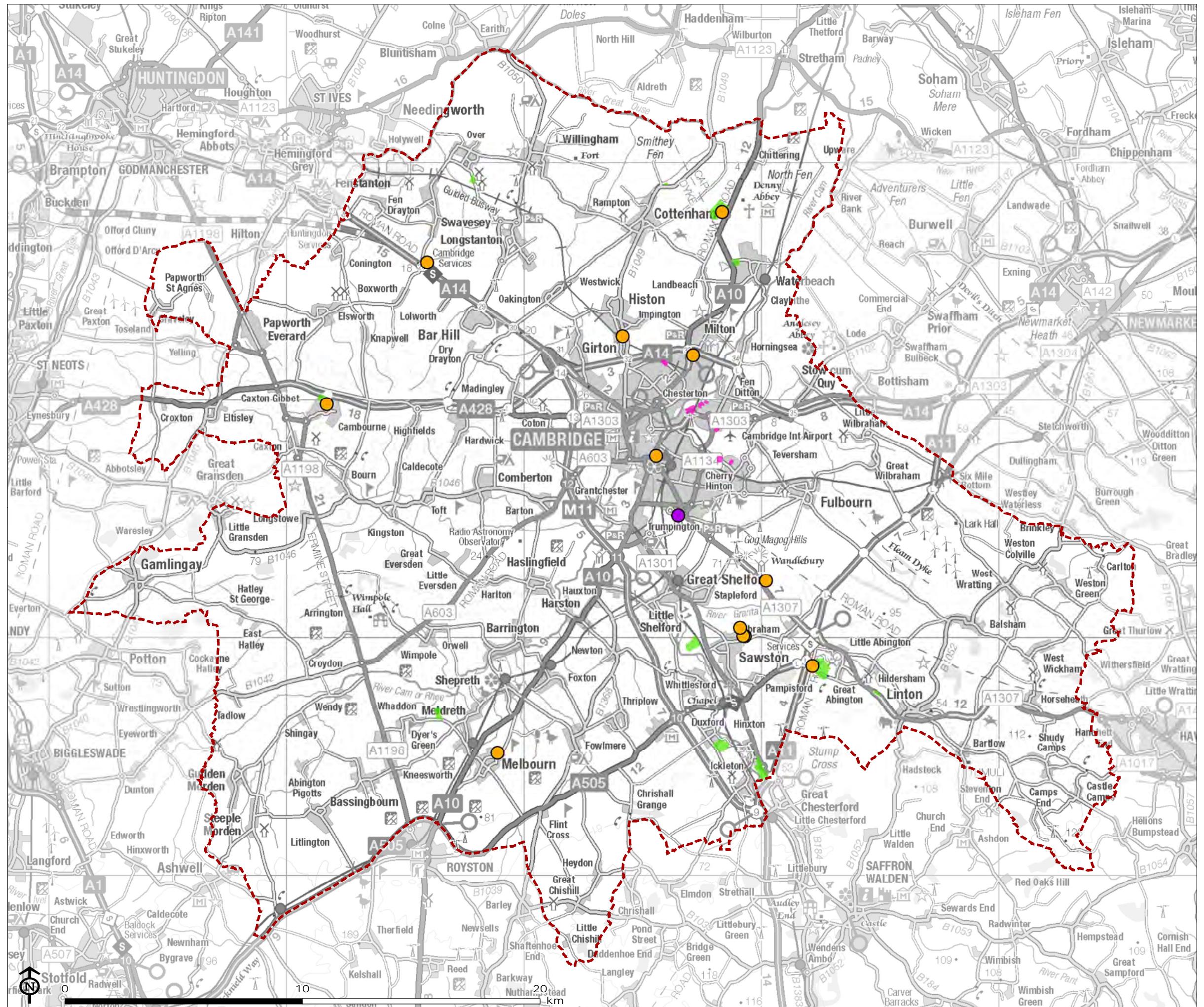
<sup>117</sup> MHCLG (2019) The Oxford-Cambridge Arc [online] Available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/799993/OxCam\\_Arc\\_Ambition.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799993/OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf)

**Table 4.1 Key Sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge and likely evolution without the Local Plan**

<b>Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge</b>	<b>Likely evolution without the Local Plan</b>	<b>Relevant SA objectives</b>
Cambridge needs to ensure that it is able to continue its vital role as a world class centre for higher education, research and knowledge based industries as the regional, national and global economies rely on it.	It is uncertain how the knowledge based industries will change without the implementation of the Local Plan and some degree of change is inevitable, particularly given the uncertainties posed by Brexit. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to create and safeguard jobs through the allocation and promotion of employment generating uses including office and industrial spaces. Policy 43 of the Cambridge Local Plan aims to support the development or redevelopment of faculty, research and administrative sites for the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University.	SA objective 14
Greater Cambridge needs to ensure a future supply of jobs and continued investment to ensure identified employment development opportunities are taken forward and deprivation issues tackled. Although the main focus of employment is in Cambridge, there is a need to ensure a diverse range of employment opportunities are available across Greater Cambridge, for example, in the smaller settlements. Within Cambridge, despite the focus on higher education, research and knowledge based industries, there is a need for a variety of employment	It is uncertain how the job market will change without the implementation of the Local Plan and some degree of change is inevitable, particularly given the uncertainties posed by Brexit. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to create and safeguard jobs through the allocation and promotion of employment generating uses including office and industrial spaces and the promotion of the rural economy, as well as promoting access and opportunity for all. Policies	SA objective 15

<p>opportunities, both skilled and lower-skilled across a range of economic sectors.</p>	<p>40, 41 and 42 of Cambridge Local Plan sets out how the Council will support and improve the economy of the city. Policy 77 supports the development of new visitor accommodation and will help retain the economic benefits of the visitor/tourism sector within the local economy by providing service related jobs. Policies within the South Cambridgeshire, also contains Policies E/18, E/19 which aim to support the agricultural and tourism sectors.</p>	
<p>Significant development is planned within the realm of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc with the role of Cambridge acting as a key component. However, this development must be done sustainably to ensure the long term success of the area.</p>	<p>As Cambridge is amongst the UK's most productive, successful and fast growing cities, it is likely the Arc will affect the local economy without the implementation of the Local Plan, however there is some degree of uncertainty, particularly given the uncertainties posed by Brexit. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to help shape the Arc to create the necessary infrastructure, from public transport to housing, in the most sustainable way.</p>	<p>SA objective 14</p>



Greater Cambridge SA

Figure 4.1: Key employment areas within Greater Cambridge

- Greater Cambridge
- Addenbrooke's Hospital
- Business/Science Parks
- Established Employment Areas
- Protected Industrial Sites

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000

## 5 Transport Connections and Travel Habits

### Policy Context

#### International

- 5.1 **The Trans-European Networks (TEN)**: Created by the European Union by Articles 154-156 of the Treaty of Rome (1957), with the stated goals of the creation of an internal market and the reinforcement of economic and social cohesion. These include the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T), which includes High Speed 1, and the Trans-European Telecommunications Networks (eTEN).

#### National

- 5.2 **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**<sup>118</sup>: Encourages local planning authorities to consider transport issues from the earliest stages of plan making so that: opportunities to promote sustainable transport are identified and pursued; the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified and assessed; and opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure and changing transport technology and usage are realised. The framework also states that the planning system should actively manage growth patterns in support of these objectives.
- 5.3 **National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**<sup>119</sup> : Reiterates the requirement for local planning authorities to undertake an assessment of the transport implications of reviewing their Local Plan.
- 5.4 **Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018)**<sup>120</sup>: Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

#### Sub-national

- 5.5 **Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 (2015)**<sup>121</sup>: Addresses the County Council's priorities, as well as the strategic objectives from the previous Local Transport Plan 2. These are:
- Supporting and protecting people when they need it most.
  - Helping people to live independent and healthy lives in their communities.

<sup>118</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

<sup>119</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>120</sup> Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/739460/road-to-zero.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739460/road-to-zero.pdf)

<sup>121</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The\\_Local\\_Transport\\_Plan\\_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The_Local_Transport_Plan_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true)

- Developing our local economy for the benefit of all.
  - Managing and delivering the growth and development of sustainable communities.
  - Promoting improved skills levels and economic prosperity across the county, helping people into jobs and encouraging enterprise.
  - Meeting the challenges of climate change and enhancing the natural environment.
- 5.6 Additionally, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Local Transport Plan (LTP) is under consultation until the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2019. The emerging plan will replace the existing Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan when it is adopted. The objectives of the Combined Authority LTP include supporting housing, employment, business and tourism, as well as promoting safety, health and wellbeing and reducing environmental impact.
- 5.7 **Cambridgeshire Transport Investment Plan (2018)**<sup>122</sup>: Sets out the transport infrastructure, services and initiatives that are required to support the growth of Cambridgeshire.
- 5.8 **Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Infrastructure Delivery Study 2015**<sup>123</sup>: Assessed the infrastructure requirements, costs and known funding related to planned growth, particularly the strategic sites, and identified any phasing issues that might have affected the proposed growth and advise on the future delivery of infrastructure needed to support the planned growth.
- 5.9 **Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Areas (2009)**<sup>124</sup>: Reviewed all of the existing air quality information across the regions, identified the key causes in each management area and assessed the necessary actions needed to improve pollutant levels in those areas.
- 5.10 **Cambridge City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023 (2019 update)**<sup>125</sup>: Sets out Cambridge City Council's priority actions for improving areas of poor air quality in the city and maintaining a good level of air quality in a growing city.
- 5.11 **South Cambridgeshire Local Air Quality Strategy 2008-2013**<sup>126</sup>: Sets out three objectives for the long term vision of the Council which include: enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work, work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future and deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community.
- 5.12 **Cambridge City Council ‘Greening Your Home’**<sup>127</sup>: Provides information on how individuals can change their lifestyles to become more environmentally sustainable

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<sup>122</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2018) Cambridgeshire Transport Investment Plan [online] Available at: <https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/TIP%20Appendix%202%20%20TIP%20Policy%20Document%202018.pdf?inline=true>

<sup>123</sup> Peter Brett Associates (2015) Infrastructure Delivery Study 2015 [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/rd-mc-080.pdf>

<sup>124</sup> Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (2009) Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Areas [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6727/air-quality-action-plan.pdf>

<sup>125</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023, Version 2, 2019 update [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3451/air-quality-action-plan-2018.pdf>

<sup>126</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2008) Local Air Quality Strategy 2008-2013 [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6728/air-quality-strategy.pdf>

<sup>127</sup> Cambridge City Council Greening Your Home [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/travel-more-sustainably>

including saving energy and water, using sustainable transport, eating sustainable food and greening gardens.

- 5.13 Cambridge Climate Change Strategy 2016-2021<sup>128</sup>: Sets out five key objectives:
- Reducing emissions from the City Council estate and operations.
  - Reducing energy consumption and emissions from homes and businesses in Cambridge by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change.
  - Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change.
  - Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste.
  - Supporting Council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

## Current Baseline

- 5.14 Cambridge has direct infrastructure links to the A14 and M11, providing easy access to London and the Eastern port of Felixstowe. A short distance along the A14 leads to the A1, one of the major road networks linking the north and south of the country. Access to London by rail takes approximately 50 minutes from Cambridge. Cambridge now has two railway stations, since the Cambridge North station opened in 2017, which is on the Fen Line running from Cambridge to King's Lynn. It connects to the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway, and provides an interchange with Park & Ride and local bus services. Cambridge is also within an hour drive of the international airports of Stansted and Luton and less than two hours from Gatwick, East Midlands and Birmingham Airports. Cambridge also houses its own International Airport which is privately owned. The nearest major ports to Cambridge are Felixstowe (which is directly linked to Cambridge via the A14 road network), Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Ipswich and Harwich in Essex. Smaller ports such as Wisbech and King's Lynn are about 40 miles away.
- 5.15 As a small city, Cambridge suffers from a number of serious local transport problems, particularly in relation to traffic congestion on radial routes and in respect of public transport capacity in the city centre. Both the highway and bus networks suffer from limited capacity, which is unlikely to be able to cater for significant increases in traffic volumes without worsening congestion or lengthening journey times. Chronic congestion is already commonplace within the city, with common journeys – such as the City Centre to Cambridge Station – often faster on foot than by car or bus. Traffic congestion is expected to worsen in future without investment, which limits accessibility, worsens air quality and fundamentally undermines quality of life.<sup>129</sup>
- 5.16 In order to support the planned growth in Greater Cambridge, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) was established. It is the local delivery body for a

<sup>128</sup> Cambridge City Council (2016) Climate Change Strategy 2016-2021 [online] Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3230/climate\\_change\\_strategy\\_2016-21.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3230/climate_change_strategy_2016-21.pdf)

<sup>129</sup> Steer Davies Gleave (2018) Greater Cambridge Mass Transit Options Assessment Report [online] Available at: <https://citydeal-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.greatercambridge.org.uk/futureinvestmentstrategy/Cambridge%20Mass%20Transit%20Options%20Assessment%20Report%20Final%202.pdf>

City Deal agreed with central Government, bringing powers and investment (up to £1 billion over 15 years) for vital improvements to social and transport infrastructure.<sup>130</sup> This includes investment in major strategic transport infrastructure including the North Cambridge train station (Cambridge Science Park), the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement by 2019 and a number of other high profile schemes.<sup>131</sup> Within Cambridgeshire, several new mass transit links are currently under development by the Greater Cambridge Partnership including, but not limited to, rural travel hubs (bespoke rural transport interchanges) currently being piloted in South Cambridgeshire, to better connect residents with public transport and cycling/walking routes with the aim of reducing private car journeys into Cambridge from rural villages.<sup>132</sup>

- 5.17 The Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire includes major investment in demand management and bus priority measures, aimed at giving the bus a competitive advantage on all major corridors into the city, and when making orbital movements around Cambridge. The opening of The Busway has improved the quality of the public transport network between Huntingdon, St. Ives and Cambridge and decreased traffic congestion on the A14. Bus patronage in Cambridgeshire increased by 61% between 2001 and 2008, with a 100% increase in Cambridge. Between 2011/12 and 2012/2013 an additional 209,113 passenger journeys were made across Busway and Park & Ride services. Additionally, a dedicated cycle route has been built alongside The Busway between St Ives and north Cambridge, and is part of the National Cycle Network Route 51. This route provides a high quality direct link from St Ives and the villages along the route into Cambridge and vice versa.<sup>133</sup> Cambridge City Council has commissioned a North East Cambridge Transport Study and North East Cambridge Infrastructure Strategy, both of which are currently underway. Some of the key aspects of the emerging Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Local Transport Plan include the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) a new ‘metro-style’ system connecting the city of Cambridge with the surrounding region with high-frequency services unaffected by traffic congestion, a comprehensive, high quality Dutch-standard walking and cycling infrastructure, better bus services, improvements to the rail network, including a new Cambridge South railway station, and highway demand management.<sup>134</sup>
- 5.18 When considering carbon emissions, transport is responsible for 27.3% of emissions in the UK, but only 13.8% of emissions in Cambridge. This could be in part due to relatively high usage of sustainable modes of transport amongst Cambridge residents. For example, a significant proportion of the City’s population already cycle regularly, with the 2011 Census data confirming that 31.9% of residents in the city cycle to work, the highest proportion in the UK.<sup>135</sup> In South

<sup>130</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Authority Monitoring Report 2018 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6981/authority-monitoring-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>131</sup> Peter Brett Associates (2015) Infrastructure Delivery Study 2015 [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/rd-mc-080.pdf>

<sup>132</sup> Steer Davies Gleave (2018) Greater Cambridge Mass Transit Options Assessment Report [online] Available at: <https://citydeal-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.greatercambridge.org.uk/futureinvestmentstrategy/Cambridge%20Mass%20Transit%20Options%20Assessment%20Report%20Final%20.pdf>

<sup>133</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The\\_Local\\_Transport\\_Plan\\_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The_Local_Transport_Plan_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>134</sup> Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (2019) The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan [online] Available at: <https://cambridgeshireandpeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Transport/CPCA-Consultation-Boards-A1-v1.4.pdf>

<sup>135</sup> Cambridge City Council (2016) Climate Change Strategy 2016-2021 [online] Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3230/climate\\_change\\_strategy\\_2016-21.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3230/climate_change_strategy_2016-21.pdf)

Cambridgeshire, the percentage of people cycling to work is 7.6% which is the highest level of cycling in any rural district in England.<sup>136</sup>

- 5.19 There are currently 12 Greenways routes within Greater Cambridge which are important corridors for both wildlife and people. In 2016, a report was produced containing recommendations for Greenways which, when implemented, should increase levels of cycling and walking and be of benefit to as many as possible. The Greenways project is aiming to establish a high quality network of the 12 separate routes. There is particular emphasis on commuting into Cambridge, from within Greater Cambridge in order to reduce traffic congestion as the city grows, and to improve the health of the population. A successful Greenways Network around Cambridge is likely to be a key part of the future success of the Greater Cambridge area.<sup>137</sup>
- 5.20 Rural areas often see lower cycle and pedestrian trip rates than Cambridge and the market towns, due to the larger distances that typically need to be covered, although South Cambridgeshire has the highest levels of out commuting of any rural district in the County. Roads in rural areas are often less suitable for cycling because traffic speeds are high and space on the carriageway is limited. Large vehicles and poor visibility at bends can also create an environment which is not safe for cyclists, making it very difficult to travel sustainably to villages or towns that may actually be very close and often well within the acceptable distance for cycle trips or walking. It is therefore acknowledged that the potential to induce modal shift towards foot and bicycle is not as high as in urban areas, however, if suitable facilities and continuous routes are provided there are a large number of short trips that could be transferred. To help encourage more people to cycle in rural areas the LTP3 for Cambridgeshire aims to investigate cycle and pedestrian links between villages, places of employment, schools and other local services. Using Cycle City Ambition Funding the County Council has started to make improvements in cycle / footway links in South Cambridgeshire, linking villages with rail stations, schools and employment sites. New high quality off road cycle/pedestrian paths have recently been constructed alongside the A10 at Shepreth, linking several villages, schools and places of work, and from Sawston alongside the A505 to Granta Park. This cycleway also links to Whittlesford train station via existing cycle routes. Another example is the extension of the cycleway alongside the A1307 from Wandlebury to the Babraham Research Campus. This route now provides a high quality path from the Babraham Road Park & Ride site to Babraham.<sup>138</sup>
- 5.21 Limited connectivity across the region also limits opportunities for less prosperous neighbourhoods within Greater Cambridge, and the surrounding region. While Greater Cambridge is one of the UK's most productive and successful regions, it retains pockets of deprivation, with limited labour market opportunities and higher levels of unemployment.

<sup>136</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The\\_Local\\_Transport\\_Plan\\_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The_Local_Transport_Plan_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>137</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2016) Cambridge Area Greenways Review [online] Available at: <https://citydeal-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/Main%20Report%20v5.1%20Final.pdf>

<sup>138</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The\\_Local\\_Transport\\_Plan\\_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The_Local_Transport_Plan_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true)

**Table 5.1 Key Sustainability Issues for Greater Cambridge and likely evolution without the Local Plan**

Key Sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>Both highway and bus networks suffer from limited capacity, which is unlikely to be able to cater for significant increases in traffic volumes without worsening congestion and lengthening journey times.</p>	<p>Policy 5 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy T1/2 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan address the provision of new infrastructure to meet new needs of development and support the aim of achieving an integrated community connected by a sustainable transport system in Greater Cambridge. The emerging Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan sets out ambitious proposals to improve the public transport network over the coming 30 years, which are likely to help relieve these issues. However, without the Local Plan there is still potential for congestion to continue to be an issue in Greater Cambridge, particularly given that the growing population is likely to exacerbate this issue. The Local Plan presents the opportunity to address this by providing clarity for infrastructure providers and also to strengthen policy to promote the use of alternative modes of transport. It also has the potential to direct new development to the most sustainable locations as to minimise the need to travel by private vehicle on the local network. This approach can be used to complement measures taken by highways authorities to combat congestion on the strategic road network.</p>	<p>SA objective 12 SA objective 13</p>

<p>Given the rural character of much of the South Cambridgeshire District a large proportion of the District's residents drive to work and some have limited access to bus services and other public transport links.</p>	<p>Policy 5 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy T1/2 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan supports the aim of achieving an integrated community connected by a sustainable transport system in Greater Cambridge. However the Local Plan presents the opportunity to further address the issue of car dependency especially within South Cambridgeshire. This can be achieved by promoting sustainable and active transport (based on sufficient population densities), sustainable development locations, and integrating new and more sustainable technologies, as new development is to be provided in Greater Cambridge.</p>	<p>SA objective 12 SA objective 13</p>
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Greater Cambridge SA

Figure 5.1: Sustainable Transport Links in Greater Cambridge

- [Red dashed box] Greater Cambridge
- [Pink dot] Railway Station
- [Black line] Railway Line
- [Orange dot] Bus stops
- [Purple line] National Cycle Routes
- [Yellow dashed line] Public Rights of Way

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000



## 6 Air, Land and Water

### Policy Context

#### International

- 6.1 **European Nitrates Directive (1991)**: Identifies nitrate vulnerability zones and puts in place measures to reduce water pollution caused by the introduction of nitrates.
- 6.2 **European Urban Waste Water Directive (1991)**: Protects the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.
- 6.3 **European Air Quality Framework Directive (1996) and Air Quality Directive (2008)**: Put in place measures for the avoidance, prevention, and reduction in harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution and establish legally binding limits for the most common and harmful sources of air pollution.
- 6.4 **European Drinking Water Directive (1998)**: Protects human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.
- 6.5 **European Landfill Directive (1999)**: Prevents and reduces the negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.
- 6.6 **European Water Framework Directive (2000)**: Protects inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.
- 6.7 **European Waste Framework Directive (2008)**: Sets out the waste hierarchy requiring the reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation and final disposal that does not harm the environment, including human health.
- 6.8 **European Industrial Emission Directive (2010)**: Lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.

#### National

- 6.9 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>139</sup> sets out the following:
  - The planning system should protect and enhance soils in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or quality identified in the development plan.

<sup>139</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

- New and existing development should be prevented from contributing to, being put at an unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.
  - Despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land should be remediated and mitigated where appropriate.
  - The reuse of previously developed land is encouraged where suitable opportunities exist.
- 6.10 **National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**<sup>140</sup>: Requires local planning authorities to demonstrate every effort has been made to prioritise the use of poorer quality agricultural land for development were it has been demonstrated that significant development is required on agricultural land.
- 6.11 **Waste Management Plan for England**<sup>141</sup>: Provides an analysis on the current waste management situation in England, and evaluates how it will support implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised Water Framework Directive.
- 6.12 **National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW)**<sup>142</sup>: Identifies key planning objectives, requiring planning authorities to:
- Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy.
  - Ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns
  - Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste
  - Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment.
  - Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.
- 6.13 **Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England**<sup>143</sup>: Sets out how England's soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention in tackling degradation threats, including: better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil protection during construction and; dealing with contaminated land.
- 6.14 **Water White Paper**<sup>144</sup>: Sets out the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It states outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as

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<sup>140</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>141</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2013) Waste management plan for England [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/265810/pb14100-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265810/pb14100-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf)

<sup>142</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2014) National Planning Policy for Waste [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/364759/141015\\_National\\_Planning\\_Policy\\_for\\_Waste.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364759/141015_National_Planning_Policy_for_Waste.pdf)

<sup>143</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69261/pb13297-soil-strategy-090910.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69261/pb13297-soil-strategy-090910.pdf)

<sup>144</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2012) The Water White Paper [online] Available at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmenvfru/374/374.pdf>

poorly performing ecosystem, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

6.15 **Water for Life White Paper**<sup>145</sup>: Sets out how to build resilience in the water sector. Objectives of the White Paper are to:

- Paint a clear vision of the future and create the conditions which enable the water sector and water users to prepare for it.
- Deliver benefits across society through an ambitious agenda for improving water quality, working with local communities to make early improvements in the health of our rivers by reducing pollution and tackling unsustainable abstraction.
- Keep short and longer term affordability for customers at the centre of decision making in the water sector.
- Protect the interest of taxpayers in the policy decisions that we take.
- Ensure a stable framework for the water sector which remains attractive to investors.
- Stimulate cultural change in the water sector by removing barriers to competition, fostering innovation and efficiency, and encouraging new entrants to the market to help improve the range and quality of services offered to customers and cut business costs.
- Work with water companies, regulators and other stakeholders to build understanding of the impact personal choices have on the water environment, water resources and costs.
- Set out roles and responsibilities – including where Government will take a stronger role in strategic direction setting and assessing resilience to future challenges, as well as clear expectations on the regulators.

6.16 **The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland**<sup>146</sup>: Sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles, and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term.
- Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment.

6.17 **Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England**<sup>147</sup>: Sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, providing an outline of steps which need to be taken to get there. These steps include: improving the supply of water; agreeing on important new infrastructure such as reservoirs; proposals to time limit abstraction licences; and reducing leakage. The document

<sup>145</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011) Water for life [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228861/8230.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228861/8230.pdf)

<sup>146</sup> Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69336/pb12654-air-quality-strategy-vol1-070712.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69336/pb12654-air-quality-strategy-vol1-070712.pdf)

<sup>147</sup> HM Government (2008) Future Water: The Government's water strategy for England [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69346/pb13562-future-water-080204.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69346/pb13562-future-water-080204.pdf)

also states that pollution to rivers will be tackled, whilst discharge from sewers will be reduced.

- 6.18 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**<sup>148</sup>: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: using and managing land sustainably; recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; and increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste. Actions that will be taken as part of these three key areas are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
  - Embed a ‘net environmental gain’ principle for development, including natural capital benefits to improved and water quality.
  - Protect best agricultural land.
  - Improve soil health, and restore and protect peatlands.
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:
  - Respect nature by using our water more sustainably.
- Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste:
  - Reduce pollution by tackling air pollution in our Clean Air Strategy and reduce the impact of chemicals.

- 6.19 **UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations**<sup>149</sup>: Sets out the Government’s ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles (ULESvs), a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help local authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.

- 6.20 **Clean Air Strategy 2019**<sup>150</sup>: Sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet these goals. This will be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. These will support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution, backed up with clear enforcement mechanisms. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.

- 6.21 **Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018)**<sup>151</sup>: Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better

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<sup>148</sup> HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

<sup>149</sup> Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and Department for Transport (2017) UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/633269/air-quality-plan-overview.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633269/air-quality-plan-overview.pdf)

<sup>150</sup> DEFRA, Clean Air Strategy 2019 [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf)

<sup>151</sup> Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/739460/road-to-zero.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739460/road-to-zero.pdf)

environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 204

### Sub-national

- 6.22 **Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Areas (2009)**<sup>152</sup>: Reviewed all of the existing air quality information across the regions, identified the key causes in each management area and assessed the necessary actions needed to improve pollutant levels in those areas.
- 6.23 **Cambridge City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023 (2019 update)**<sup>153</sup>: Sets out Cambridge City Council's priority actions for improving areas of poor air quality in the city and maintaining a good level of air quality in a growing city.
- 6.24 **South Cambridgeshire Local Air Quality Strategy 2008-2013**<sup>154</sup>: Sets out three objectives for the long term vision of the Council which include: enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work, work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future and deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community.
- 6.25 **Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Infrastructure Delivery Study 2015**<sup>155</sup>: Assessed the infrastructure requirements, costs and known funding related to planned growth, particularly the strategic sites, and identified any phasing issues that might have affected the proposed growth and advise on the future delivery of infrastructure needed to support the planned growth.
- 6.26 **South Cambridgeshire Contaminated Land Strategy (2001)**<sup>156</sup>: Sets out South Cambridgeshire District Council's strategy on how it proposes to identify contaminated land within its boundaries. It supports the following objectives:
- Maintaining, improving and developing sympathetically the character, environment, economy and social fabric of our villages.
  - Promoting a healthier environment to enable our communities to lead healthier lives, by its own actions and active partnership with others.
  - Working towards a more sustainable future for everyone living and working in South Cambridgeshire, balancing the needs of the present and future generations.
- 6.27 **Cambridge City Council Contaminated Land Strategy (2009)**<sup>157</sup>: Builds upon the City Council's Medium Term Objectives which include:

<sup>152</sup> Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (2009) Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Areas [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6727/air-quality-action-plan.pdf>

<sup>153</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023, Version 2, 2019 update [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3451/air-quality-action-plan-2018.pdf>

<sup>154</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2008) Local Air Quality Strategy 2008-2013 [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6728/air-quality-strategy.pdf>

<sup>155</sup> Peter Brett Associates (2015) Infrastructure Delivery Study 2015 [online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/rd-mc-080.pdf>

<sup>156</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2001) Contaminated Land Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/7919/contaminatedlandstrategy-2001-final-version.pdf>

<sup>157</sup> Cambridge City Council (2009) Contaminated Land Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3025/contaminated-land-strategy.pdf>

- To promote Cambridge as a sustainable city, in particular by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the amount of waste going into landfill in the City and sub-region.
  - Ensure that residents and other service users have an entirely positive experience of dealing with the Council.
  - Maintain a healthy, safe and enjoyable city for all, with thriving and viable neighbourhood.
  - Lead the growth of Cambridge to achieve attractive, sustainable new neighbourhoods, including affordable housing, close to a good range of facilities, and supported by transport networks so that people can opt not to use the car.
- 6.28 **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)**<sup>158</sup>: Highlights the issue of air quality in particular and how this can be addressed through Green Infrastructure (GI) provision. It also notes that water is an important element of GI and that management of GI assets can be conducive to improving or maintaining good water quality.
- 6.29 **South Cambridgeshire Recreation and Open Space Study (2013)**<sup>159</sup>: Aims to provide an audit of the quantity and quality of existing provision in the district, assess the need for future provision.
- 6.30 **Cambridge Open Space and Recreation Strategy (2011)**<sup>160</sup> : Discusses the findings of the Open Space and Recreation Assessment. It breaks the information down by ward and provides data on the deficits in each ward and the ward's strengths and weaknesses in terms of open space provision. It also discusses the level of provision proposed in the urban extensions to the City, which have not been assessed in this Strategy as they have not yet been delivered on site.
- 6.31 **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan (2011)**<sup>161</sup>: Sets out key areas which will help shape the future of minerals activities. The plan includes a vision and strategic objectives for both sustainable minerals and waste development, spatial strategies for both waste and minerals, 10 core policies to achieve the strategic objectives for minerals and waste development, 16 development control policies to ensure no unacceptable harm to the environment, economy or communities of the region. Currently, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are in the process of reviewing their joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan. The consultation on the Further Draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan ran from 15 March to 9 May 2019. Once adopted it will replace the current Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 6.32 **Anglian River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan (2016)**<sup>162</sup>: Looks at how to protect and improve water quality and ecology, and use water in a sustainable way.

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<sup>158</sup> Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Forum (2011) Green Infrastructure Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf>

<sup>159</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2013) Recreation and Open Space Study [online] Available at: <https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/10290/recreation-open-space-study-2013.pdf>

<sup>160</sup> Cambridge City Council (2011) Open Space and Recreation Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2467/open-space-and-recreation-strategy-2011.pdf>

<sup>161</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council (2011) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan [online] Available at: [https://occ-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core\\_Strategy\\_Adopted\\_19July\\_2011.pdf?inline=true](https://occ-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core_Strategy_Adopted_19July_2011.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>162</sup> Environment Agency (2016) Anglian River Basin District Flood Management Plan [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anglian-river-basin-district-flood-risk-management-plan>

- 6.33 **Anglian River Basin Management Plan (2015)**<sup>163</sup> : Provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning.
- 6.34 **Cambridge Area Water Cycle Strategy - Phase 1 (2008)<sup>164</sup> and Phase 2 (2011)**<sup>165</sup> : Provides an evidence base concerning the required water services infrastructure for planned development in the Cambridge Sub-Region (CSR). The Phase 1 study identified no insurmountable technical constraints to the proposed level of growth, but identified a number of important issues including the need for a Surface Water Management Plan, a detailed analysis of increased flood risk at the Swavesy Drain, and the need to investigate the viability of achieving 'water neutrality'<sup>166</sup>. Phase 2 goes further and supports a more aspirational vision for water management, including aspirations to water neutrality, improving biodiversity and sustainable surface water management. In addition, a further dedicated Water Cycle Strategy (WCS) was developed in 2014 for the allocated strategic development site at Denny St Francis, north of the existing town of Waterbeach.<sup>167</sup>
- 6.35 **Cambridge Water Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) 2019<sup>168</sup>:** describes how Cambridge Water aims to meet the demand for water in the Cambridge region, including consideration of climate change, population growth and the need to protect the environment. The WRMP recognises the increased demand for water due to a growing population, the potential for adverse environmental impacts of extraction and the need to reduce water wastage.
- 6.36 **Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-2026**<sup>169</sup>: Aims to sustainable manage the Council's own trees and those it manages by agreement, to foster a resilient tree population that responds to the impacts of climate change and urban expansion, to raise awareness of trees being a vital community asset, through promoting continued research, through education via the provision of advice and through partnership working and to make efficient and strategic use of the Council's regulatory powers for the protection of trees of current and future value.

## Current Baseline

### Air quality

- 6.37 Poor air quality can lead to a number of health issues. The annual cost of particulate matter alone in the UK is thought to be around £16 billion in terms of health. An Air Quality Assessment, led by Greater Cambridge Partnership, which the Councils are members of, is currently underway.

<sup>163</sup> Environment Agency, DEFRA (2015) Anglian River Basin Management Plan [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/718327/Anglian\\_RBD\\_Part\\_1\\_river\\_basin\\_management\\_plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718327/Anglian_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf)

<sup>164</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2008) Water Cycle Strategy up to 2031, Major Growth Areas in and around Cambridge, Phase 1 – Outline Strategy [Online]. Available at: <https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/7595/cambridgeshire-water-cycle-strategy-phase-1-2008.pdf>

<sup>165</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2011) Detailed Water Cycle Strategy up to 2031, Major Growth Areas in and around Cambridge, Phase 2 – Detailed Strategy [Online]. Available at: <https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/7596/cambridgeshire-water-cycle-strategy-phase-2-2011.pdf>

<sup>166</sup> The concept that the total water used after a new development is no more than the total water used before the development in a given wider area. This requires meeting the new demand through improving the efficiency of use of the existing water resources.

<sup>167</sup> RLW Estates (2014) Denny St Francis Water Cycle Study [Online]. Available at:

[https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/1380/328331\\_denny\\_st\\_francis\\_water\\_cycle\\_study\\_-\\_detailed\\_report\\_revd.pdf](https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/1380/328331_denny_st_francis_water_cycle_study_-_detailed_report_revd.pdf)

<sup>168</sup> Cambridge Water Company (2019) Water Resources Management Plan [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/media/2546/revised-draft-wrmp-2019-cambridge-water-v2.pdf>

<sup>169</sup> Cambridge City Council (2016) Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-2026 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3260/tree-strategy-2016-part-1.pdf>

- 6.38 Two main factors cause excessive transport-related pollution within the sub-region: the employment, education and tourist centre of Cambridge; and the prevalence of long-distance freight on the A14 east-west corridor. These factors lead to high numbers of longer than average commutes to and from Cambridge and a very high proportion of heavy goods vehicles on the trunk roads. The resulting congestion on trunk routes and the centres of Cambridge and the surrounding market towns also exacerbates the problems associated with high traffic flows.
- 6.39 The main transport routes through the area are:
- The A14, which runs from Harwich and Felixstowe ports in the east to the M1 and the Midlands to the west, is located to the immediate north of the City/District boundary and passes through both South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. It is also the principal route for local traffic between Huntingdon, St Ives and Cambridge as well as part of a Northern Cambridge Bypass.
  - The M11, which runs from the A14 south to Stansted Airport (planned for expansion) and the M25/London, located in South Cambridgeshire to the immediate west of the City/District boundary.<sup>170</sup>
- 6.40 There is one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) within South Cambridgeshire, along the A14 between Bar Hill and Milton, where levels of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> exceed the UK and EU air quality standards. The City of Cambridge declared an AQMA in 2004 where levels of (NO<sub>2</sub>) exceed the UK and EU air quality standards.<sup>171</sup> High concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> can act as an irritant causing inflammation of the airways and, by affecting the immune cells in the lungs, can increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. Additionally, high concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> have a close relationship with increased mortality.<sup>172</sup>
- 6.41 Despite technological improvements in recent years and traffic levels in the County remaining broadly similar over the past decade, PM<sub>10</sub> particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide levels have remained high. NO<sub>2</sub> is the main air pollutant of concern in the majority of Cambridgeshire AQMAs, with PM<sub>10</sub> a key concern in South Cambridgeshire.<sup>173</sup>
- 6.42 The Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board reviewed a Transport and Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment report in 2014 in which air pollution was considered. Through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process, stakeholders identified several options for addressing air pollution in Cambridgeshire such as:
- Lower emission transport fleet (buses and taxis).
  - Modal shift from cars to walking and cycling.
  - Review and promote the use of means to reduce person exposure in the short term such as Text Alerts to vulnerable people, monitoring indoor air quality.

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<sup>170</sup> Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (2009) Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Areas [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6727/air-quality-action-plan.pdf>

<sup>171</sup> Cambridge City Council (2019) Air Quality Annual Status Report [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/7417/air-quality-annual-status-report-2019.pdf>

<sup>172</sup> South Cambridgeshire (2018) Air Quality Annual Status Report [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12663/annual-status-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>173</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The\\_Local\\_Transport\\_Plan\\_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The_Local_Transport_Plan_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true)

- 6.43 The emerging Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan includes ambitious plans to improve the transport network over the coming 30 years, which are likely to help relieve these issues, as discussed in **Chapter 5**.
- 6.44 In addition, the Greater Cambridge Greenways Project involves a high quality network of routes from South Cambridgeshire into Cambridge from some of the surrounding towns and villages aiming to increase levels of cycling and walking, in order to reduce traffic congestion as the city grows, as well as to improve the health of its population.<sup>174</sup> The Greater Cambridge Partnership has also launched a study on improving air quality in Cambridge through the creation of a Clean Air Zone. A Clean Air Zone is an area where targeted action is taken to improve air quality, which delivers improved health benefits and supports economic growth. Clean Air Zones are also being considered in a number of UK cities, including Oxford, Nottingham and Leeds.<sup>175</sup>

### Geology and minerals

- 6.45 A variety of mineral resources are found in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan area: sand, gravel, limestone, chalk, chalk marl and clay. There are extensive deposits often occurring under high quality agricultural land or in areas valued for their biodiversity and landscapes, e.g. river valleys.<sup>176</sup> As shown in **Figure 6.3**, there are currently three Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) within the City of Cambridge and three within South Cambridgeshire. There are also seven Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) within Greater Cambridge. There are also a small number of minerals site allocations, which are extensions to existing minerals sites. The mineral resource of primary interest for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is sand and gravel and crushed rock aggregate (limestone). Sand and gravel resources occur mainly within superficial or 'drift' deposits, subdivided into river sand and gravel, glacial deposits, head deposits and bedrock sand. There are sand and gravel deposits around Cambridge City, particularly to the north but also stretching out into the southern part of the plan area. There are also deposits of chalk in the southern and eastern parts of Greater Cambridge.<sup>177</sup>
- 6.46 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has limited resources of rock suitable for crushed rock aggregate. The Lincolnshire Limestone Formation (inferior oolite) crops out in the north-west of the Plan area, west and north-west of Peterborough. None of the limestone is worked for building stone within the Plan area. Owing to its relatively low strength and its poor resistance to frost it is generally used as constructional fill or as sub-base roadstone material. To the south of the Plan area closer to Cambridge the Upware Limestone is quarried on a small scale for use as an agricultural lime and asphalt filler.<sup>178</sup>

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<sup>174</sup> South Cambridgeshire (2018) Air Quality Annual Status Report [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12663/annual-status-report-2018.pdf>

<sup>175</sup> Greater Cambridge Partnership (2018) Study launched to 'clean up' air pollution in Cambridge [online] Available at: <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/news/study-launched-to-clean-up-air-pollution-in-cambridge/>

<sup>176</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council (2011) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core\\_Strategy\\_Adopted\\_19July\\_2011.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core_Strategy_Adopted_19July_2011.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>177</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council (2011) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core\\_Strategy\\_Adopted\\_19July\\_2011.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core_Strategy_Adopted_19July_2011.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>178</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2016) Aggregate and Waste Monitoring Report 2011-2016 [online] Available at: <https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/2018%2005%20Cambs%20Annual%20MR.pdf?inline=true>

## Soils

- 6.47 Cambridgeshire has one of the largest areas of high-grade agricultural land in the UK, as shown in **Figure 6.2**. Approximately 85% of the land is arable farmland or managed grassland, 5% is wooded and the remaining 10% is made up of the urban areas.<sup>179</sup> The underlying soils give rise to a mix of classified agricultural land, the majority being of Grades 1, 2 and 3, with small areas designated as urban and non-agricultural, almost entirely the City of Cambridge. Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land represent the best and most versatile land for farming, along with Grade 3a agricultural land (the national maps of agricultural land classification do not distinguish between Grade 3a and Grade 3b agricultural land).

## Contaminated Land

- 6.48 For a site to meet the definition of contaminated land, a pollutant linkage must be established. A pollutant linkage consists of three parts: a source of contamination in, on or under the ground, a pathway by which the contaminant is causing significant harm or harm, (or which presents a significant possibility of such harm being caused) and a receptor of a type specified in the regulations.<sup>180</sup> Two entries were added to the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Contaminated Land Register in 2003 and 2010. However, both have now been remediated.<sup>181</sup> There is currently one entry on the register for Cambridge City that consists of four addresses. All of these addresses have now been fully remediated.<sup>182</sup>

## Water

- 6.49 **Figure 6.4** shows the location of water courses and Source Protection Zones (SPZs) within Greater Cambridge. The River Cam runs through the City of Cambridge through to South Cambridgeshire from the south west to the north east. The two principal tributaries of the Cam, the Granta and the Rhee, flow through South Cambridgeshire. Greater Cambridge lies within the River Basin Management Plan for the Anglian River Basin District. Land within the plan area falls across the Broadland Rivers catchment, Cam and Ely Ouse catchment, Combined Essex catchment, East Suffolk catchment, Nene catchment, North Norfolk catchment, North West Norfolk catchment, Old Bedford including the Middle Level catchment, Upper and Bedford Ouse catchment, Welland catchment and the Witham catchment. These areas extend beyond the boundaries of the plan area to include land to the north, east and west.<sup>183</sup>
- 6.50 Priority issues for the Cam and Ely Ouse, Upper and Bedford Ouse and Old Bedford catchment areas include diffuse pollution, biological impacts of low flow rates and over abstraction and nutrient loading, the physical modification of water courses, invasive non-native plant and animal species, and pollution. Some of the water bodies in these catchments have been identified by the Environment Agency as having 'bad' or 'poor' ecological status, but none have been identified as having

<sup>179</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council (2011) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core\\_Strategy\\_Adopted\\_19July\\_2011.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Core_Strategy_Adopted_19July_2011.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>180</sup> Cambridge City Council (2009) Contaminated Land Strategy [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3025/contaminated-land-strategy.pdf>

<sup>181</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2015) Contaminated Land Register [online] Available at: [https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/10502/scdc-contaminated-land-register\\_0.pdf](https://www.scamps.gov.uk/media/10502/scdc-contaminated-land-register_0.pdf)

<sup>182</sup> Pers. Comm. from council officers

<sup>183</sup> Environment Agency, DEFRA (2015) Anglian River Basin Management Plan [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/718327/Anlian\\_RBD\\_Part\\_1\\_river\\_basin\\_management\\_plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718327/Anlian_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf)

'bad' chemical status.<sup>184</sup> There are also Source Protection Zones scattered throughout Greater Cambridge. The Environment Agency's 2013 document 'Water stressed areas – final classification' categorises Cambridge Water as being under 'moderate stress' both currently and under a range of future scenarios, with a final stress rating of 'not serious'. Cambridge Water Company's WRMP shows that beyond 2035, without additional resources or greater efficiency, the need for water to serve development will be greater than the current available supply. However, the WRMP sets out measures to ensure that Cambridge Water will be able to balance supply and demand in the region up to and beyond 2045. In August 2019 the Chair of Natural England raised concerns over the levels of stress on the River Cam in particular, which is said to be under threat from low rainfall and abstraction of groundwater for public supply. Given the prospect of increased demand from development locally, the Chair of Natural England suggested that major new reservoirs may be required in future to counter the stress.<sup>185</sup>

- 6.51 A further breakdown of the number of water courses which have achieved various ecological and chemical classifications is provided in **Table 6.1**. For Greater Cambridge, the reasons for not achieving good status and reasons for deterioration in water quality were mainly agriculture and rural land management or related to the water industry.<sup>186</sup>

**Table 6.1 Ecological and Chemical Classification for surface waters in the Anglian River Basin District**

	Ecological status or potential						Chemical status	
	Bad	Poor	Moderate	Good	High	Fail	Good	
Number of water bodies								
603	15	114	421	53	0	5	598	

<sup>184</sup> Environment Agency, DEFRA (2015) Anglian River Basin Management Plan [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/718327/Anglian\\_RBD\\_Part\\_1\\_river\\_basin\\_management\\_plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718327/Anglian_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf)

<sup>185</sup> Pickstone, S (August 2019) River Cam crisis: Tony Juniper suggests 'major new reservoirs' ENDS Report [Online] Available at: <https://www.endsreport.com/article/1594857/river-cam-crisis-tony-juniper-suggests-major-new-reservoirs>

<sup>186</sup> Environment Agency (2019) Catchment Data Explorer [online] Available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/5/Summary>

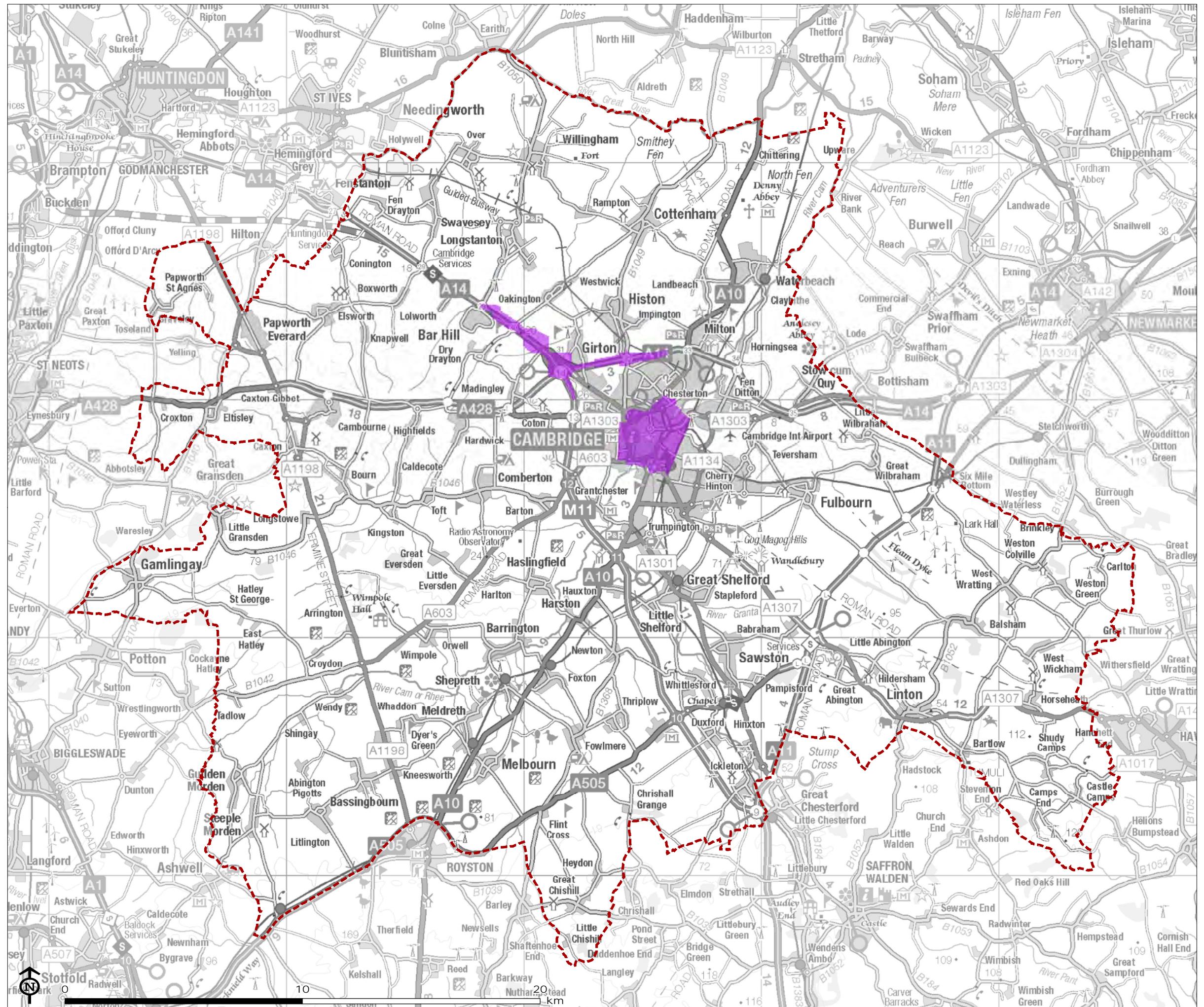
**Table 6.2 Key Sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge and likely evolution without the Local Plan**

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>Greater Cambridge has two AQMAs, one within South Cambridgeshire alongside the A14 and the other covering the entire city centre area of Cambridge. Additional development within Greater Cambridge has the potential to exacerbate air quality issues at AQMAs within Greater Cambridge and could have impacts on AQMAs in neighbouring authorities. Similarly there is potential for a cumulative impact of development in neighbouring authorities alongside development in Greater Cambridge in terms of air quality at AQMAs in Greater Cambridge.</p>	<p>Policy 36 in the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SC/12 in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan seek to minimise air pollution, especially within the AQMA, and protect air quality as well as promoting sustainable transport in the District. Without the Local Plan, development may be located in less sustainable locations that increase reliance on car use, which is likely to increase air pollution. Recent national policies and the emergence of new technologies are likely to improve air quality, for example, through cleaner fuels/energy sources. Nonetheless, the Local Plan provides an opportunity to contribute to improved air quality in Greater Cambridge through the sustainable siting of development and the promotion of alternative travel modes to the motorised vehicle, in line with national policy aspirations.</p>	SA objective 13
<p>The majority of Greater Cambridge contains best and most versatile agricultural land with a mix of classified agricultural land, Grades 1, 2 and 3.. New development should, where possible, be delivered as to avoid the loss of higher grades of agricultural land.</p>	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan seeks to safeguard the best and most versatile agricultural land within and on the edge of the City through Policy 8 and Policy NH/3 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan ensures no development will be granted if it leads to the irreversible loss of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land. Furthermore the NPPF supports the re-use of brownfield land and states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by “recognising the intrinsic</p>	SA objective 8

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
	<p>character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land”. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to strengthen the approach and ensure these natural assets are not lost or compromised. This may involve the prioritisation of use of brownfield sites and lower quality agricultural land for development.</p>	
<p>The Greater Cambridge contains safeguarded mineral resources which, where possible, should not be lost or compromised by future growth.</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is possible that development could result in unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources which would mean they are not available for future generations to use. Policy CS26 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy addresses Proposals for non-mineral development within the Minerals Safeguarded Areas.</p>	SA objective 9
<p>Some of the water bodies which flow through Greater Cambridge have been identified by the Environment Agency as having ‘bad’ or ‘poor’ ecological status. There are also areas in Greater Cambridge which are covered by a Source Protection Zone.</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is possible that un-planned development could be located in areas that will exacerbate existing water quality issues, although existing safeguards, such as the EU Water Framework Directive, would provide some protection. Development which occurs within Source Protection Zones presents the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. Policy 7 of the Cambridge Local Plan aims to raise the water quality and enhance the natural resources of the River Cam. Policy CC/7 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan aims</p>	SA objective 10

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
	<p>to ensure that sufficient capacity in the existing local infrastructure is provided to meet the additional requirements arising from new development, that the quality of water bodies will not be harmed and the delivery of mitigation which would help to prevent water quality issues emerging. The Local Plan will provide the opportunity to ensure that development is located and designed to take into account the sensitivity of the water environment. It will also provide further certainty in terms of planning for adequate wastewater infrastructure to address development requirements over the plan period.</p>	
<p>The region is under moderate water stress and action is required now to ensure the availability of water for future uses, including potable water supply and food production, without having a detrimental impact on the environment, as low rainfall and over abstraction in rivers is causing serious concern.</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is possible that un-planned development could be located in areas that will exacerbate the water stress issue within the sub-region, although Cambridge Water's WRMP sets out measures to ensure that supply and demand in the region can be balanced over the next 25 years and beyond. Policy 28 of the Cambridge Local Plan requires all new development to meet the minimum standards of water efficiency to address the severe water stress within the area and has set a target for water consumption of 110 litres per person per day. Policy CC/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan requires all new residential development to achieve a minimum water efficiency equal to 110 litres per person per day. The Local Plan has the potential to secure long term sustainable development, which will be</p>	<p>SA objective 10</p>

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
	essential in ensuring that all new development implement water efficiency standards.	



Greater Cambridge SA

Figure 6.1: Air Quality in Greater Cambridge

[Red dashed line] Greater Cambridge  
[Purple shaded area] Air Quality Management Areas

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000

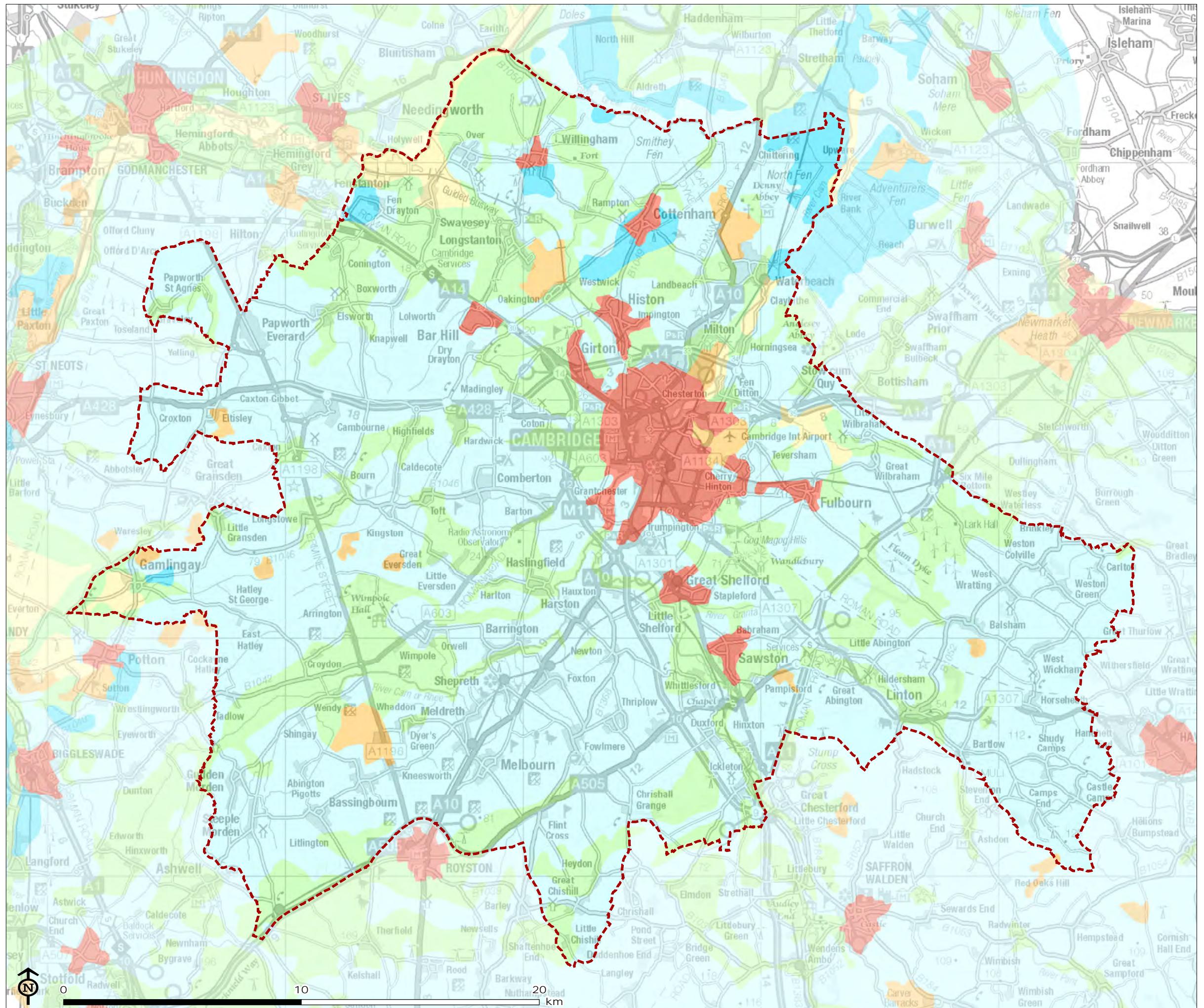
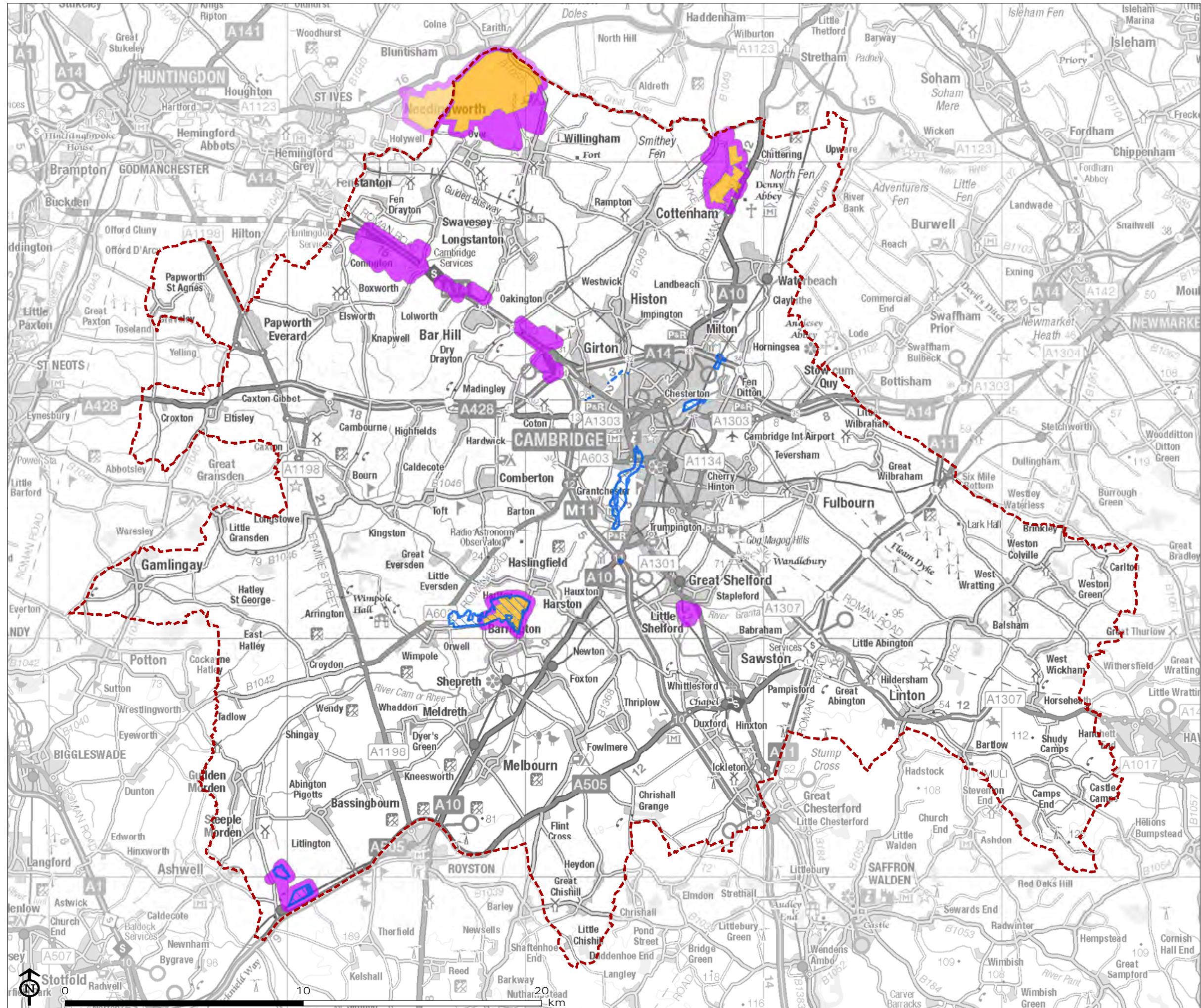


Figure 6.2: Agricultural Land Classification

- Greater Cambridge
- Agricultural Land Classification
  - Grade 1
  - Grade 2
  - Grade 3
  - Grade 4
  - Non agricultural
  - Urban

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000



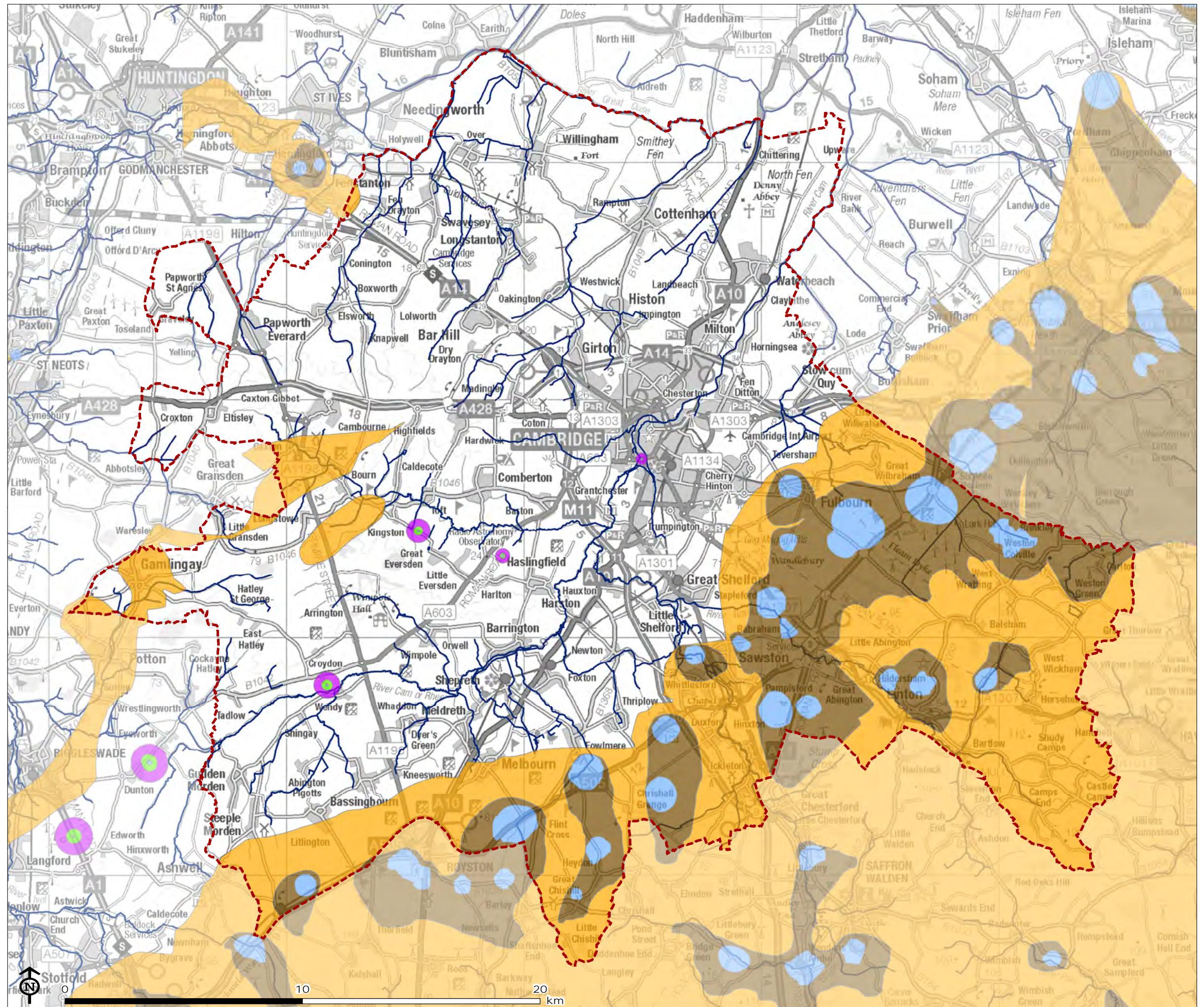
Greater Cambridge SA

Figure 6.3: Mineral sites within Greater Cambridge

- [Red dashed box] Greater Cambridge
- [Yellow box] Existing Mineral Sites
- [Purple box] Mineral Consultation Areas
- [Blue hatched box] Mineral Safeguarding Areas

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000





Greater Cambridge

Watercourse

Source Protection Zones

1

1c

2

2c

3



LUC

## 7 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

### Policy Context

#### International

- 7.1 **European Floods Directive** (2007): A framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
- 7.2 **European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive** (2010): Aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units. Requires the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.
- 7.3 **United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement** (2015): International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

#### National

- 7.4 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>187</sup>: Contains the following:
  - One of the core planning principles is to “support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure”.
  - Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.
  - Local planning authorities should adopt a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures.
- 7.5 **National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**<sup>188</sup>: Supports the content of the NPPF by promoting low carbon and renewable energy generation, including decentralised energy, the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings and sustainable transport.
- 7.6 **Planning Act (2008)**<sup>189</sup>: Section 182 places a legal duty on local planning authorities to ensure that their development plan documents include policies to

<sup>187</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

<sup>188</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>189</sup> HM Government (2008) Planning Act 2008 [online] Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

ensure that development and use of land in their area contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

- 7.7 **Planning and Energy Act (2008)**<sup>190</sup>: enables local planning authorities to set requirements for carbon reduction and renewable energy provision. It should be noted that while the Housing Standards Review proposed to repeal some of these provisions, at the time of writing there have been no amendments to the Planning and Energy Act.
- 7.8 **Climate Change Act 2008**<sup>191</sup>: Sets targets for UK greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 100% by 2050 and CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions of at least 26% by 2015, against a 1990 baseline (in 2008 the target was set at 80%, however the target has recently been amended in 2019 by Statutory Instrument No.1056 to 100%).
- 7.9 **Flood and Water Management Act (2010)**<sup>192</sup>: Sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes: incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
- 7.10 **The UK Renewable Energy Strategy**<sup>193</sup>: Sets out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.
- 7.11 **The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK**<sup>194</sup>: Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21<sup>st</sup> century energy management initiatives on 19<sup>th</sup> century homes.
- 7.12 The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate<sup>195</sup>: Sets out visions for the following sectors:
- People and the Built Environment – “to promote the development of a healthy, equitable and resilient population, well placed to reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change...buildings and places (including built heritage) and the people who live and work in them are resilient and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and make the most of the opportunities of a changing climate.”
  - Infrastructure – “an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”.

<sup>190</sup> HM Government (2008) Planning and Energy Act 2008 [online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/21>

<sup>191</sup> HM Government (2008) Climate Change Act 2008 [online] Available at: [https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/pdfs/ukpga\\_20080027\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/pdfs/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf)

<sup>192</sup> HM Government (2010) Flood and Water Management Act 2010 [online] Available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga\\_20100029\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga_20100029_en.pdf)

<sup>193</sup> HM Government (2009) The UK Renewable Energy Strategy [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228667/7686.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228667/7686.pdf)

<sup>194</sup> Department of Energy & Climate Change (2012) The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/65602/6927-energy-efficiency-strategy--the-energy-efficiency.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65602/6927-energy-efficiency-strategy--the-energy-efficiency.pdf)

<sup>195</sup> HM Government (2018) The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf)

- Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides.”
  - Business and Industry – “UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change.”
  - Local Government – “Local government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.”
- 7.13 **UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017<sup>196</sup>**: Sets out six priority areas needing urgent further action over the next five years in order to minimise risk from the effects of climate change. These priority areas include: flooding and coastal change risk to communities, businesses and infrastructure; risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures; risk of shortages in the public water supply and for agriculture, energy generation and industry; risks to natural capital; risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and new and emerging pests and diseases and invasive species.
- 7.14 Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England<sup>197</sup>: This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:
- Manage the risk to people and their property.
  - Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national.
  - Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.
- 7.15 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment<sup>198</sup>**: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: using and managing land sustainably; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:
- Using and managing land sustainably:
    - Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
  - Protecting and improving our global environment:
    - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

<sup>196</sup> HM Government (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/584281/uk-climate-change-risk-assess-2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/584281/uk-climate-change-risk-assess-2017.pdf)

<sup>197</sup> HM Government (2011) Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228898/9780108510366.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228898/9780108510366.pdf)

<sup>198</sup> HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

## Sub-national

- 7.16 **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)**: Mitigating and adapting to climate change is one of the four objectives of the Strategy. It notes the low-lying nature of the county and subsequent flood risk, as well as the prospect that growth and development will further exacerbate the human and economic impacts.
- 7.17 **Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (2012)**<sup>199</sup>: Identifies a wide range of renewable technologies available, creating opportunities for Cambridgeshire to be a leading county for clean energy projects, goods and services, recognising that the Cambridge area has an excellent research base for renewable energy technologies and is an ideal location in the UK for growth in the sector. The Framework identifies that 9% of the opportunity is in Cambridge City and 26% in South Cambridgeshire. A separate report setting out the baseline data<sup>200</sup> notes that South Cambridgeshire (along with Huntingdonshire) has both the greatest renewable energy potential and the greatest energy demand.
- 7.18 **Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2007)**<sup>201</sup>: Produced to provide guidance on the policies within the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 that relate to sustainability. An emerging SPD for Greater Cambridge is currently in consultation and will replace the existing SPD when adopted.
- 7.19 **South Cambridgeshire Design Guide SPD (2010)**<sup>202</sup>: Produced to expand on district-wide policies and ensure that design is an integral part of the development process, in a way that respects the local context. An emerging SPD for Greater Cambridge is currently in consultation and will replace the existing SPD when adopted.
- 7.20 **Scoping Report: Feasibility of a Carbon Offset Mechanism for Cambridgeshire (2010)**<sup>203</sup>: Explores the role that a Carbon Offset Fund (COF) could play in delivering low carbon growth within Cambridgeshire, as an alternative to developer meeting their whole carbon reduction obligations through on-site measures, with a focus on large-scale projects.
- 7.21 **Cambridgeshire Community Energy Fund Final Report (2012)**<sup>204</sup>: Presents a study of the role that a community energy fund (CEF) – one that levies a charge on developers for the emissions resulting from new development and pool these into a fund for carbon saving projects - might play in delivering carbon emissions reduction in Cambridgeshire.
- 7.22 **Cambridge Climate Change Strategy 2016-2021**: Sets out five key objectives for how Cambridge City will address the causes and consequences of climate change, focussing on areas that contribute most to the City's carbon footprint and where the Council has the most scope to influence emissions, including: reducing emissions from the estate and operations; reducing transport emissions; promoting energy

<sup>199</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2012) Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF) – Final Report [Online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/df/coredocs/rd-cc-040.pdf>

<sup>200</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2012) Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF) – Baseline data, opportunities and constraints [Online] Available at: <http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s61865/Cambridgeshire%20Renewables%20Infrastructure%20Framework%20-Baseline%20Data%20Opportunities%20and%20Constraints.pdf>

<sup>201</sup> Cambridge City Council (2007) Sustainable Design and Construction SPD [online] Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2355/sustaincomspd\\_web.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2355/sustaincomspd_web.pdf)

<sup>202</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2010) District Design Guide [online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/district-design-guide-spd/>

<sup>203</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2010) Scoping Report: Feasibility of a Carbon Offset Mechanism for Cambridgeshire [Online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/df/coredocs/Stage%201%20Carbon%20Offset%20Report.pdf>

<sup>204</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2012) Cambridgeshire Community Energy Fund [Online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/df/coredocs/Stage%202%20Community%20Energy%20Fund%20Report.pdf>

efficiency in development and through behaviour change; reducing consumption and waste; and supporting efforts to adapt to climate change impact.<sup>205</sup> An update report in October 2018<sup>206</sup> sets out progress to date on each objective.

- 7.23 **Cambridge Climate Change Adaptation Plan**<sup>207</sup>: This plan was developed as part of one of the actions identified in the Council's Climate Change Strategy. It aims to improve the resilience of the Council and city to extreme weather events through multiple actions outlined in the plan.
- 7.24 **Decarbonising Cambridge Study (2010)**<sup>208</sup>: Provides the evidence base for setting targets for the CO<sub>2</sub> performance of new developments in Cambridge. Assesses the potential for low carbon and renewable energy systems and provides advice on the development of planning policy and identifying supportive measures to achieve policy goals. An update to this work looking at the role of planning in delivering net zero is to be commissioned.
- 7.25 **Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD (2016)**<sup>209</sup>: Provides guidance for developers on how to manage flood risk and the water environment as part of new development proposals. This includes how to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and how to take account of climate change.
- 7.26 **Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire Level 1 SFRA (2010)**<sup>210</sup>: Assess the extent and nature of the risk of flooding in the area and its implications for land use planning. It finds that most of the internal drainage boards within the study area is found in the north of South Cambridgeshire, and that fluvial flooding is the dominant source of flood risk, with surface water also likely to be a key issue. An updated SFRA is currently being commissioned.
- 7.27 **Cambridgeshire Surface Water Management Plan (2014)**<sup>211</sup>: Recognises that surface water flooding can put more properties at risk than fluvial flooding and can be more difficult to predict than river or coastal flooding. It collates and reviews flood incident records and produces a revised list of 'wetspot' prioritisation to assist in allocating resources.
- 7.28 **Histon and Impington Surface Water Management Plan (2014)**<sup>212</sup>: Investigates surface water flooding issues and the feasibility of potential mitigation solutions in Histon & Impington villages, located to the north of Cambridge. It focuses on three earlier identified 'wetspots' based on historic flooding evidence and mapping.<sup>213</sup>

<sup>205</sup> Cambridge City Council (2016) Climate Change Strategy 2016-2021 [Online] Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3230/climate\\_change\\_strategy\\_2016-21.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3230/climate_change_strategy_2016-21.pdf)

<sup>206</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Annual Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Management Plan and Climate Change Fund Update Report [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6891/climate-change-strategy-progress-report-2017-18.pdf>

<sup>207</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Climate Change Adaptation Plan [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/5996/climate-change-adaptation-plan.pdf>

<sup>208</sup> Element Energy for Cambridge City Council (2010) Cambridge: A renewable and low carbon energy study [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2529/rd-cc-250.pdf>

<sup>209</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2016) Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/7107/cambridgeshire-flood-and-water-spd.pdf>

<sup>210</sup> Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (2010) Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire SFRA [Online]. Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2560/ccc\\_sfra\\_report\\_text.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2560/ccc_sfra_report_text.pdf)

<sup>211</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2014) Surface Water Management Plan – Countywide Update [Online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Cambs\\_Surface\\_Water\\_Management\\_Plans\\_aug15.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Cambs_Surface_Water_Management_Plans_aug15.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>212</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2014) Surface Water Management Plan – Histon & Impington Pre-PAR [Online]. Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Histon\\_and\\_Impington\\_SWMP\\_report.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Histon_and_Impington_SWMP_report.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>213</sup> 1) Villa Road/South Road; 2) Glebe Road; Water Lane.

- 7.29 **Cambridge Area Water Cycle Strategy - Phase 1 (2008)<sup>214</sup> and Phase 2 (2011)**<sup>215</sup>: Provides an evidence base concerning the required water services infrastructure for planned development in the Cambridge Sub-Region (CSR). The Phase 1 study identified no insurmountable technical constraints to the proposed level of growth, but identified a number of important issues including the need for a Surface Water Management Plan, a detailed analysis of increased flood risk at the Swavesy Drain, and the need to investigate the viability of achieving ‘water neutrality’<sup>216</sup>. Phase 2 goes further and supports a more aspirational vision for water management, including aspirations to water neutrality, improving biodiversity and sustainable surface water management. In addition, a further dedicated Water Cycle Strategy (WCS) was developed in 2014 for the allocated strategic development site at Denny St Francis, north of the existing town of Waterbeach.<sup>217</sup> An update to this strategy is being commissioned by the Councils.
- 7.30 **Cambridge and Milton Surface Water Management Plan (2011)**<sup>218</sup>: Aims to produce a long term surface water management Action Plan for Cambridge and Milton, to be reviewed every 6 years at a minimum. The study notes increasing flood risk associated with climate change as a critical factor.
- 7.31 **Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan (2011)**<sup>219</sup>: Sets out the scale and extent of flooding now and in the future, and policies for managing flood risk within the catchment.
- 7.32 **Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-2026**<sup>220</sup>: Aims to sustainable manage the Council’s own trees and those it manages by agreement, to foster a resilient tree population that responds to the impacts of climate change and urban expansion, to raise awareness of trees being a vital community asset, through promoting continued research, through education via the provision of advice and through partnership working and to make efficient and strategic use of the Council’s regulatory powers for the protection of trees of current and future value.

## Current Baseline

- 7.33 Following a Council meeting on 29 November 2018, South Cambridgeshire District Council pledged to support a target of cutting local carbon emissions to zero by

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<sup>214</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2008) Water Cycle Strategy up to 2031, Major Growth Areas in and around Cambridge, Phase 1 – Outline Strategy [Online]. Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/7595/cambridgeshire-water-cycle-strategy-phase-1-2008.pdf>

<sup>215</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2011) Detailed Water Cycle Strategy up to 2031, Major Growth Areas in and around Cambridge, Phase 2 – Detailed Strategy [Online]. Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/7596/cambridgeshire-water-cycle-strategy-phase-2-2011.pdf>

<sup>216</sup> The concept that the total water used after a new development is no more than the total water used before the development in a given wider area. This requires meeting the new demand through improving the efficiency of use of the existing water resources.

<sup>217</sup> RLW Estates (2014) Denny St Francis Water Cycle Study [Online]. Available at: [https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/1380/328331\\_denny\\_st\\_francis\\_water\\_cycle\\_study\\_-\\_detailed\\_report\\_revd.pdf](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/1380/328331_denny_st_francis_water_cycle_study_-_detailed_report_revd.pdf)

<sup>218</sup> Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (2011) Cambridge and Milton Surface Water Management Plan [online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Cambridge\\_And\\_Milton\\_SWMP\\_report.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/Cambridge_And_Milton_SWMP_report.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>219</sup> Environment Agency (2011) Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/288877/Great\\_Ouse\\_Catchment\\_Flood\\_Management\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288877/Great_Ouse_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf)

<sup>220</sup> Cambridge City Council (2016) Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-2026 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3260/tree-strategy-2016-part-1.pdf>

2050, which was before the Government adopted net zero by 2050 as a national target in 2019.<sup>221</sup>

- 7.34 On 21 February 2019 Cambridge City Council declared a ‘climate emergency’, following the submission of a petition signed by over 2,000 local residents. The Council also agreed on the same date to establish a Cambridge Climate Charter, which will call on all organisations, businesses and individuals in the city to each establish their own carbon reduction plans to work toward achieving the city’s net carbon-zero aspiration.<sup>222</sup> This will be supported by a Climate Change / Net Zero Carbon Study being commissioned by the Councils.

### Climate change mitigation

- 7.35 Between 2005 and 2016 in South Cambridgeshire, per capita carbon emissions fell from 13.3 tonnes to 8. In Cambridge City per capita emissions are lower and fell from 6.7 to 4.5 tonnes over the same period. As of 2016 the average for Cambridgeshire County was 7.2 tonnes per capita, and the national average was 8.7, suggesting that Cambridge City is outperforming the national and regional averages, while the carbon emissions of South Cambridgeshire lie between the county and national averages.<sup>223</sup>
- 7.36 As illustrated in **Table 7.1**, both South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City achieved similar overall reductions in carbon emissions between 2005 and 2016 (31% and 29% respectively). In both cases, but particularly for South Cambridgeshire, these reductions were due mostly to progress in reducing emissions from industrial and commercial sectors, with minimal progress on transport emissions. Transport now makes the largest contribution to carbon emissions (over 34 percent) in South Cambridgeshire, however in Cambridge City the industrial and commercial sectors still make the biggest contribution (almost 50%).

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<sup>221</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (29 November 2018) Agenda, decisions and minutes [Online]. Available at: <https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?Cld=410&Mid=7252>

<sup>222</sup> Cambridge City Council (22 February 2019) Cambridge City Council declares climate emergency [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/news/2019/02/22/cambridge-city-council-declares-climate-emergency>

<sup>223</sup> UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions National Statistics: 2005-2016 Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>

**Table 7.1 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Greater Cambridge (shown as kt)<sup>224</sup>**

Year	Industrial and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Total
South Cambridgeshire				
2005	823.4	355.7	630.8	1,821.0
2016	360.2	257.4	628.5	1,248.7
% of total (2016)	29%	21%	50%	
Change 2005-2016	-56%	-28%	<1%	-31%
Cambridge City				
2005	423.1	242.7	116.4	781.8
2016	273.8	173.3	109.6	556.0
% of total (2016)	49%	31%	20%	
Change 2005-2016	-35%	-29%	-6%	-29%

- 7.37 The Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF) notes that in order to meet carbon reduction objectives across the county, both energy efficiency and renewable energy are needed. The Cambridge Local Plan and associated Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD<sup>225</sup> provides guidance on implementing sustainable design policies in the Cambridge Local Plan (2018) and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018). In particular, the SPD sets out guidance that seeks to ensure developments are built to high sustainability standards and are adaptable to future climate change. In terms of carbon emissions, it sets a standard of a 19% improvement in the Dwelling Emission Rate/Target Emission Rate over Part L 2013, presented through a carbon reduction report. In South Cambridgeshire, planning policy requires new developments to use on-site renewable and/or low carbon energy to reduce carbon emissions associated with Regulated Energy use by 10%.
- 7.38 As far as energy generation is concerned, the CRIF notes that the county already has the greatest installed renewable energy capacity in the East of England and one of the highest outputs of any county in England, however there is room for greater deployment to meet the full demand and using a range of technologies. This would

<sup>224</sup> UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions National Statistics: 2005-2016 Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>

<sup>225</sup> Greater Cambridge Draft Sustainable Design and Construction SPD [Online] Available at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/consultations/draft-sustainable-design-and-construction-spd-consultation>

require a substantial amount of new infrastructure. The Framework highlights that South Cambridgeshire has high potential for renewable energy technology, and that Cambridge lacks wind resources but has substantial potential for air source heat pumps and PV, although the high density and number of conservation areas limits the potential for building integrated technologies.<sup>226</sup>

### Climate change adaptation

- 7.39 The Met Office has released the UK Climate Projections 2018 study (UKCP18), which provides up to date information on how the climate of the UK is expected to change in the period up to the end of the 21st Century. In the highest emissions scenario, which may come to pass based on current emissions reduction trends, summer temperatures in the UK could be 5.4°C warmer by 2070 than the average summer between 1981 and 2000. Average summer rainfall would fall by 47% in this scenario. Winters could be up to 4.2C warmer, with up to 35% more rainfall by 2070.
- 7.40 Changes to the climate will bring new challenges to Greater Cambridge's built and natural environments. Hotter, drier summers may have adverse health impacts and may exacerbate the adverse environmental effects of air and water pollution. A changing climate may place pressure on some native species and create conditions suitable for new species, including invasive non-native species. 'Urban heat island' effects are also raised as an issue across the county by the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, which can be managed through the management and planting of green space, tree planting and the creation of wetlands, especially in densely built up areas such as Cambridge and larger market towns.<sup>227</sup>
- 7.41 The low-lying nature of the county of Cambridgeshire also makes the wider area susceptible to both fluvial and (potentially) coastal flooding, which are expected to increase as a result of climate change. Due to its low lying nature (particularly in the fenland lying north of Cambridge), the plan area acts as a floodplain for two main drainage catchments – the Cam and the Ouse (the Cam is a tributary of the Ouse).<sup>228</sup> Much of Cambridgeshire's land, on a county level, is actively drained by pumping, which has a significant carbon footprint.<sup>229</sup>
- 7.42 **Figure 7.1** illustrates the distribution of flood risk across the plan area, showing that the majority of areas classified as Flood Zone 3<sup>230</sup> are concentrated on the northern border on the edge of the Fenlands coastal plain. Approximately 10 % of the Greater Cambridge area falls within Flood Zone 3, constraining in particular the outskirts of the villages of Over, Willingham, Cottenham, Water Beach and Swavesey.. An updated SFRA and Water Cycle Study are being commissioned to inform the Local Plan.

<sup>226</sup> Cambridgeshire Horizons (2012) Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF) – Baseline data, opportunities and constraints [Online] Available at: <http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s61865/Cambridgeshire%20Renewables%20Infrastructure%20Framework%20-Baseline%20Data%20Opportunities%20and%20Constraints.pdf>

<sup>227</sup> Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities (2011) Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf>

<sup>228</sup> Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (2010) Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire SFRA [Online]. Available at: [https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2560/ccc\\_sfra\\_report\\_text.pdf](https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2560/ccc_sfra_report_text.pdf)

<sup>229</sup> Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities (2011) Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf>

<sup>230</sup> Land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year.

- 7.43 In order to encourage development that is more resilient to the impacts of climate change, the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD<sup>231</sup> promotes site-wide approaches to surface water drainage. A Surface Water Drainage Strategy must be submitted in order to demonstrate how the proposed surface water scheme has been determined following the drainage hierarchy. The Design and Construction SPD also requires proposals to reduce potential overheating through a ‘cooling hierarchy’ that prioritises passive design over mechanical ventilation/cooling mechanisms. Additionally, the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD notes that FRAs should take a ‘whole system’ approach to drainage to ensure site discharge does not cause problems further along in the drainage sub-catchment/can be safely catered for downstream and upstream of the site and take the appropriate impacts of climate change into account for the lifetime of the development.<sup>232</sup>

**Table 7.2 Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge and likely evolution without the Local Plan**

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the new Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>While carbon emissions from all sectors have fallen in both districts since 2005, given the rural nature of South Cambridgeshire there has been little progress on transport emissions, which still accounted for 50% of the total as of 2016. Both Councils have committed to meet net zero by 2050 at the latest, and to meet this will need to make significant shifts in energy efficiency of new and existing buildings, transport trends, and the further deployment of a range of renewables infrastructure.</p>	<p>Several policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan seek to reduce per capita emissions, including CC1, CC2 CC/3 and CC/5, which require mitigation principles to be embedded in new development, encourage renewable energy generation and on-site generation, and measures to encourage home buyers to select sustainable options.</p> <p>Similarly, Policies 28, 29 and 30 of the existing Cambridge City Local Plan prioritise renewable energy generation, sustainable design and energy efficiency measures in existing dwellings. However since these plans were adopted the Councils have adopted more ambitious carbon reduction targets that will require more ambitious requirements of development to meet. The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to</p>	<p>SA objective 12</p>

<sup>231</sup> Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD [Online] Available at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/consultations/draft-sustainable-design-and-construction-spd-consultation>

<sup>232</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2016) Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/7107/cambridgeshire-flood-and-water-spd.pdf>

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the new Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
	strengthen policies which act positively in terms of climate change, especially those that limit the need to travel through the appropriate siting and design of new development.	
The effects of climate change in Greater Cambridge are likely to result in extreme weather events (e.g. intense rainfall, prolonged high temperatures and drought) becoming more common and more intense.	Policy CC/1 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan require development to embed climate adaptation measures, including conservation of water, flood risk management, SuDs, a layout that combats overheating, and better linked habitat networks. Similarly, Policies 28, 31 and 32 of the Cambridge City Local Plan requires new development to adapt through sustainable design, water management and flood risk adaptation measures. While the new Local Plan will not influence extreme weather events, it can built upon the approach of current policy to better respond to current circumstances as evidence and techniques develop.	SA objective 4 SA objective 11
Greater Cambridge will need to become more resilient to the increased risk of flooding in particular. Given the low-lying nature of the plan area, it is at significant risk of fluvial and surface water flooding, especially in the north, which is likely to be exacerbated by climate change.	Policy CC/8 and CC/9 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan require developments to be appropriately sites to take flood risk into account and to incorporate SuDS to manage surface water. Similarly, Policies 31 and 32 of the Cambridge City Local Plan require surface water to be managed close to its source where possible, including through SuDS, and to manage flood risk through siting. However the new Local Plan presents the opportunity, alongside national measures, to mitigate the effects of potential future flooding through	SA objective 4 SA objective 11

<b>Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge</b>	<b>Likely evolution without the new Local Plan</b>	<b>Relevant SA objective</b>
	<p>appropriate siting of development and flood resilient design. It will also allow policy to respond to the update evidence based regarding flood risk in the plan area.</p>	

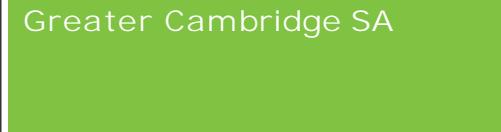
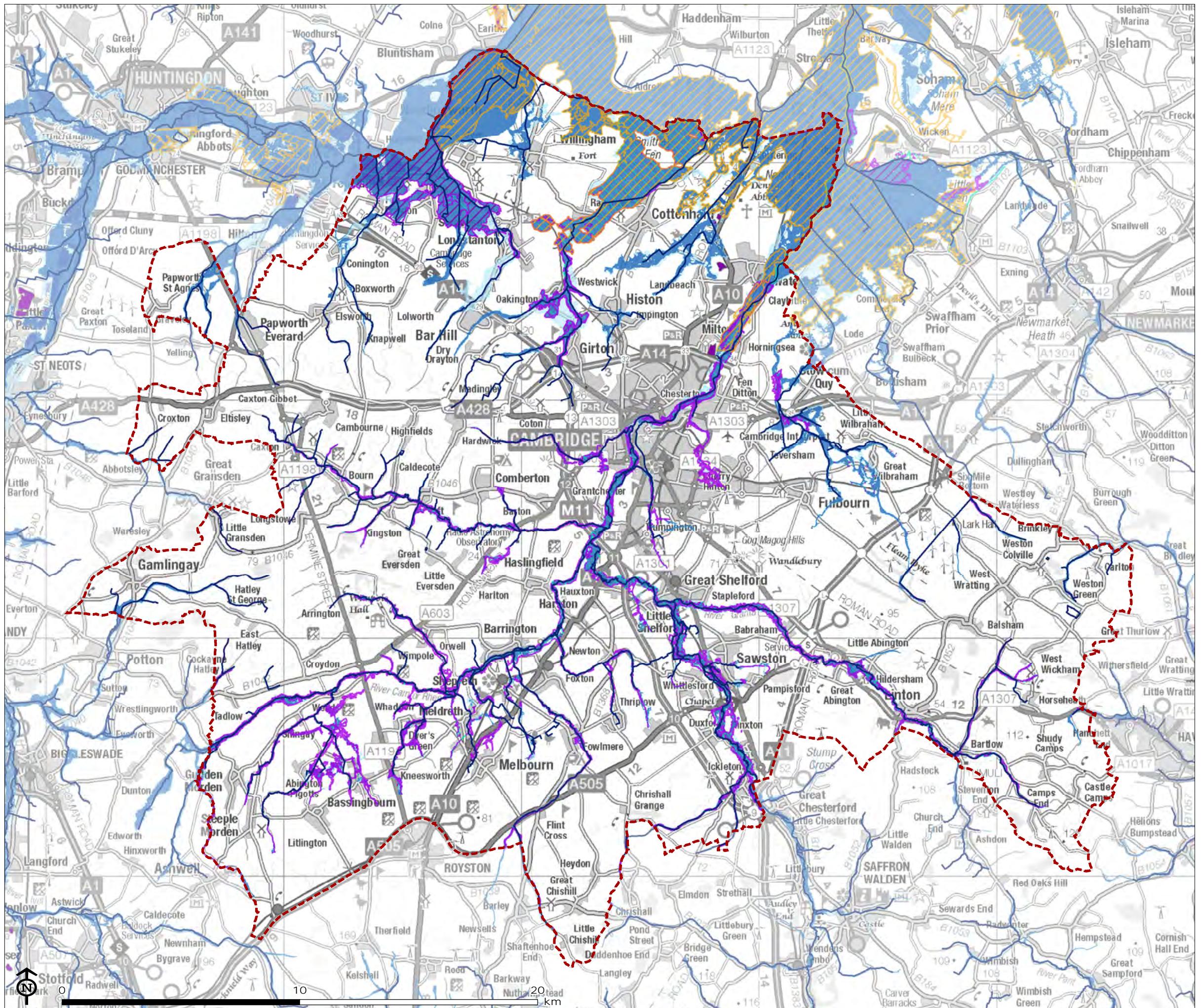


Figure 7.1: Flood Risk in Greater Cambridge

- Greater Cambridge
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Zone 3a
- Flood Zone 3b
- Areas Benefiting from Flood Defences
- Watercourse
- Lakes

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000

## 8 Biodiversity

### Policy Context

#### International

- 8.1 **International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)** (1976): International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.
- 8.2 **European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)** (1979): Aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).
- 8.3 **International Convention on Biological Diversity** (1992): International commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.
- 8.4 **European Habitats Directive** (1992): Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive sets the standard for nature conservation across the EU and enables all 27 Member States to work together within the same strong legislative framework in order to protect the most vulnerable species and habitat types across their entire natural range within the EU. It also established the Natura 2000 network.
- 8.5 **European Birds Directive** (2009): Requires the maintenance of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements.
- 8.6 **United Nations Declaration on Forests (New York Declaration)** (2014): international commitment to cut natural forest loss by 2020 and end loss by 2030.

#### National

- 8.7 **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**<sup>233</sup>: Encourages plans to “identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation”. Plans should also promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and species, ecological networks and measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- 8.8 The NPPF states that a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure is also to be supported through planning policies

<sup>233</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

and that there should also be support for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

- 8.9 **National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**<sup>234</sup>: Supports the NPPF by requiring Local Plans to include strategic policies that conserve and enhance the natural environment through sustainable development.
- 8.10 **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**<sup>235</sup>: Places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity.
- 8.11 **Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services**<sup>236</sup>: Guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks. The Strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors: Agriculture, Forestry, Planning & Development, Water Management, Marine Management, Fisheries, Air Pollution and Invasive Non-Native Species.
- 8.12 **Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper**<sup>237</sup>: Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses. The Green Paper sets out a framework for offsetting.
- 8.13 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)**<sup>238</sup>: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these three key areas are as follows:
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:
    - Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
  - Securing clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans:
    - Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive, and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.
  - Protecting and improving our global environment:
    - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
    - Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.

<sup>234</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>235</sup> HM Government (2006) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 [online] Available at: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/pdfs/ukpga\\_20060016\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/pdfs/ukpga_20060016_en.pdf)

<sup>236</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [Online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf)

<sup>237</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2013) Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper [Online] Available at: [https://consult.defra.gov.uk/biodiversity\\_offsetting/supporting\\_documents/20130903Biodiversity%20offsetting%20green%20paper.pdf](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/biodiversity_offsetting/supporting_documents/20130903Biodiversity%20offsetting%20green%20paper.pdf)

<sup>238</sup> HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [Online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

## Sub-national

- 8.14 **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)**<sup>239</sup>: One of the four overarching objectives of the county-level GI strategy is to reverse the decline in biodiversity. The strategy outlines a series of issues, opportunities and constraints for biodiversity in Cambridgeshire.
- 8.15 **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Habitat Action Plans**<sup>240</sup> : The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Group have produced a series of Habitat Action Plans for various habitat types, detailing their current status, the factors affecting them, objectives and long term targets, and proposed actions.
- 8.16 **South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity SPD (2009)**<sup>241</sup>: Expands on district-wide policies to ensure that biodiversity is adequately protected and enhanced through the development process. It notes that biodiversity will not be peripheral to the planning process but fully integrated, and is designed to assist applicants in understanding biodiversity requirements.
- 8.17 **South Cambridgeshire District Design Guide SPD**<sup>242</sup>: Expands on district wide policies in other documents to ensure that design is an integral part of the development process. Chapter 9 covers issues of how biodiversity conservation should be considered as a key element of good design, as well as adding value to developments.
- 8.18 **Cambridge City Conservation Strategy ‘Enhancing Biodiversity’ (2006)**<sup>243</sup>: Prepared for Cambridge City Council by the local Wildlife Trust and designed to guide nature conservation activities across the city. It sets out a vision of achieving biodiversity ‘net gain’ over a 20-year period. As a technical document, it was produced to support the Cambridge Local Plan.
- 8.19 **Mapping natural capital and opportunities for habitat creation in Cambridgeshire (2019)**<sup>244</sup> : Report on a project to produce a detailed habitat base map for the whole of Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough) in order to identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity.
- 8.20 **Doubling Nature – A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2050 (2019)**<sup>245</sup>: Sets out the vision of Natural Cambridgeshire, the local nature partnership, of doubling nature across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The vision is to double the area of rich wildlife habitats and green-space from 8.5% to 17%.
- 8.21 **Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-2026**<sup>246</sup>: Aims to sustainable manage the Council’s own trees and those it manages by agreement, to foster a resilient tree population that responds to the impacts of climate change and urban expansion, to raise

<sup>239</sup> Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities (2011) Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf>

<sup>240</sup> Cambridge and Peterborough Biodiversity Group (n.d) Habitat Action Plans [Online] Available at: <http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/downloads>

<sup>241</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2009) Biodiversity SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6675/adopted-biodiversity-spd.pdf>

<sup>242</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2010) District Design Guide SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6684/adopted-design-guide-spd-final-chapters-7-8-9.pdf>

<sup>243</sup> Cambridge City Council and the Wildlife Trusts (2006) Nature Conservation Strategy “Enhancing Biodiversity” [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3925/nature-conservation-strategy.pdf>

<sup>244</sup> Natural Capital Solutions (2019) Mapping natural capital and opportunities for habitat creation in Cambridgeshire [Online] Available at: <http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Cambridgeshire-habitat-mapping-final-report-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>245</sup> Natural Cambridgeshire (2019) Launch of the Doubling Nature Ambition Report [online] Available at: <https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/news/natural-cambridgeshire-ambition-to-double-nature-across-peterborough-and-cambridgeshire/>

<sup>246</sup> Cambridge City Council (2016) Citywide Tree Strategy 2016-2026 [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/3260/tree-strategy-2016-part-1.pdf>

awareness of trees being a vital community asset, through promoting continued research, through education via the provision of advice and through partnership working and to make efficient and strategic use of the Council's regulatory powers for the protection of trees of current and future value.

## Current Baseline

- 8.22 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have declared biodiversity emergencies and support the Local Nature Partnership's vision to double the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural greenspace within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Councils are also part of the Natural Cambridgeshire Local Nature Partnership, which is a group of Councils and organisations seeking a future rich in wildlife and connecting people with nature.
- 8.23 The plan area hosts a range of habitats important for biodiversity. These sites include statutorily protected Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), as well as non-statutorily protected Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and County Wildlife Sites. In the past the largely rural nature of the plan area meant that wildlife could easily find refuge and support a variety of species, however changing farming practices and pressure for development has put pressure on a wide range of species. Mapping on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Partnership shows that since the 1930s in Cambridgeshire, semi-natural grassland cover has fallen from around 27% to 4.5% in 2018, while built up area and gardens increased from 5.8% to 10.7% of land cover. This was part of a biodiversity opportunity mapping project which identified existing high quality habitats and opportunities for habitat creation, as shown in **Figure 8.1**. As **Figure 8.1** identifies, two layers of habitat opportunity were created during the project. The first of these is buffer opportunities, which are habitat opportunity areas that are immediately adjacent to existing habitat patches and fall within the previously identified ecological network, therefore providing an opportunity to expand the current area of habitat. The second type of opportunity is stepping-stone opportunities, which are potential sites that fall outside of the ecological network, but are immediately adjacent to it. These areas could potentially be used to create stepping-stone habitats that could link up more distant habitat patches.<sup>247</sup>
- 8.24 There is only one internationally important wildlife site within Greater Cambridge – the Everseden and Wimpole Woods SAC, which is noted as of particular importance for its breeding colonies of the rare Barbastelle bat. However there are over 30 nationally designated SSSIs within South Cambridgeshire, including the linear features of the Roman Road south of Cambridge and Fleam Dyke. Three of the sites are designated for the geological interest (Barrington Pit SSSI, Barrington Chalk Pit SSSI and Histon Road SSSI), while the remainder are designated for their biological interest. The Nine Wells local nature reserve on the southern edge of Cambridge was previously designated as a SSSI for its population of rare freshwater invertebrates, however these were lost in the drought of 1976 – there are plans to create the conditions to reintroduce these species. Within Cambridge City there are a number of further nationally recognised nature conservation sites, including two SSSIs – the Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits and Traveller's Rest Pit. A third

<sup>247</sup> Natural Capital Solutions (2019) Mapping natural capital and opportunities for habitat creation in Cambridgeshire [Online] Available at: <http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Cambridgeshire-habitat-mapping-final-report-FINAL.pdf>

site, Histon Road SSSI, borders the city. A number of additional SSSIs lie immediately on the borders of Greater Cambridge, including Therfield Heath SSSI (Royston), Potton Wood SSSI (Potton), Wicken Fen SSSI (near Soham), and Weaveley and Sand Woods SSSI (Gamlingay). In addition, in South Cambridgeshire there are currently 28 designated Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), of which 8 are owned by the Council, and are distributed relatively evenly across the District. In Cambridge City, there are 12 designated Local Nature Reserves (LNRS), 15 County Wildlife Sites, and 51 City Wildlife Sites.<sup>248</sup> Finally, there are two adjacent RSPB Reserves at Fen Drayton Lakes and Ouse Fen on the northern border with Huntingdonshire, and a further (smaller) RSPB Reserve at Fowlmere in the south.

- 8.25 In addition, Cambridgeshire County Council have designated a list of Protected Road Verges (PRVs), recognising their status as the largest area of unimproved grassland in the county and their role as important habitat.<sup>249</sup>
- 8.26 Figure 8.2 shows the various biodiversity designations within the plan area.
- 8.27 The national government has identified habitats and species of principal importance for conservation based on Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priorities. UK Priority habitats identified by the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity SPD are:
- Rivers and streams, including chalk rivers.
  - Woodland.
  - Scrub (threatened by changes in farming practices but important for birds).
  - Old orchards (particularly in the Fen edge villages).
  - Hedgerows (threatened by changes in farming practices but species rich).
  - Arable farmland.
  - Ponds (farm and village ponds are being lost, with negative impact on biodiversity).
  - Churchyards and cemeteries.
  - Lowland calcareous grassland (once extensive within South Cambridgeshire).
  - Meadows and pastures (once common within villages).
- 8.28 Similar Priority Habitats were identified within Cambridge City.<sup>250</sup>
- 8.29 Within South Cambridgeshire, Priority Species identified by the Biodiversity SPD are:
- Otters (widespread along the Upper Cam and its tributaries).
  - Water voles (widespread in some parishes).
  - Skylarks.
  - Great crested newts (found at smaller development sites within villages).
  - House sparrows (rapidly in decline since the 1970s).

<sup>248</sup> Cambridge City Council and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough (2005) Cambridge City Wildlife Sites Register [Online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/Cambridge%20City%20Wildlife%20Sites%20Register%202005.pdf>

<sup>249</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2011) Protected Road Verges (PRVs) found in Cambridgeshire – listed by Parish [Online] Available at: [https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-%26-culture/PRV\\_list.pdf?inline=true](https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-%26-culture/PRV_list.pdf?inline=true)

<sup>250</sup> Cambridge City Council and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough (2005) Cambridge City Wildlife Sites Register [Online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/Cambridge%20City%20Wildlife%20Sites%20Register%202005.pdf>

- Barn owls (numbers now increasing but threatened by intensive farming practices).
  - White-clawed crayfish (formerly widespread in the River Rhee but in decline due to disease).
  - Native black poplar trees (formerly of floodplains).
- 8.30 Additional Priority Species identified in Cambridge City are the song thrush and the brown hare.<sup>251</sup>
- 8.31 On the eastern borders of the plan area, the National Trust 'Wicken Fen' project plans to extend the wetland landscape to 53 square kilometres by 2099 and restore natural processes to allow the mosaic of habitats to recover. The territory this plan extends into South Cambridgeshire District and includes land lying east of the River Cam and between the settlements of Waterbeach and Lode.<sup>252</sup>
- 8.32 South Cambridgeshire is relatively sparsely wooded,<sup>253</sup> with small pockets of ancient woodland concentrated mainly in the west of the plan area (on the border with Huntingdonshire) and in the south east (on the border with the relatively well wooded Uttlesford and St Edmundsbury). The 'West Cambridgeshire Hundreds' project is an effort to reverse the damage and fragmentation of woodlands in the broader area, helping to support habitat connectivity. Three sites that form part of this initiative lie in the west of the plan area (Hardwick Wood, Cambourne Nature Reserve and Hayley Wood) and the remaining two lie across the border in Huntingdonshire. The Councils are also commissioning green infrastructure work to inform the emerging Local Plan.
- 8.33 The condition of the plan area's designated sites is mixed – the Cherry Hinton Pit SSSI has been assessed as in 'mostly unfavourable' condition, while the Traveller's Rest Pit SSSI is in 'favourable' condition. The Therfield Marshes SSSI on the southern border of Greater Cambridge (within North Hertfordshire) was classified as mostly 'unfavourable recovering' and is under stress from recreational pressure, particularly due to level of public use, including from new and proposed development nearby, recreational facilities and access rights as Common Ground. North Hertfordshire District Council are preparing a mitigation plan for the site and the Councils will need to consider any cross-border implication of development on this site. In addition, the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI was assessed as being in mostly 'unfavourable – recovering' condition, with some areas in 'favourable' condition.
- 8.34 The 2011 Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy notes that habitat loss and fragmentation is a key concern in the broader region, which is influenced by threats from climate change and development. In particular, patches of woodland in Cambridgeshire remain ecologically isolated and there are no large patches of continuous habitat – opportunities for field-scale habitat creation exist to connect these isolated woodland fragments.<sup>254</sup> The Green Infrastructure Strategy also notes that biodiversity is not always recognised as having the same value as economic

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<sup>251</sup> Cambridge City Council and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough (2005) Cambridge City Wildlife Sites Register [Online] Available at: <https://files.cambridge.gov.uk/public/ldf/coredocs/Cambridge%20City%20Wildlife%20Sites%20Register%202005.pdf>

<sup>252</sup> National Trust (2018) Wicken Fen Vision [Online] Available at: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/features/wicken-fen-vision>

<sup>253</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2009) Biodiversity SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6675/adopted-biodiversity-spd.pdf>

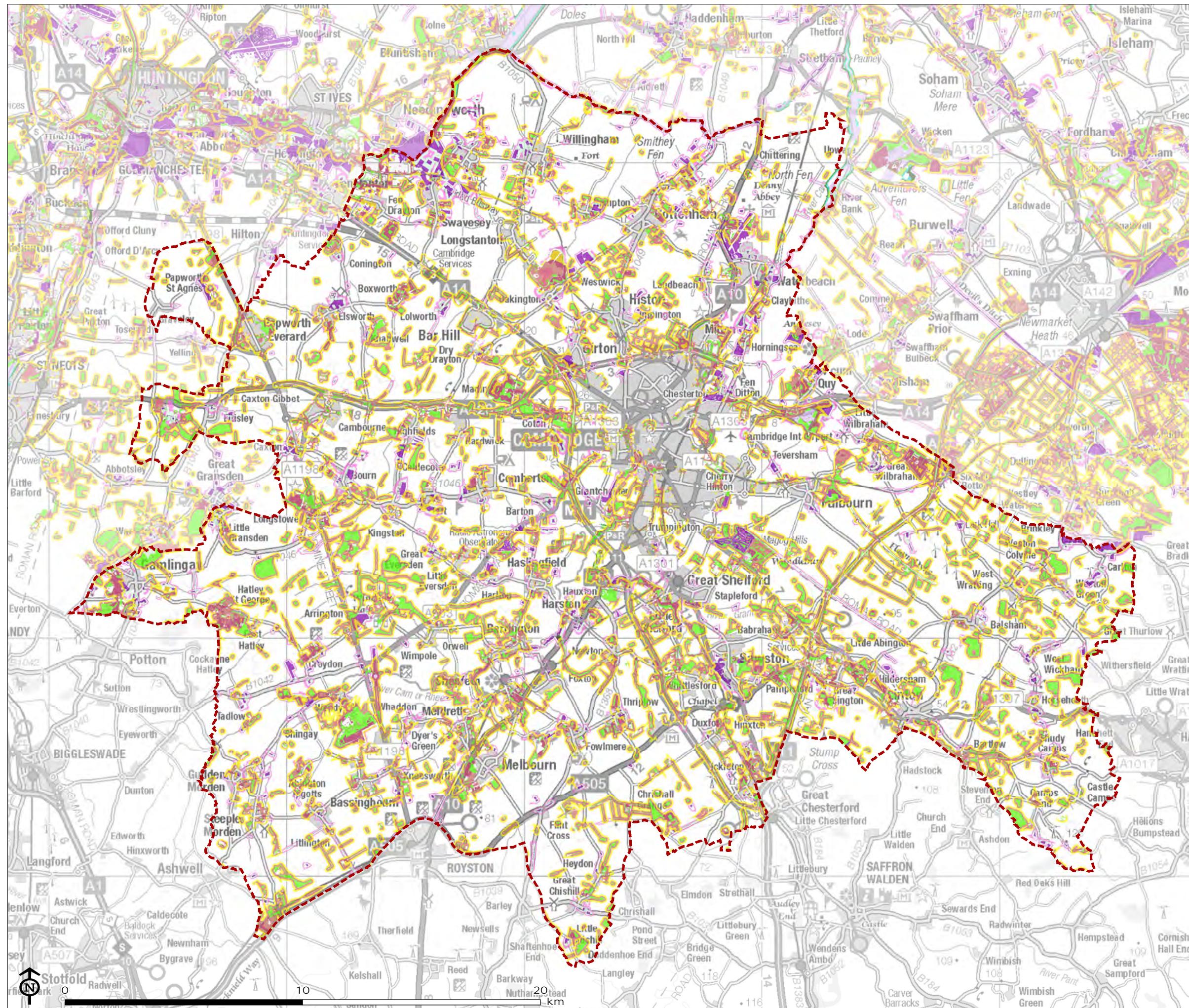
<sup>254</sup> Natural Capital Solutions (2019) Mapping natural capital and opportunities for habitat creation in Cambridgeshire [Online] Available at: <http://www.cpbiodiversity.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Cambridgeshire-habitat-mapping-final-report-FINAL.pdf>

activity and other areas. A new biodiversity/green infrastructure study is currently being commissioned by the Councils to serve as an updated evidence base.

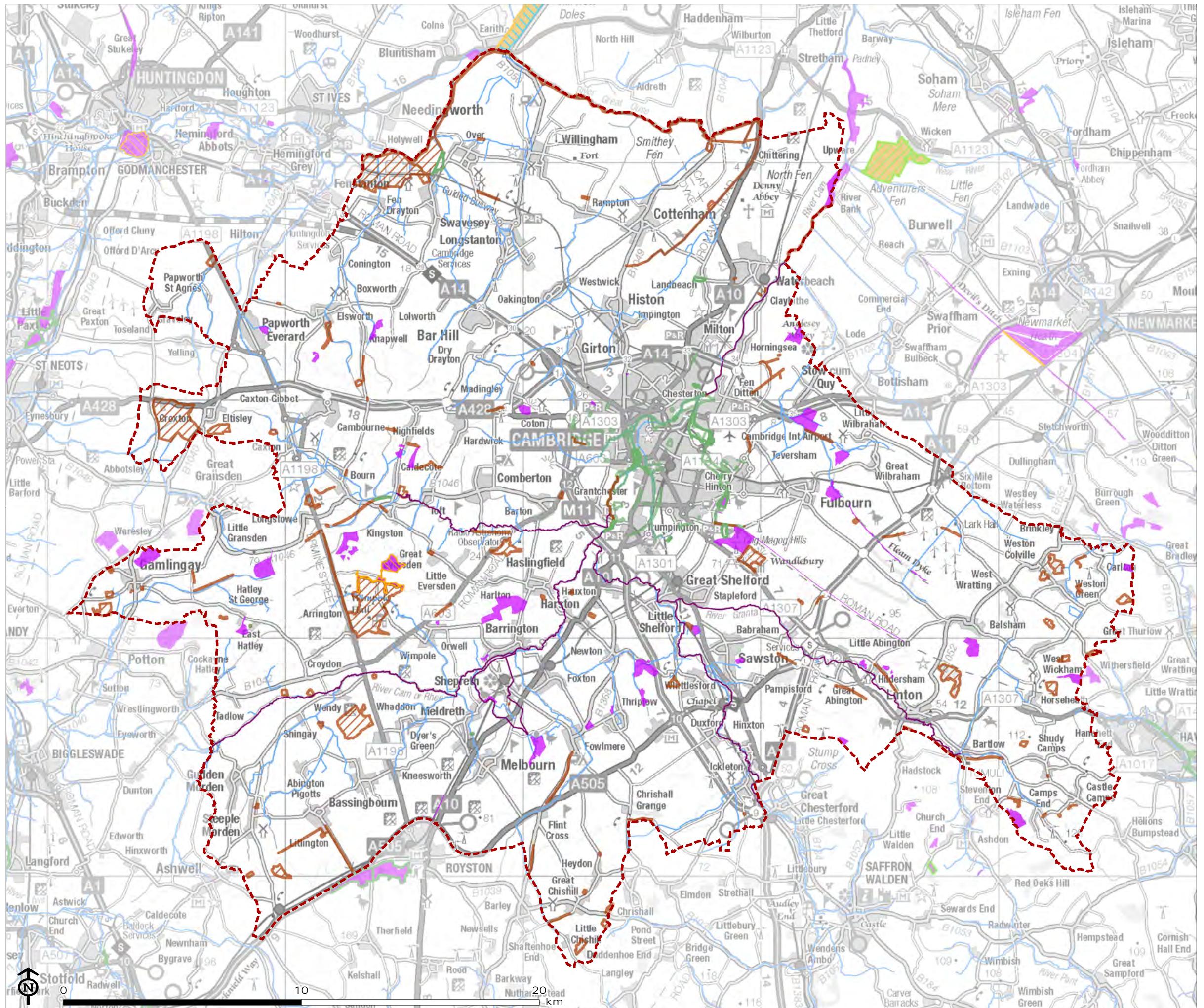
**Table 8.1 Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge and likely evolution without the new Local Plan**

<b>Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge</b>	<b>Likely evolution without the new Local Plan</b>	<b>Relevant SA objective</b>
Greater Cambridge contains and is in close proximity to a number of both designated and non-designated natural habitats and biodiversity. This includes those designated for their national and international importance. Not all SSSIs are in favourable condition.	While the designation of the biodiversity sites described above provide a level of protection (particularly those that are nationally and internationally designated), pressures are likely to continue due to ongoing pressure for further development and growth projections. Policy NH/5 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan prevents development having adverse effects on designated sites unless in exceptional circumstances. Policy 69 of the Cambridge Local Plan contains similar requirements. The new Local Plan presents the opportunity for new development to come forward at the most appropriate locations in order to avoid detrimental impacts on biodiversity assets, as well as to update planning policy in relation to future policy direction such as biodiversity net gain. The findings of the HRA will be incorporated into the SA and will provide further insight into biodiversity impacts specifically at designated sites, presenting the opportunity to limit adverse impacts at these locations.	SA objective 5
Although designated sites represent the most valued habitats in the plan area, the overall ecological network is also important for biodiversity as a whole and helps to support the health of designated sites, allowing species to migrate in response to climate change. The fragmentation and	Erosion and fragmentation of habitats and ecological networks could take place through poorly located and designed development. The NPPF requires Local Plans to include policies to safeguard, restore and create ecological networks at a landscape scale. In addition, Policy NH/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan prevents development that results in the deterioration or fragmentation of habitats, and requires new development to maintain, enhance and restore biodiversity. Similarly, Policy 70 of the Cambridge City Local Plan requires development to protect and enhance	SA objective 5 SA objective 11

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the new Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>erosion of habitats and the wider ecological network in Greater Cambridge, including the identified sparse woodland cover, is an ongoing threat to biodiversity.</p>	<p>habitats and species. The new Local Plan provides the opportunity to further promote biodiversity gain and to improve the overall ecological network. Improvements to GI can have a wider range of benefits beyond biodiversity, such as adapting to climate change, acting as a carbon sink and improving mental and physical health and wellbeing.</p>	



Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000



Greater Cambridge SA

Figure 8.2: Designated Biodiversity Sites in Greater Cambridge

- Greater Cambridge
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar Sites
- Special Protection Areas
- National Nature Reserve
- Local Nature Reserves
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Watercourse

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000



## 9 Historic Environment

### International

- 9.1 **European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe** (1985): Defines ‘architectural heritage’ and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.
- 9.2 **Valletta Treaty** (1992) formerly the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revisited)<sup>255</sup>: Aims to protect the European archaeological heritage “as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study”.

### National

- 9.3 **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**<sup>256</sup>: Plans should “set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:
- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
  - b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
  - c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
  - d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.”
- 9.4 **National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**<sup>257</sup>: Supports the NPPF by requiring that Local Plans include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, including a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. It also states that local planning authorities should identify specific opportunities for conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.
- 9.5 **The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010**<sup>258</sup>: Sets out the Government’s vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. Includes reference to promoting the role of the

<sup>255</sup> Council of Europe (1992) Valletta Treaty [online] Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168007bd25>

<sup>256</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

<sup>257</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>258</sup> HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010 [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-statement-on-the-historic-environment-for-england>

historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.

- 9.6 **The Heritage Statement 2017**<sup>259</sup>: Sets out how the Government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for our heritage and historic environment, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.
- 9.7 **Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, Historic England Advice Note 8**<sup>260</sup>: Sets out Historic England's guidance and expectations for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

#### Sub-national

- 9.8 **South Cambridgeshire Design Guide SPD (2010)**<sup>261</sup>: Produced to expand on district-wide policies and ensure that design is an integral part of the development process, in a way that respects the local context.
- 9.9 **South Cambridgeshire Listed Buildings SPD (2009)**<sup>262</sup>: This document forms part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) to ensure that Listed Building issues are adequately addressed throughout the development process. This expands on the broad policies set out in the Development Control Policies.
- 9.10 **South Cambridgeshire Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD (2009)**<sup>263</sup>: expands on district-wide policies to provide additional guidance on developments affecting designated Conservation Areas, and to assist applicants' understanding of the local historic context to ensure that development preserves and, where possible, enhances their character.
- 9.11 **South Cambridgeshire Village Design Guides (since 2018)**: Since 2018 the Council has been working with eight villages<sup>264</sup> to produce Design Guides, funded by central government, with the goal of raising the quality of new planned development. Once adopted, they will become supplementary planning documents (SPDs). Each guide describes the distinctive character of the village and sets out guidelines for how it should be enhanced.
- 9.12 **Cambridge Historic Core Appraisal (2006)**<sup>265</sup>: The 'historic core' is part of the large Central Conservation Area No.1, which is one of a number within Cambridge but deemed to be of particularly historic interest. The Appraisal recognises that large parts of the floodplain and the setting of the River Cam are highly significant to the historic environment, as well as Jesus Green and Midsummer Common. In 2018 the large Central Conservation area was split into six smaller separate areas.

<sup>259</sup> Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (2017) Heritage Statement 2017 [online] Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/664657/Heritage\\_Statement\\_2017\\_final\\_-\\_web\\_version\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664657/Heritage_Statement_2017_final_-_web_version_.pdf)

<sup>260</sup> Historic England (2016) Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 [online] Available at: <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/heaq036-sustainability-appraisal-strategic-environmental-assessment.pdf/>

<sup>261</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2010) District Design Guide SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/district-design-guide-spd/>

<sup>262</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2009) Listed Buildings: Works to or affecting the setting of SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/6690/adopted-listed-buildings-spd.pdf>

<sup>263</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2009) Development affecting Conservation Areas SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/8107/dev-affecting-cons-areas-spd-adopted-jan-2009.pdf>

<sup>264</sup> Caldecote; Fulbourn; Gamlingay; Over; Papworth; Sawston; and Swavesey.

<sup>265</sup> Cambridge City Council (2017) Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/historic-core-appraisal>

- 9.13 **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)**<sup>266</sup>: Outlines how the broader historic environment makes an important contribution to sense of places, sense of time and local identity and distinctiveness. The challenges highlighted including the impact of farming, the impact of climate change and development, lack of visibility of some assets, and conflicts between conservation and public access.

## Current Baseline

- 9.14 Greater Cambridge has a rich and varied historic environment and hosts a number of heritage assets. The city of Cambridge is renowned worldwide for its historic environment, which defines the character of the city and makes it a popular tourist destination.<sup>267</sup>
- 9.15 The historical development of South Cambridgeshire has been closely associated with Cambridge and the communication network (river crossings and road junctions), the avoidance of flooding, and developments in agriculture. South Cambridgeshire was a key location on east-west trading routes, with the Icknield Way in the south east a particularly notable historic routeway. The markets towns and historic villages are mostly linear in form, despite modern infilling in some villages, particularly in villages close to Cambridge.<sup>268</sup>
- 9.16 South Cambridgeshire District contains 2,692 listed buildings, 86 Conservation Areas and 107 scheduled monuments.<sup>269</sup> The District also includes 12 registered parks and gardens. At the time of writing, South Cambridgeshire District Council listed 15 Conservation Areas which had completed a Conservation Area Appraisal.
- 9.17 There are a high number of listed buildings (over 1,500) within Cambridge City, with a particularly high concentration of collegiate buildings around the arc of the River Cam. The 'historic core' of the city alone contains over 1,000 nationally listed buildings.<sup>270</sup> There are a total of 17 conservation areas within the city, 6 scheduled monuments and 12 registered parks and gardens of special historic interest, including a number of university colleges, cemeteries and the city's Botanic Garden. In addition, Cambridge City Council has designated over 1,000 buildings which, although they do not meet the criteria for statutory listing, are identified as of local interest for their architectural merit or historical associations.<sup>271</sup>
- 9.18 Existing heritage designations and the nature of their distribution across the plan area are illustrated in **Figure 9.1**.
- 9.19 Within South Cambridgeshire, five Conservation Areas have been included on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register,<sup>272</sup> as well as five listed buildings and

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<sup>266</sup> Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities (2011) Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf>

<sup>267</sup> Natural England (2014) National Character Area Profile: 88 Bedfordshire Claylands [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5091147672190976?category=587130>

<sup>268</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2010) District Design Guide SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/district-design-guide-spd/>

<sup>269</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2018) South Cambridgeshire Local Plan [Online] Available at: [https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918\\_sml.pdf](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918_sml.pdf)

<sup>270</sup> Cambridge City Council (2016) Historic Core Appraisal [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2939/historic-core-appraisal-2016-chapter-1.pdf>

<sup>271</sup> Cambridge City Council (n.d) List of buildings of local interest [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/buildings-of-local-interest>

<sup>272</sup> Duxford Airfield; Fulbourn Hospital; Papworth Everard; Sawston; and Waterbeach.

20 scheduled monuments. Within Cambridge City, a further two listed buildings<sup>273</sup> and one scheduled monument<sup>274</sup> are included on the register.

**Table 9.1 Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge and likely evolution without the new Local Plan**

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the new Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>There are many sites, features and areas of historical and cultural interest in the plan area, a number of which are at risk and identified on the Heritage at Risk register. In the context of significant ongoing pressures for development locally, these assets may be at risk of adverse effects from poorly located or designed development.</p>	<p>A number of the heritage assets in the plan area, for example listed buildings and scheduled monuments, will be protected by statutory designations, and existing Local Plan policies provide further protection - Policy NH/14 of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan sets out to ensure that development sustains and enhances the character of the historic environment and creates high quality new environments with a strong sense of place by responding to local heritage character. In addition, locally-specific policies outline specific heritage assets to be protected. Policies 61 and 62 of the adopted Cambridge Local Plan seek to protect and enhance the city's historic environment, and are supported by Policies 55-59 which safeguard local character. However without the new Local Plan it is possible that these assets will be adversely affected by inappropriate development. This is because the new plan will be developed on the basis of a different baseline of expected growth, which may put these assets (including their setting) under increased pressure.</p>	<p>SA objective 6 SA objective 7</p>

<sup>273</sup> Church of St Andrew the Less and Church of St Andrew (High Street)

<sup>274</sup> Old Cheddar's Lane pumping station

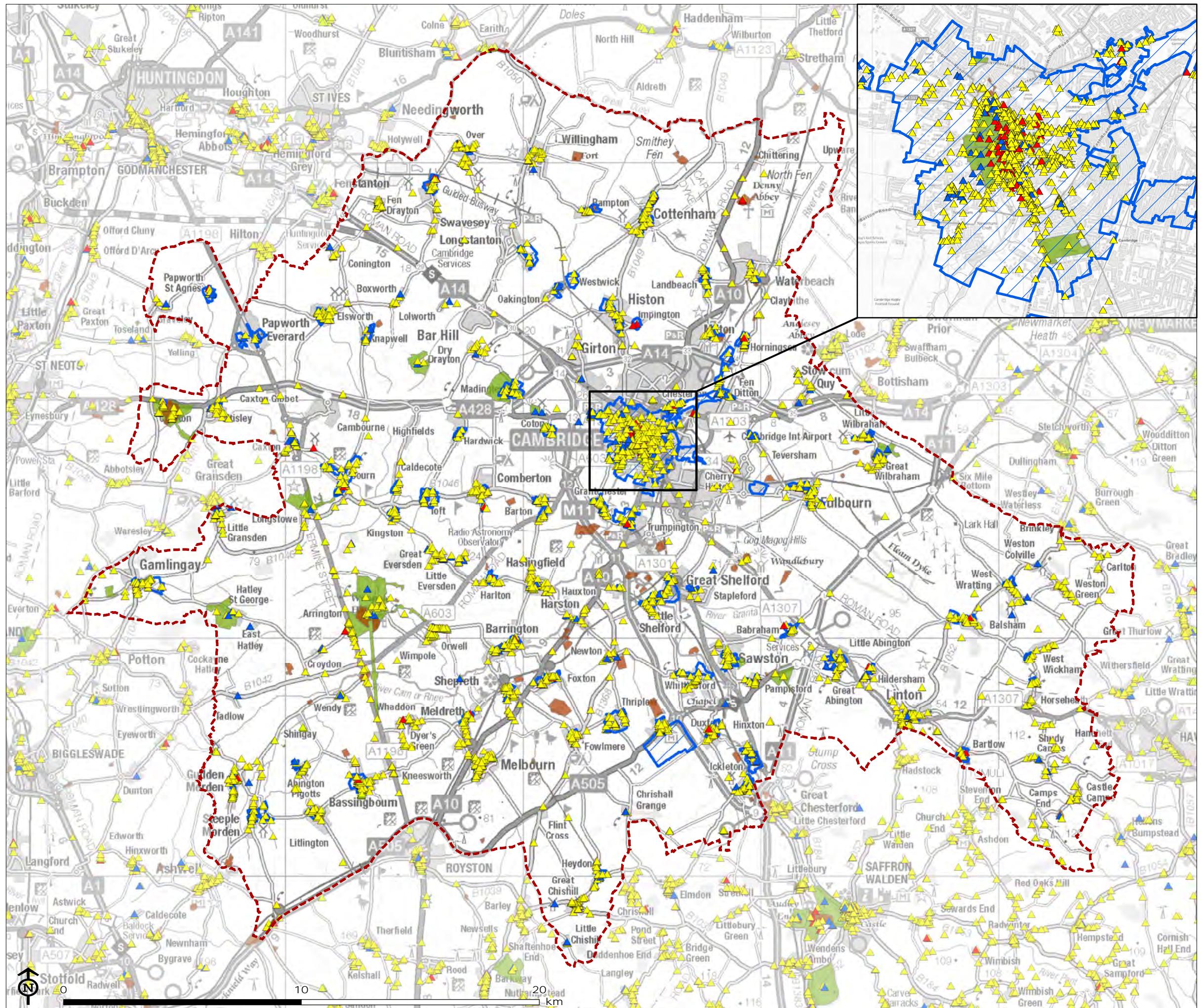


Figure 9.1: Heritage Assets in Greater Cambridge

- Greater Cambridge
- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Listed Buildings**
- Grade**
- ▲ I
- ▼ II
- △ II\*

Map Scale @A3: 1:49,432



# 10 Landscape

## International

10.1 **European Landscape Convention** (2002): Promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.

## National

10.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>275</sup>: Planning principles include:

- Recognising the intrinsic beauty and character of the countryside.
- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. Development should be sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting.
- Conserve and enhance landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, The Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

10.3 **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**<sup>276</sup>: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes. Actions that will be taken as part of this key area are as follows:

- Working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements.
- Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England's Natural Character Areas, and monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality.

## Sub-national

10.4 **East of England Landscape Typology**<sup>277</sup>: The East of England Landscape Character Typology draws on a range of data, including Landscape Character Assessment, Historic Landscape Characterisation, biodiversity and rural settlement data sets, as well as data generated through consultation. It provides a finer grain of detail on landscape character than the national-level Character Areas.

10.5 **Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2003)**<sup>278</sup>: Carried out to create a 'baseline' statement of qualities and character in the city in order to ensure the character of the city is maintained. It sought to indicate areas or features with are

<sup>275</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779764/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf)

<sup>276</sup> HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 23 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

<sup>277</sup> <http://www.landscape-east.org.uk/>

<sup>278</sup> Cambridge City Council (2003) Landscape Character Assessment [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/5751/cambridge-landscape-character-assessment-2003.pdf>

important to the setting of Cambridge and should remain undeveloped, and to describe the essential character of the townscape and its rural hinterland, to guide judgements on new development.

- 10.6 **Ouse Washes Landscape Character Assessment (2013)**<sup>279</sup>: Commissioned by Cambridgeshire ACRE as part of a Landscape Partnership Lottery Fund bid as a standalone report describing the distinctive character of this part of the Fen Basin, to help to support building a ‘sense of place’. The area covered by the study area overlaps with South Cambridgeshire District in the north.
- 10.7 **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)**<sup>280</sup>: The Strategy was designed to assist in shaping and co-ordinating the delivery of Green Infrastructure across the county of Cambridgeshire, in order to provide the social, environmental and economic benefits associated with GI. It covers the period up to 2031. The Project Group consisted of the County Council, the individual District Councils, as well as a number of external bodies including Natural England and the local Wildlife Trust. The Strategy notes that enhancing landscape is one of the key functions of Green Infrastructure and the diversity of the landscape, giving an overview of the existing range of landscapes and habitats, including prominent ones such as the Ouse and Nene Washes.
- 10.8 **South Cambridgeshire Landscape in New Developments SPD (2007)**<sup>281</sup>: expands on district-wide policies to provide additional guidance for planning applicants on how landscape should be integrated into new developments.

## Current Baseline

- 10.9 Cambridgeshire as a whole is largely rural and is predominantly a farmed landscape, with three-quarters of the county devoted to the production of food, fuel and fibre.<sup>282</sup> The landscape is characterised by smooth, rolling chalkland hills and is predominantly open, allowing for long views.
- 10.10 Greater Cambridge is generally relatively sparsely populated, with settlements generally located along river valleys and more recently along road and rail corridors. However, the city of Cambridge is an historic, urban hub within the wider landscape. Major transport corridors (notably the M11, A14 and rail corridors) run through the plan area. Along with historical and ongoing pressure for development, landscape assessments highlight that this is likely to further reduce the tranquillity of the area as a whole.<sup>283</sup>
- 10.11 There are no designated landscape areas (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) within or immediately adjacent to the plan area. The Chilterns AONB lies around 15 km from the area’s westernmost point, and as such it is unlikely that development in this area will have an effect on the landscape of the AONB. The 2011 Green Infrastructure Strategy noted that key challenges for the county include the need for

<sup>279</sup> Cambridgeshire ACRE (2013) Ouse Washes: Landscape Character Assessment [Online] Available at: [http://ousewashes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Landscape\\_Character\\_Assessment-low-res.pdf](http://ousewashes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Landscape_Character_Assessment-low-res.pdf)

<sup>280</sup> Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities (2011) Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf>

<sup>281</sup> South Cambridgeshire District Council (2010) Landscape in New Developments SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/landscape-in-new-developments-spd/>

<sup>282</sup> Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities (2011) Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf>

<sup>283</sup> Natural England (2014) National Character Area Profile: 87 East Anglian Chalk [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6417815967891456?category=587130>

long-term investment and the erosion of landscape quality from changing land use and development.

- 10.12 No dedicated landscape character assessment has been carried out for South Cambridgeshire, nor at the county level, however the Councils plan to commission a Green Belt and Landscape Character Assessment as part of an updated evidence base. Nevertheless, parts of five different National Character Areas (NCAs) lie within the plan area, as illustrated in

## 10.13 Figure 10.1:

- The majority of the western half (washing over the city of Cambridge) is characterised by NCA 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands, a broad and gently undulating landscape dominated by large-scale arable farmland and rich in historical features. It is dissected by shallow river valleys, including the Great Ouse on the northern boundary of Greater Cambridge, which gradually widen as they approach the Fens NCA in the east.<sup>284</sup>
- Most of the eastern and southern parts of the area are identified as NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk. While historically this area was grazed by sheep, today large-scale cereal production (mainly wheat) now dominates the agricultural landscape. The porous chalk that underlies the landscape results in limited surface water.

10.14 Three further NCAs cover smaller areas of the plan area. These include NCA 86 South Suffolk and North Essex Claylands in the far east of the area (an undulating ancient landscape of wooded arable countryside with numerous river valleys);<sup>285</sup> NCA 46 The Fens on the north eastern border (a distinctive wetland with a large, flat and open landscape, resulting in a strong sense of place, tranquillity and inspiration);<sup>286</sup> and NCA 90 Bedfordshire and Greensand Ridge on the western boundary around Gamlingay (a narrow ridge surrounded by NCA 88, characterised by historic landscapes and a patchwork of semi-natural habitats).<sup>287</sup>

10.15 The East of England Landscape Typology provides further, more granular assessment of the landscape types in the region, both urban and rural.<sup>288</sup>

10.16 In the south of Greater Cambridge, near the border with Uttlesford, the major prehistoric routeway of the Icknield Way (which is now a long-distance footpath) traverses the south west corner of South Cambridgeshire and is a distinctive landscape feature as well as having value for the historic environment.

10.17 Skylines of cities evolve and change over time in response to increasing urban expansion and renewal. The Cambridge skyline has also undergone this process incrementally. Within the historic core, there is a great variety of rooflines, articulated by spires, cupolas, chimneys and towers.<sup>289</sup> Trees also form an important element in the modern Cambridge skyline, within both the historic core and the suburbs. Many of the elevated views of the city from the rural hinterland and from Castle Mound show a city of trees with scattered spires and towers emerging above an established tree line. The character of the more urbanised environment within Cambridge City is described in the 2003 Cambridge Landscape Assessment, which identifies 7 landscape character types within the city.<sup>290</sup> It describes the uniqueness of the city landscape, as a mosaic of built areas interspersed with a network of open spaces. It is a compact city with a strong sense of identity, while the setting is largely ‘unexceptional arable lowland’ but with some attractive aspects. ‘Green fingers’ such as The Backs are identified as an important feature, linking the

<sup>284</sup> Natural England (2014) National Character Area Profile: 88 Bedfordshire Claylands [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5091147672190976?category=587130>

<sup>285</sup> Natural England (2014) National Character Area Profile: 86 South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5095677797335040?category=587130>

<sup>286</sup> Natural England (2014) National Character Area Profile: 46 The Fens [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6229624?category=587130>

<sup>287</sup> Natural England (2014) National Character Area Profile: 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge [Online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6667269664931840?category=587130>

<sup>288</sup> <http://www.landscap-east.org.uk/east-england-landscape-typology>

<sup>289</sup> Cambridge City Council (2018) Cambridge Local Plan [online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/6890/local-plan-2018.pdf>

<sup>290</sup> River Corridor; Green Corridor; Rural Lowland Mosaic; City Centre; Residential Areas; Industrial and Commercial Areas; and Borrowed Landscapes.

hinterland with the historic core. Water is also identified as a key landscape feature in the city. In general the character areas describe a historic city centre and ‘borrowed landscapes’ of college gardens and cemeteries, surrounded by a mixed residential landscape and some ancient villages, followed by a ‘rural lowland mosaic’, all dissected by the corridor of the River Cam and rail and road corridors. Some of the outer parts of the city are characterised by poorer quality suburban housing developments, and former industrial and utilities land<sup>291</sup>

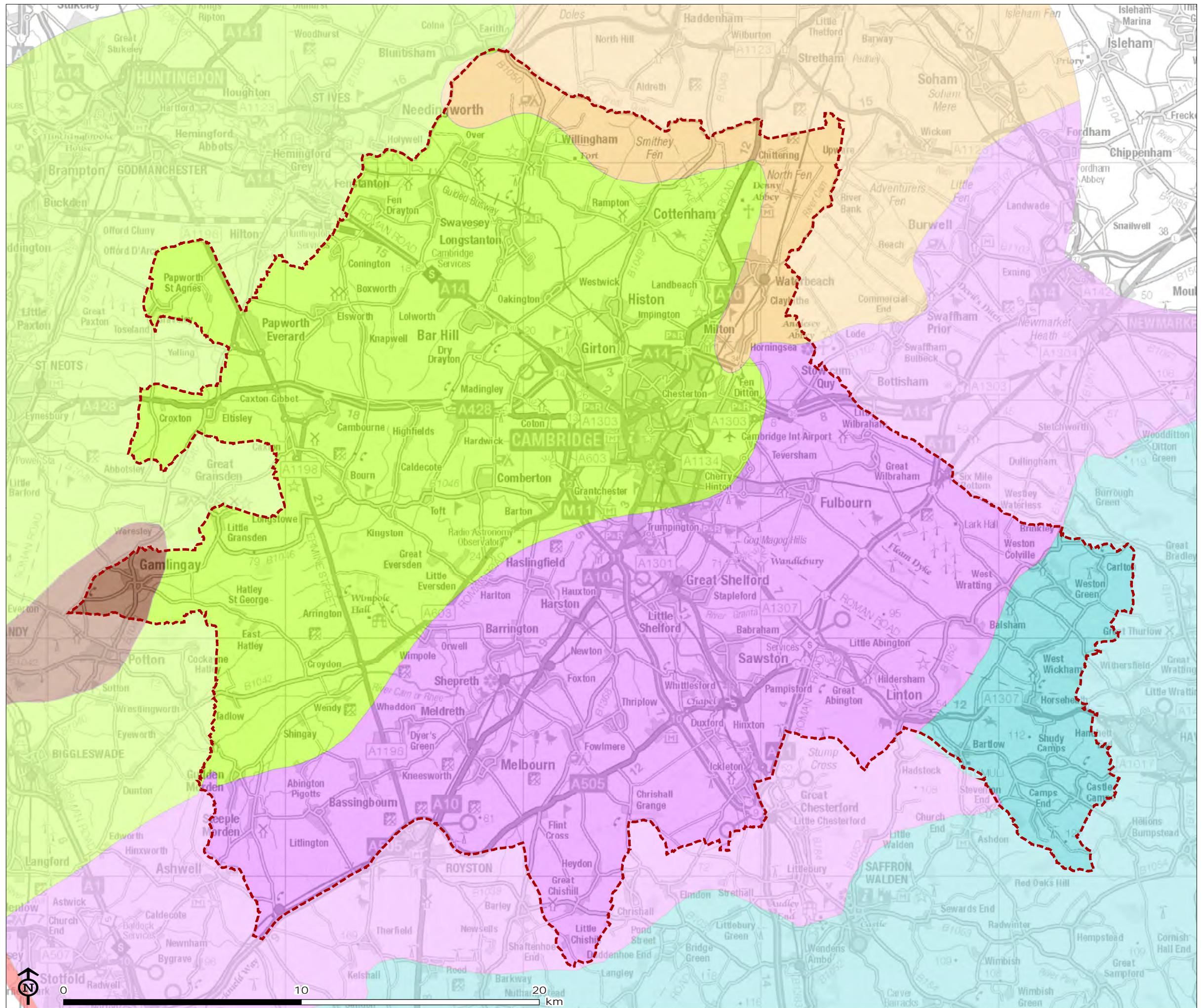
- 10.18 The Ouse Washes Landscape Character Assessment helps to describe in more detail the character of the distinctive landscape on the northern boundary of South Cambridgeshire. The area overlapping with Greater Cambridge is identified as the ‘Ouse Valley Wetlands’ – a broad flat floodplain of the River Great Ouse and its surrounding clay margins. The Great Ouse is now channelled between embankments and gravel extraction on its floodplain has transformed the former waterlogged fen into a cluster of lakes. Higher land on the margins of the fen hosts a string of villages with a hinterland of paddocks, orchards and farmsteads. The study finds that this part of the Ouse Washes landscape can accommodate change provided new development is not extensive and that protects sensitive features including historic tracks, other historic features, and land uses on the fringe of villages
- 10.19 Cambridge city is surrounded by Green Belt, most of which lies within South Cambridgeshire district. Green Belt is a policy designation, rather than a sustainability designation, which has its own defined purposes and is considered separately to the SA.

**Table 10.1: Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge and likely evolution without the Local Plan**

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the new Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
While the plan area is not in close proximity to nationally designated or highly sensitive landscape areas, it contains a diverse range of nationally recognised landscape character areas that could be harmed by inappropriate development. For example, the fenlands on the northern boundary of Greater Cambridge are particularly sensitive to development. If development was to be allocated there it could threaten losses to a distinctive wetland landscape.	Policy NH/2 of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) requires developers to enhance the character and distinctiveness of the local landscape and NCA where it is located. Similarly, Policy 55 of the Cambridge Local Plan requires development to respond to the natural context. While both documents are relatively recent, the new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update the current policy position in response to the ongoing evolution of development pressures and their impact on the landscape in	SA objective 6

<sup>291</sup> Cambridge City Council (2003) Landscape Character Assessment [Online] Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/5751/cambridge-landscape-character-assessment-2003.pdf>

Key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge	Likely evolution without the new Local Plan	Relevant SA objective
	Greater Cambridge as a whole.	
The distinct historic character of the South Cambridgeshire villages, and in particular the sensitive historic landscape setting of Cambridge requires protection as development comes forward, particularly in maintaining key views into Cambridge.	Policy NH/13 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan requires definition along important countryside frontages where land has a strong landscape character, while Policy 59 of the Cambridge City Plan requires that landscape and boundary treatment are designed as an integral part of new development proposals. Further, Policy 60 sets out criteria for assessing buildings breaking with the existing skyline, which should fit within the existing landscape and townscape. The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that, in the context of ongoing development pressures, development coming forward does not adversely affect the setting of sensitive heritage assets and lies sympathetically within the existing landscape and townscape.	SA objective 6



Greater Cambridge SA

Figure 10.1: National Character Areas in Greater Cambridge

- Greater Cambridge National Character Areas**
- Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge
  - Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands
  - East Anglian Chalk
  - South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland
  - The Fens
  - Chilterns

Map Scale @A3: 1:157,000

## 11 The SA Framework

### The SA Framework

- 11.1 The development of a set of SA objectives (known as the SA Framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared.
- 11.2 The proposed SA Framework for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is presented in **Table 11.1**, and has been developed from the analysis of international, national and local policy objectives, the baseline information, and the sustainability issues identified for the plan area. It comprises a series of SA objectives, each accompanied by a set of questions that will be used to appraise the performance of the new Local Plan against the SA objectives, including alternative overall spatial strategies for growth being considered by the two Councils for inclusion in the Local Plan.
- 11.3 The SA Framework is supported by a set of draft site assessment criteria and assumptions, which will be used to establish the potential effects generated by development in site options and allocations identified for consideration by the City and District Councils. The performance of sites against the site assessment criteria and assumptions will be used, alongside other technical assessments, to inform the Council's selection of individual site allocations. More detail on the criteria and assumptions to be used is provided in **Appendix 1**.
- 11.4 The SA objectives and accompanying questions set out in the SA Framework and the site assessment criteria and assumptions are subject to change following feedback collated during consultation on this SA Scoping Report with the three statutory consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) under Regulation 12(5) of the SEA Regulations.

Table 11.1 SA Framework for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan

SA Objective	Appraisal questions	Relevant SEA Topics
SA 1: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, well-designed, sustainably constructed and affordable home.	<p>SA 1.1: Does the Plan provide for the local housing need of Greater Cambridge?</p> <p>SA 1.2: Does the Plan deliver the range of types, tenures that Greater Cambridge needs over the plan period?</p> <p>SA 1.3: Does the Plan increase the supply of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas?</p> <p>SA 1.4: Does the Plan provide for the housing needs of both an ageing and young population based on locational needs?</p> <p>SA 1.5: Does the Plan provide for specialist housing needs, including that of the student population and Gypsies and Travellers?</p>	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA 2: To maintain and improve access to centres of services and facilities including health centres and education.	<p>SA 2.1: Does the Plan support the existing city, district, local, neighbourhood, rural and minor rural centres?</p> <p>SA 2.2: Does the Plan provide for sufficient local services and facilities to support new and growing communities (e.g. schools, employment training and lifetime learning facilities, health facilities, sport and recreation, accessible green space and services in local centres)?</p> <p>SA 2.3: Does the Plan provide for development within proximity to existing or new services and facilities that are accessible for all?</p>	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA 3: To encourage social inclusion, strengthen community cohesion, and advance equality between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.	<p>SA 3.1: Does the Plan facilitate the integration of new neighbourhoods with existing neighbourhoods?</p> <p>SA 3.2: Does the Plan promote developments that benefit and are used by existing and new residents in Greater Cambridge, particularly for Greater Cambridge's most deprived areas?</p> <p>SA 3.3: Does the Plan meet the needs of specific groups in Greater Cambridge, including those with protected characteristics and the needs of</p>	Population, Human Health and Material Assets

SA Objective	Appraisal questions	Relevant SEA Topics
	<p>a growing and ageing population?</p> <p>SA 3.4: Does the Plan promote the vitality and viability of Greater Cambridge's city, district, local, neighbourhood, rural and minor rural centres through social and cultural initiatives?</p> <p>SA 3.5: Does the Plan help to support high levels of pedestrian activity/outdoor interaction, where people mix?</p> <p>SA 3.6: Does the Plan remove or reduce disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics?</p>	
SA 4: To improve public health, safety and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	<p>SA 4.1: Does the Plan promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy lifestyles by maintaining, connecting, creating and enhancing multifunctional open spaces, green infrastructure, and recreation and sports facilities and by providing access to recreational opportunities in the countryside?</p> <p>SA 4.2 Does the Plan promote healthy lifestyle choices by encouraging and facilitating walking and cycling, including provision of dedicated cycleways, as well as permeable and legible streets?</p> <p>SA 4.3: Does the Plan safeguard human health and well-being by promoting climate change resilience through sustainable siting, design, landscaping and infrastructure, particularly green infrastructure?</p> <p>SA 4.4: Does the Plan provide sufficient access to local health services and facilities (e.g. health centres and hospitals)?</p> <p>SA 4.5: Does the Plan encourage local food growing?</p> <p>SA 4.6: Does the Plan promote mental wellbeing through the design of attractive places and opportunities for social interaction?</p> <p>SA 4.7: Does the Plan promote principles of good urban design to limit the potential for crime in Greater Cambridge?</p>	Population, Human Health and Climatic Factors

SA Objective	Appraisal questions	Relevant SEA Topics
SA 5: To conserve, enhance, restore and connect wildlife, habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest.	<p>SA 4.8: Does the Plan contribute to a reduction in the fear of crime?</p> <p>SA 5.1: Does the Plan avoid adverse effects on internationally and nationally designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets within and outside Greater Cambridge?</p> <p>SA 5.2: Does the Plan avoid adverse effects on locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets within and outside Greater Cambridge, including ancient woodland?</p> <p>SA 5.3: Does the Plan seek to protect and enhance ecological networks, including opportunity areas (buffer and stepping stone opportunities) identified through biodiversity opportunity mapping, promoting the achievement of biodiversity net gain, whilst taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>SA 5.4: Does the Plan provide and manage opportunities for people to come into contact with wildlife whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of biodiversity?</p>	Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Human Health
SA 6: To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Greater Cambridge's landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	<p>SA 6.1: Does the Plan protect and enhance Greater Cambridge's sensitive, special landscapes, such as fens, and historic settlements?</p> <p>SA 6.2: Does the Plan protect and enhance Greater Cambridge's natural environment assets (including parks and green spaces, common land, woodland and forest reserves) and public realm?</p> <p>SA 6.3: Does the Plan protect the setting of the city of Cambridge, including key views into and out of the city?</p>	Landscape, Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Cultural Heritage
SA 7: To conserve and/or enhance the qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of Greater Cambridge's historic	<p>SA 7.1: Does the Plan conserve and enhance Greater Cambridge's designated heritage assets, including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness?</p> <p>SA 7.2: Does the Plan conserve and enhance Greater Cambridge's non-</p>	Cultural Heritage, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

SA Objective	Appraisal questions	Relevant SEA Topics
environment.	<p>designated heritage assets, including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness?</p> <p>SA 7.3: Does the Plan safeguard, and where possible enhance, the historic fabric of the city of Cambridge?</p> <p>SA 7.4: Does the Plan provide opportunities for improvements to the conservation, management and enhancement of Greater Cambridge's heritage assets, particularly heritage at risk?</p> <p>SA 7.5: Does the Plan promote access to, as well as enjoyment and understanding of, the local historic environment for Greater Cambridge's residents and visitors?</p>	
SA 8: To make efficient use of Greater Cambridge's land resources through the re-use of previously developed land and conserve its soils.	<p>SA 8.1: Does the Plan maximise the provision of housing and employment development on previously developed land?</p> <p>SA 8.2: Does the Plan ensure contaminated land is remediated where appropriate?</p> <p>SA 8.3: Does the Plan minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land to development?</p>	Soil and Material Assets
SA 9: To conserve mineral resources in Greater Cambridge.	<p>SA 9.1 Does the Plan ensure that unnecessary or unjustified sterilisation of mineral resources is prevented?</p>	Material Assets
SA 10: To achieve sustainable water resource management and promote the quality of Greater Cambridge's waters.	<p>SA 10.1: Does the Plan seek to improve the water quality of Greater Cambridge's rivers and water bodies?</p> <p>SA 10.2: Does the Plan minimise inappropriate development in Source Protection Zones?</p> <p>SA 10.3: Does the Plan ensure there is sufficient waste water treatment capacity to accommodate the new development?</p> <p>SA 10.4: Does the Plan promote development which would avoid water</p>	Water, Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

SA Objective	Appraisal questions	Relevant SEA Topics
	<p>pollution due to contaminated runoff from development?</p> <p>SA 10.5: Does the Plan support efficient use of water in new developments, including the recycling of water resources, promoting water stewardship and water sensitive design where appropriate?</p>	
SA 11: To adapt to climate change, including minimising flood risk.	<p>SA 11.1: Does the Plan minimise inappropriate development in areas prone to flood risk and areas prone to increasing flood risk elsewhere, taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>SA11.2: Does the Plan promote the use of Natural Flood Management schemes, SuDS and flood resilient design?</p> <p>SA11.3: Does the Plan promote design measures in new development and the public realm to respond to weather events arising from climate change, such as heatwaves and intense rainfall?</p> <p>SA 11.4: Does the Plan provide, enhance and retrofit green infrastructure?</p>	Water, Material Assets, Climatic Factors and Human Health
SA 12: To minimise Greater Cambridge's contribution to climate change	<p>SA 12.1: Does the Plan promote energy efficient design?</p> <p>SA 12.2: Does the Plan encourage the provision of energy from renewable sources?</p> <p>SA 12.3: Does the Plan promote the use of locally and sustainably sourced, and recycling of, materials in construction and renovation?</p> <p>SA 12.4: Does the Plan support access to public transport provision?</p> <p>SA 12.5: Does the Plan create, maintain and enhance attractive and well-connected networks of public transport and active travel, including walking and cycling?</p> <p>SA 12.6: Does the Plan support development which is in close proximity to city, district and rural centres, services and facilities, key employment areas and/or public transport nodes, thus reducing the need to travel by car?</p>	Air, Human health, air and Climatic factors

SA Objective	Appraisal questions	Relevant SEA Topics
	<p>SA12.7: Does the Plan address congestion hotspots in the road network?</p> <p>SA 13.1: Does the Plan avoid, minimise and mitigate the effects of poor air quality?</p> <p>SA 13.2: Does the Plan promote more sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel?</p> <p>SA 13.3: Does the Plan contain measures which will help to reduce congestion?</p> <p>SA 13.4: Does the Plan minimise increases in traffic, particularly non-electric vehicles, in Air Quality Management Areas?</p> <p>SA 13.5: Does the Plan facilitate the take up of low / zero emission vehicles?</p>	Air and Human Health
SA 14: To facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.	<p>SA 14.1: Does the Plan provide for an adequate supply of land and the delivery of infrastructure to meet Greater Cambridge's economic and employment needs?</p> <p>SA 14.2: Does the Plan support opportunities for the expansion and diversification of businesses?</p> <p>SA 14.3: Does the Plan provide for start-up businesses and flexible working practices?</p> <p>SA 14.4: Does the Plan support the prosperity and diversification of Greater Cambridge's rural economy?</p> <p>SA 14.5: Does the Plan support stronger links to the wider economy of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc?</p> <p>SA 14.6: Does the Plan support the growth of the knowledge, science, research and high tech sectors?</p>	Population and Material Assets
SA 15: To deliver, maintain and enhance access to diverse	SA 15.1: Does the Plan provide for employment opportunities that are	Population and

SA Objective	Appraisal questions	Relevant SEA Topics
employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs in Greater Cambridge.	<p>easily accessible, preferably via sustainable modes of transport?</p> <p>SA 15.2: Does the Plan support equality of opportunity for young people and job seekers?</p>	Material Assets

## Use of the SA Framework

- 11.5 The SA will be undertaken in close collaboration with the officers from South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils responsible for drafting the Local Plan in order to fully integrate the SA process with the production of the Local Plan.
- 11.6 The findings of the SA will be presented as a colour coded symbols showing a score for each option against each of the SA objectives along with a concise justification for the score given, where appropriate. It may be possible to group the appraisal of strategic and development management policies by theme.
- 11.7 The use of colour coding in the matrices will allow for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in **Figure 11.1** below.

Figure 11.1 SA matrix guide

++	Significant positive effect likely
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely
+	Minor positive effect
+/-	Mixed minor effects likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
-/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
?	Likely effect uncertain

- 11.8 The dividing line between sustainability scores is often quite small. Where significant effects are distinguished from more minor effects this is because, using the appraisal questions and criteria and applying professional judgement, the effect of the option on the SA objective will be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect compared with other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.
- 11.9 In determining the significance of the effects of the options for potential inclusion in the Local Plan it will be important to bear in mind the Local Plan's relationship with the other documents in the planning system such as the NPPF and other national policy approaches, and regulatory requirements, as these may provide additional safeguards or mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects.

### Reasonable alternatives

- 11.10 The SA must appraise not only the preferred options for inclusion in the Local Plan but 'reasonable alternatives' to these options. This implies that alternatives that are

not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Part (b) of Regulation 12(2) notes that reasonable alternatives will take into account the objectives of the Plan, as well as its geographical scope. Therefore, alternatives that do not meet the objectives of national policy, or are outside the Plan area are unlikely to be reasonable.

- 11.11 The objectives, policies and site allocations to be considered for inclusion within the Local Plan are in the process of being identified and reviewed. The Councils' reasons for selecting the alternatives to be included in the Local Plan will be reported at a later stage in the SA process.

### Assumptions

- 11.12 SA inevitably relies on an element of subjective judgement. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the site options, for each of the SA objectives in the SA framework, a clear set of decision-making criteria and assumptions for determining significance of the effects are set out. These assumptions set out clear parameters within which certain SA scores would be given, based on factors such as the distance of site options from features such as biodiversity designations, public transport links and areas of high landscape sensitivity. The assumptions, many of which are applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data, are presented in **Appendix 1**.
- 11.13 It should be noted that it may be necessary to refine the criteria and assumptions during the course of the SA work, for example to respond to consultation comments, or to ensure that they remain appropriate with respect to the evidence base and the alternative options being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan.

### Health Impact Assessment

- 11.14 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) aims to ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. As described in **Chapter 1**, the HIA will be incorporated into the SA. SA objective 5 directly addresses health issues, while achievement of SA objectives 2, 3 and 14 would also indirectly benefit people's health.

11.15 **Table 11.2** demonstrates how various HIA topics have been included in the SA framework. The HIA topics are drawn from the NHA London Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool<sup>292</sup>.

11.16 The options and later policies for the Local Plan will all be assessed against these objectives as part of the SA. The SA report will make recommendations for how the health-related impacts of the Local Plan can be optimised as the options are developed into detailed policies.

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<sup>292</sup> <https://www.healthyurbandevelopment.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/HUDU-Rapid-HIA-Tool-3rd-edition-April-2017.pdf>

**Table 11.2 Integration of HIA topics in this SA**

HIA topic	Relevant SA Objective
Housing quality and design	SA objective 1: Housing
Access to healthcare services and other social infrastructure	SA objective 2: Access to Services and Facilities Accessibility is also relevant to this topic (see below).
Access to open space and nature	SA objective 2: Access to Services and Facilities SA objective 4: Health and Wellbeing SA objective 5: Biodiversity
Air quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity	SA objective 13: Air Quality SA objective 6: Landscape, Townscape and Local Distinctiveness SA objective 12: Climate Change Mitigation
Accessibility and active travel	SA objective 4: Health and Wellbeing SA objective 2: Access to Services and Facilities SA objective 12: Climate Change Mitigation
Crime reduction and community safety	SA objective 4: Health and Wellbeing
Access to healthy food	SA objective 4: Health and Wellbeing considers food growing Other aspects of access to healthy food are not within the scope of the local plan. This issue should be addressed through other means.
Access to work and training	SA objective 15: Employment SA objective 14: Sustainable Economy
Social cohesion and lifetime neighbourhoods	SA objective 4: Health and Wellbeing SA objective 3: Equality Housing and accessibility (see above) are also relevant to this topic.
Minimising the use of resources	SA objective 8: Sustainable Land Use
Climate change	SA objective 11: Climate Change Adaptation

HIA topic	Relevant SA Objective
	SA objective 12: Climate Change Mitigation
Environmental quality	SA objective 9: Minerals SA objective 10: Water resources and quality SA objective 8: Sustainable Land Use SA objective 5: Biodiversity

## Equalities Impact Assessment

11.17 There are three main duties set out in the Equality Act 2010, which public authorities including South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Councils must meet in exercising their functions:

- To eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.
- To foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

11.18 The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine ‘protected characteristics’ and seeks to protect people from discrimination on the basis of these characteristics. They are:

- Age.
- Disability.
- Gender reassignment.
- Marriage and civil partnership.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Race.
- Religion or belief.
- Sex.
- Sexual orientation.

11.19 The Local Plan will be assessed to consider the likely impacts of the draft policies on each of the nine protected characteristics from the Equality Act 2010 listed above. SA Objective 3 relates specifically to equalities. For each protected characteristic, consideration will be given to whether the Local Plan is compatible or incompatible with the three main duties set out in the Equality Act 2010. A colour coded scoring system (positive/negative/neutral) will be used to show the effects that the Local Plan policy and site options are likely to have on each protected characteristics.

## 12 Consultation and Next Steps

- 12.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the views of the three statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA Report.
- 12.2 This SA Scoping Report will be published for consultation alongside the Issues and Options document.
- 12.3 As outlined in the introduction, the consultees are in particular requested to consider:
  - Whether the scope of the SA is appropriate as set out considering the role of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan to help meet and manage the needs of the plan area.
  - Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA that should be included.
  - Whether the baseline information provided is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the Local Plan.
  - Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues relevant to the Local Plan that should be included.
  - Whether the SA Framework (**Chapter 11**) is appropriate and includes a suitable set of SA objectives and is supported by suitable site-based assumptions (**Appendix 1**) for assessing the effects of the options included within the Greater Cambridge Local Plan as well as reasonable alternatives.
- 12.4 Responses from consultees will be reviewed and appropriate amendments made to the detail contained in the Scoping Report, including the baseline, policy context and SA Framework where necessary. Any updates to this detail will be presented at the next stage of the Local Plan preparation process.
- 12.5 As the Local Plan is drafted, it will be subject to SA using the SA Framework presented in **Chapter Error! Reference source not found..** A full SA report (incorporating the later stages of the SA process) will then be produced and made available to other stakeholders and the general public for wider consultation alongside the emerging Local Plan.

LUC

September 2019

## **Appendix 1**

Criteria and assumptions to be applied in the SA of site options

## Assumptions regarding distances

Reference is made to ‘easy walking distance’ in the appraisal assumptions. There are a number of pieces of research that give a variety of recommended guidance distances for walking. For example, the Institute of Highways and Transportation found that the average length of a walk journey is one kilometre. The Institute of Highways and Transportation categorises distances depending upon location and purpose of the trip, and ‘desirable’, ‘acceptable’, and ‘preferred maximum’:

	Town centres (m)	Commuting/School/ Sight-seeing (m)	Elsewhere (m)
Desirable	200	500	400
Acceptable	400	1,000	800
Preferred maximum	800	2,000	1,200

For the purposes of the appraisal, distances in the appraisal will be measured as the straight line distance from the edge of the site option to existing services and facilities, and therefore actual walking distances are likely to be greater (e.g. depending on the house location within a larger site and the availability of a direct route).

It is recognised that many journeys to services and facilities will not be made in a straight line. When applying the Institute of Highways and Transportation distances for the appraisal of site options to each of the relevant distances a 10% buffer has therefore been applied to account for the potential difference between the straight line distance and the actual distance involved in a journey to services and facilities. For example, the relevant distance applied for walking distance for town and local centres has been decreased from 800m to 720m, and so on.

It is considered that this is a reasonable approach, and professional judgement will be used when applying these distances to each site option and the range of services and facilities considered by the appraisal (e.g. where there are significant barriers to straight-line movement, such as railway lines). The distances used in the appraisal will vary depending upon the type of destination being accessed and the mode of transport:

- 450m walking distance for primary schools on the basis that parents are unlikely to want to walk long distances with young children.
- 900m walking distance for secondary schools.
- 720m walking distance for city, district, local, neighbourhood, rural and minor rural centres.

- 450m to a bus stop, as many people are unlikely to want to walk much further and then catch a bus to their destination.
- 1,800m walking distance to a train station.
- In terms of access to cycle routes, a distance of 450m will be used in the appraisal on the assumption that links to cycle routes are likely to use road carriageways.

The SA assumptions include analysis of the proximity of residential areas to key employment areas. Although there is no guarantee that people will find jobs at the employment areas closest to them, it is considered that provision of homes close to major sources of employment would support people in making shorter journeys to work. The following walking assumption has been applied:

- 1,800m walking distance to employment areas.

Table A1.1: Criteria and assumptions to be applied during the SA of site options for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
<p>1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, well-designed, sustainably constructed and affordable home.</p>	<p><b>Residential site options</b></p> <p>All of the residential site options are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. Planning Practice Guidance<sup>293</sup> states that affordable housing should only be sought for residential development 10 or more homes. It is expected that sites of this size or larger could potentially provide affordable homes and so will have significant positive effects. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites with capacity for more than 10% net additional total housing need will have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> <li>• Sites with capacity for fewer than 10% net additional total housing need will have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> </ul> <p><b>Employment site options</b></p> <p>The location of employment sites is not considered likely to affect this objective, therefore the score for all site options will be negligible (0).</p>
<p>2. To maintain and improve access to centres of services and facilities including health centres and education.</p>	<p><b>All site options</b></p> <p>Larger scale development could potentially incorporate the provision of new services. The location of all types of development sites could affect this objective by influencing people's ability to access existing services and facilities (both for local residents and employees during breaks and after work).</p> <p>The defined city, town and rural centres are the areas in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City which provide access the high number of services and facilities. Local, neighbourhood and minor rural centres will provide access to a lower level of services and facilities. The location of proximity to these areas can therefore be used to establish the potential accessibility to a wider number of services and facilities in Greater Cambridge. Therefore:</p>

<sup>293</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019) Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 23b-023-20190315

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are within 720m of a defined city, district or rural centre will have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are within 720m of a defined local, neighbourhood, or minor rural centre will have an uncertain minor positive (+?) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are not located within 720m of a defined city, district, local, neighbourhood, rural or minor rural centre will have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residential site options</b></p> <p>For sites which support residential use it will be necessary to consider access to education facilities. It is recognised that educational facilities are often not located within the town and village centres and are instead provided to meet the needs of specific catchment areas. Sites which provide a good level of access to services and facilities at centre locations may not always be those which provide a good level of access to educational facilities. The effects of sites on the educational element of this objective will depend on the access that they provide to existing educational facilities, although there are uncertainties as the effects will depend on there being capacity at those schools to accommodate new pupils, and there are no further education facilities in Greater Cambridge. New residential development could stimulate the provision of new schools/school places, particularly larger sites, but this cannot be assumed at this stage. Therefore, for residential sites, in addition to the assumptions set out to consider access to service and facilities centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are within 1km of a secondary school and within 450m of a primary school will have an uncertain significant positive (++) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are within 1km of a secondary school or within 450m of a primary school (but not both) will have an uncertain minor positive (+?) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that more than 1km of a secondary school and 450m of a primary school will have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect.</li> </ul> <p>This will mean some residential sites may be recorded as having an overall mixed (++/-? or +/-?) effect.</p>
3. To encourage social inclusion, strengthen community cohesion and	<p><b>All types of site options</b></p> <p>The proximity of development to services and facilities and public transport links may help to address issues of social inclusion and equality. These issues (including access to facilities such as education and healthcare and proximity to public transport links, such as railway stations and bus stops) are considered under SA</p>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
<p>advance equality between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.</p>	<p>objective 2, SA objective 4, and SA objective 12 in the SA framework. Many other contributors to equality, social inclusion and community cohesion cannot be determined using geographical factors and will therefore be more relevant to policy assessments.</p> <p>Achieving local regeneration may help to promote a sense of ownership and community cohesion among residents. It is recognised that this will depend in part on the detailed proposals for sites and their design, which are not known at this stage. However, development which occurs on brownfield land is likely to help promote the achievement of regeneration in Greater Cambridge. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are on brownfield land, or land that is partly brownfield, will have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are on greenfield land will have a negligible (0) effect.</li> </ul> <p>The location of new developments will also affect social deprivation and economic inclusion by influencing how easily people are able to access job opportunities and access to decent housing in a given area. Areas which are identified as most deprived in Greater Cambridge are often also those which could benefit most from the achievement of regeneration. The delivery of housing or employment sites within a 40% most deprived area<sup>294</sup> will therefore have a minor positive (+) effect.</p> <p>The city centre and district and rural centre locations of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City help to support community networks in Greater Cambridge. Development which contains appropriate uses (such as retail and/or community uses) and is to occur within the defined city centres and district and rural centres could help to maintain the vitality and viability of these locations. As such where site options to be delivered within the defined city, district and rural centres would contain a use of this type, a significant positive (++) effect is expected. Site options that contain a use of this type to be delivered within a local, neighbourhood, or minor rural centre are expected to result in a minor positive (+) effect.</p>
<p>4. To improve public health, safety and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>Sites that are within walking distance (720m) of existing healthcare facilities (i.e. GP surgeries or hospitals) and areas/features which promote physical activities (open spaces, or sports facilities) among residents will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare services and are provided with opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices. This includes employment sites, which will provide employees with access to these types of</p>

<sup>294</sup> According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<p>features outside of working hours and during break times. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are within 720m of a healthcare facility and an area of open space/sports facility<sup>295</sup> will have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are within 720m of either healthcare facility or an area of open space/ sports facility (but not both) will have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are not within 720m of either a healthcare facility or an area of open space/ sports facility will have a minor negative (-) effect.</li> </ul> <p>If sites come forward within an area of open space or a site which currently accommodates an outdoor sports facility it is recognised that that this use may be lost as a result of development. As such where site options contain such features a significant negative (--) effect is recorded. This will mean some sites may be recorded as having an overall mixed (++/--) or (+/--) effect.</p> <p>If a number of sites are allocated within close proximity of one another, this could lead to existing healthcare facilities becoming overloaded. If at any point information becomes available regarding the capacity of existing healthcare facilities, this will be taken into account in the SA as relevant.</p> <p>If development at a site is likely to incorporate new healthcare facilities, open space/sports facilities, it will be scored in accordance with the assumptions listed above.</p>
5. To conserve, enhance, restore and connect wildlife, habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest.	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>Development sites that are within close proximity of an international, national or local designated nature conservation site have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites/features, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure etc. Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, uncertainty exists, as appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. The potential impacts on undesignated habitats and species adjacent to the potential development sites cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.</p>

<sup>295</sup> Includes areas identified in Council's Open Space studies, country parks and CROW Access land

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sites that are within Natural England's Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites may have an uncertain significant negative (--?) effect.</li> <li>Sites that are within 400m of a locally biodiversity or geodiversity designated site or area of ancient woodland or priority habitat, or sites that include grassland, wet grassland and woodland and/or associated opportunity areas may have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect.</li> <li>Sites that not within of an IRZ of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites, and are over 400m from a locally designated site could have a negligible (0?) effect.</li> </ul>
6. To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Greater Cambridge's landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	<p><b>All types of site options</b></p> <p>The effects of new development on the character and quality of the landscape will depend in part on its design, which is not yet known; therefore all effects will be to some extent uncertain at this stage. As it stands there has been no landscape character study or landscape sensitivity study that covers the whole of Greater Cambridge, and only within Cambridge have character areas been defined. The Councils plan to commission a landscape character assessment, but in the absence of this evidence all assessments will have associated uncertainty (?).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sites that currently consist of derelict or degraded land may have a minor positive effect (+?).</li> <li>Brownfield sites that are in existing or recent use (i.e. not derelict/degraded) and sites that would not lead to loss of landscape features (e.g. green space or water bodies) may have a negligible effect (0?).</li> <li>Sites that would lead to a loss of landscape features (e.g. green space or water bodies) or would be out of keeping with the scale of existing development may have a minor negative effect (-?).</li> </ul>
7. To conserve and/or enhance the qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of Greater Cambridge's historic	<p><b>All types of site options</b></p> <p>The NPPF states that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset "great weight should be given to the asset's conservation ... irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance". However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveals the significance of the asset).</p>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
environment.	<p>In all cases, effects will be uncertain at this stage as the potential for negative or positive effects on historic and heritage assets will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities which may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features (e.g. where sympathetic development replaces a derelict brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites which have potential for heritage assets to be enhanced and their significance to be better revealed could have a minor positive (+?) or significant positive effect (++) on this objective.</li> <li>• Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets could have a negligible (0?) effect on this objective.</li> <li>• Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets, but can be mitigated, could have a minor negative (-?) effect on this objective.</li> <li>• Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets where it is unlikely that these can be adequately mitigated could have a significant negative (--) effect on this objective.</li> </ul>
8. To make efficient use of Greater Cambridge's land resources through the re-use of previously developed land and conserve its soils.	<p><b>All types of site options</b></p> <p>The effects of new development on soils will depend on its location in relation to the areas of highest quality agricultural land in Greater Cambridge, and whether the land has previously been developed. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 1 or Grade 2 agricultural quality would have a significant negative (--) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 3 agricultural quality (but where it is not known if it is Grade 3a or 3b land) could have a significant negative effect although this is uncertain (--?).</li> <li>• Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land that is classed as Grade 4, Grade 5, non-agricultural or urban land would have a minor negative (-) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are mainly or entirely on brownfield land would have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that would result in the remediation of contaminated land would have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> </ul>
9. To conserve mineral resources in Greater	<p><b>All types of site options</b></p> <p>The effects of new development on mineral resources will depend on its location in relation to areas which have been identified for their importance for mineral reserves in Greater Cambridge. The Cambridgeshire</p>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
Cambridge.	<p>and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Site Specific Proposals DPD (2012) identifies Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs). Development within or in close proximity to these areas can result in sterilisation of mineral resources. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are located directly within a MSA or MCA would have a significant negative effect on mineral resources although this is uncertain (--) dependent upon whether extraction could be achieved prior to any development.</li> <li>• Sites that are located within 250m of a MSA would have a minor negative effect on mineral resources although this is uncertain (-?) dependent upon whether extraction could be achieved prior to any development.</li> <li>• Sites located more than 250m from a MSAs or MCA are expected to have a negligible (0) effect.</li> </ul> <p>It should be noted that the emerging updated joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan will replace the current plan. Any updates to these designations will be considered as and when they occur.</p>
10. To achieve sustainable water resource management and promote the quality of Greater Cambridge's waters.	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>The effects of new development in terms of promoting more sustainable use of water resources will depend largely on people's behaviour as well as the design of new developments. However, where development takes place within Source Protection Zones (SPZs), there may be potential risks relating to contamination to result. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are within a SPZ could have a minor negative (-) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are not within a SPZ could have a negligible (0) effect.</li> </ul> <p>Any issues regarding supply of water resources, and waste water treatment capacity, are more appropriately appraised at the Local Plan scale, rather than through an assessment of each individual site.</p>
11. To adapt to climate change, including minimising flood risk.	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>The effects of new development on this SA objective will depend to some extent on its design, for example whether it incorporates SuDS, which cannot be assessed at this stage. Where site options are located in areas of high flood risk, it could increase the risk of flooding in those areas (particularly if the sites are not previously developed) and would increase the number of people and assets at risk from flooding. As such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 3a or flood zone 3b are likely to have a significant</li> </ul>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<p>negative (--) effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 2 are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 1 are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are on greenfield land are expected to have a minor negative (-) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are on brownfield land are expected to have a negligible (0) effect.</li> </ul> <p>Adopting a precautionary approach the scores for this SA objective reflect the most adverse effect identified. For example a site which lies within flood zone 3a and brownfield land would score a significant negative (--) effect overall.</p>
12. To minimise Greater Cambridge's contribution to climate change.	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>The effects of new development in terms of climate change and how development will respond to this issue will depend to some extent on its design, for example whether it incorporates renewable energy generation on site or includes SuDS. However, the proximity of development sites to sustainable transport links will affect the extent to which people are able to make use of non-car based modes of transport to access services, facilities and job opportunities, although the actual use of sustainable transport modes will depend on people's behaviour.</p> <p>It is possible that new transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths may be provided as part of larger-scale housing developments or employment development but this cannot be assumed.</p> <p>It is assumed that people would generally be willing to travel further to access a railway station than a bus stop. It is also recognised that many cyclists will travel on roads as well as dedicated cycle routes, and that the extent to which people choose to do so will depend on factors such as the availability of cycle storage facilities at their end destination, which are not determined by the location of sites. How safe or appealing particular roads are for cyclists cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. However, the proximity of site options to existing cycle routes can be taken as an indicator of how likely people are to cycle to or from a development site. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are within 1.8km of a railway station, or sites that are more than 1.8km from a railway station but within 450m of the Cambridge Busway stop (or similar dedicated rapid bus route), are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> </ul>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sites that are within 1.8km of a key employment area and within 720m of a defined city, district or rural centre will have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> <li>Sites that are more than 1.8km from a railway station and more than 450m from a Cambridge Busway stop (or similar dedicated rapid bus route) but within 450m of a regular bus stop and/or cycle route are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> <li>Sites that are either within 1.8km of a key employment area or within 720m of a defined city, district or rural centre will have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> <li>Sites that are more than 1.8km from a railway station and 450m from a Cambridge Busway stop or regular bus stop and cycle route could have a minor negative (-) effect.</li> <li>Sites that are not located within 720m of a defined city, district, local, neighbourhood, rural or minor rural centre and are further than 1.8km from a key employment area will have a minor negative (-) effect.</li> </ul>
13. To limit air pollution in Greater Cambridge and ensure lasting improvements in air quality.	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>Development sites that are within, or directly connected via road, to one of the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Greater Cambridge, or in AQMAs in surrounding Districts, could increase levels of air pollution in those areas as a result of increased vehicle traffic. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential, employment and mixed use sites that are within or directly connected via road to an AQMA (i.e. on a road that passes through or adjacent to the site) are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.</li> <li>All sites that are not within or directly connected via road to an AQMA are likely to have a negligible (0) effect on air quality.</li> </ul>
14. To facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.	<p>Employment site options</p> <p>All of the employment site options are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. Larger sites will provide opportunities for the creation of more new jobs and so would have significant positive effects. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sites that are more than 5ha in size will have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> <li>Sites that are smaller than 5ha in size will have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> </ul> <p>Residential site options</p>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<p>The specific location of residential sites within Greater Cambridge will not directly influence sustainable economic growth. Therefore a negligible (0) effect is expected for these types of site options.</p>
<p>15. To deliver, maintain and enhance access to diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs in Greater Cambridge.</p>	<p><b>Employment site options</b></p> <p>The provision of new employment sites within Greater Cambridge is likely to benefit the highest number of residents where are accessible by sustainable transport links. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are within 1.8km of a train station or likely to have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are within 450m of a bus stop and/or cycle path are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> </ul> <p>Sites that are not within 1.8km of a train station or within 450m of a bus stop and cycle path are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.</p> <p><b>Residential site options</b></p> <p>The location of residential sites will influence the achievement of this objective by determining how easily residents would be able to access job opportunities at existing employment sites.</p> <p>The City of Cambridge provides access to a significant range of employment opportunities (including the city centre, business and science parks, and Addenbrooke's Hospital). Some of the larger villages in the South Cambridgeshire District provide services to smaller villages, providing some limited employment. The proximity of site options to key employment areas also serves as an indicator of the level of employment opportunities which are likely to be accessible. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are within 1.8km of a key employment area, e.g. 'Established Employment Areas', 'Protected Industrial Sites', business parks and science parks, and major employers, e.g. Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge city centre or rural centre would have a significant positive (++) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are within 720m of a district, local, neighbourhood or minor rural centre would have a minor positive (+) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are more than 720m of a district, local, neighbourhood or minor rural centre would have a minor negative (-) effect.</li> <li>• Sites that are also more than 1.8km of a key employment area, Cambridge city centre or rural centre would have a significant negative (--) effect.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, if a site option would result in the loss of an existing employment site, a negative effect would</p>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<p>occur in relation to the protection of existing employment sites.</p> <p>Therefore (which could result in mixed effects overall):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites that are currently in employment use would have a significant negative (--) effect.</li> </ul>