



# **North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

**March 2022**

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# North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report March 2022

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan will review and where appropriate replace the strategic policies in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Part 1 Plan). North Northamptonshire comprises the area once covered by the four former local authorities of Corby Borough, Kettering Borough, East Northamptonshire District and Borough of Wellingborough Councils. These authorities merged on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to form the unitary North Northamptonshire Council (NNC).
- 1.2 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is an assessment process designed to consider and communicate the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies, including alternative options. The 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 Strategic Plan and to set out the assessment framework for undertaking the later stages of the SA.
- 1.4 The Scoping Report starts by setting out the policy context for the preparation of the Strategic Plan, before describing the current and likely future environmental, social and economic conditions across North Northamptonshire. This contextual information is used to identify the key sustainability issues and opportunities that the Strategic 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 Strategic Plan, including strategic policies, site allocations and development management policies. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on this SA framework. Section 15 includes a set of specific questions we are seeking feedback on and the details of how to get involved in the consultation.

### North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan

- 1.5 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was adopted by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The JCS sets out the strategic planning strategy for the North Northamptonshire area for the plan period up to 2031.
- 1.6 Strategic policies in the JCS will be reviewed and where appropriate replaced by the Strategic Plan. At its 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 meeting, Members of the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel noted the scope of the Strategic

Plan and provided feedback through discussion. At the same meeting the Panel recommended that the [Draft Local Development Scheme](#) (LDS) be advanced to the Executive for consideration, which included a revised timetable for the Strategic Plan. The Executive considered the draft LDS at the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 meeting, where it was agreed that it be recommended to Full Council for adoption. The Draft LDS considers the relationship of the Strategic Plan with the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework.

- 1.7 It should be noted that each of the areas (former districts/boroughs) that make up North Northamptonshire will have an individual part 2 local plan providing detailed planning policies to manage and guide development across each area.
- 1.8 This Scoping Report fulfils the requirements set out below with a view to establishing the likely significant effects of constituent parts of the Strategic Plan in isolation and in combination. In accordance with National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), the Scoping Report is proportionate and relevant to the Strategic Plan, focusing on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects.

## **Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

- 1.9 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the production of a SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents, including the Strategic Plan. 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 Strategic Plan to be subject to a 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 PPG), 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 North Northamptonshire. 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 several stages, with the Scoping Report being Stage A as shown below, whilst stages B to E of the SA process are undertaken in relation to a specific plan, strategy, or programme, therefore are not covered as part of this Scoping Report.

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<sup>1</sup> The UK is no longer a member of the European Union. Following the end of the transition period included in the EU Withdrawal Agreement on 31 December 2020, EU legislation is now a part of UK domestic legislation, Therefore, most EU law continues to apply by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (EUWA) and the 'EU Exit' amendments to domestic legislation.

- Stage A: Setting the context and objective, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
- Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
- Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal
- Stage D: Consulting on the Strategic Plan and the SA report
- Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Strategic Plan

1.12 Within Stage A, there are five connected tasks in this scoping stage:

- Stage A1: Setting out the policy context for the SA of the Strategic Plan, i.e. key Government policies and strategies that influence the considerations of the Strategic Plan and SA.
- Stage A2: Setting out the baseline for the SA of the Strategic Plan, i.e. the current and likely future environmental, social and economic conditions in North Northamptonshire.
- Stage A3: Drawing on Stages 1 and 2, identify the particular sustainability problems and/or opportunities ('issues') that the Strategic Plan and SA should address.
- Stage A4: Drawing on Stages 1, 2 and 3, develop a framework of SA Objectives and assessment criteria to appraise the constituent parts of the Strategic Plan in isolation and in combination.
- Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.

## Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

- 1.13 SA and SEAs are tools used at the plan-making stage to assess the likely effects of the plan when judged against reasonable alternatives. SEAs consider only the environmental effects of a plan, whereas SAs consider the plan's wider economic and social effects in addition to its potential environmental impacts.
- 1.14 Table 1.1 below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements with reference to the Environmental Report (the remainder of the requirements will be met during subsequent stages of the SA as the Strategic Plan evolves). This 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*

<b>The SEA Directive's Requirements</b>	<b>Where covered in this Scoping Report</b>
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 full SA Report produced to accompany consultation on the Strategic Plan will constitute the initial 'environmental report',

The report shall identify, describe, and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan.	which will be produced at a later stage of the SA process.
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Sections 1 to 13, and Appendix 1.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Sections 1 to 13, and Appendix 1.
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Sections 1 to 13, and Appendix 1.
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Sections 1 to 13, and Appendix 1.
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national 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.	Sections 1 to 13, and Appendix 1.
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, the cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Requirement will be met in later stage in the SA process.
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.	Requirement will be met in later stage in the SA process.
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.	Requirement will be met in later stage in the SA process.
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.	Requirement will be met in later stage in the SA process.

## Structure of the Scoping Report

- 1.15 This section describes the background to the production of the Strategic Plan and the requirement to undertake SA and other assessment processes.
- 1.16 Section 2 describes the relationship of the Strategic Plan with other assessments, plans and programmes.
- 1.17 Sections 3 to 13 of this Scoping Report are structured around a set of SA subject areas designed to draw out the full range of possible sustainability effects generated by the Strategic Plan, including all the SEA topics listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (2004). Each section is summarised with key sustainability issues for North Northamptonshire and their likely evolution without the new Strategic Plan.
- 1.18 Each section sets out the policy context and baseline information for each SA subject area. The subject area sections are as follows:
- Section 3: Communities
  - Section 4: Health and Wellbeing
  - Section 5: Climate Change
  - Section 6: Biodiversity
  - Section 7: Air
  - Section 8: Water
  - Section 9: Land
  - Section 10: Economy
  - Section 11: Connectivity and Infrastructure
  - Section 12: Historic Environment
  - Section 13: Landscape
- 1.19 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. 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.
- 1.20 Relevant baseline information will be updated during the SA process as and when data is published.
- 1.21 Section 14 sets out the SA Framework and explains how this has been developed. The final section sets out the details of the next steps and consultation details.

## **2. Relationship with other plans and programmes**

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

- 2.1 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. 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.
- 2.2 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).

### **Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations Assessment**

- 2.3 The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (as retained and as amended) set out a framework for the protection of surface waters, transitional waters (e.g. estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. The environmental objectives of the Regulations principally relate to the improvement of water bodies through the development and implementation of plans to recover failing water bodies to a good condition, or better.
- 2.4 The Regulations set out requirements to implement measures to prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of surface and groundwater, and to protect, enhance, and restore all water bodies, with the aim of achieving good status by 2021 or 2027, for water bodies currently failing to achieve this status or potential.
- 2.5 The requirements of the Regulations, together with the opportunities to deliver the improvements set out in the River Basin Management Plans, could be incorporated into the SA process and form the basis for the assessment criteria for the water environment.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 2.6 There is a legal duty on public sector organisations under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty to identify and consider the impact, and potential impact, in terms of equality in producing new or revised policy, strategies, plans or practice.

- 2.7 Equalities Impact Assessments (EqIAs) are an anticipatory process that supports the Council to predict possible issues and take appropriate action such as removing or mitigating any negative impacts, where possible, and maximising any potential for positive impact. In particular, EqIAs, assess the potential impact on protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010. These are: age, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 2.8 An [Equalities Impact Assessment screening](#) of the Strategic Plan Scope and Issues document has been completed in consultation with the Council's Equalities team, which was reported to the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel on 21 February 2022. The EqIA screening concludes that within the Scope and Issues consultation document, it is considered there is scope to promote equality of opportunity and positively impact all section of the community in North Northamptonshire, including those who share a protected characteristic. It states that as the Strategic Plan evolves, it may be necessary to update the Equality Screening Assessment.

### **Health Impact Assessment**

- 2.9 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been developed as a tool to systematically identify the impacts of plans and development projects, and for informing recommendations to promote and protect health and wellbeing and narrow inequalities. There are currently no legal or policy requirements for spatial planning to use a HIA. However, the [PPG](#) states that a HIA is a useful tool to use where there are expected to be significant impacts.
- 2.10 It is anticipated that a HIA of the Strategic Plan will be undertaken separately.

### **Key Plans, Policies and Programmes**

- 2.11 A comprehensive review of other plans, policies and programmes at an international, national, regional, and local level was undertaken. The contents, objectives and relationships of these plans and programmes to the Plan was also reviewed to ensure these are considered during the SA Process. An example of a relevant plan/programme includes the National Planning Policy Framework. The full list of the identified plans and programmes, and their relevance to SA, is provided in Appendix 1, and in some cases within the contextual review in sections 3 to 13 of this Scoping Report.

## 3. Communities

### Policy context review

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) contains a wide array of relevant policy on theme of communities, place, population, and housing, including the following:
- The plan should “*contain policies to optimise the use of land in their area and meet as much of the identified need for housing as possible*” as per para 125 of the NPPF. 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.
  - Para 126 of the NPPF states “*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. The importance for planning decisions to result in development which is of a quality which incorporates good architecture and appropriate and effective landscaping as to promote visual attractiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places is emphasised.
  - The NPPF promotes the retention and enhancement of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports, cultural venues and places of worship.
  - The framework also seeks to ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.
  - Para 95 of the NPPF states that “*Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach*” to ensure that a “*sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities*” and to development that will “*widen choice in education*”.
  - Finally, para 73 of the NPPF 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 ‘Designing Out Crime’ by the Design Council (2011), explains the important role design has to play in preventing crime and reducing criminal activity without compromising the enjoyment of places and services.
- 3.3 The Building for a Healthy Life (BHL) 2020 tool is also a valuable mechanism in assessing and shaping development proposals, this and its predecessor

(BfL12) has been used to assess design quality in North Northamptonshire for a number of years.

- 3.4 The JCS notes that the North Northamptonshire Housing Market Area (HMA) has accommodated significant new housing, in part due to the policy driven growth agenda promoted through the former Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy. The current vision is for the area to maintain this momentum of growth, with well managed sustainable development delivered, in large part, through Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs). The apportionment of the HMA totals for new housing between the districts is set out in Policy 28. The total North Northamptonshire requirement is 35,000 new homes, which with the identified strategic opportunity for an additional 5,000 homes in Corby, takes the total to 40,000.
- 3.5 Policy 7 of the JCS states that development should support and enhance community services and facilities where appropriate by providing on site where necessary or contributing towards, new or enhanced community services and facilities to meet the needs arising from the development.
- 3.6 The JCS addresses crime in Policy 8 'North Northamptonshire Place Shaping Principles' which includes measures to 'Make safe and pleasant streets and spaces by ensuring [these] are overlooked, active, feel safe and promote inclusive access' (part b, iii.) and 'Ensure quality of life and safer and healthier communities by seeking to design out antisocial behaviour and crime and reduce the fear of crime through the creation of safe environments that benefit from natural surveillance, visible streets and open spaces and other security measures' (part e, iv.).

## **Current baseline data**

### **Population**

- 3.7 North Northamptonshire has a population of c.350,000, which has grown at one of the fastest rates in the country during the last few years, spread across a distinctive network of settlements, from large ("growth") and market towns through to villages (of which there are over 100). It is bordered by the local authority areas of West Northamptonshire (comprising the former local authority areas of Northampton, Daventry, and South Northamptonshire), Rutland, Harborough, South Kesteven, Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, Milton Keynes, and Bedford<sup>2</sup>. It is also part of the Oxford - Cambridge Arc area identified by Government for its significant economic potential<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.8 The four largest towns, Corby (population 54,927) Kettering (56,226), Wellingborough (49,087) and Rushden (29,272) are located on a north-south spine, with a chain of smaller towns related to the A6 corridor including

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<sup>2</sup> [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031](#) (Former North Northants Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, 2016)

<sup>3</sup> [Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc – Consultation](#) (HM Government, 2021)

Higham Ferrers (8,083), Irthlingborough (8,535), Burton Latimer (7,449), Desborough (10,697), and Rothwell (7,694). To the east of this urban spine is the town of Raunds (8,641) and the towns of Oundle (5,735) and Thrapston (6,239) which serve a large rural catchment.<sup>4,5</sup>

- 3.9 Outside these settlements, North Northamptonshire has over 100 villages. These range in scale from Rockingham with a population of 113 to Earls Barton with 5,387 residents. The villages within or close to the Urban areas tend to be more reliant on the towns for employment and services than is the case for more remote villages such as King’s Cliffe which is situated in the rural north of the authority.
- 3.10 The population of North Northamptonshire has a median age of 41.4, which is identical to the regional average but slightly above the national average. Table 3.1 below compares the age structures of North Northamptonshire with both national and regional averages. North Northamptonshire has a higher-than-average proportion of under 15-year-olds within its population compared to the regional and national averages, it also has a slightly lower elderly population than the East Midlands and the whole of the UK as well as a smaller proportion of those of working age. However, North Northamptonshire has an ageing population and the number of people over the age of 60 is expected to increase significantly over the coming years (see below).

*Table 3.1 - Age structure comparisons at local authority, regional and national level %*

Area	15 and under	16-64	65+
<b>North Northants</b>	20.7	60.9	18.4
<b>East Midlands</b>	18.6	61.9	19.5
<b>United Kingdom</b>	19	62.5	18.5

- 3.11 North Northamptonshire experienced a population increase of 0.6% between 2019 and 2020. This is marginally higher than the UK average (0.4%); half of this increase was attributed to net international migration, whilst a third was attributed to net internal migration. The net long term international migration rate for North Northamptonshire is 2.9 per 1,000, which is lower than the UK average (3.7)<sup>6</sup>, whereas as the internal migration rate is 2.2 per 1,000. Most of those arriving in North Northamptonshire are within the 20-24 age bracket<sup>7</sup>.
- 3.12 Projected population growth is a key trend for consideration. The Equality Strategy 2021-25 refers to population in North Northamptonshire increasing at higher rates than the national average between 2019 and 2029.<sup>8</sup>
- 3.13 Increasing elderly population nationally is identified as a key sustainability issue. The North Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment

<sup>4</sup> [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031](#) (Former North Northants Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, 2016)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/ks101ew> (Nomis, 2011)

<sup>6</sup> [Population estimates](#) (ONS, 2020)

<sup>7</sup> [Internal migration: by local authority and region, five-year age group and sex](#) (ONS, 2021)

<sup>8</sup> [North Northamptonshire Equality Policy and Strategy](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)

and the Study of Housing and Support Needs of Older People across Northamptonshire identify growth in older households as a pressing housing need facing North Northants.

- 3.14 The Equality Strategy 2021-2025 states that there will be 57% more people over the age of 79 between 2019 and 2029. This is more than double the national increase. The number of people aged 60 to 79 years old will increase by 22% over the same period.<sup>9</sup>
- 3.15 In North Northamptonshire 93.4% of the population is White British, followed by Asian/Asian British, who make up 3% of the population, and Black/Black British who make up 1.7%.

## **Housing**

- 3.16 The four Growth Towns in North Northamptonshire (Corby, Kettering, Rushden and Wellingborough) have all experienced considerable housing growth over the years. Housing stock varies greatly from older, traditional housing to modern, contemporary forms.
- 3.17 Between the start of the Plan period in 2011/12 and 2020/21, 16,261 homes were delivered in North Northamptonshire, against a target of 17,500 homes. This reflects an under-delivery of 1,239 homes – an attainment rate of 93%. This target is derived from Policy 28 of the JCS which sets a requirement for North Northamptonshire to deliver at least 35,000 new homes between 2011 and 2031.
- 3.18 At the 2011 census, 82.2% of households in North Northamptonshire occupied market sector housing (68.1% owner occupation and 14.1% private rent); 0.7% were in shared-ownership housing; and 15.7% were in social rented housing. A broad 80:20 split between new market and affordable housing would therefore maintain the existing balance of the housing stock. However, this would not meet forecast needs. The 2015 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) toolkit update indicates that, based on average house prices and household incomes, only 55.7% of new households in North Northamptonshire will be able to afford market housing. The remaining 44.3% are forecast to require affordable housing, including social and affordable rent and intermediate forms of tenure such as shared ownership. It is likely that in the time since the SHMA was undertaken, there will have been a further swing in terms of the proportion of the population that are now unable to afford market housing.
- 3.19 Although cheaper than the rest of the country, house prices in North Northamptonshire are higher than the average for the East Midlands and remain unaffordable to many local households. An average priced property in North Northamptonshire is significantly higher than the average income. Table 3.2 below sets this out in more detail by comparing the average house

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<sup>9</sup> [North Northamptonshire Equality Policy and Strategy](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)

prices by property type within North Northants compared to the regional and national average as available at October 2021. Corby is historically the area of North Northamptonshire where house prices are lowest and East Northamptonshire where they are most expensive. The 2019/20 AMR showed that there was a £36k gap between the average house prices in these two areas, showing there is disparity between different locations within North Northamptonshire.<sup>10</sup>

Table 3.2 – Average house prices by property type – October 2021

Area	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flats/maisonettes	All
North Northants	£395,093	£234,227	£189,293	£119,615	£247,366
East Midlands	£340,773	£209,280	£170,206	£129,276	£228,290
United Kingdom	£425,121	£256,537	£216,481	£222,381	£268,349

3.20 The total dwelling stock of North Northamptonshire as of 2020 is 152,175; of this, 5% is local authority owned property, 10% is owned by private registered providers of social housing, with most of the remaining stock belonging to the private sector (85%).

3.21 Table 3.3 below provides information on the number of affordable dwellings completed in North Northamptonshire from 2011-2020. It shows that over this period just shy of 4,000 affordable dwellings have been completed across North Northamptonshire. This equates to 27% of the overall completion figure within this timescale of 14,596 (as detailed in para 3.17 above).

Table 3.3 – Gross affordable housing completions 2011-20

	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	Total
North Northants	334	389	333	804	554	531	396	312	292	3,945

3.22 In March 2019 a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) was published setting out the need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in North Northamptonshire from 2018-33. The identified need set out in this updated GTAA supersedes the requirements outlined in Policy 31 of the JCS. The overall requirement for Gypsy and Traveller households for 2018-33 is 34 pitches. The 2019/20 North Northamptonshire Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR) showed that since 2018 (the beginning of the GTAA period) 32 pitches were delivered across North Northamptonshire in just two monitoring years (2018/19 and 2019/20) (94% attainment).

<sup>10</sup> [North Northamptonshire Authorities Monitoring Report \(AMR\) 2019/20](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2020)

## Education

- 3.23 North Northamptonshire is identified by the Government as a new Education Investment Area to drive up improvement to schools as part of the levelling up agenda<sup>11</sup>. These are being established where school outcomes are currently weakest.
- 3.24 According to the latest performance data, 73% of primary schools in the area are rated as good or above, below the government target of 85%. (In contrast the secondary schools are performing above the government target, with 78% being rated as good or above, 7% over the national aim).
- 3.25 The latest ONS statistics show that as of 2020 there are 212,900 people aged between 16-64 in North Northamptonshire, with 4.4% of residents having no qualifications. This is lower than both the East Midlands (6.2%) and national averages (6.4%). Conversely, with regard to the highest classification of qualification (NVQ4 and above) North Northamptonshire also fares lower than the East Midlands and UK averages, with 34.6% of the local population educated to this level compared to 37.2% and 43.1% respectively. Table 3.4 below sets out the qualifications of residents across North Northamptonshire in comparison to the East Midlands and the UK.

*Table 3.4 - Percentage of population with qualifications*

	<b>NVQ4 and above</b>	<b>NVQ3 and above</b>	<b>NVQ2 and above</b>	<b>NVQ1 and above</b>	<b>Other qualifications</b>	<b>No qualifications</b>
<b>North Northants</b>	34.6	60.8	79.5	91.9	3.7	4.4
<b>East Midlands</b>	37.2	58.2	76.6	87.5	6.3	6.2
<b>UK</b>	43.1	51.3	78.1	87.7	5.9	6.4

- 3.26 North Northamptonshire Council is now responsible for the planning, organisation and commissioning of school places in the area. As of 2018, the Corby area had 19 primary schools, two infant schools, two junior schools and five secondary schools. The Wellingborough area encompassed 22 primary schools, three infant schools, three junior schools and four secondary schools. The Kettering area features; 25 primary schools, four infant schools, four junior schools, five secondary schools and 1 'all-through' school. In the rural northeast area, there are nine primary schools and one secondary school and in the Rushden area there are 11 primary schools, five infant schools, five junior schools and four secondary schools.<sup>12</sup>
- 3.27 North Northamptonshire has four further education facilities, these include three Tresham College campuses located in Corby, Kettering and

<sup>11</sup> [Levelling up in the United Kingdom](#) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2022)

<sup>12</sup> [School Organisation Plan 2018-23 – 'local places for local children'](#)

Wellingborough and a satellite campus of Moulton College located in Higham Ferrers. Plans are being advanced as part of the Towns Fund for Chisholm House in Corby to become a new sixth form. There are no universities or university campuses within the authority area.

- 3.28 The Council will need to ensure that education provision matches the growth that is anticipated in the JCS. Table 3.5 below demonstrates the expected pupil yield compared to housing requirements for the plan period 2011-31:

*Table 3.5: Expected pupil yield in relation to JCS housing requirements (by former LPA area)*

Housing market area	Annual avg. dwellings (2011-31)	Total dwellings (2011-31)	Primary - annual growth	Primary - total growth	Secondary-annual growth	Secondary - total growth
Corby	460	9,200	138	2,760	92	1,840
East Northants	420	8,400	126	2,520	84	1,680
Kettering	520	10,400	156	3,120	104	2,080
Wellingborough	350	7,000	105	2,100	70	1,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>7,000</b>

- 3.29 New schools are required to be built across the plan period in order to match need derived from housing growth, particularly with the delivery of the Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs), where in addition to primary schools, one new secondary school will be required in each of Priors Hall, West Corby, Hanwood Park and Stanton Cross.

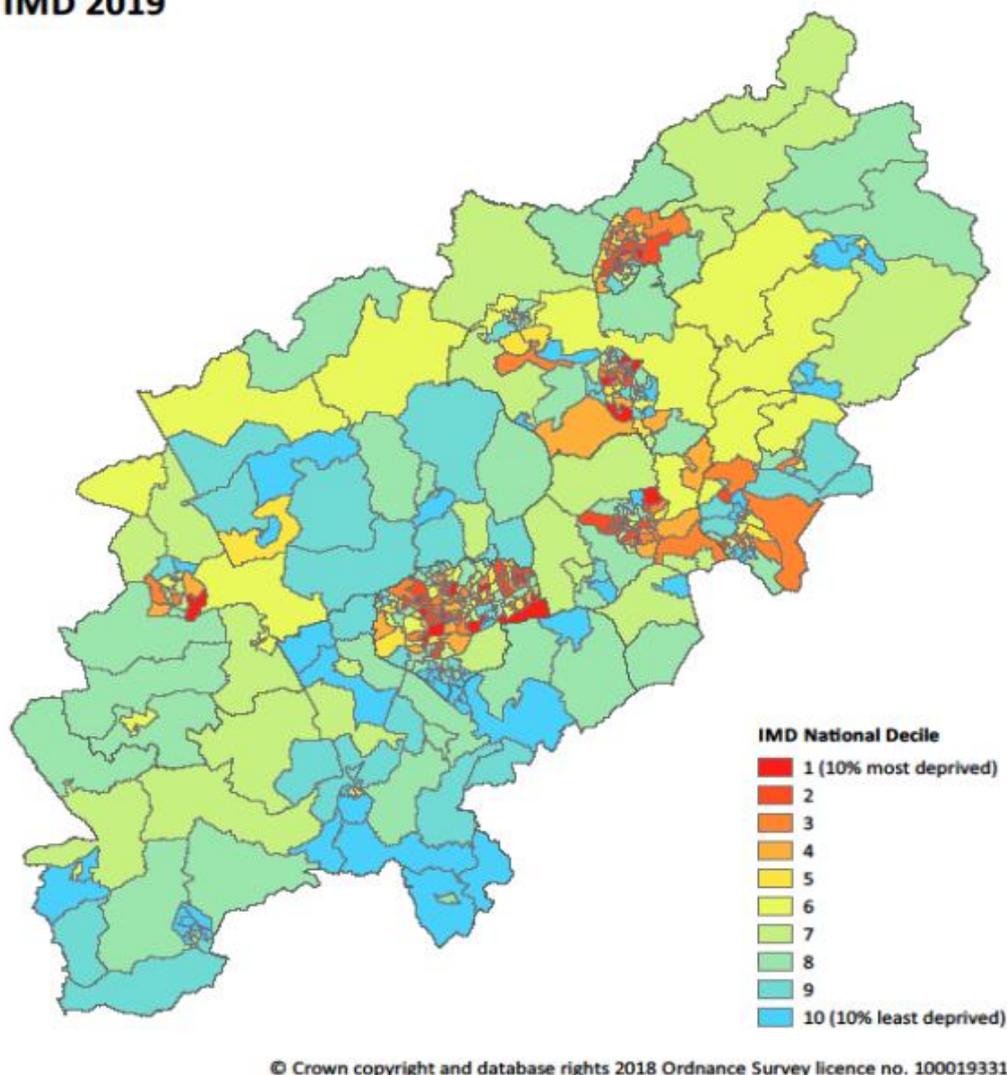
### Deprivation

- 3.30 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the main statistical overview of relative deprivation covering the whole of England. It is formatted using small geographical areas called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), of which there are 32,844 across the country, with 422 of them falling within Northamptonshire. The 2019 release replaces the 2015 version, however this still predates the formation of NNC and therefore analysis on this subject will be based on the pre-existing sovereign councils.
- 3.31 There are 10 national deciles that makes up the scale of deprivation used in the IMD, with LSOAs categorised under deciles 1 and 2 being the most deprived and 9 and 10 being the least deprived. In North Northamptonshire, Corby and Wellingborough contain a greater proportion of deprived LSOAs than the 20% national division with 29.3% and 21.3% respectively. Figure 3.1 below demonstrates the location of the most and least deprived areas across the whole of Northamptonshire.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> [Northamptonshire Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Profile](#) (Former Northamptonshire County Council, 2019)

Figure 3.1 - Levels of deprivation in Northamptonshire

**Northamptonshire  
IMD 2019**



3.32 Of the 317 Local Authorities in England, where '1' is the most deprived district in England, Corby ranked at 70, Wellingborough 124, Kettering 161 and East Northamptonshire 226. Some 37,400 households experience some form of income deprivation, whilst Kingswood and Hazel Leys in Corby, Avondale Grange in Kettering, and Queensway in Wellingborough are among the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country - identified as 'left behind'.<sup>14</sup> These 'left behind areas' are not only those that suffer the disadvantage of high levels of deprivation and socio-economic challenges but are also those that are lacking in community and civic assets, infrastructure and the investment required to mitigate these challenges.

3.33 As reported, up to November 2021 North Northamptonshire has a marginally lower proportion of residents who receive Universal Credit (3.9%) than at the

<sup>14</sup>['Left behind? Understanding communities on the edge'](#) (Local Trust and Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion, August 2019)

regional (4%) and national level (4.6%). The proportion of young people (aged 18 to 24) in the authority who currently receive this benefit (5.6%) is higher than the regional average (4.8%) and also higher than the proportion of older people (aged 25 to 49) who receive it (4.4%) in North Northamptonshire.

3.34 In terms of fuel poverty, according to government statistics released in 2018 (from 2016) 10.7% of households in North Northamptonshire live in fuel poverty, lower than the regional average of 11.7%. As these figures were released prior to the formation of NNC we can see that on an area basis, Wellingborough has more households living in fuel poverty than any other in the authority (11.7%). These figures are reflective of household income, household energy requirements and fuel prices in a given area.<sup>15</sup> Figure 3.2 shows the percentage of household in each area defined as being in fuel poverty under the Low Income High Costs definition<sup>16</sup>.

Figure 3.2 – Fuel Poverty



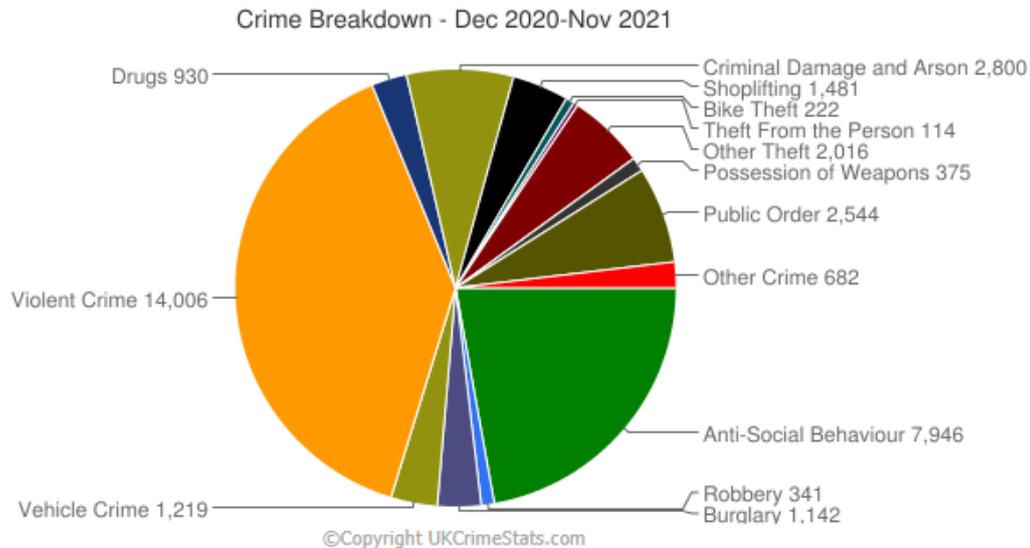
<sup>15</sup> [Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2018](#) (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2018)

<sup>16</sup> [The Climate Just Map](#) (Climate Just) - data is from 2012 and 2014

## Crime

- 3.35 Figure 3.3 below demonstrates the types of crime reported in North Northamptonshire from December 2020 to November 2021. As can be seen, violent crime makes up the majority share of crime that took place within this timeframe, with just over 14,000 incidents, followed by anti-social behaviour with nearly 8,000 incidents, nearly a quarter of all crime reported<sup>17</sup>. Typically, more violent crime occurs in urban areas as opposed to rural.

Figure 3.3 - Crime reported in North Northamptonshire



- 3.36 Data available for the former Northamptonshire County Council area showed the number of casualties in road accidents, resulting in death or serious injuries (KSI (Killed or seriously injured)), decreased by 15% between 2010 and 2020. In 2020, there were 278 KSI road accident casualties recorded in the County, and of those recorded 13 were children. Overall, 19% were pedestrians, 19% were cyclists, 46% were car occupants, with the rest involving another motor vehicle of some description. Nationally, KSI data showed a similar 18% decrease from 2010 to 2020.<sup>18</sup>
- 3.37 In North Northamptonshire there were more racially motivated hate occurrences in 2019-2020 than any other protected characteristic with 71 occurrences. From 2018-2019 to 2019-20, the second highest hate occurrences were against people with disabilities (20 incidents in most recent year). Sexual orientation was the third highest motivation for hate occurrences in both periods (17 incidents in most recent year).<sup>19</sup>
- 3.38 Between 2019 and 2020 there was an increase of 5% in the number of domestic abuse victims. The majority of domestic abuse victims were female (72%), however males victims experienced the largest increase (11%) of

<sup>17</sup> <https://ukcrimestats.com/>

<sup>18</sup> [Reported road accidents, vehicles and casualties for Great Britain](#) (Gov.uk, 2021)

<sup>19</sup> [North Northamptonshire Equality Policy and Strategy](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)

domestic abuse incidents between 2019 and 2020, compared to females (3%).<sup>20</sup>

## **Key sustainability issues**

- Planning for higher-than-average population increases, especially the need to plan for meeting the needs of a growing elderly population.
- Need to accommodate higher than average proportion of under 15-year-olds e.g., impact on schools.
- Distribution of housing growth – there is a need to plan for housing where there is most demand. There is also a need to plan for growth where it can provide the most benefits and sustainable access to services and facilities.
- Pockets of deprivation in growth towns, but also in the rural areas where this is often masked by the more wealthy and affluent inhabitants.
- The need to reduce inequalities and help communities recover from the pandemic and level up.
- Addressing 'left behind' neighbourhoods.
- There is a need for more affordable housing – house prices are higher than the regional average and remain relatively unaffordable to local residents with levels of income not keeping up with these costs.
- The need to plan for a range of housing types and tenures in rural areas and ensuring there is affordability in these areas too.
- Gypsy and traveller accommodation needs must be addressed.
- Higher than average population with NVQ 1 and below qualifications and lower than average those with NVQ 4 qualification or above.
- The need to design out crime in new development using appropriate tools such as BHL.

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<sup>20</sup> [North Northamptonshire Equality Policy and Strategy](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)

## 4. Health and Wellbeing

### Policy context review

- 4.1 In the European region, Health 2020<sup>21</sup> provides the health policy framework. It is prepared by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) regional office for Europe and aims to support action across government and society to: "significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequalities, strengthen public health and ensure people-centred health systems that are universal, equitable, sustainable and of high quality". Its two strategic objectives are:
- improving health for all and reducing health inequalities; and
  - improving leadership and participatory governance for health.
- 4.2 The WHO published an update in 2017<sup>22</sup> to document the positive progression made towards achieving the Health 2020 objectives. It highlights that an increasing number of countries are setting targets and indicators at a national level and subsequently ensuring policies are implemented. In addition to the continued implementation of Health 2020, Member States will commence national implementation of the global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development<sup>23</sup>; paragraph 26 aims to 'promote physical and mental health and well-being, and to extend life expectancy for all'.
- 4.3 Nationally, the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) sets out how the government seeks to spread opportunity more equally across the UK. Improving productivity, and spreading prosperity, crucially depends on enhancing people's education and skills – giving everyone access to good schools and the opportunity to receive excellent education and training. Good health is just as important in spreading opportunity, contributing not only to the economy but also ensuring that everyone, wherever they live, can enjoy fulfilling, happy and productive lives. Strong public services not only support positive health and educational outcomes but also attract new talent and investment to an area, boosting local economies.<sup>24</sup>
- 4.4 Equally, the Marmot Review (2010) 'Fair Society Healthy Lives', provides a strategic review of health inequalities in England. One of its key objectives is the creation of healthy and sustainable places and communities and this can be achieved by fully integrating the planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of

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<sup>21</sup> [Health 2020](#) (World Health Organisation, 2020)

<sup>22</sup> [On the road to Health 2020 policy targets: Monitoring qualitative indicators](#) (World Health Organisation, 2017)

<sup>23</sup> [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (United Nations)

<sup>24</sup> [Levelling up in the United Kingdom](#) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2022)

health in each locality. An update in February 2020<sup>25</sup> sets out an agenda for the national Government to tackle the ongoing health inequalities.

- 4.5 The NPPF dedicates a chapter to ‘promoting healthy and safe communities’ (Chapter 8). In particular, it states that places should: ‘enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.’ The importance of creating healthy places is additionally reiterated throughout the Framework in connection to design, open spaces, sustainable transport, the natural environment and the overarching goal of sustainable development.
- 4.6 The most recent Planning Practice Guidance update on ‘Healthy and Safe Communities’ sets out the role of planning in achieving health and wellbeing. This includes that ‘design and use of the built and natural environments, including green infrastructure are major determinants of health and wellbeing’. It outlines that planning and health need to be considered in the two following ways:
- in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles; and
  - in terms of identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care, and the wider health and care system.
- 4.7 In addition to the abovementioned policy documents, there is an array of recent best practice guidance bringing together planning and health, including:
- Creating healthy places: perspectives from NHS England’s healthy new town programme (Kings Fund, 2019);
  - National Design Guide (2019)
  - Building for a Healthy Life (2020)
  - The state of the union: reuniting health with planning in promoting healthy communities (TCPA, 2019);
  - Putting health into place (NHS, 2019); and
  - Using the planning system to promote health weight environments (Public Health England, 2020).
- 4.8 The Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board published the countywide Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020<sup>26</sup> which aims to ensure the most vulnerable in the communities are supported, whilst providing the best

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<sup>25</sup> [Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years on – Executive summary](#) (Institute of Health Equity, 2020)

<sup>26</sup> [Northamptonshire’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020](#) (Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board)

start in life for the children in the county. The vision is to improve health and wellbeing of all people in Northamptonshire and reduce health inequalities by enabling people to help themselves. Key issues highlighted in Northamptonshire include adult obesity, high levels of smoking and hospital admission in young adults as a result of self-harm and mental health issues.

- 4.9 Policy 8 of the JCS seeks to ensure quality of life and safer and healthier communities by ensuring that development protects amenity by not resulting in an unacceptable impact on the amenities of future occupiers, neighbouring properties or the wider area, by reason of noise, vibration, smell, light or other pollution, loss of light or overlooking.

## Current baseline data

### Health

- 4.10 Kettering has the only General Hospital in North Northamptonshire, although Wellingborough also has a local hospital (Isebrook) which provides some services and Corby and Rushden have urgent care centres. The General Hospital serves a wide catchment area and is a key facility for the other growth towns in North Northamptonshire outside of Northampton. However, those living in the north-eastern part of the area look increasingly towards Stamford and Peterborough for their health needs.
- 4.11 Table 4.1 below sets out the 2011 Census health statistics across the former sovereign councils that now make up North Northamptonshire Council. The majority of residents of North Northamptonshire describe themselves as being in good or very good health. A minority describe themselves as in bad or very bad health, with more Corby residents describing themselves as being within these two categories than elsewhere in North Northamptonshire (5.5%).<sup>27</sup>

Table 4.1 - Health status of residents in North Northants (%)

Area	Corby	Kettering	East Northants	Wellingborough
Very good health	45.9	46	46.9	43.7
Good health	35.2	36.3	35.9	37
Fair health	13.1	12.9	12.8	14.2
Bad health	4.4	3.7	3.4	3.9
Very bad health	1.1	1	1	1.2

- 4.12 Average life expectancy across North Northamptonshire varies. Life Expectancy at birth in Corby is 77.5 years for males and 80.8 years for females. In East Northamptonshire, male life expectancy at birth is 80.6 years

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx> (Nomis, 2011)

and 83.4 years for females. In Kettering it is 79.6 years for males and 82.4 years for females and in Wellingborough it is 79.3 for males and 82.5 for females. Only male residents of East Northamptonshire fair better than the national average of 79.7 years on this measure at, with the life expectancy for females in East Northamptonshire being identical (83.4).<sup>28</sup> It could be noted that this somewhat correlates with the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) as discussed in the previous section i.e., the area with the lowest life expectancy sits highest in the IMD rankings.

- 4.13 According to 2020 Sport England data, only a greater proportion of residents of Kettering consider themselves physically 'active' (150 minutes or more of exercise a week) compared to the national average, 62.4% to 61.4%. In East Northamptonshire this figure was 58.4%, Wellingborough 55.3% and Corby 50.1%.<sup>29</sup>
- 4.14 There were 2,353 hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ per 100,000 (65+ population) in 2019/20 in North Northamptonshire this is worse than the England average.<sup>30</sup>
- 4.15 The latest data on the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese indicates that North Northamptonshire has a higher rate of overweight or obese people (68.4%) compared to the regional (65.4%) and national averages (62.8%).<sup>31</sup>
- 4.16 In North Northamptonshire there were 758 alcohol related hospital admissions per 100,000 population in 2018/19, this is worse than the England average, additionally in the authority 18% of adults smoked in 2019, again this is higher than the England average.<sup>32</sup>

### **Open spaces, sports and recreation**

- 4.17 Areas with more accessible green space are associated with better mental and physical health. Given the rural nature of much of North Northamptonshire there is plentiful open countryside that acts as a wider accessible recreational resource for residents. The authority is also home to a range of parks, open spaces and green infrastructure networks which all provide important accessible open greenspace. North Northamptonshire also boasts five country parks at Barnwell, East Carlton, Fermyn Woods, Irchester and Sywell; it also features the unique Nene Valley Way and Greenway in addition to many nature reserves such as Summer Leys.
- 4.18 The Growth Towns themselves also provide a good array of open space for residents to access; for example Wicksteed Park in Kettering and Hazel and

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<sup>28</sup> [Life Expectancy by authority data](#) (ONS, 2020)

<sup>29</sup> [Active Lives data](#) (Sports England, 2020)

<sup>30</sup> [Health and Wellbeing in North Northamptonshire](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, April 2021)

<sup>31</sup> [Obesity Profile](#) (Public Health England)

<sup>32</sup> [Health and Wellbeing in North Northamptonshire](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, April 2021)

Thoroughsale Woods in Corby – remnants of the historical Rockingham Forest which itself still covers a significant area of North Northamptonshire.

- 4.19 According to the North Northamptonshire Strategic Sports Facilities Framework Update (2014) the authority has provision for 28 sports halls, 20 swimming pools and 40 gyms – some have limited or member access only. Other provision includes indoor tennis courts and bowls clubs as well as athletics tracks and golf/driving ranges.

### **Accessibility to services**

*Table 4.2 - % of completed development within certain distances of services (2017)*

	<b>0.4km of bus stop</b>	<b>1km of health centre</b>	<b>2km of sports centre</b>	<b>0.6km of primary school</b>	<b>1.5km of secondary school</b>
<b>North Northants</b>	91%	62%	39%	65%	44%

- 4.20 The above table demonstrates what percentage of development that took place in 2017 was completed within certain distances of particular services, derived from the JCS monitoring framework.
- 4.21 As can be seen most development was completed within 0.4km of a bus stop (91%) and nearly two thirds of development was completed within 0.6km of a primary school and within 1km of a health centre. Development was less likely to be completed within 1.5km of a secondary school (44%) or 2km of a sports centre (39%).<sup>33</sup>

### **Key sustainability issues**

- Reliance on Kettering General Hospital and its capacity to handle population growth.
- Lower than average life expectancies in most areas.
- Higher than average obesity rates.
- Low active lifestyles compared to national averages.
- Need to improve access to green open space, sports and recreation facilities.
- Need to improve access to community services.
- Need to ensure that increased emissions due to development and transport do not impact negatively on the health of the population.

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/publications/north-northamptonshire-authorities-monitoring-report-16-17/> (NNJPU, 2017)

## 5. Climate change

### Policy context review

- 5.1 Climate change is one of the greatest challenges that our society faces. The consequences of climate change will be experienced globally, including rising temperatures, rising sea levels, more extreme weather and an impact on flora and fauna. The Met Office has released the UK [Climate Projections 2018 study](#) (UKCP18) that 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 is based on current emissions reduction trends, summer temperatures in the UK could be 5.4C 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.<sup>34</sup>
- 5.2 There are numerous Acts that relate to addressing climate change and energy. This includes the [Planning and Energy Act](#) that enables local authorities to require standards for energy efficiency in new buildings beyond those in the Building Regulations.
- 5.3 The [Climate Change Act 2008](#) commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. To ensure that regular progress is made towards the long-term target, the Act also establishes a system of five-year legally binding carbon budgets. The [UK's Sixth Carbon Budget](#) (2020) recommends a 78% reduction in UK territorial emissions between 1990 and 2035, bringing forward the UK's previous 80% target by almost 15 years. To achieve this, it suggests four key steps:
- **Low-carbon solutions** for people and business, including by the early 2030s, all new cars and all boiler replacements to be low-carbon, and by 2040 all trucks to be low carbon.
  - **Expansion of low-carbon energy suppliers** where offshore energy becomes the centre of the whole UK energy system and low-carbon hydrogen is to scale up to be almost as large.
  - **Reducing demand for carbon-intensive activities** by addressing energy loss in buildings through insulation, changing diets to reduce consumption of high-carbon meat and dairy and fewer car miles.
  - **Land and greenhouse gas removals** including transformation in agriculture whilst maintaining the same levels of food per head as today, new mixed woodlands to remove CO<sub>2</sub> and deliver wider environment benefits, shifting farmland to produce energy crops and peatlands to be restored and sustainably managed.

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<sup>34</sup> [UKCP18 Factsheet](#) (Met Office, 2019)

- 5.4 In December 2015, the UK joined 195 countries at the United Nations Climate Summit, in signing a historic global deal to tackle climate change, known as the '[Paris Agreement](#)', to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid some of the most severe impacts of climate change. Through this agreement, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was commissioned to provide a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees. In October 2021, the [COP26 summit](#) brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. As a result, the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 pact ensures that the limit to the rise in global temperatures to 1.5C is still within reach through a combined international ambition and action. The actions focus on mitigation, adaptation, finance and collaboration.
- 5.5 The [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022](#) identifies the following eight priority risk areas:
- Risk 1 – Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards
  - Risk 2 – Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought
  - Risk 3 – Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards, leading to increased emissions
  - Risk 4 – Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards
  - Risk 5 – Risks to supply of food, goods, and vital services due to climate related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks
  - Risk 6 – Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system
  - Risk 7 – Risks to human health, wellbeing, and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings
  - Risk 8 – Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas
- 5.6 Several organisations and government bodies have published guidance to address specific priority areas such as flood risk, air quality and biodiversity. In addition, on 23 January 2020 the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England stated that they will outline a shared vision to use nature-based solutions to tackle climate change<sup>35</sup>, in helping the Government meet the ambition to reach net zero by 2050. Through collaborating, they intend to respond to the climate crisis by:
- Delivering large-scale woodland creation;
  - Protecting and restoring peatlands;
  - Supporting farmers towards net zero;
  - Working with nature to manage flood risk;
  - Taking a strategic approach to land use; and

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<sup>35</sup> [Environmental bodies set joint vision to tackle climate change](#) (Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England, 2020)

- Encouraging alternatives to carbon intensive materials.
- 5.7 The NPPF sets out that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, considering the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. The Framework sets measures for plan-making to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, including identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development.
- 5.8 In addition, the Government announced changes to building regulations which requires new build homes to be around 30% lower in CO2 emission than the current standards, and emissions from other new buildings, must be reduced by 27%.<sup>36</sup> Installing low carbon technology, such as solar panels and heat pumps, and using materials in a more energy efficient way to keep in heat will help cut emissions, address fuel poverty issues and help deliver climate change ambitions.
- 5.9 There are a wealth of national strategies and plans to address climate change including the [Clean Growth Strategy](#) (2017) and the [Government's 25 Year Environment Plan](#) (2018). Regionally and locally, there are many key strategies including the [Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2020-2023](#), the [SEMLEP Energy Strategy](#) (2018) and the [Economic Heartland Regional Transport Strategy](#) (2021). Please see Appendix 1 for more details. Furthermore, the Council declared a climate and environment emergency on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021, and has subsequently produced a draft Climate Change Framework which contains several recommendations for the Council to implement, subject to public consultation.
- 5.10 The baseline data sets out the key local trends, particularly for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Some of the key mitigation measure include:
- Supporting and enhancing areas for carbon storage and sequestration including soils and planting trees.
  - Infrastructure for EV charging points to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars.
  - Cycle and walking infrastructure.
  - Reduce emissions through reducing embodied carbon<sup>37</sup> (no current national policy approach).
  - High standards of energy efficiency including thermal insulation, passive ventilation and cooling, and passive solar design.

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<sup>36</sup> [New homes to produce nearly a third less carbon](#) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2021)

<sup>37</sup> Carbon associated with building materials and the construction and maintenance of a building its lifecycle, which can be as much as 50% of total emissions over a buildings lifetime. Source: [The Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change](#) (TCPA and RTPI, October 2021)

- Retrofitting existing buildings to reduce heat loss and to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Energy from heat networking, and other sustainable sources such as energy from waste.

#### 5.11 Key adaptation measures include:

- Building design; high levels of insulation, solar panels, and passive design such as orientation and layout to reduce overheating risks.
- Heat pump technology.
- Embedding short and long-term water storage capacity and drainage systems.
- Creating walkable neighborhoods.
- Supporting local food growing.
- Multi-functional measures including Green Infrastructure which can address overheating, flooding and soil erosion, whilst offering a range of wellbeing benefits.

### **Current baseline data**

5.12 North Northamptonshire Council collectively declared a climate and environment emergency in July 2021 and has committed to the authority becoming carbon neutral by 2030. To achieve this the Council will develop a carbon management action plan and establish a climate change and environment strategy.

5.13 North Northamptonshire is located within the driest region in the UK with low rainfall and high evaporation losses<sup>38</sup>. Changes to the climate will bring new challenges to North Northamptonshire's built and natural environment. It will result in hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and more extreme weather events.

5.14 The UK Climate Projections 2009 data for the East Midlands suggest that, under a medium emissions scenario, by 2050 the region may see:

- An increase in summer mean temperatures of around 2.5°C, and of winter temperatures of around 2.2°C;
- a 14% increase in winter mean precipitation; and
- a 16% decrease in summer mean precipitation.

5.15 The Met Office climate projections are now available at regional (covering 12km) and local (covering 2.2km) levels, providing information on local climate effects, depending on the concentration of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. Some of the key projections for settlements across Northamptonshire<sup>39</sup>, based on the scenario of global average temperatures

<sup>38</sup> [Draft Drought Plan 2022](#) (Anglian Water, March 2021)

<sup>39</sup> Tables 5.1 and 5.2 include settlements located across North Northamptonshire to show the varying climate change projections.

increasing to 2 degrees Celsius and 4 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, are set out below<sup>40</sup>.

*Table 5.1 – Potential future hottest days in the summer based on temperature rise scenarios*

Location (12km radius)	Last 30 years	2C scenario	4C Scenario
Corby	36.1	37.6	41.1
Kettering	36.3	37.7	41.3
Wellingborough	36.3	37.7	41.3
Rushden	36.6	38.1	41.7
Thrapston	36.6	38	41.8
Oundle	37	38.4	42.7
Kings Cliffe	36.4	37.8	41.5

5.16 In addition, the average number of summer days above 25 degrees Celsius over the last 30 years is around 4 days. If global average temperatures increase 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the number of summer days above 25 degrees Celsius will be 9 days, which could rise further to 17 days with a 4-degree Celsius warming scenario.

5.17 In terms of the number of rainy days per month during the summer period, the average number in North Northamptonshire over the last 30 years is 9 days. This is predicted to reduce to 8 days based on 2 degrees warming and reduce further to 6 days based on 4 degrees warming. The number of rainy days on average per month in winter is expected to be roughly the same. This suggests that although the number of days in winter with rainfall is not projected to rise, when it does rain it will be more extreme, as shown in table 5.2, which could lead to an increase in flooding events.

*Table 5.2 – Potential future amount of rainfall based on temperature rise scenarios in both summer (S) and winter (W) using the wettest day in the seasons as a baseline*

Location (12km radius)	Last 30 years (S)	2C scenario (S)	4C Scenario (S)	4C % change (S)	Last 30 years (W)	2C scenario (W)	4C Scenario (W)	4C % change (W)
Corby	45mm	50mm	63mm	40%	28mm	37mm	41mm	43%
Kettering	41mm	47mm	53mm	29%	29mm	39mm	43mm	50%
Wellingborough	41mm	47mm	53mm	29%	29mm	39mm	43mm	50%
Rushden	49mm	51mm	50mm	N/A	29mm	41mm	43mm	47%
Thrapston	53mm	55mm	58mm	9%	27mm	38mm	41mm	49%
Oundle	56mm	58mm	59mm	5%	28mm	38mm	41mm	48%
Kings Cliffe	57mm	60mm	66mm	15%	27mm	36mm	38mm	40%

5.18 Table 5.2 shows that in both scenarios, climate change will lead to an increase in rainfall in the wettest days in both summer and winter, however, it

<sup>40</sup> Data source: [What will climate change look like near me?](#) (BBC and the Met Office, July 2021)

is clear the most significant impact will be in the winter months where the amount of rainfall could be around double the levels experienced over the last 30 years.

- 5.19 These changes to the climate will create challenges such as greater risk of flooding, pressure on natural resources and increased urban heat effect that may have adverse health impacts and exacerbate the harmful environmental effects of air and water pollution. As such, there will be an increased need for resilience and adaptation, to address fluvial and surface water flood risks, as well as mitigation to reduce emissions and meet national targets to become net zero by 2050, and where possible, to meet the local ambition for the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030.

#### *Mitigation*

- 5.20 North Northamptonshire is committed to tackling climate change and improving air quality<sup>41</sup>. The Council aims to achieve this by working with key sectors to support renewable energy parks, seeking to ensure all new housing developments and Council sites have access to EV charging points, promote and invest in active travel and working with businesses to measure and improve air quality.
- 5.21 The levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in North Northamptonshire have decreased over the last two decades<sup>42</sup>. Table 5.3 sets out the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> split by the emitter source and shows geographical differences. Overall, it shows that between 2005 and 2017, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in North Northamptonshire reduced by 27%. The largest reduction in emissions in the area was 38% in industrial and commercial sectors (including agriculture), followed by domestic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which saw a 34% decrease. However, CO<sub>2</sub> from transport only saw a 3% reduction.
- 5.22 Furthermore, Table 5.3 highlights notable geographic trends in the source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For example, looking at 2017 data, industrial and commercial uses make up 60% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Corby area, in comparison to 28% in Kettering, 26% in Wellingborough and 22% in East Northamptonshire. In contrast, transport only accounts for 19% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Corby area, in comparison to 48% in Kettering, 43% in Wellingborough and 53% East Northamptonshire.

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<sup>41</sup> [Corporate Plan – Greener, Sustainable Environment](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, December 2021)

<sup>42</sup> [UK's local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics](#) (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, August 2021)

Table 5.3 – CO2 emissions across Northamptonshire by emitter (kt CO2)

Area	Year	Industrial and Commercial	% change	Domestic	% change	Transport	% change	Total	% change
Corby	2005	462.6	-42%	138	-29%	93.1	-7%	689.2	-35%
	2017	270.2		98.3		86.7		448.8	
Kettering	2005	224.9	-22%	223.4	-34%	302	-0.70%	746	-18%
	2017	174.4		148.2		299.9		613.2	
Wellingborough	2005	217.5	-46%	180.6	-36%	182.2	-5%	579.6	-31%
	2017	116.6		114.6		173.1		400.7	
East Northants	2005	173	-37%	212.8	-35%	261.5	-3%	631.6	-22%
	2017	108.9		138.9		254.4		476.6	
North Northants	2005	269.5	-38%	188.7	-34%	209.5	-3%	661.1	-27%
	2017	167.5		125		203.5		484.7	

5.23 Data shows that despite the decrease in CO2 emissions over the last couple of decades, the level released into the atmosphere in North Northamptonshire remains high<sup>43</sup>.

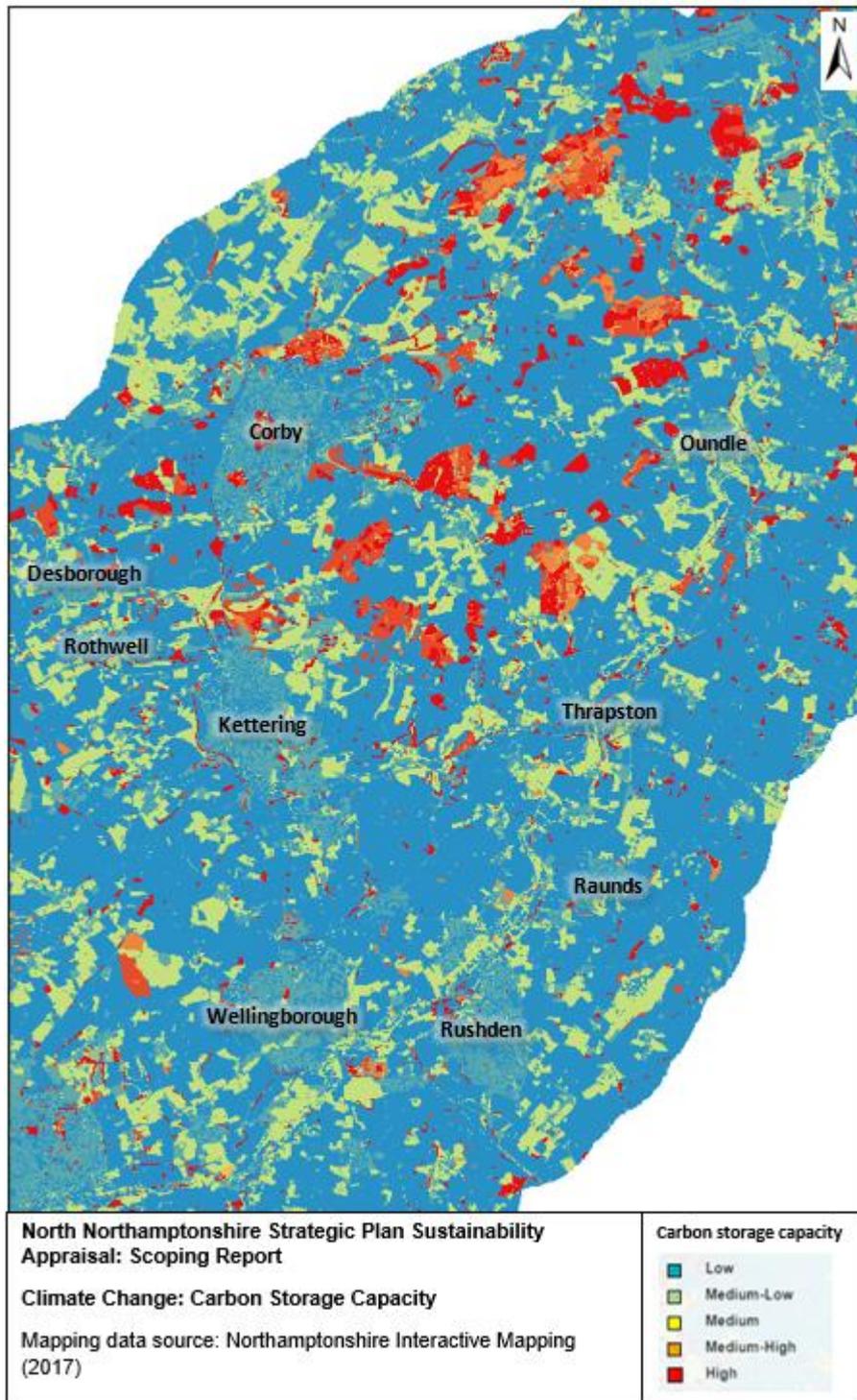
5.24 An effective way to reduce CO2 emissions is through the creation and protection of carbon sinks where natural assets absorb emissions. Habitat Opportunity mapping<sup>44</sup> illustrates that demand for air quality regulation are highest in the main urban centres of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and Rushden and the main road networks, followed by the smaller settlements such as Thrapston, Oundle and Raunds. It shows areas that would benefit from better air quality, and where it could potentially provide opportunities for tree planting to absorb air pollution, where the need is the greatest.

5.25 Figure 5.1 illustrates the amount of carbon stored in the vegetation and the top 30cm of soil. It applies average values for each habitat type based on scientific literature, and soil type is assumed to be typical of the mapped habitat. Overall, it shows that the high carbon storage areas correlate to natural assets, predominantly within the Rockingham Forest area, particularly the ancient woodlands illustrated in Figure 5.1.

<sup>43</sup> [Local Authority CO2 interactive maps](#) (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, 2019)

<sup>44</sup> [Habitat Opportunity Mapping in Northamptonshire and Peterborough](#) (Natural Capital Solutions, May 2018)

Figure 5.1 – Carbon Storage Capacity



*Adaptation*

5.26 The goal of adaptation is to reduce our vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change, including more intense weather events and food insecurity.

## Water Stress

- 5.27 North Northamptonshire falls within an area of serious water stress. Serious water stress is defined in the Water Industry (Prescribed Conditions) Regulations 1999 as where ‘the current household demand for water is a high proportion of the current effective rainfall which is available to meet that demand; or the future household demand for water is likely to be a high proportion of the effective rainfall which is likely to be available to meet that demand’<sup>45</sup>. The data takes account of future population growth, climate change, environmental needs, and increased resilience.
- 5.28 In the Anglian catchment, the most vulnerable sources are the winter storage reservoirs and direct abstraction river intakes<sup>46</sup>. In the Ruthamford North catchment, the River Nene (feeding Pitsford and Rutland reservoirs), the River Welland (feeding Rutland reservoir), and Hollowell and Ravensthorpe reservoirs are particularly vulnerable, which refill naturally from local watercourses.

## Flood risk

- 5.29 As set out in Section 5, flood risk is a significant concern for North Northamptonshire. Climate change is expected to further exacerbate the current flood risk trends in the future, creating more significant local vulnerabilities to fluvial flooding from more pressure on waterways, in addition to an increased risk of surface water flooding following periods of heavy rainfall, more intense storms and/or where wastewater drainage is ineffective. An increase in land area could be at risk of flooding due to an increase in the intensity of rainfall, particularly in the winter months.
- 5.30 The Environment Agency has produced peak river flow allowances by river basin district which account for variation due to climate change. The table below shows the trends for the Nene Management Catchment area in the Anglian River Basin.

*Table 5.4 - Peak river flow allowances for Nene Management Catchment area (1961-1990 baseline)*

<b>Allowance category</b>	<b>Change anticipated 2015-2039</b>	<b>Change anticipated 2040-2069</b>	<b>Change anticipated 2070-2125</b>
Upper End	18%	17%	36%
Higher Central	4%	0%	13%
Central	-2%	-7%	4%

<sup>45</sup> [Water stressed areas – 2021 classification](#) (Environment Agency, July 2021)

<sup>46</sup> [Water Resources Management Plan 2019](#) (Anglian Water, December 2019)

- 5.31 The Anglian River Basin District Draft Flood Risk Management Plan (2021) sets out the likely impact of climate change and future flood risk in the Nene Catchment, including an increase in the severity and frequency of existing flooding issues, and communities that have not flooded previously, have been impacted in recent years. The urban areas, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby, are likely to suffer an increase in the risk of surface water flooding caused by higher rainfall, and an increase in winter floods.
- 5.32 As a preventative measure, the Wicksteed Charitable Trust with the support of the Environment Agency, will deliver a multi-beneficial project on 5 hectares of land in Kettering to improve water quality, amenity value, habitat quality, biodiversity and provide flood storage through a floodplain reconnection in the Nene Valley Management Catchment.

### **Heat**

- 5.33 Data produced by Climate Just illustrates that based on a medium emissions scenario, the average heat vulnerability and mean summer maximum temperature in the 2050s will be a medium to high risk in North Northamptonshire<sup>47</sup>. The higher risk areas are predominantly the more urban areas of North Northamptonshire, including the areas around Corby, Kettering, and Wellingborough towns.
- 5.34 Local data on future exposure to average heat risk irrespective of local vulnerability is not currently available.

### **Energy**

- 5.35 There have been limited purpose built renewable energy schemes in North Northamptonshire in recent years. The installation of renewable energy reported in the area is within other developments, particularly non-residential development. For example, during 2019/20, the only scheme delivered was solar photovoltaics at a logistics site in the Corby area. During 2018/19, three solar photovoltaics were delivered in the Kettering, Wellingborough and Corby areas.
- 5.36 Kettering Energy Park is a North Northamptonshire's significant opportunity area when it comes to the co-location of renewable and low carbon technologies alongside green industries. The Energy Park contains Burton Wold Wind Farm which is located to the east of Burton Latimer approximately 2km from Kettering town centre and consists of 22 wind turbines with the overall capacity of the wind farm by 8.25MW. In addition, Chelveston [Renewable Energy Park](#) currently includes, but is not limited to, 9 wind turbines, 250,000 solar panels on site with 60 MW installed capacity for electrical grid export, a further 150,000 solar panels will add another 60MW installed capacity for Hydrogen Generation and Battery Storage, and an on-site hydrogen production plant to fuel a fleet converted vehicles. It is

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<sup>47</sup> [The Climate Just Map](#) (Climate Just)

anticipated that by 2022, Chelveston Renewable Energy Park will be capable of producing 175,000 MWh per year, which equates to the powering of over 60,000 homes in the local area.

5.37 Section 3 sets out information on fuel poverty in North Northamptonshire.

### **Other matters**

5.38 The changing climate places increased pressure on some native species and creates conditions suitable for new species, including invasive non-native species.

### **Key sustainability issues**

- Climate change is projected to exacerbate existing fluvial and surface water flood risk from increased storms and heavy rainfall, which will potentially be further intensified by projected levels of development; this could additionally impact the effectiveness of current wastewater drainage.
- Development and growth will exacerbate the pressure on natural resources, including limited water availability in an area of serious water stress.
- Development could potentially increase levels of greenhouse gas emissions released into the air through increased traffic from housing and employment land, particularly industrial and commercial uses in the Corby area.
- Transport will continue to contribute significantly to emissions in the area, some of this will be as a result of people and goods travelling through the area.
- The need to focus on a sustainable pattern of development to reduce the need to travel and promote a modal shift that facilitates the investment and provision in measures including better access to public transport, cycling and walking routes, and EV charging infrastructure.
- The need to understand and address the limited sustainable transport provision disproportionately impacting the connectivity of rural areas to access key services.
- Climate change will lead to hotter, drier summers which will create heat vulnerabilities, most notably in the urban areas. Development should support adaptation to buildings and support passive design to adapt to rising temperatures.
- The need to encourage increased renewable and low carbon energy production, whilst protecting the landscape character including natural and historic assets.
- The need to reduce energy use.
- The need to encourage measures that build climate resilience, including nature-based solutions such as the diversification of land and afforestation for carbon capture, protecting and enhancing floodplains and natural assets from degradation, and preventing development in high flood risk zones.

## 6. Biodiversity

### Policy context review

- 6.1 There are a broad range of international and European directives and conventions, implemented through UK legislation, that require the protection of key habitats, species, and the overall enhancement of biodiversity, detailed in Appendix 1. This includes the International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar [Convention](#)) and the [European Habitats Directive](#).
- 6.2 Numerous species, and their habitats, are fully protected by law in England. European Protected Species (EPS) have the highest level of protection, including all species of bats, great crested newts, hazel or common dormice, otters, natterjack toads, large blue butterfly, sturgeon and some species of reptiles and plants, which receive full protection under the [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017](#).
- 6.3 There are various levels of protection and restoration given to species and habitats nationally. The NPPF (2021) says that to protect and enhance biodiversity, plans should '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 steppingstones that connect them, and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation' and 'promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species, and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.'
- 6.4 The [25 Year Environmental Plan](#) (2018) details how the Government will work with local communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is at present, including strengthening the requirement for net gain in biodiversity and developing a Nature Recovery Network. This Plan is to be treated as an Environmental Improvement Plan as set out in the Environment Act 2021. The [Environment Act 2021](#) requires all development schemes in England to deliver a mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain from November 2023. Regionally, the Oxford- Cambridge Arc is aiming to achieve a minimum 20% biodiversity net gain from all forms of development.
- 6.5 There are various strategies and plans in Northamptonshire that set out to protect and enhance biodiversity locally. These include, the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020, the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (2015), the [Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document](#) (2015) and the [Environmental Character and Green Infrastructure Study](#).

### Current baseline data

- 6.6 North Northamptonshire has diverse wildlife with a range of habitats and species of local, regional, national, and international importance, including several designated sites. In addition, the natural assets are situated alongside the urban setting, including parks, woodlands, private gardens, and green corridors which are all important elements for ecological systems to thrive.
- 6.7 However, biodiversity in Northamptonshire is under severe pressure. Most of the countryside in Northamptonshire consists of arable fields with little biodiversity value. In addition, North Northamptonshire is a growth area which is expecting a significant rise in the delivery of homes and employment land, along with the relevant infrastructure to support the growth. Local wildlife is also under threat due to increasing pressure from agricultural intensification and climate change, which are causing habitats to be reduced, fragmented, or lost.

### **Habitats**

- 6.8 The [Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (BAP) 2015-2020 sets out the highest priorities for the most threatened and declining habitats and species. It includes Habitat Action Plans (HAP) for UK BAP habitats in Northamptonshire, which provide a framework for action to conserve and enhance local biodiversity. The following HAPs are relevant to North Northamptonshire:

- Arable field margins;
- Eutrophic standing waters;
- Floodplain grazing marsh;
- Hedgerows;
- Lowland calcareous grassland;
- Lowland fen;
- Lowland meadow;
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland;
- Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land;
- Ponds;
- Reedbed;
- Rivers;
- Traditional orchards;
- Wet woodlands; and
- Wood-pasture and parkland.

### **Designated sites**

- 6.9 There are a broad range of designated statutory and non-statutory sites in North Northamptonshire, providing protection to the various priority habitats. Statutory sites receive a form of statutory protection for their nature conservation value. These include European designations, Ramsar sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves, and

Local Nature Reserves. Non-statutory sites are also designated for their nature conservation value and have a degree of protection under either national or local policies, including Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Protected Wildflower Verges, and pocket parks. Details of the statutory and non-statutory sites in North Northamptonshire are set out below.

*International*

- 6.10 The [Habitats Directive 1992](#) requires EU Member States to create a network of protected wildlife conservation areas, known as Natura 2000, across the European region. This network comprises of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. In North Northamptonshire, the [Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits is a Special Protection Area](#) (SPA). This site is of international importance as a wetland habitat and attracts over 20,000 water birds each year in the non-breeding season, including key populations of Wigeon, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Bittern, Mute Swan, Lapwing, Coot, and Golden Plover, and attracts rare species such as Great-Crested Grebe, Shoveler, and Pochards.
- 6.11 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits is also a designated Ramsar site. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
- 6.12 Direct threats to the SPA include poorly located or designed development and increased recreational disturbance. Access by people and dogs can cause significant disturbance in some areas of the SPA, as well as recreational activities such as fishing and watersports. Increasing residential developments near the SPA has the potential to increase the significance of the effects by increasing the number of visitors<sup>48</sup>.

*National*

- 6.13 North Northamptonshire currently has 72 SSSIs, including 1 in the Corby area, 9 in the Wellingborough area, 24 in the Kettering Area and 38 in the East Northamptonshire area. The SSSIs in North Northamptonshire are of a varying condition<sup>49</sup>, as set out in Table 6.1 below.

Table 6.1 - North Northamptonshire SSSI condition

	Favourable	Unfavourable Recovering	Unfavourable No change	Unfavourable Declining	Destroyed
Corby	0	1	0	0	1
East Northamptonshire	9	21	7	1	0
Kettering	7	15	2	0	1
Wellingborough	5	4	0	0	0
<b>North Northamptonshire</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

<sup>48</sup> [Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area SPD](#) (2015)

<sup>49</sup> [Condition of SSSI Units in Northamptonshire](#) (Natural England, accessed February 2022)

- 6.14 There is one National Nature Reserve in North Northamptonshire, Collyweston Great Wood and Easton Hornstocks which forms part of Rockingham Forest. This is a unique ancient lime woodland, rich in wildlife.
- 6.15 There are numerous Ancient Woodland sites within North Northamptonshire (as designated by Natural England), which are areas of woodland that have been continuously wooded since the 1600s and support a range of flora and fauna that cannot be replaced in new woodlands. A large proportion of the Ancient Woodland sites are within the Rockingham Forest area, which remains a priority in North Northamptonshire to address woodland fragmentation. The regeneration of Rockingham Forest provides an opportunity to address several important issues, including biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure. Restoring this area which is rich in biodiversity and habitats, will help to create linkages and connectivity between the areas of woodland.

#### *Local*

- 6.16 There are various local conservation designations in North Northamptonshire which are valuable in supporting biodiversity and key ecosystem services, including:
- 7 Local Nature Reserves
  - 318 Local Wildlife Sites
  - 413 Potential Wildlife Sites
  - 19 Protected Wildflower Verges
  - 34 Pocket Parks<sup>50</sup>
- 6.17 Habitat Opportunity Mapping for Northamptonshire and Peterborough<sup>51</sup> provides biodiversity opportunities for three broad habitat types, which highlight the best locations in terms of their connectivity to existing habitat patches and are the most appropriate locations ecologically. Additionally, it includes opportunities for planting woodlands and trees to deliver multiple benefits.
- 6.18 In addition, green and blue infrastructure corridors in North Northamptonshire provide an important multi-functional network, connecting natural assets, including green spaces and the network of rivers and lakes with the rural landscape, villages and towns. The GI corridors provide benefits to both people and biodiversity, providing opportunities to enhance natural capital, ecosystem services and provide nature-based solutions.

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<sup>50</sup> [Northamptonshire Pocket Parks](#) (Former NCC, no date)

<sup>51</sup> [Habitat Opportunity Mapping in Northamptonshire and Peterborough](#) (Natural Capital Solutions, May 2018)

Figure 6.1 – Statutory Designated Sites

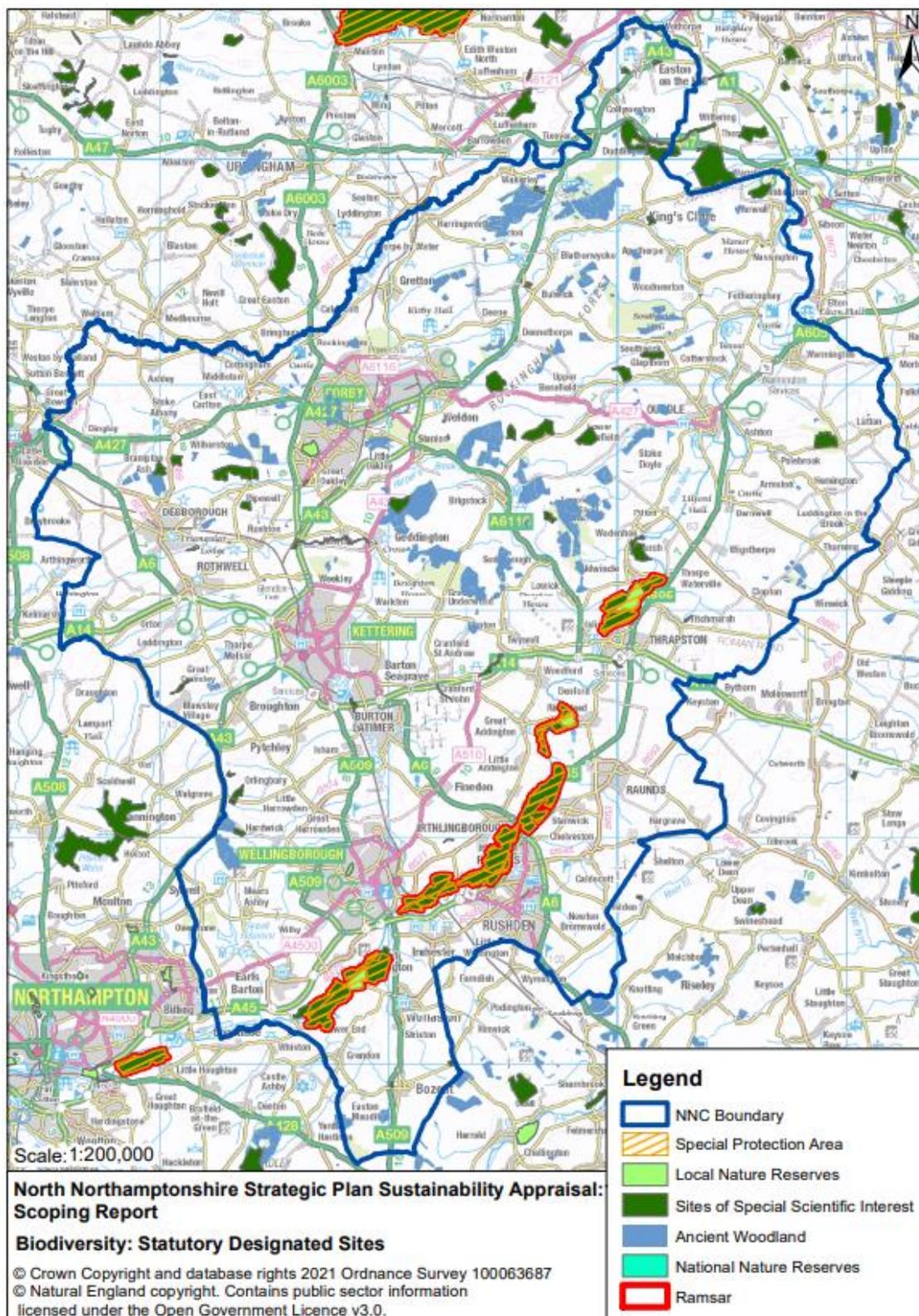
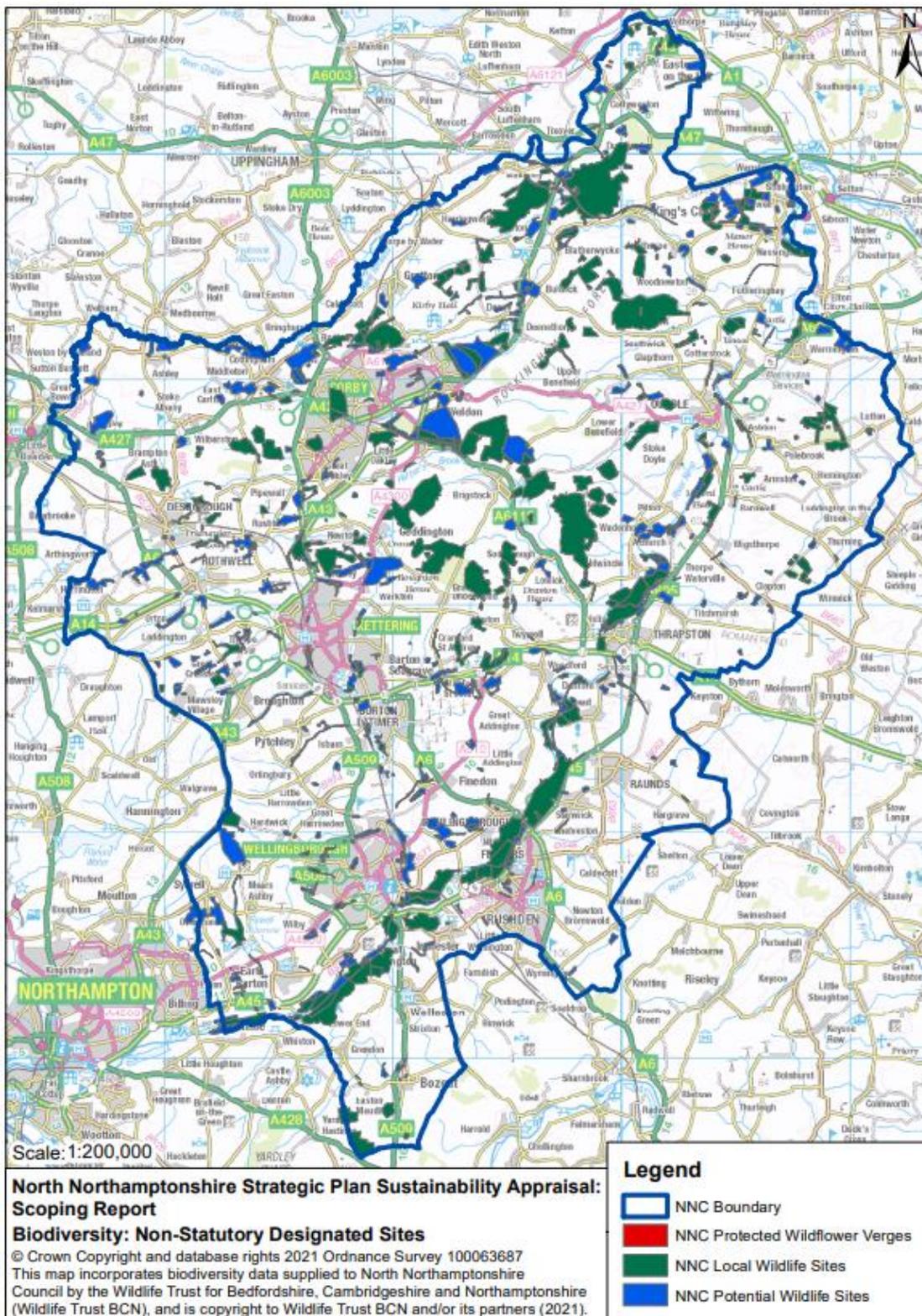


Figure 6.2 – Non-Statutory Designated Sites



## Species

6.19 The Northamptonshire BAP sets out a series of UK priority species found in Northamptonshire and Local BAP species that are judged to have local significance. UK Priority species found in various habitats and locations across North Northamptonshire include<sup>52</sup>:

- Eurasian tree sparrow (bird)
- Northern Lapwing (bird)
- Dingy Skipper (Insect – butterfly)
- Mellet’s downyback (Insect – beetle)
- Adder (Reptile)
- Dormouse (terrestrial mammal)
- Water vole (terrestrial mammal)
- Annual Knawel (flowering plant)
- Greater water parsnip (flowering plant)
- White-clawed freshwater crayfish (crustaceans)

6.20 In addition, the Northamptonshire BAP identifies fauna and flora of local significance. Examples found in North Northamptonshire are included in table 6.2 below.

*Table 6.2 – BAP species of local significance*

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Associated habitat</b>	<b>Key sites</b>	<b>Northants Status</b>	<b>BAP action</b>
Bird	Barn Owl	Lowland meadow, lowland dry acid grassland and rough grassland	Nene Valley	Recovering	Monitor
Insect - butterfly	Black hairstreak	hedgerow	Rockingham Forest	Breeding	HAP
Flowering plant	Plot’s elm	hedgerow	Laxton	Very rare	HAP
Bird	Nightingale	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Rockingham Forest	Breeding	HAP

6.21 In addition, flagship species for each of the HAPs are included in the Northamptonshire BAP. For example, in ‘lowland meadow’ habitats, flagship species include brown hare, curlew, and yellow wagtail.

## Key sustainability issues

- Development of housing and employment land, supporting infrastructure, and agricultural intensification has led to decline in species and the fragmentation

<sup>52</sup> [Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020](#) (The Wildlife Trust, 2016)

and/or erosion of habitats, including a threat to ancient woodlands, SSSIs and various designated sites.

- Development should protect and enhance species and their habitats to achieve a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity, avoiding any adverse effects on designated sites and protected species, whilst identifying opportunities to secure the long-term maintenance of biodiversity.
- Regeneration and growth have the potential to intensify the risk to biodiversity on protected sites, including the SPA and its functionally linked land, through increased disturbance through human activity, loss of supporting habitat or changes in ecological condition.
- The need to fully consider the effects of climate change on species and their habitats which is intrinsically linked to biodiversity, to build resilience and support mitigation and adaptation measures.
- The need to protect and enhance habitat connectivity to safeguard the ecological network, including the enhancement of the green and blue infrastructure network and to improve landscape & biodiversity connections between designated sites and habitats, both locally and at a landscape scale.
- Opportunity to support the diversification of underutilised land with low biodiversity value, including arable land, and identify areas that could provide multiple benefits and nature-based solutions.

## 7. Air

### Policy context review

- 7.1 European and national legislation both aim to manage and improve air quality. This is primarily achieved through the setting of legally binding limits for concentrations of major air pollutants that impact on public health and the wider environment. The National Emission Ceilings Regulations 2018 set binding emission reduction targets for several harmful air pollutants, for both 2020 and 2030. These pollutants (fine particulate matter, ammonia, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, non-methane volatile organic compounds) significantly harm human health and the environment. Data shows that the UK is set to miss the 2030 emission reduction target by 57% for sulphur dioxide, 45% for fine particulate matter, 20% for ammonia and 20% for nitrogen oxides<sup>53</sup>.
- 7.2 The Environment Act 2021 establishes a legally binding duty on government to bring forward at least two new air quality targets in secondary legislation by 31 October 2022.
- 7.3 The NPPF states that planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, considering the presence of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. It sets out that opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management and green infrastructure provision and enhancement in the plan-making process.
- 7.4 Furthermore, the [Clean Air Strategy](#) (2019) sets out how sources of air pollution will be tackled to make our air healthier for people and nature, whilst boosting the economy.

### Current baseline data

- 7.5 Air pollution is estimated to account for 3.9% of the number of years lost due to ill-health, disability or early death (DALYs) in Northamptonshire<sup>54</sup>. Public Health Northamptonshire sets out the priorities to address poor air quality in the region, which includes the following:
- Secure clean growth and innovation that tackle emissions from industry, vehicles, products, combustion and agriculture and support both improvements in air quality and decarbonisation;
  - protecting the environment by monitoring the impacts of air pollution on natural habitats;

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<sup>53</sup> [UK Informative Inventory Report \(1990 to 2019\)](#) (Ricardo Energy & Environment (Defra), March 2021)

<sup>54</sup> [The Public Health Call to Action for Poor Air Quality Northamptonshire](#) (Former NCC and Public Health Northamptonshire, 2020)

- reduce nitrogen oxides emissions from transport;
  - reduce PM2.5, sulphur dioxide and non-methane volatile organic compounds emissions at home;
  - reduce emissions of ammonia from farming; and
  - reduce emissions from industry.
- 7.6 In North Northamptonshire, air quality is generally regarded as good, however, the high level of planned growth will result in large increases in population and commercial activity, which will ultimately influence air pollutant levels.
- 7.7 The main pollutants of concern in the area are associated with road traffic, in particular Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM) at locations close to busy roads, including the A43, A14, A45, A6, A427 and A509.
- 7.8 Levels of NO<sub>2</sub> are monitored through diffusion tubes located at various sites across North Northamptonshire; the network currently consists of 17 tubes in Corby, 33 in East Northants, 39 in Kettering and 11 in Wellingborough<sup>55</sup>. In 2020, the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in North Northamptonshire were below the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean air quality objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup><sup>56</sup>. As a result, no Air Quality Management Areas have been declared in the plan area.
- 7.9 Levels of Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and Sulphur Dioxide are not currently monitored.
- 7.10 Further information on air quality is set out in Section 5 on climate change mitigation.

## Key sustainability issues

- Development of employment land for industrial and commercial uses, and agricultural practices have the potential to increase levels of harmful pollutants in the air, including levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and ammonia.
- New development and the resultant increase in the population, will increase use of the transport network which could result in a rise in congestion and intensify air pollution, including levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM and NO<sub>2</sub>.
- There is a need to enhance the provision of sustainable transport availability to reduce the reliance on fossil fuel dependant vehicles, including improving cycling and walking networks, public transport infrastructure, and increase EV charging capabilities in new and existing communities.
- There is a need to consider the implication of growth on all types of air pollutants that pose risk to human and environmental health, where current data is limited such as level of PM and SO<sub>2</sub>, which are not currently monitored.

<sup>55</sup> North Northamptonshire Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel (North Northamptonshire, October 2021)

<sup>56</sup> Annual Air Quality Reports for [Corby](#) (May, 2021), [East Northamptonshire](#) (June, 2021), [Kettering](#) and [Wellingborough](#).

## 8. Water

### Policy context review

- 8.1 National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EU Water Framework Directive as translated into national law by The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017 (amended 2019) and the Environment Act 2021. These set out requirements to manage supply and demand, resilience and facilitate environmental improvements. Further relevant legislation and plans are set out in Appendix 1, including the Flood and Water (amendment) Regulations 2019, Groundwater Regulations 2009, and the Water supply Regulations 2016.
- 8.2 The NPPF touches on water supply and quality and provides the national approach for the risk of flooding. It sets out that new and existing development should prevent the contribution to unacceptable levels of water pollution and that development should, where possible, improve the environmental conditions such as water quality, considering the relevant information including river basin management plans. In addition, section 14 sets out the requirements for flood risk and climate change, where plans should:
- Take account of the long-term implication for flood risk, coastal change, and water supply;
  - Prevent inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future);
  - Strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, considering the cumulative impacts in, or affecting local areas susceptible to flooding; and
  - Take account of all sources of flood risk and the current and future impacts of climate change.
- 8.3 The Climate Change Risk Assessment (2022)<sup>57</sup> identifies that the risks of flooding and coastal change to communities, businesses and infrastructure are a priority risk area. The risk of flooding to people from rivers, surface water and coastal flooding remains high now and in the future. It encourages taking a holistic approach to flood management where possible, including nature-based solutions to reduce the risk. Furthermore, it emphasises the commitment to join up plans for trees, peat, soil and nature to secure multiple benefits including flood risk, carbon sequestration and net gain.
- 8.4 At a local scale, there are many key strategies, plans, and assessments that provide important guidance and requirements for these matters, including:
- Anglian River Basin Draft Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2021)

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<sup>57</sup> [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022](#) (HM Government, January 2022)

- Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (Environment Agency, 2021)
- River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, 2009)
- River Nene Regional Park CIC: River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan (2014)
- Water Resources Management Plan (Anglian Water, 2019)
- Water Recycling Long Term Plan (Anglian Water, 2019)
- Water Cycle Strategy 2009
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments

8.5 Regard should also be given to green infrastructure plans (See section 11); the role of blue infrastructure (comprising the network of rivers and lakes) in GI strategies and plans is integral to achieving multiple benefits, including nature-based solutions to flood management, water quality, protecting natural assets and encouraging biodiversity, climate change adaptation, navigation, recreation, health and wellbeing and creating more vibrant and resilient places.

### **Current baseline data**

- 8.6 There are several rivers and their smaller tributaries that flow through North Northamptonshire. However, the vast majority of the watercourses are located within the River Nene catchment in the Anglian River Basin District. The principal watercourse in North Northamptonshire is the River Nene and its main tributaries, the River Ise, Harpers Brook, Alledge Brook, Slade Brook and Willow Brook.
- 8.7 There are 6 operational catchments within the Nene Management area, of which the Ise, Nene Middle and Willow Brook are within North Northamptonshire. The northern extent of the plan area falls within the River Welland catchment and flows cross-county northwest to the Wash, and the south eastern extent is located within the Great Ouse catchment.
- 8.8 The River Nene is eutrophic, receiving treated sewage effluent in Corby and Broadholme waste treatment works in North Northamptonshire. Most of the rivers and streams in Northamptonshire have been engineered or managed to some extent, either for modern flood defences, or historically for milling, navigation and during railway construction<sup>58</sup>.
- 8.9 The North Northamptonshire Detailed Water Cycle Strategy (2009) considered the water services infrastructure requirements to support the levels of growth identified within the JCS and to provide a framework for the ongoing detailed technical work and delivery programme needed to achieve these requirements. It comprises an interactive PDF accompanied by six technical sections. The 2009 report made a number of area-specific

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<sup>58</sup> [Habitat Action Plan – Rivers](#) (from the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020) (The Wildlife Trust, 2016)

recommendations for strategic flood risk management within North Northamptonshire, which informed the JCS and subsequent Infrastructure Delivery Plans, including the North Northamptonshire Investment Framework (2019).

### Water quality and supply

- 8.10 North Northamptonshire is covered by the Anglian River Basin Management Plan. The plan describes the framework used to protect and improve the quality of waters in the river basin district. The Environment Agency is currently running public consultation on draft updates of the current plans that were published in February 2016.
- 8.11 Some of the water bodies in the Nene River management area catchment have been identified by the Environment Agency as having ‘bad’ or ‘poor’ ecological status, whilst no water bodies scored high ecological status. In addition, all water bodies categorised as a ‘fail’ for the chemical status for surface waters<sup>59</sup>. This data demonstrates a change in ecological status, where 2 additional water bodies were classified as bad and 3 as poor, whilst 2 additional water bodies were classified as good, and a significant decline chemical status since the 2016 Cycle. A breakdown of the ecological and chemical status is provided in table 8.1 below.

*Table 8.1 – Ecological (E) and chemical (C) status for surface waters in the Nene Catchment 2019 Cycle*

Number of water bodies	Bad (E)	Poor (E)	Moderate (E)	Good (E)	High (E)	Fail (C)	Good (C)
63	3	23	31	6	0	63	0

- 8.12 The Anglian River Basin District Draft Management Plan (2021)<sup>60</sup> catchment data sets out the key challenges for the three operational catchments within the Nene catchment and the reasons for water not achieving good status by business. Table 8.2 below sets out the management issues that relate specifically to the Willow Brook, Ise or Nene Middle. Other management issues that are not currently identified in North Northamptonshire are domestic public, and mining and quarrying. Table 8.2 demonstrates that the main issues relate to pollution from rural areas and pollution from waste water, followed by pollution from towns, cities and transport and physical modifications. The only significant water management issues to implicate all three operational river catchment areas relates to the ‘water industry’ and ‘urban and transport’.

<sup>59</sup> [Classifications data for Nene Management Catchment](#) (Environment Agency, September 2021)

<sup>60</sup> [Anglian River Basin District Draft Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027](#) (Environment Agency, October 2021)

- 8.13 In addition, the watercourses form vital nature conservation and wildlife resource for the region, for example, marginal and bankside vegetation is an integral part of the river habitat and acts as an important migration corridor. However, the Northamptonshire Habitat Action Plan for river habitats identified key issues and threats to rivers in Northamptonshire; abstraction for water supply, industry and irrigation adversely affects the flow of the rivers, the impact of land drainage and management on water quality, loss of habitat and habitat quality, and a threat from invasive species. The BAP (2015) sets out that river restoration provides opportunities for regeneration areas to enhance places.
- 8.14 Furthermore, the Environment Agency have established Safeguard zones for water sources in drinking water protected areas where extra treatment is likely to be required in the future. Two safeguard zones cover the entirety of North Northamptonshire, the River Nene SGZ 1006 and the River Welland and Rutland Water SGZ1005. The Surface Water Safeguard Zone Action Plans set out to protect the drinking water protected areas of the River Nene, River Welland and Rutland Water which are at risk from pesticides because of agricultural activities and algae growth which has the potential to impact the treatment processes associated with the production of drinking water.
- 8.15 North Northamptonshire falls within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, which are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution.

Table 8.2 – Reasons for not achieving good status by business sector in the Willow Brook, Nene Middle and Ise river catchments<sup>61</sup>

Significant water management issue	Area	Changes to the natural flow and level of water	Invasive non-native species	Physical modifications	Pollution from abandoned mines	Pollution from rural areas	Pollution from towns, cities and transport	Pollution from waste water
Agriculture and rural land management	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nene Middle	1	-	1	-	30	-	-
	Ise	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Industry	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Ise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local and Central Government	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
	Ise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Navigation	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
	Ise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No Sector responsible	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nene Middle	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Ise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Ise	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sector under investigation	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Ise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban and transport	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	2	-	-	3	-
	Ise	-	-	2	-	-	4	-
Water industry	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	Nene Middle	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
	Ise	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Willow Brook Total		0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Nene Middle Total		1	1	10	0	30	4	20
Ise Total		0	0	3	0	9	4	3
<b>North Northamptonshire total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>

<sup>61</sup> [Nene Management Catchment](#) – Ise, Willow Brook and Nene Middle Operational Catchment ‘Challenges’ (Environment Agency, no date)

- 8.16 Mains water supply, used water treatment, and sewage networks are provided by Anglian Water. North Northamptonshire is located in the Ruthamford North Resource Zone. Water supply for this zone is derived from the Rivers Nene and Welland and then pumped into a storage reservoir at Rutland Water for treatment and then distribution. The Nene River Catchment is an important water source for both the Pitsford and Rutland Water reservoirs, which are both important water sources for public supply. The Water Cycle Strategy 2009 notes the Environment Agency designated the Ruthamford zone as an area of serious water stress. The Environment Agency published 'Water stressed areas – final classification 2021' which confirms that this remains to be an area of serious water stress.
- 8.17 The Water Resources Management Plan (Anglian Water, 2019) sets out that supply-demand balance for water supply in the North Northamptonshire area, amongst other regions, is under significant pressure from population growth, climate change and sustainability reductions (abstractions). However, it is anticipated over the next 25 years that water use will decrease by 19% per person due to improvements in technology, water metering and better education around water consumption<sup>62</sup>.
- 8.18 The Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2021)<sup>63</sup> sets out the resource availability of the Nene, calculated at four different flows. At the highest flow level, North Northamptonshire falls within the restricted water availability with an area with no water availability, whilst at the medium and low flow levels, water is not available across North Northamptonshire.

### **Flood risk**

- 8.19 There has been a history of flooding in the River Nene catchment area within North Northamptonshire.
- 8.20 In December 2020, there was widespread flooding impacts across East Anglia where up to 60mm of rain fell on an already saturated catchment on 23 and 24 December ahead of the arrival of Storm Bella on 27 December. The majority of rain fell during a short space of time and this intensity of rainfall contributed to the rapid reaction of watercourses. High water levels were observed in the River Nene<sup>64</sup>.
- 8.21 The Anglian River Basin District Draft Flood Management Plan 2021 to 2027 sets out that around 62,000 people are at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea in the Nene management catchment. Around 3,800 non-residential properties and approximately 10% of the agricultural land within the catchment are at risk of

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<sup>62</sup> [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#) (Former NN Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, September 2017)

<sup>63</sup> [Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy](#) (Environment Agency, March 2021)

<sup>64</sup> [Anglian River Basin District Draft Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027](#) (Environment Agency, October 2021)

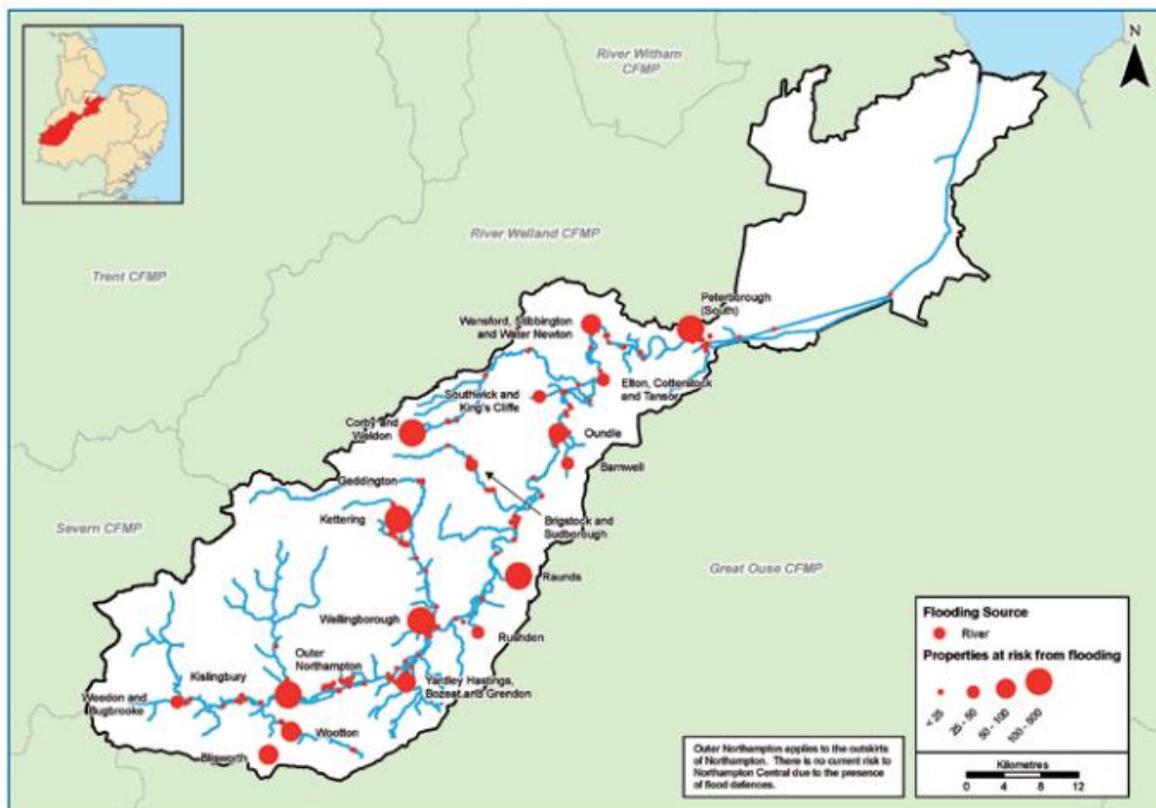
flooding from rivers and the sea. Approximately 56% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 88% of Ramsar sites are at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea.

8.22 The main types of flood risk for people, property, infrastructure, and land in North Northamptonshire are<sup>65</sup>:

- **River ‘fluvial’ flooding** in River Ise and Slade Brook in Kettering, River Ise and the River Nene in Wellingborough, Willow Brook in Corby, and River Nene in Oundle.
- **Surface water and sewer flooding**, which has occurred in Corby, Wellingborough, Kettering, Geddington and Oundle.
- **Groundwater flooding**, which has occurred in Glaphorn, Oundle and parts of Kettering when there are high groundwater levels within the underlying limestone or sandstone rock. However, there are few incidents recorded.

8.23 The below map shows the flood risk to property in a 1% annual probability river flood in the Nene River catchment, considering current flood defences.

Figure 8.1 – River Nene Catchment Flood Management Area

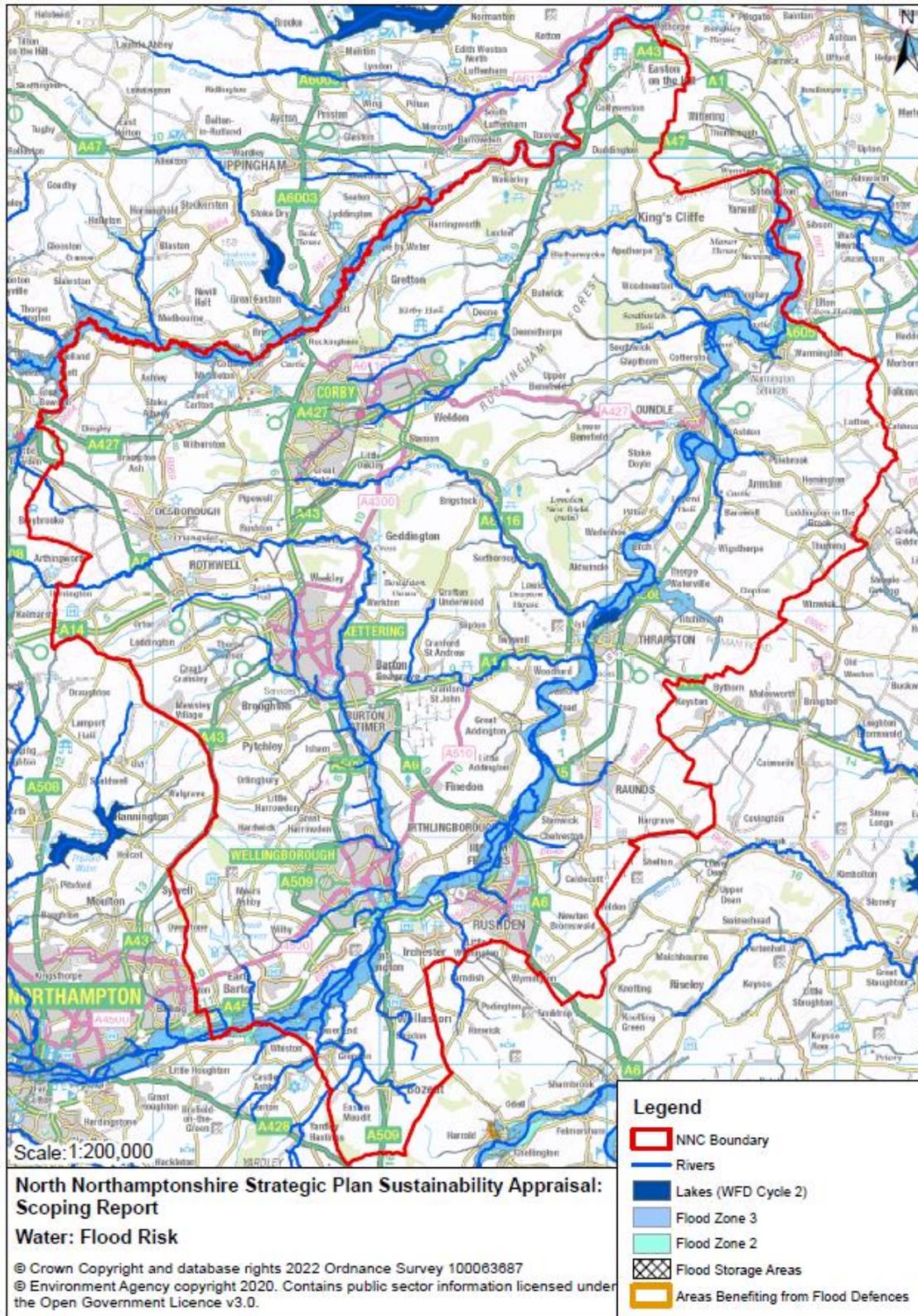


<sup>65</sup> [River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan](#) (Environment Agency, December 2009)

Source: [River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan, Environment Agency \(2009\)](#)

- 8.24 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits may also be at some risk from the 1% annual probability river flood risk. Flooding at this site could be detrimental to wintering bittern but could improve the quality of wetland habitats. Furthermore, increased urban runoff must be managed to avoid pollution to waterways and the ecosystems they serve.
- 8.25 The Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2016) sets out the 15 most at risk former wards in Northamptonshire based on an overall combined risk of fluvial, surface and groundwater flood risk. The following former wards are within North Northamptonshire:
- Weldon and Gretton Ward
  - Irchester Ward
  - Rushden Spencer Ward
  - Kingswood and Hazel Leys Ward
- 8.26 The Environment Agency's River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009) states that some of the underlying issues in North Northamptonshire include:
- Impermeable surfaces leading to rapid runoff or increasing the risk of surface water and sewage flooding; and
  - Potential groundwater flooding due to the underlying geology.
- 8.27 Some of the key factors to address flood risk in the area include the effective use of floodplains to reduce flood risk to settlements downstream, whilst providing long-term benefits for the river environment and habitat and build flood resilience. Furthermore, in some areas, flood risk management needs to be closely linked with regeneration and redevelopment so that the location and layout of the development can contribute to lowering future flood risk.

Figure 8.2 - Flood Risk Zones



## Key sustainability issues

- Water quality, including a poor ecological and chemical status, is a significant issue which is principally caused by agriculture and rural land management, pollution from waste water, and pollution from urban areas and transport; threats include levels of pesticides and nitrate pollution and algal growth.
- Development could exacerbate flood risk through increasing impermeable surfaces and placing additional pressure on local watercourses, causing rapid surface water and sewage related floods.
- Development presents additional pressure on existing flood risk infrastructure, water waste treatment facilities and local water sources for public supply (water stress), that are already under pressure.
- River and wetland habitats are under threat from abstraction for water supply, industry and irrigation which affects the flow of rivers, and poor water quality such as increased urban run-off which could be exacerbated from increased growth.
- As one of the driest regions water use needs to be managed and reduced where practical.
- There is a need to fully consider the implications of climate change on water supply, quality, and flood risk, and understand the latest local position through updating evidence base documents, including the water cycle study.
- The design and layout of developments should support flood resilient places and nature-based solutions, such as supporting river restoration with redevelopment and regeneration proposals and opportunities to enhance the use of floodplains for flood risk management.

## 9. Land

### Policy context review

- 9.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (2021) sets out the key requirements for the protection, enhancement, and management of land, which includes:
- Ensuring sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs;
  - Ensuring an adequate supply of aggregates, acknowledging their essential economic contribution, whilst securing their long-term conservation;
  - Encouraging the reuse of previously developed land;
  - Recognising that undeveloped land can perform many functions, including carbon storage, wildlife and food production;
  - Protecting and enhancing sites of geological value and soils, along with other valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity;
  - Protecting soils from unacceptable levels of pollution from both new and existing development, in addition to preventing risk to land stability; and
  - Supporting appropriate opportunities to remediate and mitigate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land.
- 9.2 In addition, the NPPF should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) which plays a pivotal role in delivering the country's waste ambitions (as set out in the Waste Management Plan for England). This Plan, alongside local strategies, follows a well-established hierarchy of waste management options: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, and disposal.
- 9.3 The 25 Year Environment Plan includes actions to tackle soil degradation, improve soil health and restore vulnerable peatlands, embedding environmental net gain principles, maximising resource efficiency whilst reducing pollution and waste and proposes a revised land management system.
- 9.4 The National Quality Mark Scheme was launched in 2017 by the Land Forum to ensure that land contamination management work meets necessary technical and regulatory standards. This is supported in principle by Defra and the Environment Agency<sup>66</sup>.
- 9.5 The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (July 2017) provides the strategy for all mineral and waste related developments across North and West Northamptonshire, including providing the basis for investment in new minerals and waste development, identifying where it should go and why.

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<sup>66</sup> [The National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management](#) (AGS, February 2018)

## Current baseline data

### Geology and minerals

9.6 The underlying solid geology in Northamptonshire comprises entirely of sedimentary strata of the Jurassic period. Overlying the solid geology are superficial deposits of Quaternary glacial sands, gravels and till, present in the main valleys and tributaries of the Nene and Welland. In Northamptonshire, Jurassic limestone and ironstone are well represented and have determined the structure and character of the landscape<sup>67</sup>.

9.7 Minerals are a finite natural resource that make an essential contribution to the country's prosperity and quality of life and therefore plans should allow for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates, whilst securing their long-term conservation. The main resources present in Northamptonshire are sand and gravel, limestone, and ironstone.

#### *Sand and gravel*

9.8 There are three types of sand and gravel found in Northamptonshire. Glacial sand and gravel deposits are found predominantly in the north and west of the region. The deposits typically consist of 50% sand, 30% gravel, and 20% other materials or waste. Post-glacial river terraces of sand and gravel are found in the river valleys across Northamptonshire, including the Nene, Welland and Ise. The Nene Valley gravels are of particularly good quality, giving a high yield per hectare.

#### *Limestone*

9.9 Lincolnshire limestone is found in the north of Northamptonshire and forms the principal limestone resource for the region. It is largely used as a source of crushed rock aggregate, but also as a building stone. In the extreme north of the county, there is a local variation of the Lincolnshire Limestone, known as Collyweston Stone Slate; this material is used locally as stone slates for roofing and as a building stone. In the area to the east of Corby, the upper part of the Lincolnshire Limestone has been worked as a high-quality dimension stone (known locally as 'Weldon Stone'); this material is the only dimension stone from Northamptonshire to be employed extensively outside the region.

9.10 In addition, Blisworth limestone is found in the south and east of the county. It is used as a building material, in particular as blocks of stone.

#### *Ironstone*

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<sup>67</sup> [Northamptonshire Current Landscape Character Assessment](#) (RNRP, 2010)

- 9.11 Ironstone occurs at two geological levels in Northamptonshire. Deposits are also found in large parts of central and east Northamptonshire but have minimal economic importance and are no longer extracted; ironstone was quarried on a large scale, mostly by opencast methods, from the 1850s, particularly around Corby, Kettering, and Wellingborough.
- 9.12 A key issue in respect of mineral extraction in the county in the recent past is whether extraction should be from the river valley or glacial areas. The policy stance to move away from river valley extraction to upland (glacial) areas of Northamptonshire was largely driven by landscape and restoration issues, where in the past, extraction from the Nene Valley and its restoration to lakes had adversely altered the landscape character, and that further extraction in river valleys would continue to do so.
- 9.13 Mineral resources permitted for extraction are not in ample supply in Northamptonshire, and therefore there is a need to ensure a supply and quality of minerals is supported to meet the needs of the growth in North Northamptonshire. The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan shows the resources of economic importance which are identified for long-term safeguarding and have therefore been designated as Minerals Safeguarding Areas, or MSAs.
- 9.14 The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan provides details of current active and inactive commitments for minerals extraction throughout the plan period, alongside the allocations to meet the supply needs of minerals in the region. This includes a focus area for extraction in the Central Nene Valley, sand and gravel allocation and building and roofing stone allocation. Furthermore, the Plan acknowledges that minerals and waste development proposals should consider the surrounding historic assets, natural assets and biodiversity in the region.
- 9.15 Secondary and recycled aggregates represent a potential major source of materials for construction, helping to conserve primary materials and reducing the waste produced; the Minerals and Waste Local Plan encourages the use of recycled material in new developments.
- 9.16 There are 37 sites of Local Geological Sites (also known as Regionally important Geological Sites) in North Northamptonshire, which are site located for their importance to geodiversity (Figure 9.1).

### **Soils and agricultural land**

- 9.17 Soils are important assets and provide vital ecosystem services, including resources for food production and the storage of carbon, which can help address climate change.

- 9.18 North Northamptonshire has varied soils ranging from freely draining lime-rich loamy soils notably near the waterways and in the central areas, lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage, slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils around the Rockingham Forest area, and across the region there are areas of shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone, freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils and restored soils mostly from quarry and opencast spoil<sup>68</sup>.
- 9.19 Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) defines the best and most versatile agricultural land as Grades 1,2 and 3a. In North Northamptonshire, the underlying soils give rise to a mix of classified agricultural land, with the majority being of Grade 3, alongside small areas of Grade 4 and 2<sup>69</sup>. The most notable areas of Grade 2 include a stretch of land in the north east of the region, between the villages of Titchmarsh, near Thrapston to Polebrook, and an area south of Wellingborough between the A45 and A509 adjacent to Wollaston. There are concentrations of further Grade 2 land around Wellingborough and Kettering, particularly to the west of the settlements. There are no Grade 1 areas in North Northamptonshire.
- 9.20 A large proportion of the growth in North Northamptonshire is located on greenfield sites, particularly committed sustainable urban extensions, and could therefore impact the soil quality and areas of versatile agricultural land. There are 22 sites on the Council's [Brownfield Register](#) (2021), ranging from 0.38 hectares to 10.88 hectares, of which some have completed in the last financial year.
- 9.21 Ridge and Furrow patterns are found across the entirety of North Northamptonshire, which are an archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing in the Middle Ages.

### **Contaminated land**

- 9.22 In accordance with Part 2a of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006, the former districts/boroughs which make up North Northamptonshire, maintained a Contaminated Land Public Register which records details of contaminated land and any remediation to reduce or remove the risks to people and the environment. At present, there are no entries in the contaminated land public register in the Corby, Kettering or East Northamptonshire areas. There is one site on the register in the Wellingborough area; the site is a former landfill site at Irchester on the Wollaston Road. The site was an ironstone quarry which was subsequently landfilled and is producing landfill gas and leachate.

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<sup>68</sup> [Soilscapes](#) (Cranford Soil and Agrifood Institute, no date)

<sup>69</sup> [Magic Map](#) (Defra)

- 9.23 It is worth noting that the public register does not include details of historic land use and other information used in the identification and investigation of potentially contaminated land, nor does it include details of sites that been remediated through the planning process.
- 9.24 Potentially contaminated sites can be broadly associated with land previously used for industrial and commercial uses, transport, mineral extraction, and landfill. Therefore, due to some of the previous land uses in areas of North Northamptonshire, there are potential contaminated sites in the region. For example, in Corby, steel works and iron ore quarrying were significant in the area. Equally, in the Kettering area, some land has a greater risk of ground contamination arising from historical industrial processes, mineral extraction, landfill, and intensive agricultural processes<sup>70</sup>.
- 9.25 Data on land instability is currently unavailable.

### **Waste**

- 9.26 The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) is the land use planning strategy for minerals and waste related development covering the former county. It provides the basis for investment in new minerals and waste development in Northamptonshire, and where it should go to. The plan sets out that Northamptonshire is a net importer of waste, however, in the wider interest of sustainability, it is not envisaged that Northamptonshire should take on a role as a key sub-national location for waste management or disposal facilities. The plan also sets out the indicative capacity requirement for waste management in Northamptonshire and identifies locations in the industrial areas where waste management uses would be acceptable in principle:
- Wellingborough - Park Farm
  - Wellingborough - Denington
  - Wellingborough - Finedon Road
  - Kettering - Telford Way
  - Kettering - Pytchley Lodge
  - Corby - Oakley Hay
  - Corby – Earlstrees
  - Corby - Weldon Road
  - Corby - North Eastern Industrial Areas
  - Rushden / Higham Ferrers - Sanders Lodge
  - Rushden / Higham Ferrers - West of Bypass
  - Oundle - Nene Valley

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<sup>70</sup> [Sustainability Appraisal for the Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan](#), (Aecom, December 2019)

- 9.27 The Northamptonshire strategy for waste management is to focus on the central spine, which includes the main urban areas of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough, alongside the smaller towns, Desborough, Rothwell, Burton Latimer, Irthlingborough, and Rushden/Higham Ferrers as local centres.
- 9.28 The average<sup>71</sup> levels of residual waste per household over the past five years does not show any steady trends, however the overall average waste per household for the region is notably less (492.76 kg) than the England average (544 kg). In addition, the percentage of household waste recycled or composted is marginally higher each year than the England average, except for 2017/18.

*Table 9.1 – Household waste and recycling data in North Northamptonshire (Defra statistics<sup>72</sup>)*

Year	Residual household waste per household (kg) North Northamptonshire	Residual household waste per household (kg) England	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, or composting (%) North Northamptonshire	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, or composting (%) England
2020/21	512.7	553	45.7	42.3
2019/20	466.7	529	44.1	43.8
2018/19	471.1	537	44.6	43.5
2017/18	529.7	544	38.4	43.2
2016/17	483.6	557	45.3	43.7
Total (5-year average)	492.76	544	43.62	43.3

- 9.29 The Northamptonshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2012) sets a target for recycling and composting of household waste to be increased to 54% by 2019/20 and 56% by 2025/26. Table 9.1 demonstrates that North Northamptonshire reached 43.62% and has therefore fallen short of the 2019/20 target.
- 9.30 A significant proportion of waste in Northamptonshire is commercial and industrial which makes up around 37% of waste, and construction, demolition and excavation waste which makes up 48% of waste in Northamptonshire. The remaining elements of waste are municipal (13%) and hazardous waste (2%). There is a hazardous waste disposal and treatment facility located near Kings Cliffe; this has a national catchment and is one of few such facilities in the country.

<sup>71</sup> Defra data of the former authorities has been amalgamated to provide North Northamptonshire averages.

<sup>72</sup> [Local authority collected waste: annual results tables](#) (Defra, January 2022)

Figure 9.1 – Local Geological Sites

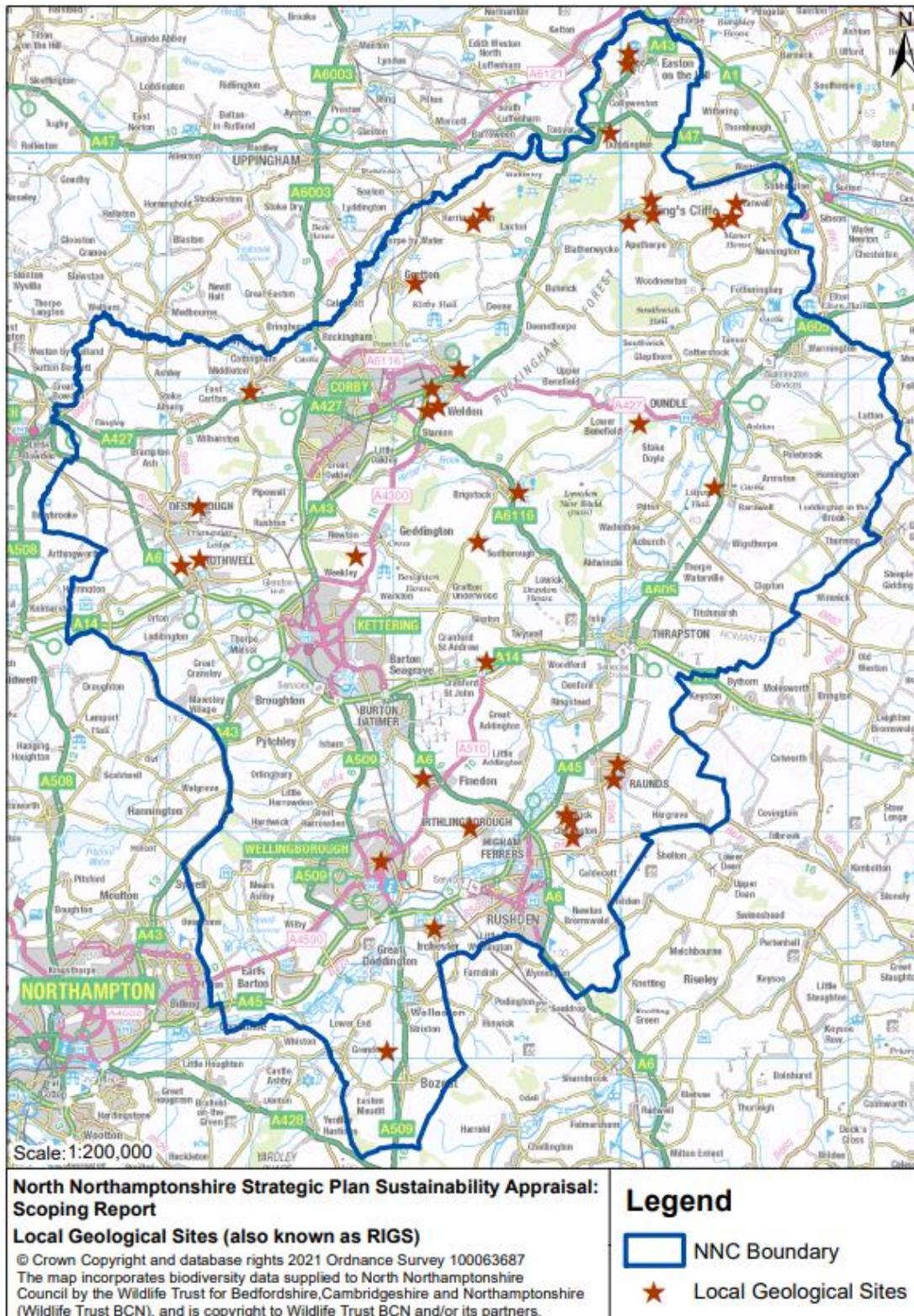
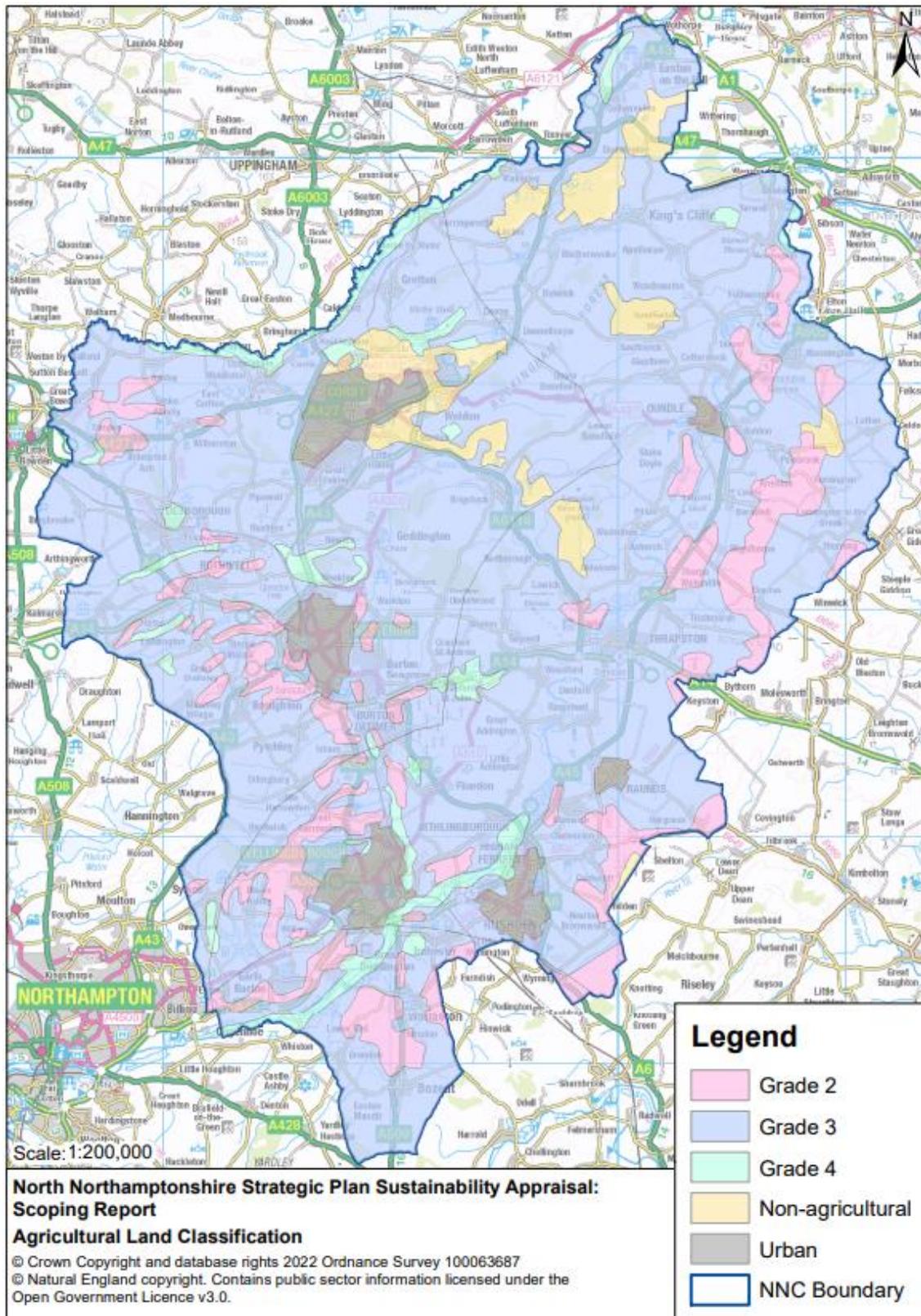


Figure 9.2 - Agricultural Land Classification



## Key sustainability issues

- Safeguard and ensure a sustainable supply of key mineral resources proportionate to local need, whilst encouraging the use of secondary and recycled materials for higher quality end-uses that support projected growth and associated infrastructure.
- Development, including minerals and waste development should, where possible, adopt a landscape-led approach to consider natural and historic assets to protect biodiversity and amenity value, preventing potential adverse impacts on the surrounding landscape, particularly in sensitive locations.
- Development has the potential to impact the limited availability of higher quality agricultural land, near the growth towns of Kettering and Wellingborough and soil quality across the plan area that is an important ecosystem service, such as for carbon storage.
- Support development opportunities on previously developed land, where appropriate, though this is a finite resource and can be challenging to fully unlock.
- The Plan should be aware of contaminated land due to some of the previous land uses in areas of North Northamptonshire.
- Limited data on land stability.
- Development, including the impact of the industrial and commercial sector, will increase the pressure on waste management and could exacerbate current shortfalls against recycling targets.

## 10. Economy

### Policy context review

10.1 On the economy the NPPF 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*”.

10.2 The JCS aims to make North Northamptonshire more self-reliant by achieving a sustainable balance between local jobs and workers and a more prosperous and diverse economy. It supports the enhancement of skills in the local workforce through improved opportunities for education and training to provide a more dynamic and flexible labour market and by providing the infrastructure required to support skills delivery at all ages. A major part of the strategy for generating new and better jobs and creating a stronger and more sustainable economy is the provision of the right amount and type of employment land in the most appropriate locations.

10.3 Policy 12 of the JCS states that the vitality and viability of town centres in North Northamptonshire will be supported by a number of means including securing and maintaining a vibrant mix of retail, employment, leisure and cultural facilities and supporting the provision of additional residential uses on appropriate sites including the re-use of vacant space above shops.

### Current baseline data

## Employment

- 10.4 The North Northamptonshire economy tends to function as two distinct sub-areas, with the northern area focused on Corby and Kettering and the southern area on Wellingborough and Rushden, which has closer functional links with Northampton. Whilst manufacturing still represents a key component of the area's economy, it has become significantly more advanced taking advantage of the latest innovative technology, with service-based sectors also playing an important role. The area has seen significant growth in, and demand for logistics floorspace. Existing sector strengths identified in the North Northamptonshire Economic prospectus include logistics, manufacturing, retail and leisure and visitor economy including tourism.
- 10.5 From a commercial property market perspective, North Northamptonshire accommodates two broad market areas. The main focus of market activity is industrial (General Industrial and Logistics), with office markets considered to be weaker and more secondary.
- 10.6 Policy 23 of the JCS sets a target for 31,100 net additional jobs to be delivered in North Northamptonshire over the period 2011-2031. The latest data from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) indicates that in the period 2011-2020 the area has delivered 22,000 jobs, indicating North Northamptonshire is well on its way to achieving its jobs target, with a residual 9,100 jobs to create by the end of the plan period.
- 10.7 North Northamptonshire has seen strong growth and demand for logistics (also known as B8 floorspace) due to its central location and excellent strategic road connections. As land supply has tightened in the 'Golden Triangle'<sup>73</sup>, availability of sites has decreased, and occupation costs have increased, making sites in areas such as North Northamptonshire more attractive.
- 10.8 North Northamptonshire forms part of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) area, which is committed to growing the economy of the area and creating job opportunities. The area has a population of 2 million and covers Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. The South East Midlands is one of the fastest growing economies in the country with a Gross Value Added (GVA) of approximately £50 billion and 85,000 VAT registered businesses. Over the five years between 2010 and 2015, there were 700 business start-ups created and a growth in 5,000 existing business. Over the same time period, there was an 8% increase in jobs and a 20% increase in enterprises. In 2015 the South

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<sup>73</sup> The Golden Triangle refers to an area of the East Midlands that has become renowned for its high density of distribution facilities and being home to the biggest names in retail. Spanning the area between the M1, M6 and M42 motorways, going as far west as Birmingham and stretching as far north as Nottingham.

East Midlands was also responsible for around £6bn of goods exports and £5bn of service exports.<sup>74</sup>

10.9 North Northamptonshire is located in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the area between Oxford and Cambridge which the Government recognises as a globally significant location, home to 3.7 million people and contributing £111bn GVA to the UK economy.<sup>75</sup> The Arc has been identified by the Government as a key economic priority it wishes to support to achieve sustainable economic growth within it, so is developing the Arc Spatial Framework (ASF) to plan for that growth to 2050 and beyond. With the right interventions and investment, economic forecasts suggest that by 2050 economic output could grow by between £80.4 billion and £163 billion per annum, with between 476,500 and 1.1 million additional jobs.<sup>76</sup> North Northamptonshire has struggled to deliver higher value jobs and has lagged behind other areas of the Arc in this respect with its Gross Value Added (GVA) amongst the lowest in the Arc.

10.10 North Northamptonshire is also located within England's Economic Heartland (EEH), the sub-national transport body (STB) for the region. EEH published its Regional Transport Strategy in 2021 which has an overarching aim to support sustainable economic growth with an ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions from transport by 2040. The Strategy includes policies which:

- Harness the region's expertise in clean technologies to deliver a greener transport system
- Use investment in East West Rail and mass transit systems as a catalyst for transforming public transport across the Heartland
- Champion digital technologies to make transport smarter
- Improve local and rural connectivity
- Support the freight sector while reducing its environmental impact.

10.11 In North Northamptonshire there has been significant delivery of additional employment floorspace in recent years. Table 10.1 below demonstrates the amount of employment floorspace (B-Class)<sup>77</sup> delivered in the area in the four years from 2016-2020 by use class (as categorised prior to the use class changes in 2020).

10.12 As can be seen below, nearly 640,000m<sup>2</sup> of net additional floorspace was delivered during this time. With the majority (over 400,000m<sup>2</sup>) of this being B8 logistics/distribution development.

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<sup>74</sup> [South East Midlands Strategic Economic Plan – Where innovation fuels growth](#) (SEMLEP)

<sup>75</sup> [The Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

<sup>76</sup> [Planning for sustainable growth in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#) (HM Government, 2021)

<sup>77</sup> [Guide to use class orders and changes that took place in September 2020](#) (Lichfields, 2021)

Table 10.1 - Net additional employment floorspace delivered 2016-2020 (m<sup>2</sup>)

	<b>B1a</b>	<b>B1b</b>	<b>B1c</b>	<b>Unclassified B1</b>	<b>B2</b>	<b>B8</b>	<b>Mixed B</b>	<b>Total</b>
North Northants	2,753	360	3,280	34,278	42,474	401,290	155,495	<b>639,930</b>

10.13 North Northamptonshire residents earn less in terms of gross weekly pay than the national average, with earnings for full-time workers averaging at £579.6 p/w compared to £613.1 p/w. The area however fares better than the East Midlands average which is £573.4 p/w.

Table 10.2 - Employment by occupation in North Northants (%) (Oct 2020-Sep 2021)

<b>Occupation type</b>	<b>%</b>
Managers, Directors, Senior Officials	10.5
Professional Occupations	14.4
Associate Professional & Technical	15.2
Administrative & Secretarial	10.3
Skilled Trade Occupations	11.2
Caring, Leisure and other service occupations	9.7
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	6.3
Process Plant & Machine Operatives	9
Elementary Occupations	13.5

10.14 Table 10.2 above demonstrates the breakdown of occupations in North Northamptonshire. As can be seen the largest share of occupations falls under the associate professional and technical category at 15.2% however this is about in line with the national average, whereas the occupation category with the second largest share – professional occupations – falls about 9% short of the national average. North Northamptonshire has a higher proportion of those working in elementary occupations and as process plant and machine operatives than the national average.<sup>78</sup>

10.15 In terms of specific occupations where there are notable differences between North Northamptonshire and national averages, standout industries are ‘wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ where in North Northamptonshire this equates to 21.3% of the total jobs in the area compared to the national average of 14.9%. Also ‘transportation and storage’ equates to 14.7%

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx>

of North Northamptonshire jobs compared to the 5.1% national average. There is a smaller proportion of those working in 'professional, scientific and technical activities' in North Northamptonshire (6%) compared to the rest of the UK (8.7%) and it's a similar pattern for those working in 'financial and insurance activities', 0.8% compared to 3.5%.<sup>79</sup>

10.16 At the 2011 census, 31% of the area's labour force was commuting to centres outside North Northamptonshire. The census also showed that Corby was the area with the highest level of self-containment and commuting patterns (67% of the labour force also works in Corby) whereas contrastingly, just 36% of the East Northamptonshire labour force also worked in the area. 18,000 more workers commuted out of North Northamptonshire than commuted in at the time of the census.

### **Town centres**

10.17 North Northamptonshire consists of a network of 12 town centres from the Growth Towns to Market Towns. The town centres in North Northamptonshire are the focus for retail, leisure and cultural facilities and provide significant employment. They also act as the heart of their communities and serve their surrounding rural areas, whilst also offering opportunities for regeneration over the coming years.

10.18 Town centres across North Northamptonshire have changed and evolved significantly over recent years, due to the growth in online shopping, the Covid-19 pandemic, which has had, and continues to have a significant impact, and the opening of the out-of-centre Rushden Lakes development – a 41,000sqm retail scheme that also comprises of leisure and food/drink floorspace and lies adjacent to the Nene Wetlands nature reserve.

10.19 According to AMRs published post-adoption of the JCS, from 2016-2020 there have been at least 31 retail developments that have been approved outside of the defined town centre areas of North Northamptonshire, which equated to approximately 37,000m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace (and this is likely to be an underestimate).

10.20 The JCS seeks a minimum increase of 12,500m<sup>2</sup> net comparison shopping floorspace in each of Corby and Kettering town centres by 2031. There has been limited new floorspace in either town centre to date, however key opportunity sites have been identified in the Part 2 Local Plans and both town centres have recently benefitted from significant funding to deliver improvements. Kettering has received funding to deliver a High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) and Corby has been awarded £19.9m of the government's Towns Fund, it is hoped the money will pay for a new sixth form centre and an improved route from the town centre to the

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<sup>79</sup> <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx>

railway station. Government funding is also being provided through the 'Welcome Back Fund'.

## **Key sustainability issues**

- The area remains relatively reliant on a narrow economic base and a low wage economy. There is therefore a need for diversification of the economy into higher-value activities.
- Not matching labour demands to housing can increase out-commuting away from North Northamptonshire.
- The area is attractive to the logistics sector due to its location and connections. Managing the demand and growth of logistics in a sustainable manner will be required.
- Importance of protecting manufacturing and light industry given the significant role it plays as an area of employment in North Northamptonshire.
- Opportunities for growth in science and technology industries.
- Opportunities for eco-industrial/business parks such as the Chelveston and Kettering Energy Parks.
- How to support town centres recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and respond to new planning use class 'E'.
- Impact of Rushden Lakes and other out-of-centre shopping locations on town centres.
- Decline of town centres and the need to ensure they continue to meet residents' needs.
- Opportunities to enhance tourism should be explored.

# 11. Connectivity and infrastructure

## Policy context review

- 11.1 The NPPF requires strategic policies to set out the overall strategy and make sufficient provision for infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy. In addition, it sets out the requirement to provide sufficient housing, employment, retail, leisure, community facilities including health, education and cultural infrastructure, and green infrastructure, including conservation and enhancements to natural, build, and historic environments.
- 11.2 The funding of infrastructure is often secured through the development management process through planning obligations entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The NPPF sets out that Plans should set out the expected developer contributions to obtain all types of infrastructure. The South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) sets the priorities for investment in roads, buildings, and facilities in the area from National Government funding sources. The inclusion of North Northamptonshire in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc will also present opportunities for the continued growth and infrastructure requirements.
- 11.3 The North Northamptonshire Investment Framework<sup>80</sup> provides the key infrastructure requirements for the delivery of the planned growth to 2031. It sets out the highest priority projects, including their current funding shortfall. Significantly, most of the short-term projects (up until 2024/25) relate to transport infrastructure.

## Current baseline data

### Transport and travel habits

- 11.4 North Northamptonshire is well connected to the surrounding East Midlands region and beyond. There are two strategic routes in North Northamptonshire. First, the A14 running east west (also known as European route E24) which provides a connection to the Haven seaports on the east coast and a connection to the M6 towards Birmingham and the West Country. Second, the A45 from Thrapston towards Northampton, provides the connection to the M1 southwards towards London or northwards towards Leicester and the north of the country.

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<sup>80</sup> [North Northamptonshire Investment Framework](#) (Former North Northamptonshire Joint Planning & Delivery Unit/Lichfields, June 2019)

- 11.5 The principal railway service within North Northamptonshire is served by Midlands Main Line, with railway stations in the towns of Corby, Kettering, and Wellingborough. The area is strategically located with connections nationally, including a regular service to London in less than an hour from Kettering and Wellingborough and 1 hour and 15 minutes from Corby, and internationally where there is a direct line to Luton Airport Parkway Station. The station usage had grown between 2002 and 2011 in North Northamptonshire; in Wellingborough there has been a 25% increase in station usage and in Kettering there has been a 16% increase in usage in that time<sup>81</sup>. Data on station usage is not available for Corby, however, improvements between the East Midlands and London by Network Rail has resulted in 50% more seats available during peak hours between Corby and London since launching its all-electric service in 2021<sup>82</sup>. The east of the area is not served by rail
- 11.6 The bus services are generally good around the larger settlements and main destination points of North Northamptonshire, including Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough, Rushden and Higham Ferrers, and Rushden Lakes. Most of the bus services offer at least an hourly connection during daytime hours Monday to Friday but offer a limited service during evenings and Sundays. Many of the rural communities are offered limited bus services that do not provide a convenient travel option and they are therefore more reliant on the private car to access services and employment.
- 11.7 There are two short cycle routes on the National Cycle Network in North Northamptonshire; Route 552 that connects Kettering to Great Oakley and route 53, an on-road route that connects Cotterstock to Warmington. Cycling and walking are encouraged in the plan area through green infrastructure corridors and the East Northamptonshire Greenway. As set out below, the GI network offers opportunities for walking and cycling across the green corridors and waterways across North Northamptonshire. The East Northants Greenway is a mainly traffic free walking and cycling route that currently links together Rushden and Higham Ferrers along a rail line, with further links across the Nene Valley into Irthlingborough. The long-term vision for the Greenway is to create a high-quality walking and cycling route that will link Wellingborough to Peterborough. In addition, the public rights of way offer accessible routes across the plan area, providing important connections in the rural areas.
- 11.8 The proportion of people walking for travel in North Northamptonshire ranges between 6.6% (those travelling by walking five times per week) and 26.6% (those travelling by walking once per month). Table 11.1 shows the latest statistics on walking as a means of transport<sup>83</sup>. It highlights that a low percentage of people

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<sup>81</sup> [Northamptonshire Rail Strategy Fit for Purpose](#) (Former NCC, January 2013)

<sup>82</sup> ['More seats and faster journeys between East Midlands and London'](#) (Network Rail, May 2021)

<sup>83</sup> [Walking and Cycling Statistics England 2020](#) (Department for Transport, 2021)

walk as their main transport method. Walking as a means of transport to access education is higher at 49% in the East Midlands (with a three-year average); the percentage of children aged 5 to 16 walking to education has fluctuated between 45% and 49% from 2008 to 2018.

*Table 11.1 Walking for travel in North Northamptonshire (data source: Department for Transport, 2021)*

Area	Once per month	Once per week	Three time per week	Five time per week
Corby area	27.8	21.2	10.8	6.9
East Northamptonshire area	26.2	19.7	7.9	5.8
Kettering area	26.9	22.1	10.4	8.2
Wellingborough area	25.7	20.5	9.7	5.7
North Northamptonshire	26.6	20.9	9.7	6.6

11.9 Table 11.2 sets out the methods of travel to work in the former districts/boroughs in North Northamptonshire. It shows that there are little local variations in the modes of transport. The key trend is that almost half of journeys to a place of work are by driving a car or van, and a very low percentage use more sustainable modes such as public transport, walking or cycling. It should be noted that the figures derive from the 2011 census and therefore these trends could have changed, significantly the percentage of people working from home since the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, data is not available on the proportion of private vehicles that are electric in comparison to combustion engines.

*Table 11.2 Mode of Transport to work in North Northamptonshire<sup>84</sup>*

Method of travel to work	Corby	East Northamptonshire	Kettering	Wellingborough	North Northamptonshire
Work mainly at home	1.8%	4.4%	3.4%	3.0%	3.3%
Underground, metro, light rail, or tram	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Train	0.7%	1.1%	1.2%	1.4%	1.1%
Bus, minibus, or coach	4.1%	1.0%	1.9%	1.6%	2.0%
Taxi	0.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0.6%	0.4%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%

<sup>84</sup> Data source: Nomis 2011

Driving a car or van	44.1%	50.4%	48.3%	46.5%	47.6%
Passenger in car or van	7.6%	3.6%	4.4%	5.0%	5.0%
Bicycle	1.9%	0.9%	1.3%	1.0%	1.2%
On foot	6.2%	6.4%	7.7%	6.5%	6.7%
Other	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Not currently working	31.9%	31.1%	30.9%	33.7%	31.8%

11.10 The planned growth in North Northamptonshire will mean a significant increase in demand for travel. Notably, this will impact the A43, A14 and A45 corridors, and roads that are already congested at peak times, particularly in and around Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough, and Rushden<sup>85</sup>. Transport forecasts that modelled the planned growth for the JCS set out key junctions that are shown to experience highly significant congestion problems<sup>86</sup>. Further modelling for the A43 in Corby sets out mitigation layouts to reduce projected queuing and delays in the future<sup>87</sup>. This increased travel and congestion could lead to an increase in noise and air pollution and greenhouse gases resulting in health and environmental concerns.

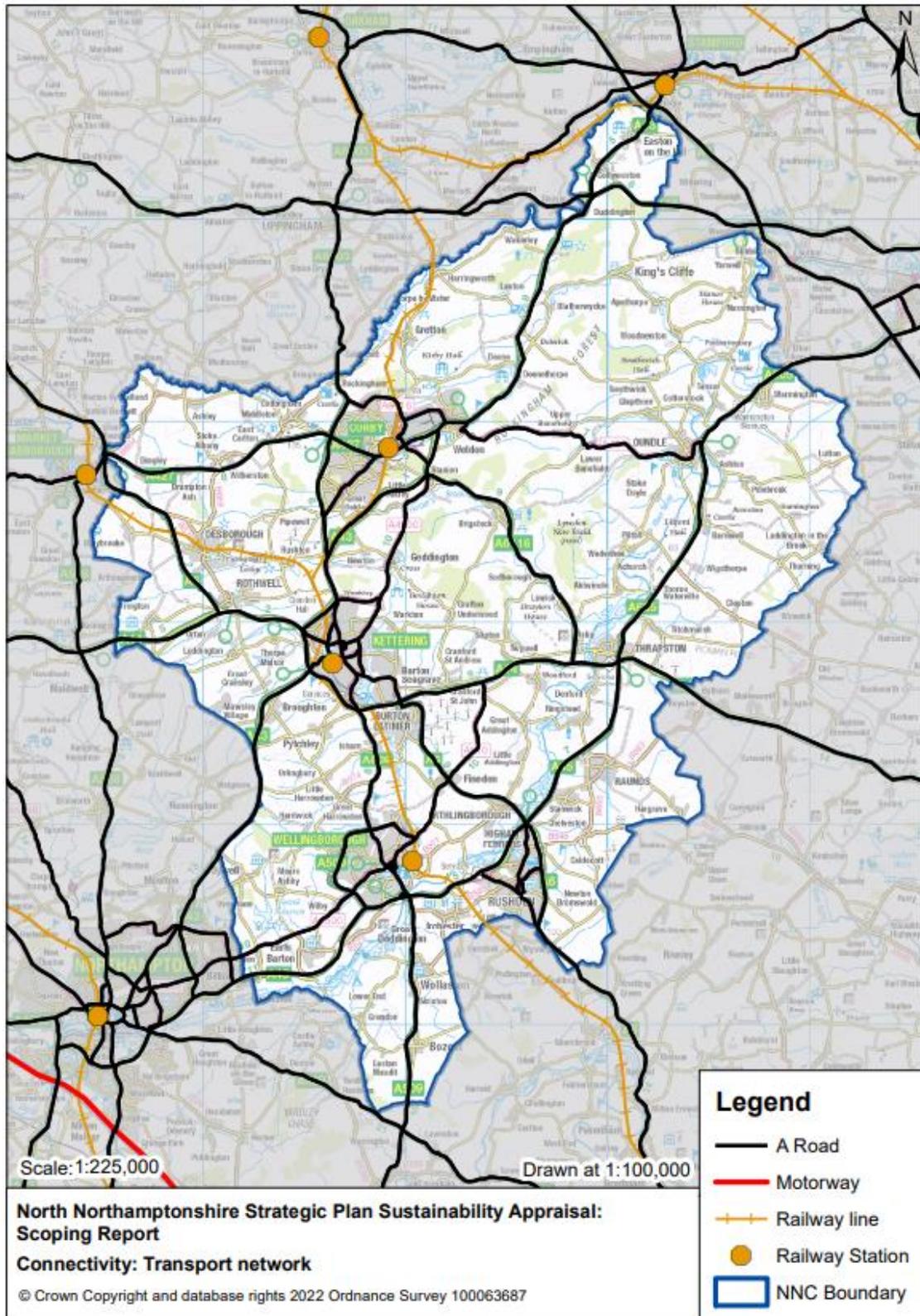
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<sup>85</sup> [Northamptonshire Transportation Plan Fit for Purpose – Local Transport Plan](#) (former NCC, March 2012)

<sup>86</sup> [Northamptonshire Strategic Transport Model \(NSTM\) TRAFFIC FORECASTING REPORT NNJPU Core Strategy Assessment](#) (WSP, May 2015)

<sup>87</sup> [Northamptonshire Highways A43 Corby – Junction Modelling](#) (WSP, April 2019)

Figure 11.1 - Transport network



## **Social infrastructure**

- 11.11 Social infrastructure in North Northamptonshire will be integral to support the planned growth and to address key challenges, particularly climate change and the levelling up agenda, to ensure fair access to services to all residents, access to green spaces, and employment opportunities. This is particularly important for the most deprived neighbourhoods which have been identified as 'left behind': Kingswood and Hazel Leys in Corby, Windmill Ward in Kettering, and Queensway in Wellingborough.
- 11.12 Key elements of social infrastructure in North Northamptonshire are summarised in sections 3 and 4. This includes the local data for education, housing, health provision, and open spaces, sports, and recreation.

## **Green infrastructure**

- 11.13 The JCS (2016) identifies green infrastructure networks at a strategic 'sub-regional' and local scale across North Northamptonshire. There are 6 interlinked sub-regional corridors that connect the natural heritage, greenspace, biodiversity, and other areas of environmental interest. These broadly follow the main river valleys. The local corridors cover a variety of land uses and provide opportunities at a smaller scale.
- 11.14 In addition, the former districts/boroughs refined and updated their green infrastructure networks to include further detail, for example, in local and neighbourhood level corridors. However, the approach taken by each former authority was slightly different and therefore corridors may not currently completely align or apply across the wider North Northamptonshire plan area.
- 11.15 The principles of the green infrastructure network in North Northamptonshire are integral to several other topic areas, particularly biodiversity, landscape, health and wellbeing, air and water quality, climate change and economy.

## **Digital infrastructure**

- 11.16 In Northamptonshire, the Superfast Northamptonshire project is promoting and securing the next generation access (NGA) pure fibre and fibre based broadband infrastructure, which at the minimum will support superfast broadband services, but aims to maximise speed capabilities in support of full fibre and gigabit capable targets. It is addressing digital connectivity in urban and rural areas.
- 11.17 Full fibre coverage in the combined area of North and West Northamptonshire has increased tenfold from 1.7% in January 2016 to 17% in January 2021 and had reached 19.5% in April 2021. The Superfast project has enabled around

75,000 properties in Northamptonshire to have timely access to faster broadband.

- 11.18 In June 2018, the former Northamptonshire County Council agreed new targets for the Superfast Northamptonshire project, focused on superfast and ultrafast (greater than 100Mbps download speeds) coverage. The ambition was raised again in 2019, with additional and challenging targets for gigabit capable and full fibre coverage. Key future targets in North Northamptonshire include 40% of premises connected to full fibre and 75% of premises served by gigabit capable networks by December 2023, ahead of the Governments' UK targets.
- 11.19 In addition, there is a project to help drive the provision of full-fibre connectivity to new buildings in the planning application process through a range of measures. The project involves the creation of a portal hosted by the Superfast Northamptonshire website. This will automatically pull information from weekly lists of planning applications for new build homes to highlight potential new customers to telecoms providers.

### **Key sustainability issues**

- The need to ensure sufficient infrastructure to support levels of growth across North Northamptonshire.
- Given the rural nature of much of the area there is a high dependency on travel by car to access employment, services and facilities.
- Public transport opportunities are limited in the rural areas.
- New development, including the expansion of employment land, could increase levels of congestion, air and noise pollution resulting in risk to human and environmental health.
- Opportunity to support and enhance the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure, including provision of public transport to provide improved access and connectivity to rural communities, increase the availability of EV charging points and the availability of cycling and walking routes.
- The need to recognise and support development in sustainable, accessible locations and identify solutions to improve connectivity in developments on the periphery of key growth towns.
- The need to recognise and address local inequalities through improving access to relevant infrastructure in neighbourhoods identified as 'left behind' in North Northamptonshire.
- The need to identify opportunities to protect and enhance the network of green and blue infrastructure that provides important connections across North Northamptonshire, and where possible, align the approach to the local GI corridors to provide continuity.

- To need to increase the accessibility to next generation fibre connections in existing urban and rural communities, as well as new developments across North Northamptonshire.

## 12. Historic Environment

### Policy context review

- 12.1 The NPPF states that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.
- 12.2 Paragraph 185 of the NPPF and supporting Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) expect development plans to 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. In developing the strategy, the NPPF recommends that the wider social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits of conservation should be key considerations.
- 12.3 *Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, Historic England Advice Note 8*: 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.
- 12.4 The adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS, 2016) notes that the historic environment is one of North Northamptonshire's most valued assets. Designated heritage assets within the plan area include scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, and conservation areas. Policy 2 sets out a range of measures to protect, preserve or enhance the historic environment where development would impact upon a heritage asset and/or its setting.

### Current baseline data

- 12.5 Heritage assets can be designated or non-designated. North Northamptonshire has over 2,800 designated heritage assets spread across its rural and urban landscapes. Of these, 2,704 are either Grade I, Grade II or Grade II\* listed buildings, with the rest including scheduled monuments (84), registered parks and gardens (14), and conservation areas (83).<sup>88</sup>
- 12.6 Some of the key heritage assets of national importance found in North Northamptonshire include Lyveden New Bield, Apethorpe Hall, Rockingham Castle, Kirby Hall and Boughton House, all of which support the visitor economy. The conservation areas are found in most of the key towns and villages in North

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<sup>88</sup> [Heritage Indicator data](#) (Historic England, 2021)

Northamptonshire that hold special architectural or historical interest e.g., at Corby Old Village or the historical town of Finedon.

- 12.7 However, some of these assets are currently identified on the Historic England '[Heritage at Risk Register](#)' which identifies listed buildings, important historic sites, places and landmarks that are at risk from neglect or decay. As of 2021 there are currently 15 Heritage at Risk entries in North Northamptonshire and includes Barnwell Castle, Apethorpe Palace and the Church of St Peter in Raunds. Wellingborough Town Centre is listed as the only conservation area at risk<sup>89</sup>.
- 12.8 Non-designated heritage assets are an important component of North Northamptonshire and are at risk from the impact of development, or the cumulative loss of structures. Non-designated heritage assets are identified by the local planning authority through 'Local Lists'.

### **Key sustainability issues**

- How to balance development with safeguarding and enhancement of historical assets and ensuring a landscape-led approach is adopted to prevent potential adverse impacts on the surrounding landscape, particularly in sensitive locations
- Restoration of 'at risk' assets.
- There is often poor interpretation of historical assets and their context when it comes to new development.
- The capacity of historic settlements to accommodate significant development without damaging their historic character.
- Aspects of more recent heritage are often overlooked or undervalued.
- The vulnerability of the historic environment as a finite resource to change.
- The need to ensure good place making reflects local character and creates good quality distinctive places.
- Potential value to increase tourism opportunities through heritage assets.

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<sup>89</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/heritage-counts/indicator-data/>

## 13. Landscape

### Policy context review

- 13.1 The European Landscape Convention states that the planning system should protect and enhance valued landscapes. Weight should be given to ‘conserving landscape and scenic beauty’.
- 13.2 Nationally, the NPPF sets out the key principles for plan and decision making:
- To protect and enhance valued landscapes.
  - Development to be sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting.
  - To recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.
  - To conserve and enhance landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection.
- 13.3 Furthermore, the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan dedicates a chapter to ‘recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes’. This includes the development of a Nature Recovery Network and identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement for all of England’s Natural Character Areas. The Environment Act 2021 renews the ambition to protect our landscapes with various measures and tools, such as the use of Conservation Covenants to help protect and conserve land for its natural or heritage features for the long-term.
- 13.4 The Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment<sup>90</sup> (2006) provides a framework for more detailed character assessments that give an objective description of the North Northamptonshire landscape, as well as a series of strategies and guidelines to help direct future landscape character, the biodiversity character, and the historic character of North Northamptonshire. This study informed and guided the JCS (2016) to ensure that the diverse character of the area’s landscape is respected, retained and, where possible, enhanced for future generations.
- 13.5 Local Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans recognise the landscape character of largely the rural settlements, including key views and important green boundaries.

### Current baseline data

- 13.6 The landscape in North Northamptonshire has been influenced over time by both human and physical activities, where both built-up and natural landscapes create

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<sup>90</sup> [Current Landscape Character Assessment](#) (RNRP, 2006)

the local distinctiveness and character. Landforms have been shaped by the geological formation, soils, land cover, habitats, and human influence, and in North Northamptonshire are characterized by several biodiversity assets and the green infrastructure network, that comprises green spaces and natural elements that connect the urban settlement to the countryside, including green corridors, Local Wildlife Sites, ancient woodlands and SSSIs.

- 13.7 Natural England have identified 159 National Character Areas (NCA) in England which are defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, economic and cultural activity. The NCA profiles provide an integrated, locally specific evidence base that can be used for making decisions about the natural environment. The NCAs relevant to North Northamptonshire are set out below.

*Rockingham Forest*

- 13.8 A broad, low, undulating ridge underlain by Jurassic limestone which falls away from a prominent, steep northern scarp overlooking the Welland Valley. Large areas of woodland remain a significant feature of the landscape and, while not forming continuous belts, the blocks of woodland often coalesce visually with hedgerow trees and smaller copses to increase the perception of extensive woodland cover across the landscape.

*Northamptonshire Vales*

- 13.9 Consists of a series of low-lying clay vales and river valleys, including the valleys of the rivers Nene and Welland and their tributaries.

*Yardley Whittlewood Ridge*

- 13.10 A low and gently undulating limestone plateau commonly referred to locally as the Ridge. It runs in a south-west to north-east direction between the nearby towns of Northampton and Milton Keynes. The elevated topography creates a physical boundary between the catchments of the River Nene to the north and the River Great Ouse to the south.
- 13.11 A proportion of Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands and minor proportion of Northamptonshire Uploads are within the North Northamptonshire boundary.
- 13.12 The Northamptonshire Landscape Character and Green Infrastructure Study sets out the variety of landscape character types and areas found within North Northamptonshire, which are listed below.

*Ironstone Landscapes*

- Ironstone Quarried Plateau (Kirby and Gretton Plateau)
- Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes (Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes, Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes and Irthlingborough Slopes)

### *Boulder Clay Landscapes*

- Clay Plateau (Burton Wold)
- Undulating Claylands (Bozeat Claylands)
- Farmed Claylands (Chelveston and Caldecott Claylands and Polebrook Claylands)
- Wooded clay plateau (Geddington Chase, Dene Plateau and Rockingham Plateau)

### *Limestone Plateau*

- Limestone Plateau (Collyweston Limestone Plateau and King's Cliffe Plateau)
- Wooded Limestone Hills and Valleys (King's Cliffe Hills and Valleys)
- Limestone valley slopes (Wollaston to Irchester, Higham Ferrers to Thrapston, Thrapston to Warmington, Harper's Brook, Aldwincle to Oundle and Oundle to Nassington)

### *Lower Jurassic Geology Landscapes*

- Farmed Scarp Slopes (Cottingham to Harringworth, Harringworth to Duddington and Duddington to Easton on the Hill)

### *Riverine Landscapes*

- Broad River Valley Floodplain (River Ise Floodplain)

13.13 In addition to the various natural landscape, North Northamptonshire has key urban landscapes that contribute to the distinct local character:

- Desborough
- Rothwell
- Corby
- Kettering
- Rushden and Higham Ferrers
- Wellingborough
- Raunds
- Thrapston
- Oundle
- Burton Latimer
- Irthlingborough

13.14 The Kings Cliffe Hills and Valleys Landscape Character Area, which is located at the core of the Rockingham Forest, is recognised for its importance of tranquility.

Policy 3 of the JCS states that development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting and preserve areas of tranquility from urban intrusion, including excessive levels of noise, light and traffic and surrounding development should be an appropriate design.

Figure 13.1 - National Character Areas

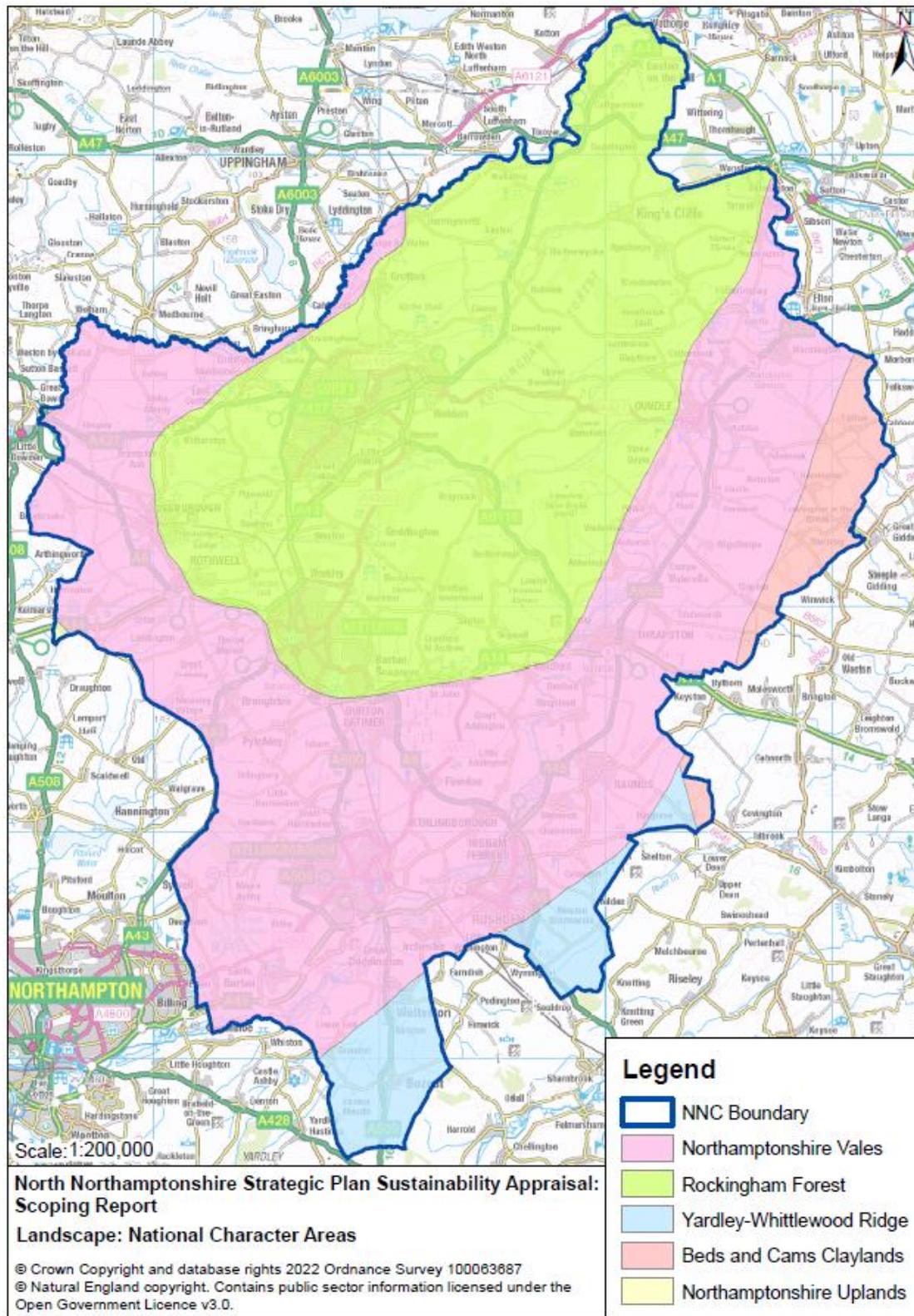
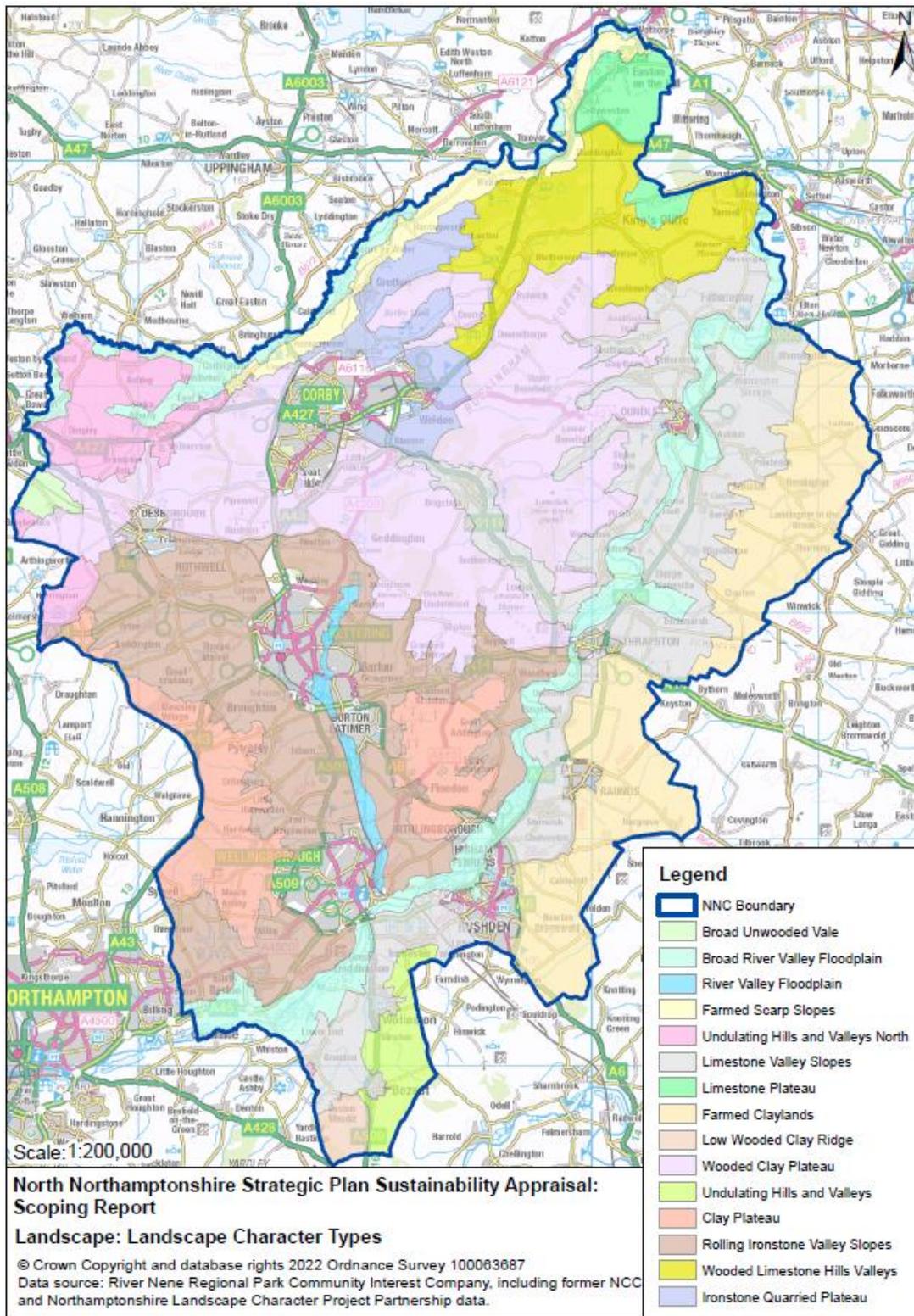


Figure 13.2 - Landscape Character Types



## **Key sustainability issues**

- Development has the potential to impact on the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape.
- Development has the potential to impact the preservation of areas recognised to provide tranquility and dark skies at night from additional noise and light pollution and visual impact of increased traffic, including the Kings Cliffe Hills and Valleys Landscape Character Area.
- The design and layout of development requires a landscape-led approach to design, to ensure the best placement and integration of the proposed development into the existing landscape, especially in sensitive locations.
- Development and growth provide an opportunity to visually improve urban landscapes to attract new investment and enhance tourism, whilst providing wider benefits to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

## 14. SA Framework

- 14.1 A SA Framework provides a method by which the environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be identified, described, analysed, and compared, which forms a central part of the SA process. A set of sustainability objectives and their indicators make up the SA framework. These objectives and indicators can then be used to monitor the implementation of the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.
- 14.2 It is important that the SA objectives are up to date, relevant and can also provide a consistent approach between strategic policies and site/area specific policies as part of the Local Plan as it is reviewed and updated.
- 14.3 There were previously 21 objectives to inform the consideration of policies for the Joint Core Strategy 2016. These objectives were defined through a combination of Government guidance, scoping of existing documents, analysis of baseline information, and the identification of the issues facing the district at the start of the previous plan period. However, this Plan review provides the opportunity to reconsider the SA objectives, based on the latest evidence and policy approach.
- 14.4 Table 14.1 below shows the proposed SA Framework for the Strategic Plan, which has been developed from a fresh analysis of international, national, and local policy objectives, baseline information, and the key sustainability issues identified for North Northamptonshire. The SA objectives provide a method by which to test whether the Strategic Plan will yield the best possible outcomes in terms of sustainability, environmental, social, and economic effects. The indicators are points which help expand the focus of the SA objectives and to ensure all the issues are considered as part of the assessment process. This is not considered a definitive list when conducting the SA. Reference to the SEA topics show how the SA objectives have complied with the SEA Directive.
- 14.5 The SA objectives and accompanying indicators set out in the SA Framework 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 14.1 - SA Framework

<b>SA Topic</b>	<b>Sustainability objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>SEA topic</b>
Communities	SA 1: To provide suitable and affordable housing in North Northamptonshire to meet local needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the supply of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas.</li> <li>• Promoting a diverse range of size, types, tenures and affordable homes</li> <li>• Consider the housing needs of all sections of the community including the ageing population, those with special needs and gypsy, travellers and travelling showpeople.</li> </ul>	Population Human health Material assets
Communities	SA 2: To reduce social inequalities and deprivation and to encourage social inclusion and strengthened community cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage integration of new neighbourhoods with existing neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Promote developments that benefit and are used by existing and new residents, particularly in the most deprived areas</li> <li>• Protect the vitality and viability of North Northamptonshire's town centres and local centres</li> </ul>	Population Human health Material assets
Communities	SA 3: To support the creation of safer communities in which levels of crime, anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime and crime disparities across North Northamptonshire are reduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote development that seeks to design out crime</li> <li>• Encourage development that promotes road safety</li> </ul>	Population Human health
Health and wellbeing	SA 4: To maintain and improve access to community services and facilities, including health care, education and amenity space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support existing town centres and village centres in North Northamptonshire</li> <li>• Provide additional services and facilities that are sufficient to support new and growing communities, as well those already existing</li> <li>• Support development that is in proximity to existing services, facilities and amenity space</li> </ul>	Population Human health Material assets
Health and wellbeing	SA 5: To improve public health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in North Northamptonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy, active lifestyles by maintaining, connecting, creating and</li> </ul>	Population Human health

		<p>enhancing multifunctional open spaces, green infrastructure and recreation and sports facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage walking and cycling</li> <li>• Improve access to health care facilities</li> </ul>	
Climate change	SA 6: To minimise the contribution to climate change through appropriate mitigation, and to support adaptation measures to build resilience against the impacts of climate change in North Northamptonshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and encourage energy efficient design and the provision of renewable energy sources.</li> <li>• Minimise greenhouse gas emission from transport and industry.</li> <li>• Facilitate the take up of low or zero emission vehicles.</li> <li>• Support the provision of sustainable transport methods, including walking and cycling infrastructure and reduce the need to travel.</li> <li>• Minimise the risk of flooding.</li> <li>• Promote other opportunities to reduce emissions through nature-based solutions.</li> </ul>	<p>Climatic factors Air Water Soil Biodiversity Flora and Fauna</p>
Biodiversity	SA 7: To protect, conserve, enhance, restore, and connect wildlife, habitats and species to achieve a net gain in biodiversity across North Northamptonshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid adverse effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated natural assets within and adjacent to North Northamptonshire.</li> <li>• Seek to protect the ecological network to achieve net gain in biodiversity and improve connectivity between habitats and opportunities for species to thrive.</li> <li>• Take into the account the impacts of climate change, including the changing species distribution and migratory patterns.</li> <li>• Provide and manage opportunities for people to connect with wildlife, whilst ensuring the protection of biodiversity sensitivity.</li> <li>• Seek to enhance opportunities for biodiversity through green infrastructure networks.</li> </ul>	<p>Biodiversity Flora and fauna Human health Climatic factors</p>

Air	SA 8: To limit air pollution in North Northamptonshire and ensure long-term improvements in air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid, minimise and mitigate the effects of poor air quality.</li> <li>• Minimise pollutants emitted from industry.</li> <li>• Promote sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel.</li> <li>• Contain measures to reduce congestion.</li> <li>• Facilitate the take up of low or zero emission vehicles.</li> </ul>	Air Climatic factors Human health
Water	SA 9: Reduce and manage the current and future risk of flooding in North Northamptonshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise inappropriate development in areas prone to flood risk, considering the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Promote the use of Natural Flood Management schemes, SuDS, and flood resilient design.</li> <li>• Promote opportunities to support flood resilient places to reduce the risk of flood damage to properties and speed up the recovery after flooding.</li> </ul>	Water Climatic factors Material assets Human health
Water	SA 10: To achieve sustainable water resource management and improve water quality in North Northamptonshire waters bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to improve the water quality of rivers and inland water.</li> <li>• Ensure there is sufficient waste water treatment capacity to accommodate the new development.</li> <li>• Promote development which would avoid water pollution due to contaminated runoff from development.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is sufficient water resource available to support existing communities and new development.</li> <li>• Support efficient use of water in new developments, including the recycling of water resources where appropriate.</li> <li>• Minimise the threat from abstraction for water supply and poor water quality on species and habitats.</li> </ul>	Water Climatic factors Biodiversity Human health
Land	SA 11: To conserve, maintain, and ensure a sustainable use of mineral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure sustainable supply of mineral resources to support</li> </ul>	Material assets Landscape

	resources in North Northamptonshire.	<p>new development and infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that unnecessary or unjustified sterilisation of mineral resources is prevented.</li> <li>• Minimise any adverse impacts from mineral development on the natural and historic landscape and assets.</li> <li>• optimise resource use, by reducing, reusing, and recycling where possible.</li> </ul>	
Land	SA 12: To ensure the efficient use of land and resources through the re-use of previously developed land and to maintain and enhance soils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise opportunities for housing and employment on PDL.</li> <li>• Ensure contaminated land is remediated where appropriate.</li> <li>• Minimise the loss of high-grade agricultural land.</li> <li>• Avoid development in areas of unstable land.</li> <li>• Protect and enhance soil quality.</li> </ul>	Soil Material assets
Land	SA 13: To reduce waste going to landfill and increase re-use, recycling, and composting opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote opportunities to enhance recycling.</li> </ul>	Soil Material assets
Economy	SA 14: To facilitate a sustainable, diverse and growing economy in North Northamptonshire to meet current and future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain an adequate supply of employment land and the delivery of infrastructure to meet North Northamptonshire’s economic and employment needs</li> <li>• Promote business development and enhance productivity</li> <li>• Provide for start-up businesses and flexible working practices</li> <li>• Provide for accessible and diverse employment opportunities, including high quality jobs.</li> <li>• Support the prosperity and diversification of North Northamptonshire’s rural economy</li> <li>• Support links to the wider economy of the Ox-Cam Arc, EEH and SEMLEP</li> </ul>	Population Material assets

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable access to education and skills training.</li> </ul>	
Connectivity and infrastructure	SA 15: To deliver and enhance accessibility and connectivity of social, economic and green infrastructure across all communities in North Northamptonshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support opportunities for development in proximity to local centres, services and facilities, key employment areas and public transport.</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance networks for active travel, including walking and cycling.</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance access to public transport provision.</li> <li>• Improve access to infrastructure to minimise local inequalities.</li> <li>• Support and encourage green and blue infrastructure corridors to enhance access to the natural environment and recreation opportunities.</li> <li>• Promote opportunities to access next generation fibre connections.</li> </ul>	Population Human health Material Assets Climatic factors Air Water Soil Biodiversity Landscape
Historic environment	SA 16: To conserve and/or enhance the quality and accessibility of the historic environment in North Northamptonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase accessibility to the historic environment in a way that conserves and enhances it</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for improvements to the conservation, management and enhancement of North Northamptonshire's heritage assets, particularly heritage at risk</li> </ul>	Cultural heritage Landscape
Landscape	SA 17: To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment, maintaining and strengthening a sense of place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support development that takes a landscape-led approach to design and layout.</li> <li>• Minimise and prevent poorly designed development that does not integrate with the existing landscape.</li> </ul>	Landscape Biodiversity Flora and fauna Cultural heritage

14.6 The SEA process requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on a specific list of environmental factors. Table 14.2 shows how the SA objectives relate to these factors.

Table 14.2 – Links between SEA directive issues and SA objectives

<b>SEA Directive issue</b>	<b>SA objective</b>
Biodiversity	SA6, SA7, SA10, SA15, SA17
Population	SA1, SA2, SA3, SA4, SA5, SA14, SA15
Human health	SA1, SA2, SA3, SA4, SA5, SA7, SA8, SA9, SA10, SA15
Flora and fauna	SA6, SA7, SA17
Soil	SA6, SA12, SA13, SA15
Water	SA6, SA9, SA10, SA15
Air	SA6, SA8, SA15
Climatic factors	SA6, SA7, SA8, SA9, SA10, SA15
Material assets	SA1, SA2, SA4, SA9, SA11, SA12, SA13, SA14, SA15
Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	SA16, SA17
Landscape	SA11, SA15, SA16, SA17

## Use of the SA Framework

- 14.7 The SA process will be fully integrated with the production of the Strategic Plan. The findings of the SA will be presented as a colour coded symbol showing a score for the option against each of the SA objectives, along with a justification for the score given, where appropriate.
- 14.8 The use of colour coding in the matrices will allow for likely significant effects to be easily identified, as shown in Table 14.3 below.

Table 14.3 – SA matrix

✓✓	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 impact uncertain or lack of information

14.9 Furthermore, the following definitions will be used to highlight the scale of the effects.

<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Short term	The impact of the option, policy or proposal would happen within the initial 0-5 years
Medium term	The impact of the option, policy or proposal would happen within 5-15 years
Long term	The impact of the option, policy or proposal would happen beyond the lifetime of the plan

<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Definition</b>
High	Effects predicted with high level of certainty
Medium	Effects predicted are likely
Low	Effects predicted are uncertain

<b>Reversibility</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Permanent	The impact of the option, policy or proposal would be irreversible
Temporary	The impact of the option, policy or proposal would be reversible

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Site specific	The impact of the option, policy or proposal is likely to occur at a site-specific level
Local	The impact of the option, policy or proposal is likely to occur at a local or plan area scale
Cross-border	The impact of the option, policy or proposal is likely to occur across local authority boundaries at a sub-regional scale
Regional/national	The impact of the option, policy or proposal is likely to occur over a very wide area

14.10 In addition, Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires that the assessment of effects include secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. Secondary or indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan. These effects are not cumulative and will be identified and assessed primarily through the examination of the relationship between various objectives during the assessment of environmental effects. Cumulative effects arise where several proposals individually may or may not have a significant effect, but in-combination have a significant effect. Cumulative effects can be:

- Additive- the simple sum of all the effects;

- Neutralising- where effects counteract each other to reduce the overall effect; and
- Synergistic - is the effect of two or more effects acting together which is greater than the simple sum of the effects when acting alone.

14.11 Many environmental problems result from cumulative effects. These effects are very hard to deal with on a project-by-project basis through Environmental Impact Assessment. It is at the SA level that they are most effectively identified and addressed. The cumulative and synergistic effects of the plan will therefore also be addressed in the SA.

### **Assessment criteria and assumptions**

14.12 The SA Framework will be 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 as the Plan evolves. The performance of sites against the site assessment criteria and assumptions will be used, alongside other technical assessments, to inform the selection of individual site allocations. More detail on the criteria and assumptions used will be provided at the next phase of the SA process.

14.13 The criteria and assumptions will provide a consistent approach to the assessment and appraisal of site options, where 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 will be set out. These assumptions will 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 and public transport links.

14.14 The Council will seek feedback on the criteria and assumptions during the SA work, particularly from statutory consultees, to ensure that they are appropriate with respect to the evidence base and the alternative options being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan.

### **Reasonable alternatives**

14.15 The SA must appraise not only the preferred options for inclusion in the Plan, but the identification, assessment and comparison of 'reasonable alternatives' to these options.

14.16 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.

14.17 The Council will set out reasonable alternatives at a later stage of the SA and plan-making process.

## 15. Next Steps

- 15.1 It is important that the scope of the SA, incorporating the SEA, is appropriate for the documents being produced to ensure that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues. For this reason, consultation is a critical step in the scoping process and is a legal requirement of SEA Directive.
- 15.2 The aim of the consultation on the Scoping Report is to involve, engage and seek the views of the three statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) and other key stakeholders on the proposed scope of the SA.
- 15.3 Furthermore, it should be noted that the Council is developing a Housing and Economic Land Assessment (HELAA) for the area to help identify a supply of land which is suitable, available, and achievable for future housing and economic development uses and to provide an evidence base to inform the plan making process. Consultation on the approach to the HELAA methodology and Site Assessment Criteria, which includes the former sustainability objectives that supported the production of the JCS (2016), is between 12 January and 25 April 2022. Feedback received from this consultation will help influence the next stage of the SA process, including the SA framework and the SA assessment criteria and assumptions.

### Consultation

- 15.4 The consultation period starts on Monday 28th March 2022 and closes at **5.00pm** on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022. The Scope and Issues consultation document and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report can be viewed electronically at: [North Northants Strategic Plan Scope and Issues Consultation - North Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space](#).

Alternatively, a hard copy of the consultation documents will be able at the main Council Offices in Corby, Kettering, Thrapston and Wellingborough and the main libraries throughout North Northamptonshire during normal opening hours.

### Consultation questions

1. Is the scope of the SA appropriate as set out considering the role of the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan?
2. Are there any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA policy context that should be included (Appendix 1)? If so, please explain.
3. Is the baseline information provided robust and comprehensive, and does it provide a suitable baseline for the SA of the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan?

4. Are there any additional SA issues relevant to the Strategic Plan that should be included? If so, please explain.
5. Is the SA Framework (Section 14) appropriate and does it include a suitable set of SA objectives supported by suitable indicators for assessing the effects of the Strategic Plan?

## Appendix 1: Plans, Policies, and Programmes (PPP) review

The purpose of this review is to inform the development of the North Northants Strategic Plan Issues and Options by identifying key documents that provide a direction on sustainability matters that can help shape the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal.

Please note, whilst the UK is no longer a member of the European Union (EU), EU legislation is now a part of UK domestic legislation, Therefore, most EU law continues to apply by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (EUWA) and the 'EU Exit' amendments to domestic legislation.

Ref	Document Name	Description	Relationship to the Strategic Plan and Sustainability Appraisal	Relevant sustainability topic area	Relevant SEA themes
<b>International</b>					
IN01	<a href="#">Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats</a> (Bern Convention) (1979)	Aims to protect wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats.	Protect and conserve species and habitats.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora
IN02	<a href="#">Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals</a> (Bonn Convention) (1979)	Aims to conserve terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species throughout their range.	Protect migratory species, and their habitats.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora
IN03	<a href="#">Convention on Biological Diversity</a> (UN, 1993) and <a href="#">Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</a>	Three main objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conservation of biological diversity;</li> <li>• The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and</li> <li>• The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.</li> </ul>	Protect and conserve species and habitats.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora

		In 2010, the Convention adopted a revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity to provide an overarching framework, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. Parties agreed to translate this into revised national biodiversity strategies within 2 years, which in the UK resulted in Defra publishing 'Biodiversity 2020'.			
IN04	<a href="#">European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe</a> (Granada, 1985)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. In addition, it requires the integration of conservation policies into the planning system and other areas of government influence.	Protect and enhance local heritage assets and designated conservation areas. Consider the impact of development on identified assets and their setting.	Historic environment	Cultural heritage and landscape
IN05	<a href="#">European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised from 1985 Granada version) – Valletta Convention</a> (1992)	This convention defines archaeological heritage, and the signatories promise to make and maintain an inventory of it and to legislate for its protection and allow the input of expert archaeologists into the making of planning policy and planning decisions. The emphasis is on the protection of sites for future study; European archaeological heritage “as a source of European collective memory and as	Protect and enhance local heritage assets and designated conservation areas. Consider the impact of development on identified assets and their setting.	Historic environment	Cultural heritage and landscape

		an instrument for historical and scientific study”.			
IN06	<a href="#">European Landscape Convention</a> (Florence, 2000)	<p>This convention was the first international instrument which was devoted to, and recognised landscape in law as "an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity". The UK became a signatory in 2007.</p> <p>It aims to encourage the protection, management, and planning of all landscapes and organises international co-operation on landscape issues.</p> <p>It defines landscape as ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of action and interaction of natural and/or human factors’. The Convention takes landscape management to mean ‘action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes’</p>	<p>Protect and manage the current and future landscape sustainably, recognising landscape character and heritage value.</p> <p>Consider the impact of development on landscapes.</p>	Landscape Historic environment	Cultural heritage and landscape
IN07	<a href="#">EU Air Quality Directives</a> ( <a href="#">2008/50/EC</a> , <a href="#">2004/107/EC</a> , <a href="#">2015/1480/EC</a> )	Air Quality Directives set measures for the avoidance, prevention, and reduction in harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution, and	Reduce and where possible prevent harmful sources of air pollution.	Air Climate change	Air Climatic Factors Human health

		<p>establish legally binding limits for the most common and harmful sources of air pollution. This includes objectives relating to PM2.5 (fine particles), the limit value and exposure related objectives.</p> <p>The 2004 Directive relates to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</p>	<p>Consider the implication of development on changes to pollutant concentrations, and their implications for human and environmental health.</p>		
IN08	<p>EU Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (<a href="#">79/409/EEC</a> amended to <a href="#">2009/147/EC</a>)</p>	<p>The Birds Directive addresses the conservation of all wild birds throughout the European territory. It includes terrestrial and marine areas, and covers their protection, management, control, and exploitation.</p>	<p>Protect and enhance the conservation of wild birds, and their habitats.</p>	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Flora and fauna
IN09	<p><a href="#">EU Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Flora and Fauna Directive</a> (92/43/EEC)</p>	<p>The Habitats Directive aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. It sets the standard for nature conservation across the EU and enables all 27 Member States to work together within the same strong legislative framework to protect the most vulnerable species and habitat types across their entire natural range within the EU. It also established the Natura 2000 ecological network of protected sites.</p>	<p>Protect and enhance the conservation of species and habitats, particularly the most vulnerable species.</p> <p>Promote and enhance biodiversity.</p>	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Flora and fauna
IN10	<p>EU Drinking Water Directive (<a href="#">98/83/EC</a>)</p>	<p>The Directive protects human health from the adverse effects of any</p>	<p>To work with the relevant water companies and stakeholders to avoid</p>	Water	Water

	<a href="#">(2020/2184)</a>	contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. This Directive does not apply to natural mineral waters. The updated Directive (2020/2184) introduces the obligation for member states to improve or maintain access to water intended for human consumption, with a focus on human health protection and improving access to water to all segments of the population.	negative impacts on water quality and water resources to allow access to clean and plentiful water.	Health and wellbeing	Human health
IN11	<a href="#">EU Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</a>	Sets out a hierarchy for the determination, avoidance, prevention, and reduction in adverse effects associated with environmental noise, including noise generated by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft, industrial, and mobile machinery.	To understand, and where possible, prevent exposure to environmental noise.	Health and wellbeing	Human health
IN12	<a href="#">EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC)</a>	This Directive provides a framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, including the requirement to assess all water courses and coastal areas for the risk of flooding. It aims to reduce the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage, and economic activity. The Directive shall be carried out in coordination with the Water Framework Directive, notably by flood risk management plans and river basin management plans being coordinated.	To identify flood risk areas and reduce the risk of flooding for existing and future developments, including exploring the use of natural flood management.  To work collaboratively key stakeholders.	Water Climate change	Water Climatic factors

IN13	<a href="#">EU Industrial Emission Directive</a> (2010/75/EU)	The Industrial Emission Directive takes an integrated approach to control pollution to air, water, and land, and sets challenging industrial standards for the most polluting industries, to achieve a high level of protection on the environment taken as a whole.	Reduce, and where possible, prevent harmful pollution to air, water, and land from industrial uses.	Air Water Land	Air Water Soil
IN14	<a href="#">EU Landfill of Waste Directive</a> (99/31/EC)	It aims to prevent, or reduce as much as possible, any negative impact from landfill on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and human health. It achieves this by setting out strict operational requirements for landfill sites to protect human and environmental health.	Prevent and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, to reduce the negative effects of landfill waste on human and environmental health.	Health and wellbeing Land Water Air	Human health Soil Water Air
IN15	<a href="#">EU Nitrates Directive</a> (91/676/EEC)	It aims to protect water quality by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and promoting the use of good farming practice. It identifies nitrate vulnerability zones and puts in place measures to reduce water pollution caused by the introduction of nitrates.	Protect and enhance water quality. To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to advise on appropriate measures, where required.	Water	Water
IN16	<a href="#">EU Promotion of use of energy from renewable sources Directive</a> (2018/2001/EC) (Recast of EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC))	Establishes a common framework for the promotion of renewable energy sources and sets a binding target of 32% for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in the EU's gross final consumption in energy in 2030.	Promote the use of renewable energy sources in existing and new developments.	Climate change and energy	Climatic factors

IN17	<a href="#">EU Soil Strategy for 2020</a> (November 2021)	<p>This Strategy aims to address soil degradation and land resources. The goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect soil fertility</li> <li>• Reduce erosion and sealing</li> <li>• Increase organic matter</li> <li>• Identify contaminated sites</li> <li>• Restore degraded soils</li> <li>• Define what constitutes 'good ecological status' for soils</li> </ul>	Protect and enhance soils and recognise importance of land resources.	Land	Soil
IN18	<a href="#">EU Urban Waste Water Directive</a> (91/271/EEC)	To protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	To ensure the delivery of sufficient waste water infrastructure to meet the need of current and future development.	Land Water	Soil Water
IN19	<a href="#">EU Waste Directive</a> (2018/851/EC)	<p>It sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management.</p> <p>It introduces the waste hierarchy to prioritise the disposal route of waste as follows: prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, and disposal. In addition, it includes the Polluter Pays principle.</p>	Set out to improve resource efficiency to reduce waste and provide the opportunity for enhanced recycling and recovery.	Land Health and wellbeing	Soil Human health
IN20	<a href="#">EU Water Framework Directive</a> (2000/60/EC)	<p>Provides a single framework to protect all water bodies, inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters, and groundwater.</p> <p>It aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters.</p> <p>The Directive introduced River Basin Districts which are managed according to River Basin Management Plans which set the local objectives.</p>	To protect and enhance all water bodies in the area and address potential mitigation where 'good status' is not achieved.	Water	Water

IN21	<a href="#">Kyoto Protocol Agreement</a> (1997) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	<p>This Protocol invokes the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change by committed industrialised countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets.</p> <p>The Kyoto Protocol also established a rigorous monitoring, review and verification system, as well as a compliance system to ensure transparency and hold Parties to account.</p>	<p>Respond to the national commitment made under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Climate change Air</p>	<p>Climatic factors Air</p>
IN22	<a href="#">Paris Agreement</a> (2016) United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	<p>The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, signed by the UK and 195 other parties across the world, to set the limit to global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.</p> <p>The agreement aims to strengthen the global response to climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.</p> <p>Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support the existing framework (1992) for policy approaches and positive incentives relating to reducing emissions from deforestation, conservation, and sustainable management of forests. In addition, building the resilience of</p>	<p>Respond to commitment to achieve global temperature targets through reducing emissions locally and taking appropriate mitigation measure.</p> <p>To consider the actions identified in the Agreement, including socio-economic and ecological resilience, conservation of forests and other natural resources and committing to reduce emissions.</p> <p>To ensure climate resilience and adaptation, considering how future developments can embed adaptation goals to meet national and international targets.</p>	<p>Climate change Air</p>	<p>Climatic factors Air</p>

		<p>socio-economic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.</p> <p>Now that the UK has left the EU, it was required to submit its own Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in line with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. In its NDC, published in December 2020, the UK is committing to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This sits alongside the net zero by 2050 target set out in the Climate Change Act.</p>			
IN23	<a href="#">Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (UNESCO, 1971)</a>	<p>International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands, and their resources.</p>	<p>Seek to protect and enhance Ramsar sites in North Northamptonshire.</p>	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora
IN24	<a href="#">Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 'Earth Summit' and Agenda 21 (1992)</a> Johannesburg Declaration of Sustainable Development (2002)	<p>The Rio declaration consisted of 27 principles intended to guide countries in future sustainable development. It defines the rights of the people to be involved in the development of their economies, and the responsibilities of human beings to safeguard the common environment.</p> <p>Another outcome of the Rio conference was 'Agenda 21', a non</p>	<p>Ensure sustainable development principles are embedded into the Plan.</p>	All matters	All matters

		<p>binding action plan to achieve global sustainable development.</p> <p>The Johannesburg convention commits to the sustainability principles and sustainable development agenda agreed at Rio De Janeiro Earth Summit.</p> <p>It 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.</p>			
IN25	<a href="#">Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</a> (2015)	<p>The 2030 Agenda is universal, transformative, and rights-based; it is a comprehensive blueprint for eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the planet.</p>	<p>Ensure sustainable development principles are embedded into the Plan, to ensure fair opportunities for all communities and to safeguards the natural environment.</p>	<p>Communities Health and wellbeing Climate change Biodiversity Air Land Water Economy Connectivity and Infrastructure</p>	<p>Biodiversity Flora and fauna Human health Soil Water Air Climatic factors</p>
IN26	<a href="#">European Convention on Human Rights</a>	<p>The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) protects the human rights of people in countries that belong to the Council of Europe.</p>	<p>Compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights.</p>	<p>Communities Health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Population Human health</p>

IN27	<a href="#">UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)</a>	Convention to prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.	Respond to the international commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Climate change Air	Climatic factors Air
IN28	<a href="#">UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015)</a>	<p>The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) derive from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, providing a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future. SDGs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</li> <li>• Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</li> <li>• Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</li> <li>• Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</li> <li>• Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</li> <li>• Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</li> <li>• Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</li> </ul>	<p>SDG should be integrated into the principles underlying sustainable development in the Plan.</p> <p>Consider opportunities for development and proposals to contribute to the ambitions of the SDGs.</p>	All matters	All matters

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</li> <li>• Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</li> <li>• Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries</li> <li>• Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</li> <li>• Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</li> </ul>			
IN29	<a href="#">Health 2020</a> (WHO, 2020)	<p>Health 2020 is the new European health policy framework. It aims to support action across government and society to: “significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequalities, strengthen public health and ensure people-centred health systems that are universal, equitable, sustainable and of high quality”.</p> <p>A <a href="#">monitoring update</a> was published in 2017 to document the positive progression made towards achieving the Health 2020 objectives.</p>	Provides policy-makers with a vision, a strategic path, a set of priorities and a range of suggestions about what works to improve health, address health inequalities, and ensure the health of future generations. It identifies strategies for action that are adaptable to the many contextual realities of the WHO European Region.	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health
<b>National</b>					
NA01	<a href="#">Agriculture Act 2020</a>	Provides the legislative framework for the government to establish new	To support sustainable farming practices, create habitats for nature recovery	Land	Soil

		<p>regulation and agricultural policy following leaving the EU.</p> <p>The Act lays the framework for DEFRA's future Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) which will see farmers, foresters and other land managers being paid for managing their land in a way that will deliver against the key goals in the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.</p>	<p>and support the opportunity to establish new woodlands and other ecosystems to help tackle climate change.</p>		
NA02	<a href="#">Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010</a>	<p>This Regulation transposes the Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC) into UK law and sets the air quality requirements for local authorities in England. It seeks to control human exposure to pollutants in outdoor air to protect human and environmental health by requiring concentrations to be within specific limits.</p> <p>The regulations set Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) for a range of pollutants and specify standards applying to ecological receptors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legally binding limits for concentrations in sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter (as PM10 and PM2.5), lead, benzene, carbon monoxide and ozone.</li> <li>• Targets for levels in outdoor air for four elements; cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury,</li> </ul>	<p>To consider approaches to achieve Air Quality Objectives in considering the scale, type and location of future development and infrastructure.</p> <p>Consider the implication of proposals on changes to pollutant concentrations, and their implication on human and environmental health.</p>	Air Climate change	Air Climatic factors

		together with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH).			
NA03	<a href="#">Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</a>	This Act consolidates and amends the law relating to ancient monuments, to make provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological and historic interest and for the regulation of activities affecting such matters.	Protect and enhance sites of historic or archaeological interest and ancient monuments within the plan area, and consider the potential impacts of development on those assets and their settings.	Historic environment	Cultural heritage
NA04	<a href="#">Climate Change Act (2008) and Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019</a>	The Act states the Secretary of State's duty to ensure that the net UK carbon account for 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline. The Act is a legally binding framework for the reduction of domestic carbon emissions. It also requires five-year carbon budgets which set binding limits on CO2 emissions in order to ensure progress towards the 2050 target. However, the May 2019 report by the Committee on Climate Change recommended a 100% reduction to meet net zero targets by 2050 to stop the UK's contribution to global warming. The Climate Change Act was subsequently amended to 100% reduction, in order to reach the 2050 net zero target.	Entirely committed to meet the national net zero target and identify measures to contribute to meeting this target, including developing monitoring processes to measure local progress towards the national target. The Plan will build in resilience to climate change, particularly relating to flooding, water resources, water quality, heat, and biodiversity. For example, design and layout will implement factors to increase resilience, such as protecting and enhancing the provision of green and blue infrastructure.	Climate change Air	Climatic factors Air
NA05	<a href="#">Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</a>	Transposes the EU 'Habitats Directive' (92/43/EEC) and 'Bird Directive' (2009/147/EC) into UK law.	Protect and enhance species and habitats; promote the protection of European	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora

	<a href="#">(Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019)</a>	<p>The Directive lays down rules for the protection, management and exploitation of habitats and species of fauna and flora.</p> <p>Provides the highest level of protection to European Protected Species (EPS), where it is illegal to carry out the following activities on these species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To deliberately capture, injure or kill any EPS;</li> <li>• damage or destroy a breeding or resting place;</li> <li>• obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places; and</li> <li>• possess, sell, control or transport live or dead individuals, or parts of them.</li> </ul>	designated sites and protected species. A separate Habitat Regulations Assessment will determine if there are likely significant effects on designated sites.		
NA06	<a href="#">Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</a>	<p>The purpose of the Act is to make new provision for public access to the countryside, amend the law relating to public rights of way, to amend the law relating to nature conservation and the protection of wildlife and to make further provisions with respect of areas of outstanding natural beauty.</p> <p>The Act sets out new powers for conservation management and powers to refuse consent for damaging activities, including orders to prevent damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).</p>	Protect and enhance access to the countryside and biodiversity, including SSSIs and other natural assets, sites, designations, and landscapes.	Biodiversity Landscape	Biodiversity, fauna and flora  Cultural heritage and landscape
NA07	<a href="#">Environment Act 2021</a>	The Environment Act sets out targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment, covering areas such as environmental protection,	Put sustainability at the centre of the Plan to create greener, fairer places to live and work, protecting and	Biodiversity Air Water Land	Biodiversity Air Water Soil

		<p>water and resource efficiency, air quality, nature and biodiversity, and regulation of chemicals.</p> <p>The Act will be enforced by the new, independent Office for Environmental Protection, and will support and deliver the Government’s 25 Year Environmental Plan.</p> <p>Key areas covered by the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to halt species decline by 2030.</li> <li>• Biodiversity Net Gain - a 10% mandatory improvement for development.</li> <li>• Local Nature Recovery Strategies.</li> <li>• Conservation Covenants – a local land charge and agreement between a landowner and a responsible body.</li> </ul> <p>Other duties included in the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A requirement for Defra to set legally binding targets on air quality, biodiversity, water, resource efficiency and waste reduction, proposed by 2022.</li> <li>• A duty on government to produce a statutory plan and produce a report to address sewage pollution. In addition, a duty on water companies and Environment Agency to annually publish relevant data and produce drainage plans.</li> </ul>	<p>enhancing the natural environment as a whole.</p> <p>Reduce annual mean levels of fine particulate matter exposure, amongst other air pollutants.</p> <p>Increase resources efficiency and a reduction in waste.</p> <p>Improve the quality of habitats and protected species to improve populations and habitat quality.</p> <p>Achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Improve water quality, reducing pollution from agriculture and wastewater, and reduce the demand for water supply.</p>	<p>Climate change Landscape</p>	<p>Climatic factors Landscape</p>
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NA08	<a href="#">Equality Act 2010</a>	<p>The Act legally protects people from discrimination and harassment related to certain personal characteristics and to increase equality of opportunities. It sets out nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, and sexual orientation.</p> <p>The Act requires public authorities to consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work such as shaping policy and delivering services and also sets out, under section 149 of the Act, the public sector equality duty (PSED) which requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to achieve the following objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;</li> <li>(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;</li> <li>(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</li> </ul>	<p>Consideration to all individuals throughout the plan-making process.</p> <p>The intended and unintended consequences the Plan objectives, proposals and/or policies may have on population groups with protected characteristics, will be considered and minimised where required.</p>	Communities	Population
NA09	<a href="#">Environmental Damage (Prevention</a>	The Regulations transpose the EU Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) into	To identify and prevent potential damage to	Biodiversity Landscape	Biodiversity Landscape

	<a href="#">and Remediation) Regulations 2015</a>	UK law and are based on the “polluter pays principle” to prevent damage to the environment and place the requirement for remedial action on the polluter.	designated sites, including SSSIs and protected species and habitats. To prevent environmental damage to surface and groundwaters to protect the waterbody, preventing deterioration of the waterbody status. Support the remediation of contaminated land where possible.	Water	Water
NA10	<a href="#">The Environmental Noise (England) (as amended) Regulations 2006</a>	The Regulations transpose the EU Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) into UK law and require the Secretary of State to identify and publish details of noise sources. The authority must then produce strategic noise maps and action plans to deal with these noise problems.	Consider the current and future noise sources, including road, rail and urban areas when considering the location of future development and infrastructure.	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health Material assets
NA11	<a href="#">Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016</a>	The aim of this Regulation is to streamline the legislative system for industrial and waste installations into a single permitting structure for those activities which have the potential to cause harm to human health or the environment. The Regulations cover waste, emissions, water discharge and groundwater activities, amongst other matters.	Consideration to limit, and where possible, prevent any adverse impacts on the natural environment or human health.	Land Water Air	Soil Water Air
NA12	<a href="#">Flood and Water Management Act 2010</a>	The Act seeks to address the threats of flooding and water scarcity and outlines organisational responsibilities for managing flood risk.	Seek to reduce the risk of flooding to people, homes, and businesses across North Northamptonshire.	Water Climate change	Water Climatic factors

		The Act takes forward several recommendations from the Pitt Review into the 2007 floods and places new responsibilities on the Environment Agency, local authorities, and others to manage the risk of flooding. Climate projections suggest extreme weather will happen more frequently in the future and this Act is central to reducing the flood risk associated with extreme weather.	To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered within the Plan.		
NA13	<a href="#">Flood Risk Regulations 2009</a>	This Regulation transposes the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) on the assessment and management of flood risks into UK law. It sets out the duties regarding producing preliminary flood risk assessments, flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.	To minimise flood risk for existing and future developments and set out measure to ensure future development will not exacerbate the risk of flooding.  To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered within the Plan.	Water	Water
NA14	<a href="#">Flood and Water (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019</a>	The regulations ensure that the existing flood and water regime will continue to operative fully following the UK leaving the European Union.	To minimise flood risk for existing and future developments and set out measure to ensure future development will not exacerbate the risk of flooding.  To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered within the Plan.	Water	Water

NA15	<a href="#">Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009</a>	The Regulations transpose the EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) into UK law. They sets out to protect groundwater from being polluted by hazardous substances.	Seek to protect groundwater resources from pollution.	Water	Water
NA16	<a href="#">Housing and Planning Act (2016)</a>	The Act contains a wide range of measures to expand homeownership, reform housing management and the planning process, and increase housing supply to tackle the housing crisis.	To ensure sufficient supply of housing to meet the local needs.	Communities	Population
NA17	<a href="#">Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002</a>	The Regulations set out a pollution control regime for landfills for the purpose of complying with the EU Landfill Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste in England and Wales.	Consider the implication of the location of historic and authorised landfills.	Land	Soil
NA18	<a href="#">Localism Act 2011</a>	The Localism Act (2011) sets out a series of measures intended to transfer decision-making away from central government and towards local communities. Part of this included the introduction of Neighbourhood Planning. Neighbourhood Plans must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF and, once adopted, Neighbourhood Plans form part of the statutory development plan for the authority area within which they are located.	To support and promote the involvement and participation of local communities in the plan-making process.	Land	Soil
NA19	<a href="#">Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006</a>	This Act puts a duty on public bodies to make provision in connection with wildlife, SSSIs and National Parks, for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.	Protect and enhance wildlife and sites of interest. Development to give high regards to the enhancement	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora

			and conservation of biodiversity.		
NA20	<a href="#">Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015</a>	The Regulations transpose EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) into UK law. Sets out to reduce the nitrate pollution in the water environment.	Contribute to the reduction in nitrate pollution across the plan area, particularly focussing on agricultural land.	Water Land	Water Soil
NA21	<a href="#">Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</a>	This Act consolidates certain enactments relating to special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. It sets out the restrictions and authorisation of works affecting listed buildings and outlines the requirements and provisions regarding applications for listed building consent. Furthermore, the Act states that it is the duty of the local planning authority to designate areas of special architectural or historic interest as conservation areas and formulate proposals for their preservation and enhancement. Section 74 of the Act outlines controls for demolition in conservation areas.	Protect and enhance the conservation areas in North Northamptonshire. Consider the potential impact of development and the spatial arrangements in North Northamptonshire on historic assets and their settings.	Historic environment	Cultural heritage
NA22	<a href="#">Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</a>	This Act is a key element of the Government's agenda for speeding up the planning system. Section 19 (1B) sets out that each local planning authority must identify their strategic priorities and have policies to address these in their development plan documents. Section 19 91A) sets the duty on plan-makers	To accord with the requirements of the Act, including the appropriate measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change and setting out up to date strategic priorities for North Northamptonshire.	All matters	All matters

		to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Section 38(6) of the Act requires that the determination made under the planning acts must be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.			
NA23	<a href="#">Planning and Energy Act (2008)</a>	The Act enables local planning authorities in England and Wales to set requirements for energy use and energy efficiency in local plans. It allows local authorities to establish their own requirements for a proportion of energy used in development plans to come from renewable sources, to be low carbon, or to comply with energy efficiency standards that exceed the requirements of existing building regulations.	To support opportunities to increase energy from renewable and low-carbon energy sources, and consider the adoption of energy efficiency standards that exceed the requirements of existing building regulations.	Climate change	Climatic factors
NA24	<a href="#">Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015</a>	The Act places a duty on local authorities to keep a register of individuals and associations of individuals who wish to acquire serviced plots of land to bring forward self-build and custom housebuilding projects, and a duty on authorities to have regard to those registers in carrying out planning and other functions.	Support the opportunities to deliver self-build and custom housebuilding.	Communities	Population
NA25	<a href="#">The National Emission Ceilings Regulations 2018</a>	Transposes the EU National Emissions Ceilings Directive (2016/2284/EU) into UK law which aims to reduce emissions from a variety of	Seek to improve air quality to create a cleaner and healthier environment and find opportunities to contribute to a reduction in	Air Health and wellbeing	Air Human health

		<p>substances and governs the emissions from various sectors, including transport, industry, and agriculture.</p> <p>It sets binding emission reduction targets for several harmful air pollutants, for both 2020 and 2030, including nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO2), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). These pollutants significantly harm human health and the environment.</p>	<p>various emission sources to help meet the national targets.</p> <p>Consider the implication of proposals on changes to pollutant concentrations, and their implication on human and environmental health.</p>		
NA26	<a href="#">The promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources regulations 2011</a>	The Regulations transpose EU Energy and renewable sources Directive (2009/28/EC) into UK law. Aims to increase renewable energy.	To support and promote opportunities to increase energy from renewable and other low-carbon energy sources.	Climate change	Climatic factors
NA27	<a href="#">The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014</a>	Transposes the Waste Regulations Directive 2008/98/EC into UK law.	Set out to improve resource efficiency to reduce waste and provide the opportunity for enhanced recycling and recovery.	Land Health and wellbeing	Soil Human health
NA28	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017	The Regulations implemented the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) into UK law (for England and Wales) and are now part of EU retained law (as amended) following Brexit. They help to implement the WFD requirement in England and Wales. They aim to protect and enhance the quality of surface freshwater, groundwater, groundwater dependent	To contribute to the achievement of “Good Status” for all water bodies in North Northamptonshire.  Have regard to relevant River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in determining the spatial distribution of development.	Water Biodiversity Health and wellbeing	Water Biodiversity Human health

		ecosystems, estuaries and coastal water (out to one mile from low water).	Carry out an assessment in line with the Regulations where applicable to determine if relevant activities have effects on waterbody status in relation to: hydrogeomorphology, biology – habitats, biology – fish, water quality and protected areas.		
NA29	<a href="#">The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended)</a>	The regulations transpose the EU Drinking Water Directive (1998/83/EC) consolidate legislation concerning the quality of water supplies for human consumption in England into UK law. This primarily relates to water undertakers and licensed water suppliers for domestic or food production purposes and with arrangements for the publication of information about water quality.	To work collaboratively with relevant water companies and stakeholders to avoid negative impacts on water quality and water resources to allow access to clean and plentiful water across North Northamptonshire.	Water	Water
NA30	<a href="#">Town and Country Planning Act 1990</a>	This Act regulates the development of land in England and Wales, containing 15 parts with 337 sections, including section 106 setting out details on planning obligations.	To accord with the requirements of the Act.	All matters	All matters
NA31	<a href="#">Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</a>	Primary legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK, covering four key components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife</li> <li>• Nature conservation, the countryside and National Parks</li> <li>• Public rights of way</li> <li>• Miscellaneous provisions</li> </ul>	Protect species and habitats. Prevent any intentional or reckless disturbance to European Protected Species (EPS).	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora

		<p>This Act implements the Birds Directive and Bern Convention in Great Britain.</p> <p>The Act has been supplemented by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.</p>			
NA32	<a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a> (Defra, 2018)	<p>The Plan sets out the long-term approach to improving the natural environment.</p> <p>The plan sets out to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean air</li> <li>• Clean and plentiful water</li> <li>• Thriving plants and wildlife</li> <li>• Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards (including floods and droughts)</li> <li>• Using resources from nature more sustainably and effectively</li> <li>• Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment</li> </ul> <p>It sets out to manage pressures on the environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigating and adapting to climate change</li> <li>• Minimising waste</li> <li>• Managing exposure to chemicals</li> <li>• Enhancing biosecurity</li> </ul> <p>It identifies 6 action areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using and managing land sustainably</li> <li>• Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes</li> </ul>	<p>To facilitate the goals and targets set out in the 25 Year Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the provision of sustainable transport methods to reduce vehicles using conventional fuel and meet emission targets.</li> <li>• Prevent damaging water abstraction.</li> <li>• Protect waterbodies to ensure quality.</li> <li>• Protect and enhance habitats and species.</li> <li>• Encourage tree planting and increase woodlands.</li> <li>• Promote the protection, enhancement and creation of green infrastructure.</li> <li>• Incorporate environmental net gain principles.</li> <li>• Build resilience to all types of flood risk and droughts, including</li> </ul>	<p>Biodiversity Land Air Water Climate change Landscape</p>	<p>Biodiversity Soil Air Water Climatic factors Landscape</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste</li> <li>• Securing clean, healthy, productive, and biologically diverse seas and oceans</li> <li>• Protecting and improving our global environment</li> </ul> <p>This is the 'sister document' to the Clean Growth Strategy and sits alongside the Industrial Strategy.</p>	<p>natural management solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure sustainable use of natural resources.</li> <li>• Protect and enhance soils.</li> <li>• Enhance access to green spaces.</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the natural beauty and environmental value.</li> <li>• Meet waste reduction targets.</li> <li>• Protect native wildlife.</li> </ul>		
NA33	<a href="#">Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services</a> (Defra, 2011)	<p>This Strategy builds on the Natural Environment White Paper by setting out how international and European Union commitments are to be implemented and achieved, with the mission to '<i>halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people</i>'.</p>	<p>Protect species and habitats. Adopt an integrated approach to nature conservation to contribute to coherent and resilient ecological networks.</p> <p>Engage stakeholders, including local communities and voluntary groups, on biodiversity matters. Encourage new green space designations to benefit people and nature.</p> <p>Reduce environmental pressures; incorporate biodiversity offsetting and net gain principles.</p>	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora
NA34	<a href="#">Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth</a>	<p>The Plan sets out the UK Government's plan to support growth through investment to allow every part</p>	<p>Support the short and long-term growth and productivity</p>	Communities Economy	Population Material Assets

	(HM Treasury March 2021)	of the UK to grow while enabling a transition to net zero. The Plan recognises that there has been a lot of changed since the Industrial Plan was published in 2017 (including net zero commitments, COVID-19 and the exit from the European Union) and as such, a new framework for growth is needed. Infrastructure, skills and innovation are the three pillars of growth the Plan focuses on.	by planning and delivering adequate infrastructure.  Support the transition to net zero through support for developing low carbon infrastructure.  Support inclusive opportunities for high-quality skills and training.	Climate change Connectivity and infrastructure	Climatic factors
NA35	<a href="#">Building for a Healthy Life</a> (BHL, 2020)	Update to England’s most widely known and most widely used design tool for creating places that are better for people and nature. The original 12-point structure and underlying principles within <i>Building for Life 12</i> are at the heart of BHL. The new name reflects changes in legislation as well as refinements which have been made in partnership with Homes England, NHS England and NHS Improvement.	Consider approach in light of place-shaping principles in North Northamptonshire in particular to enhance design quality and emphasise the importance of connectivity to make it easier for people to get into town centres and out to surrounding countryside and ensure that new developments connect well to existing settlements.  Organised across three headings (Integrated Neighbourhoods, Distinctive Places and Streets For All), BHL consists of 12 considerations are presented to help those involved in new developments to think about the qualities of successful places and how these can be best applied to the individual	Communities Health and Wellbeing Connectivity and Infrastructure	Population Human Health Material assets Cultural heritage

			characteristics of a site and its wider context.		
NA36	<a href="#">The Clean Growth Strategy</a> (BEIS, 2017)	<p>The government strategy set out a comprehensive set of policies and proposals that aimed to accelerate the pace of ‘clean growth’. The strategy set out how the government would invest £2.5 billion to support carbon innovation between 2015-2021 to ensure the UK met the fourth and fifth carbon budgets (covering the periods 2023-2027 and 2028-2032). This encompassed a drive to decarbonisation, and the strategies within the document helped to ensure the targets were met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerating Clean Growth</li> <li>• Accelerating the Shift to Low Carbon Transport – 24% of UK Emissions, including investing £1.2 billion to make walking and cycling the natural choice for shorter journeys</li> <li>• Enhancing the Benefits and Value of Our Natural Resources – 15% of UK Emissions, encompassing establishing a new network of forests.</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy built upon the Climate Change Act 2008 which established the UK’s binding 2050 target (80% reduction in emissions, amended by legislation in 2019 to 100% against 1990 levels) and the supporting framework of carbon budgets.</p>	<p>Consider the approach to development and growth to help meet national net zero targets.</p> <p>Contribute to the reduction of emissions, promoting decarbonisation.</p>	<p>Climate change Air Economy Connectivity and Infrastructure</p>	<p>Climatic factors Air Material assets</p>

		Greenhouse gas removal is closely linked to how the Sustainable Development goals will be achieved.			
NA37	<a href="#">Clean Air Strategy (2019)</a>	<p>The Strategy recognises the importance of clean air in relation to health, life, the environment, and the economy.</p> <p>It sets out the actions that are required to meet the targets for fine particulate matter, ammonia, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, non-methane volatile organic compounds by 2030 and 2050.</p> <p>Actions are focussed on reducing and managing emissions to protect human health and the environment.</p> <p>The Strategy looks in details at the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing clean growth and innovation</li> <li>• Reducing emissions from transport</li> <li>• Reducing emissions at home</li> <li>• Reducing emissions from farming</li> <li>• Reducing emissions from industry</li> </ul>	<p>Consider the approach to development and growth to help meet national net zero targets to protect human and environmental health.</p> <p>Consider specific actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve clean growth; ensure cleaner air whilst boosting economic growth</li> <li>• Consider future electricity, heat and industrial policies</li> <li>• Consider transport to reduce harmful emissions that do not exceed legal limits</li> <li>• Opportunities to reduce emissions from the home and address to fuel poverty</li> <li>• To improve environmental land management and agricultural practices to protect habitats from the impact of ammonia</li> <li>• To reduce industrial pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Communities</p> <p>Health and wellbeing</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Climate change</p> <p>Air</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Land</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human health</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Climatic factors</p> <p>Air</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Soil</p> <p>Material assets</p>
NA38	<a href="#">Climate change: second national adaptation</a>	The National Adaptation Programme sets out the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the challenges of climate change in	To seek opportunities for climate change adaptation in North Northamptonshire.	<p>Climate change</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Water</p>	<p>Climatic factors</p> <p>Biodiversity</p>

	<a href="#">programme</a> (2018 to 2023)	England over a five-year period, covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The natural environment</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• People and the built environment</li> <li>• Business and industry</li> <li>• Local government sectors</li> </ul>		Air Land Community Economy Connectivity and Infrastructure Landscape Health and wellbeing	Flora and fauna Water Air Soil Population Material assets Landscape Human health
NA39	<a href="#">Net-Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming</a> (Committee of Climate Change, 2019)	The report recommended a new emission target for the UK: net zero greenhouse gases by 2050. This target will deliver on the commitment that the UK made by signing the Paris Agreement. It sets out that meeting the target is only possible if clear and well-designed policies to reduce emissions further are introduced across the economy.	Consider the approach to development and growth to help meet national net zero targets to protect human and environmental health.  Seek opportunities to support and implement policy to reduce emissions.	Climate change	Climatic factors
NA40	<a href="#">Connecting people: a strategic vision for rail</a> (DfT, 2017)	The Strategy sets out the vision for the UK rail sector to 2030 and beyond. The Strategy outlines the expectation that rail will be innovating to improve emissions performance whilst reducing exposure of passengers and workers to emissions.	Support the use of rail and seek opportunities to integrate the rail network with new and existing developments.	Connectivity and infrastructure Climate change	Climatic factors
NA41	<a href="#">Creating a great place for living – Enabling resilience in the water sector</a> (Defra, 2016)	The Plan acts as a roadmap for how the policy framework will be enhanced to ensure the long-term resilience of the water sector to deliver an environment which is cleaner and	To work collaboratively with relevant water companies and stakeholders to understand the future water needs.	Water	Water

		<p>healthier, benefitting people and the economy. It recognises that climate change and population growth is placing further pressure on water resources, and as such, the sector needs to adapt to continue to meet current and future needs.</p> <p>The Plan sets out the potential need to develop a National Policy Statement (NSP) for Water Resources Infrastructure. A draft NSP for water resources was produced by Defra and underwent <a href="#">public consultation</a> which closed in 2019.</p>	Prevent negative impacts on water quality and water resources, and ensure access to clean and plentiful water across North Northamptonshire.		
NA42	<a href="#">Creating healthy places: Perspectives from NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme</a> (The King's Fund, 2019)	This report investigates the importance of healthy place-making and the role of national and local organisations in achieving change. It features the Healthy New Towns programme as an example of good practice for alternative ways of community engagement.	Creating healthier places requires closer working between the NHS, local authority planning teams, developers, public health professionals, voluntary sector organisations and communities themselves..	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health
NA43	<a href="#">Culture White Paper</a> (DCMS, 2016)	<p>The Culture White Paper sets out the government's ambition and strategy for the cultural sectors.</p> <p>It highlights the importance of historic assets in communities and that the development of the historic environment can drive regeneration, jobs and business growth.</p> <p>The government aims to promote the role culture plays in building stronger and healthier communities and boosting economic growth and will support</p>	Protect and enhance existing and new cultural and/or historic developments and sites to boost economic growth and enhance access to cultural assets for residents and visitors.	Community Economy Historic environment	Population Economy Heritage

		<p>the increased digitalisation of culture, to increase access.</p> <p>The paper sets out that the government will continue to invest in the growing cultural sectors to help cultural organisations grow, diversify and develop more mixed models of private, government and corporate support.</p>			
NA44	<a href="#">Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy</a> (Department for Transport, 2017)	<p>The Government has a vision to make cycling and walking the natural choices for shorter journeys, or part of a longer journey by 2040. The Strategy sets out their ambitions, the financial resources for supporting this ambition, and the actions required to achieve the objectives. The following aims are set out as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• double cycling to 1.6 billion by 2025 (from 0.8 billion in 2013)</li> <li>• increase walking activity to 300 stages per person per year in 2025</li> <li>• increase the percentage of children aged 5 to 10 that usually walk to school from 49% in 2014 to 55% in 2025.</li> </ul>	<p>Support and enhance connectivity of communities through increasing a safe transport network for cyclists and pedestrians, providing equal access to all residents.</p> <p>Promote positive behavioural change to encourage walking and cycling as a mode of transport, enhancing links to education and employment.</p> <p>Protect and enhance existing walking and cycling infrastructure, including green and blue infrastructure corridors and seek to enhance the public realm.</p>	<p>Connectivity and infrastructure</p> <p>Communities</p> <p>Health and wellbeing</p> <p>Climate change</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human health</p> <p>Climatic factors</p>
NA45	<a href="#">Designing out Crime</a> (Design Council, 2011)	<p>Resource has been created to help creative professionals understand more about how design can be used to combat crime. It is a practical guide that will give design practitioners, clients, educators and students useful information about how the design of</p>	<p>Creating strong and safe communities by reducing and preventing crime as well as the fear of it by tackling violence, anti-social behaviour, re-offending and</p>	<p>Communities</p>	<p>Population</p>

		products, services and communications can help to prevent crimes occurring, lessen their impact, aid the recovery of stolen items or help apprehend offenders.	improving access to services and facilities.		
NA46	<a href="#">Drought response: our framework for England</a> (Environment Agency, 2017)	The document outlines the national framework for how drought is managed by the Environment Agency, the government and water companies to reduce the effects on people, business, and the environment. It sets out how drought affects different areas of England, who is involved in the management of drought and how drought is managed, monitored, and reported on.	Prevent and minimise the impacts of drought, encouraging sustainable water use and limit additional pressures to water resources.	Water	Water
NA47	<a href="#">Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future</a> (Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, 2020)	This White Paper sets out how the UK will clean up its energy system and reach net zero emissions by 2050.	Consider the approach to development and growth to reduce emissions and help meet national net zero targets to protect human and environmental health.  Encourage and support measures to provide a range of zero or low carbon sources of energy.	Climate change Air Connectivity and infrastructure	Climatic factors Air Material assets
NA48	<a href="#">Fair Society, Healthy Lives</a> (Marmot Review, 2010)	This review looks at the differences in health and well-being between social groups and describes how the social gradient on health inequalities is reflected in the social gradient on educational attainment, employment, income, quality of neighbourhood and so on in England, along with the actions needed to tackle them.	To consider the implication of proposals on the health and wellbeing of all people in North Northamptonshire, providing opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing.	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health

		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”.			
NA49	<a href="#">Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England</a> (Defra, 2008)	<p>Sets Defra’s vision for the water sector up to 2030 and outlines the steps they will implement to achieve that vision. The vision is where rivers, canals, lakes, and seas have improved for people and wildlife, with benefits for angling, boating and other recreational activities, and with continued provisions for excellent quality drinking water.</p> <p>The 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 also states that pollution to rivers will be tackled, whilst discharge from sewers will be reduced.</p>	To work collaboratively with relevant water companies and stakeholders to encourage sustainable supply and use of water. Contribute to the protection and enhancement of water quality to support biodiversity and social value. Seek to reduce surface water and river flood risk across North Northamptonshire as far as possible and implement measures such as SuDS and nature-based solutions.	Water Biodiversity Health and wellbeing	Water Biodiversity Human health
NA50	<a href="#">Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England</a> (2010)	<p>Sets out how the Government’s approach to public health challenges will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the population from health threats</li> <li>• Empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve</li> </ul>	To consider the implication of proposals on the health and wellbeing of all people in North Northamptonshire, providing opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing.	Health and wellbeing	Human health

		<p>everyone’s health and wellbeing and tackle the wider factors that influence it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>			
NA51	<a href="#">Historic England Good Practice Advice note - the Historic Environment in Local Plans</a> (GPA1) (2015)	<p>Sets out information to help local planning authorities make well informed and effective local plans. It emphasises that all information requirements and assessment work in support of plan-making and heritage protection needs to relate to the significance of the heritage assets affected and the impact on the significance of those heritage assets.</p>	<p>Protect and enhance the historic assets in North Northamptonshire. Consider the potential impact of development and the spatial arrangements in North Northamptonshire on historic assets and their settings.</p>	Historic environment Landscape	Heritage Landscape
NA52	<a href="#">Housing White Paper: Fixing our Broken Housing Market</a> (MHCLG, 2017)	<p>The White Paper outlines ways to address key issues in the housing market. It sets out a series of challenges, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for the right homes in the right places.</li> <li>• Building homes faster.</li> </ul>	<p>To ensure sufficient supply of housing to meet the local needs.</p> <p>Accord with Government ambition to deliver sufficient housing, including a range of</p>	Communities	Population

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversifying the market.</li> <li>• Helping people now.</li> </ul>	types and sizes and a mix of tenures, in the right locations.		
NA53	<a href="#">Inclusive Transport Strategy: Achieving equal access for disabled people</a> (DfT, 2018)	The Strategy sets out plans to make the UK's transport system more inclusive and accessible for disabled people as well as older people. Although the Strategy is focussed on disabled people, the outcomes will also benefit other travellers. The vision is for disabled people to have the same access to transport as everyone else. By 2030 it envisages equal access for disabled people using the transport system, with assistance if physical infrastructure remains a barrier.	Promote inclusive transport, where disabled users will be able to travel across the network at ease and at no extra cost. Contribute to the 2030 goal to create a network which offers equal access to disabled people. Create streetscapes and other physical infrastructure elements that are accessible to all.	Communities Connectivity and Infrastructure	Population
NA54	<a href="#">Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future</a> (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2017)	This White Paper sets out a long-term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK. The Strategy sets four areas where Britain can lead the global technological revolution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artificial intelligence and big data;</li> <li>• Clean growth;</li> <li>• The future of mobility; and</li> <li>• Meeting the needs of an aging society.</li> </ul> The Strategy sets five foundations that align the vision for a transformed economy: innovative ideas, people through good jobs and greater earning power, infrastructure, business environment, and places, through ensuring prosperous communities.	Support prosperity and clean growth across North Northamptonshire, meeting the needs of all members of society.	Communities Health and wellbeing Economy Connectivity and infrastructure Climate change	Population Human health Climatic factors

NA55	<a href="#">Land Use: Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change</a> (Climate Change Committee, 2018)	The Plan explores the role of land use in relation to meeting climate mitigation and adaptation objectives. It recognises the need to balance the delivery of these climate goals whilst also addressing other pressures and services the land provides such as clean water, healthy soils and timber, food production and areas for development.	Promote sustainable land use across North Northamptonshire in order to conserve and enhance ecosystem service provision and contribute to UK climate commitments and ambitions set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan.  Explore the potential for afforestation and peatland restoration to contribute to emission reductions.	Climate change Water Land Air Biodiversity	Climatic factors Water Land Air Biodiversity
NA56	<a href="#">Levelling Up the United Kingdom</a> (HM Government, 2022)	The Levelling Up White Paper sets out how the government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. The focus areas include education, skills, health and wellbeing, pride in place, housing, crime, and local leadership.	Seek to address local inequalities across North Northamptonshire and accord with the principles and missions identified in the Levelling Up White Paper.	All matters	All matters
NA57	<a href="#">Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans</a> (Department for Transport, 2017)	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) are a strategic approach to identifying local cycling and walking improvements.	Where available, LCWIPs should be taken into account in the development of the strategic plan to allow walking and cycling to be a key consideration.	Connectivity and infrastructure Health and wellbeing	Human health
NA58	<a href="#">Manual for Streets</a> (DfT & MHCLG, 2007)	The publication has a focus on lightly trafficked residential streets and aims to provide guidance on how to create well-designed streets and spaces that serve the needs of the community.	To integrate the guidance into the design of new and existing places and streets to promote sustainability and inclusivity.	Community Connectivity and infrastructure	Population
NA59	<a href="#">Meeting our Future Water Needs: A National Framework</a>	The national framework explores England's long-term water needs for: public water supplies, agriculture, the	Contribute to the protection and enhancement of water quality to support biodiversity	Water	Water

	<a href="#">for Water Resources</a> (Environment Agency, 2020)	power and industry sectors, and environmental protection. This framework contributes to pledges in the government's 25 year Environment Plan; to leave the environment in a better state than we found it and to improve resilience to drought and minimise interruptions to water supplies.	and social value, and ensure access to clean and plentiful water across North Northamptonshire.  Seek opportunities to implement measures such as SuDS and nature-based solutions to manage water resources.  To work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders to encourage sustainable supply and use of water.		
NA60	<a href="#">National Design Guide</a> (MHCLG, 2021)	Provides guidance on how to design functioning places which contribute to improved health and wellbeing, safety, security, inclusion, and create a sense of place and belonging.	Consider guidance to allow North Northamptonshire to have character, nurture and sustain a sense of community, and respond positively to issues affecting the climate through integrating the following 10 characteristics: 1. Context: links local characteristics and the wider setting whilst valuing the cultural and historical heritage of places. 2. Identity: taking local character into account, designing high quality and attractive places and buildings with character and identity.	Communities Health and wellbeing Historic environment Landscape Connectivity and Infrastructure Water Land Air	Population Human health Heritage Landscape Material assets Water Land Air

			<p>3. Built form: compact form of development to optimise density, using the right mix of building types and forms, and creating destinations.</p> <p>4. Movement: maximise journey choices through a connected transport network, prioritise and promote active travel, well-considered parking, services and utilities infrastructure.</p> <p>5. Nature: integrate high quality green infrastructure and open spaces, increase sustainable management and use of water, and support biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>6. Public spaces: create high quality and attractive local spaces which are safe and support public interaction.</p> <p>7. Uses: multi-functioning spaces and mixed-use development, mixture of home tenure, types and sizes, and creating socially inclusive spaces.</p> <p>8. Homes and buildings: create healthy and comfortable internal and external spaces, integrate external amenity and public spaces, and ensuring storage, waste, servicing and utilities are integrated.</p>		
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			<p>9. Resources: conserve natural resources and increase efficiency through following the energy hierarchy, careful selection of materials and techniques, and maximising resilience to climate change.</p> <p>10. Lifespan: maintain and manage places well, adapt to changing needs and technology, and create a sense of ownership.</p>		
NA61	<a href="#">National Model Design Code</a> (MHCLG, 2021)	The document provides guidance on the production of design codes, guides and policies to promote successful design. It builds upon the ten characteristics of good design set out in the National Design Guide (MHCLG, 2021).	Review opportunities and requirement for relevant design codes to be considered in new development, so that development within North Northamptonshire is designed to a high-quality and is healthy, green, environmentally responsive, sustainable and distinctive.	Communities	Population
NA62	<a href="#">National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy</a> (Environment Agency, 2020)	This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion, to contribute to the vision of becoming a 'nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100'. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities.	<p>Seek to create climate resilient places to improve flood protection, response and recovery whilst enhancing a sense of place.</p> <p>Incorporate climate resilience considerations into new development and infrastructure.</p>	Water Climate change Connectivity and infrastructure	Water Climatic factors

		<p>The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the risk to people and their property.</li> <li>• Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national.</li> <li>• Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p>It sets out the need for collaborative action to deliver infrastructure which is resilient to flooding and coastal erosion.</p>	<p>Avoid proposing future development in high risk flood areas and seek to incorporate nature-based solutions to minimise flood risk.</p> <p>Incorporate natural capital and net gain principles to integrate the environment into North Northamptonshire to deliver sustainable growth which is resilient to flooding.</p> <p>Help to contribute to awareness raising around climate change and flooding to encourage people to take action and be able to better respond and recover.</p>		
NA63	<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework</a> (Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government, 2021)	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government’s planning policies for England, and how these should be applied.</p> <p>At the heart of the framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development (Paragraph 11).</p> <p>Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives: economic, social, and environmental, which should be delivered through the framework.</p> <p>The NPPF covers the following sections:</p>	<p>To ensure the Strategic Plan accords with the NPPF and achieves sustainable development.</p>	All matters	All matters

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan-making</li> <li>• Decision-making</li> <li>• Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</li> <li>• Building a strong, competitive economy</li> <li>• Ensuring the vitality of town centres</li> <li>• Promoting healthy and safe communities</li> <li>• Promoting sustainable transport</li> <li>• Supporting high quality communications</li> <li>• Making effective use of land</li> <li>• Achieving well-designed places</li> <li>• Protecting the green belt land</li> <li>• Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change</li> <li>• Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</li> <li>• Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</li> <li>• Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals.</li> </ul>			
NA64	<a href="#">National Planning Policy for Waste</a> (Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government, 2014)	The National Planning Policy for Waste encourages a sustainable approach to waste management. It provides guidance about the identification of waste management sites and deciding planning applications for waste facilities. The policy also requires local authorities to monitor the use and take up of waste management facilities.	Consider the implication of growth and development on waste management.	Land	Material assets

		This document should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.			
NA65	<a href="#">National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England</a> (Defra, 2014)	Strategy to protect pollinating insects which support our food production and the diversity of our environment.	Protect and enhance natural habitats and species diversity, including implementation of green infrastructure networks. Reduce environmental pressures; incorporate biodiversity offsetting and net gain principles.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Fauna and flora
NA66	<a href="#">National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management</a> , January 2017	The National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management (NQMS) is a scheme that has been developed by the National Brownfield Forum (formerly known as Land Forum) to provide visible identification of documents that have been checked for quality by a Suitably Qualified and experienced Person (SQP). It provides increased confidence and improved quality of submissions made under regulatory regimes, particularly planning applications relating to previously used land.	Support the appropriate assessment and investigation into potentially contaminated land across North Northamptonshire.	Land	Soil
NA67	<a href="#">Natural Environment: Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature</a> (Defra, 2011)	Makes proposals to emphasise the value of nature to enhance the environment, economic growth and health and wellbeing. It sets out to mainstream the value of nature in society by reconnecting people with nature and creating a green economy. It recognises the importance of the natural environment, for long term sustainable growth.	Protect and enhance natural assets.  Commit to achieving sustainable economic growth.  Encourage the development of low carbon infrastructure; promote the protection,	Biodiversity Landscape Community Health and wellbeing Landscape Climate change Connectivity and Infrastructure	Biodiversity Fauna and flora Population Human health Cultural heritage and landscape Climate Factors

		<p>It states that the planning system will improve the sustainability of new low-carbon infrastructure and its capacity to deal with climate change.</p> <p>This White Paper is supported by the Biodiversity 2020 Strategy.</p>	enhancement and creation of green infrastructure.		
NA68	<a href="#">Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener</a> (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2021)	<p>This strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero target by 2050.</p>	<p>Consider the approach to development and growth to help meet national net zero targets to protect human and environmental health.</p> <p>Seek opportunities to support and implement policy to reduce emissions and support zero and low carbon energy.</p>	Climate change Air	Climatic factors Air
NA69	<a href="#">Noise Policy Statement for England</a> (Defra, 2010)	<p>The document is intended to provide a framework that enables noise management decisions to be made within the wider context of sustainable development principles, at the most appropriate level, in a cost-effective manner and in a timely fashion.</p> <p>The Noise Policy Vision is: “Promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of government policy on sustainable development.”</p> <p>The aims to achieve the vision are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;</li> <li>• Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and</li> </ul>	<p>Consider the implication of development on noise management.</p> <p>Promote good health and good quality of life.</p>	Health and wellbeing Communities	Human health Population

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.</li> </ul>			
NA70	<a href="#">Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy</a> (Government Cabinet Office, July 2020)	<p>This document sets out a plan to rebuild the UK for a world living with COVID-19.</p> <p>The government's aim at the centre of that plan is to return to life as close to normal as possible in a way that maximises health, economic and social outcomes.</p> <p>The document sets out a road map to recovery. Step 1 includes the avoidance of public transport and encouraging active travel and use of open spaces. Step 2 includes the re-opening public transport and non-essential retail. Step 3 encompasses further re-openings.</p>	<p>To help improve people's living standards through offering a range of new economic opportunities and infrastructure.</p> <p>Emphasise elements of spatial planning that deliver resilient and health-focused outcomes, including provision of open space and active travel networks.</p>	Economy Health and wellbeing Connectivity and infrastructure Communities	Material assets Human health Population
NA71	<a href="#">Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England</a> (2018)	<p>The Strategy recognises that natural capital is one of our most valuable assets and sets out how the government plans to preserve the stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. The Strategy also sets out the aim to minimise damage to the natural environment and is aligned to the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.</p>	<p>Contribute to the commitments outlined in the Strategy including: eliminating food waste from landfill by 2030, eliminating avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the Plan, eliminating all kinds of avoidable waste by 2050 and doubling resource productivity by 2050.</p> <p>Encourage sustainable production through resource efficiency.</p>	Land Communities Connectivity and infrastructure	Soil Material assets Population

			<p>Contribute to changing the behaviours of those living and working in North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Opportunity to improve domestic and commercial recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.</p>		
NA72	<a href="#">Planning Policy for Traveller Sites</a> (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2015)	<p>Sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. The 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.</p> <p>To achieve this, it includes 11 goals in respect of traveller sites. For example, to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply, to reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions, and to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.</p>	<p>To have regard to the national policies for traveller sites to ensure fair and equal opportunities, access to services, employment and other infrastructure and ensure accommodation needs are met through the provision of sites in appropriate locations.</p>	Communities Health and wellbeing Connectivity and Infrastructure	Population Human health
NA73	<a href="#">Preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) for England</a>	Provides a summary of the risk of flooding from main rivers, the sea and reservoirs in the river basins that are wholly or partly within England. It is	The PFRA can be used to inform Strategic Flood Risk	Water	Water

	(Environment Agency, 2018)	produced by the Environment Agency and updated every 6 years. It identifies 116 nationally significant flood risk areas by assessing the flood risk to properties, people, and communities. Flood Risk Areas determine where flood hazard and risk maps and flood risk management plans must be subsequently produced to meet obligations under the Flood Risk Regulations (2009).	Assessments undertaken to inform the Strategic Plan.  To fully assess the potential impacts of the Plan of flood risk locally.		
NA74	<a href="#">Putting Health into Place</a> (NHS, 2019)	<p>From 2016-2019 NHS England supported the development of ten 'Healthy New Towns', large-scale communities designed to be easier for people to live healthier lives, and in which health care is provided in ways that meet 21<sup>st</sup> century health needs.</p> <p>The TCPA, in partnership with the King's Fund and the Young Foundation, was commissioned by NHS England to create a series of practical guides to healthy place-making, based on what was learned by the Healthy New Towns programme.</p>	<p>Consider 10 Principles when putting health into place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan ahead collectively</li> <li>2. Assess local health and care needs an assets</li> <li>3. Connect involve and empower people and communities</li> <li>4. Create compact neighbourhoods</li> <li>5. Maximise active travel</li> <li>6. Inspire and enable healthy eating</li> <li>7. Foster health in homes and buildings</li> <li>8. Enable healthy play and leisure</li> <li>9. Develop health services that help people stay well</li> </ol>	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health

			10. Create integrated health and wellbeing centres		
NA75	<a href="#">Resources and Waste Strategy for England</a> (Defra, 2018)	This strategy sets out how the Government will ensure the country will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England.	Promote resource efficiency and waste minimisation from new developments.	Land Connectivity and infrastructure	Land Material assets
NA76	<a href="#">Rural Proofing</a> (Defra, 2017)	These guidelines help policy makers to minimise the challenges that people in rural areas face, for example challenges and barriers to business, service provision and quality of life.	Take account of rural proofing guidelines to seek to reduce the challenges faced by North Northamptonshire's rural population.	Communities Connectivity and infrastructure Health and wellbeing	Population Human health
NA77	<a href="#">Safeguarding our Soils: a Strategy for England</a> (Defra, 2009)	<p>This Strategy highlights three main threats to soils in England. First, soil erosion by wind and rain which affects the productivity of soils, water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Second, compaction of soil which reduces agricultural productivity and water infiltration, increasing chances of flood risk. Last, organic matter decline which reduces soil quality, affecting the supply of nutrients.</p> <p>The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better protection for agricultural soils.</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon.</li> <li>• Building resilience of soils to changing climate.</li> <li>• Preventing soil pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Consider the impacts of development and sources of pollution on soil, including limiting the loss of prime agricultural land and seeking to protect carbon rich soils.</p> <p>Protect and enhance the quality of soils in North Northamptonshire.</p>	Land Water Climate change	Soils Water Climatic factors

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective soil protection during construction and development.</li> <li>• Dealing with legacy of contaminated land.</li> </ul>			
NA78	<a href="#">Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth</a> (Department for Education, January 2021)	The White Paper focusses on further education reforms to ensure people are able to grow their skills throughout their lives, wherever they live, to support economic growth, increase productivity and allow people to progress.	<p>Support equal opportunities for education and training.</p> <p>Seek opportunities to support growth in education and training in the digital, technology, science, and financial sectors.</p>	Communities Economy Connectivity and infrastructure	Population Material assets
NA79	<a href="#">Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8</a> (Historic England, 2016)	This Historic England Advice Note seeks to provide advice on historic environment considerations as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process, to ensure that potential impacts on the historic environment are properly assessed and mitigated.	Take into account the advice in the guidance note in assessing the effects on the historic environment.	Historic environment	Cultural heritage
NA80	<a href="#">Surface Water Management Action Plan</a> (Defra, 2018)	<p>Contains actions that the government and others are taking to manage the risk of surface water flooding including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving risk assessment and communication.</li> <li>• Making sure infrastructure is resilient.</li> <li>• Clarifying responsibilities for surface water management.</li> <li>• Joining up planning for surface water management.</li> <li>• Building local authority capacity.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the surface water and drainage needs and implications of new homes, employment land, and infrastructure are taken into account.</p> <p>SFRAs will assess surface water flood risk using the best available information.</p>	Water	Water

NA81	<a href="#">Targets and indicators for Health 2020</a> (WHO, 2016)	Health 2020 aims to improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequities, and ensure people-centred health systems.	To ensure the health and wellbeing for all people in North Northamptonshire.	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health
NA82	<a href="#">The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland</a> (Volume 1) (Defra, 2007)	Provides a framework for addressing air quality, emission reductions and concentrations to achieve the improvements in air quality. It sets air quality standards and objectives to be achieved, 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term.</li> <li>• Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment.</li> </ul>	Consider the approach to development and growth to reduce emissions and help meet national net zero targets to protect human and environmental health.	Air Climate change Health and wellbeing	Air Climatic factors Human health
NA83	<a href="#">The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK</a> (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2012)	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.	Seek opportunities to address energy efficiency in existing homes, as well as new developments.	Communities Connectivity and infrastructure	Population
NA84	<a href="#">The Environment Agency's approach to Groundwater</a>	Provides the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. It includes various	To ensure the protection and enhancement of groundwater across North	Water Land	Water Soil

	<a href="#">Protection</a> (Environment Agency, 2018)	sector-specific position statements, alongside the overarching groundwater protection principles and approaches. Position statements include, but are not limited to, those related to the protection of water intended for human consumption such as source protection zones, infrastructure, landfill and non-landfill waste, diffuse (rural) sources of pollution, land contamination and flooding from groundwater.	Northamptonshire, including improving water quality and reducing risks, including flooding.	Health and wellbeing	Human health
NA85	<a href="#">The Equality Strategy: Building a Fairer Britain</a> (Government Equality Office, 2010)	<p>The document was the first cross-government equality strategy that sets out a way of tackling inequality, through recognising specific problems and focusing on specific actions to deal with them.</p> <p>The Strategy is based on five interconnecting principles for change, constituting creating equal opportunities for all, developing power to people, transparency, supporting social action and embedding equality.</p> <p>The Strategy is focussed upon five key priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early years, education and social mobility.</li> <li>• Creating a fair and flexible labour market.</li> <li>• Opening up public services and empowering individuals and communities.</li> <li>• Changing culture and attitudes – building respect for all,</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitate high degrees of social mobility through the delivery of services and the provisions of sustainable transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Ensure location of services is effective and equally accessible.</p> <p>The Plan should be informed by the views of the community and therefore should be developed with high levels of community consultation and engagement.</p>	Communities	Population

		<p>tackling discrimination, hate crime and violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making it happen – leading by example by being transparent in the policy making, and giving people the information they need to hold services to account.</li> </ul>			
NA86	<p><a href="#">The Heritage Statement</a> (Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport, 2017)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The statement emphasises the creation of a sustainable and resilient heritage sector that is outward-facing, innovative and enterprising, that can draw on funding from a range of public and private sources and collaborate across organisations. It states that digital technology can help heritage organisations improve their resilience and sets out that accessing new forms of funding presents an opportunity for the heritage sector.</p>	<p>To capitalise on the area’s heritage assets as a focus area for social and economic activity in North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Emphasise and incorporate the role of heritage assets in establishing a strong and distinctive sense of place in the corridor</p> <p>In line with the aims set out in the Cultural White Paper (2017) the Plan should integrate a commitment to innovation and potentially the digitalisation of the heritage sector, to allow it to be resilient and enterprising.</p>	Historic environment Communities	Cultural heritage Population
NA87	<p><a href="#">The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy</a> (Defra, 2015)</p>	<p>The Strategy aims to address invasive non-native species (INNS) issues in the UK to deliver improvements for biodiversity, quality of life and the economy. It covers terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments and also species native to one part of</p>	<p>Avoid development and infrastructure that increases the risk of INNS introduction and spread.</p> <p>Work in collaboration with key partners to tackle</p>	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Flora and fauna

		a country that become invasive in areas outside their natural range.	existing INNS issues within North Northamptonshire.		
NA88	<a href="#">The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting</a> (Defra, 2018)	<p>This is the second National Adaptation Programme (NAP) and sets out the government's response to the second Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). It outlines the actions that will be taken to address the climate change issues identified in the CCRA across the following key sectors: Natural environment; Infrastructure; People and the built environment; Business and Industry; and Local government. The following are identified to be key risks and actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;</li> <li>• Risks of shortages in the public water supply for agriculture, energy generation and industry;</li> <li>• Risks to natural capital including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;</li> <li>• Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and</li> <li>• New and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals.</li> </ul>	<p>Contribute to the climate resilience of the natural environment by protecting and improving habitats and species, restoring degraded ecosystems, minimising impacts on water availability and water quality, reducing flood risk and exploring the use of natural flood management, protecting soils and carbon stores, amongst others.</p> <p>Seek to reduce climate risks on infrastructure through understanding the interdependencies and reducing the risk of flooding and erosion. Incorporate the environmental net gain principle for new development, manage flood risk, enhance green infrastructure, and allow for protection from heat and cold, amongst others, to increase the resilience of people and the built environment.</p>	<p>Climate change Land Air Water Biodiversity Economy Communities Landscape</p>	<p>Climatic factors Soil Air Water Biodiversity Flora and fauna Material assets Landscape Population</p>

			<p>Seek to reduce the risk of climate change affecting businesses and industry.</p> <p>Take a collaborative approach with local government to effectively implement climate adaptation at a local level.</p>		
NA89	<p><a href="#">The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Policy Statement</a> (Defra, 2020)</p>	<p>The Policy Statement sets out the long-term goal of the government to create a nation which is resilient to future flood and coastal erosion, and therefore protects people, the environment and the economy. The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy has helped to inform this policy statement. It identifies five key areas for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading and expanding our national flood defences and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Managing the flow of water more effectively.</li> <li>• Harnessing the power of nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and achieve multiple benefits.</li> <li>• Better preparing our communities.</li> <li>• Enabling more resilient places through a catchment-based approach.</li> </ul>	<p>Seek to increase the resilience of new and existing places to flood risk through hard infrastructure where required.</p> <p>Seek to integrate flood risk management with water resource management to provide wider benefits for the environment and people.</p> <p>To incorporate nature-based solutions to minimise flood risk.</p> <p>Set out to equip communities and business with the tools and information they need to be more prepared and resilient to flood events.</p> <p>Take a catchment-based approach when integrating flood risk management into new and existing places.</p>	Water Connectivity and infrastructure	Water

NA90	<a href="#">The Marmot Review</a> (Institute of Health Equity, 2010)	<p>In November 2008, Professor Sir Michael Marmot was asked by the then Secretary of State for Health to chair an independent review to propose the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England from 2010. The final report, 'Fair Society Healthy Lives', was published in February 2010, and concluded that reducing health inequalities would require action on six policy objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give every child the best start in life</li> <li>2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives</li> <li>3. Create fair employment and good work for all</li> <li>4. Ensure healthy standard of living for all</li> <li>5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities</li> <li>6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.</li> </ol> <p>A <a href="#">'10 Years on'</a> update was produced in 2020.</p>	Contributing to reducing health inequality, increasing life expectancy promoting social inclusion, sport and recreation and providing more access to healthy lifestyle options to improve health and wellbeing.	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health
NA91	<a href="#">The Road to Zero</a> (Department for Transport, 2018)	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	Support the transition to low emission vehicles.  Integrate the provision of electric vehicle charging	Communities Health and wellbeing Climate change	Population Human health Climatic factors

		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.	infrastructure into communities.  Encourage a reduction in car journeys through promotion of alternative sustainable transport modes.	Air Connectivity and infrastructure	Air
NA92	<a href="#">The State of the Union: Reuniting Health with Planning</a> (TCPA, 2019)	This report provides a picture of the effectiveness of collaboration between the planning, public health and healthcare sectors.	Consider recommendations that promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An integrated approach to planning for health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Local powers to drive change</li> <li>• Clear expectations on planning for health</li> <li>• Planning for healthcare infrastructure</li> <li>• Health evidence in planning</li> <li>• Evaluation of health in policies and development proposals</li> <li>• Capacity and capability of public health planners</li> <li>• Professional and sectoral training</li> </ul>	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human Health
NA93	<a href="#">Transport White Paper – Cutting Carbon, creating growth: making sustainable transport</a>	This white paper forms part of the government’s overall strategy to tackle carbon emissions from transport. It sets out what government believes is the best way in the short term to	Consider the approach to development and growth to reduce emissions and help meet national net zero	Climate change Air Health and wellbeing	Climatic factors Air Human health

	<a href="#">happen</a> (Department for Transport, 2011)	reduce emissions at the local level, using the tools that are available to us now, principally by encouraging people to make more sustainable travel choices for shorter journeys. It is about providing the early reduction in carbon emissions that local action be best placed to deliver, while facilitating the access to local jobs that will boost economic grow.	targets to protect human and environmental health.		
NA94	<a href="#">UK Climate Change Risk Assessment</a> (Committee on Climate Change, 2022)	<p>This is the third five-year assessment on the risks of climate change on the UK, undertaken as required by the Climate Change Act 2008.</p> <p>The risk assessment considers sixty-one UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following eight risk areas for action in the next two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards.</li> <li>• Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought.</li> <li>• Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards.</li> <li>• Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards.</li> <li>• Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of</li> </ul>	<p>Identify ways to increase North Northamptonshire's resilience to the effects of climate change and seek to reduce the area's contribution to causes of climate change.</p> <p>To seek opportunities to address the eight risk areas identified in the third Climate Change Risk Assessment.</p>	<p>Climate change Biodiversity Air Land Water Landscape Economy Community Health and wellbeing Connectivity and infrastructure</p>	<p>Climate change Biodiversity Flora and fauna Air Soil Water Landscape Material Assets Human health</p>

		<p>supply chains and distribution networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system.</li> <li>• Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings.</li> <li>• Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas.</li> </ul>			
NA95	<a href="#">National Infrastructure Strategy: Fairer Faster Greener</a> (HM Treasury, 2020)	The National Infrastructure Strategy sets out plans to transform UK infrastructure in order to level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.	To support the delivery of, and enhance existing, infrastructure across North Northamptonshire to address local inequalities, to reduce emissions and improve connectivity.	Connectivity and infrastructure Climate change Air	Climatic factors Air
NA96	<a href="#">UK Forestry Standard: The Government's approach to sustainable forestry</a> (Forestry Commission, 2017)	The Strategy aims to ensure that international agreements and conventions are implemented in the UK in relation to sustainable forest management, climate change and the protection of water resources via the UK Forestry Standard. The context for forestry in the UK and the approach of UK Government's to managing forests sustainably is set out in the Plan.	<p>Seek to protect and enhance the economic, social, and environmental benefits of forests.</p> <p>Contribute to the sustainable management of forests in alignment with the UK Forestry Standard requirements for biodiversity, climate change, historic environment, landscape, people, soil, and water.</p>	Climate change Water Air Land Biodiversity Landscape Historic environment Health and wellbeing	Climatic factors Water Air Soil Biodiversity Landscape Cultural heritage Human health
NA97	<a href="#">UK Geodiversity Action Plan</a> (2009)	The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It has been developed and agreed	Protect and enhance geodiversity across North Northamptonshire.	Land	Soil Material assets

		<p>through wide consultation between the organisations, groups and individuals currently involved in geodiversity. It contains objectives across the following six themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furthering our understanding of geodiversity.</li> <li>• Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design.</li> <li>• Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity.</li> <li>• Conserving and managing our geodiversity.</li> <li>• Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity</li> <li>• Sustaining resources for our geodiversity.</li> </ul>			
NA98	<a href="#">UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations</a> (Department for Transport, 2017)	<p>The document identifies nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution around roads as the most immediate air quality challenge. It sets out the plan for bringing NO2 air pollution within statutory limits within the shortest possible time, including investment in ultra-low emission vehicles, a national productivity investment fund, a green bus fund, funding for cycle and walking investment strategy, and funding to help authorities prepare Air Quality Action Plans.</p>	<p>Aim to improve air quality across North Northamptonshire to reduce impacts on human health and the environment.</p> <p>Contribute to reducing congestion, encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles and support greater use of public transport and cycling and walking infrastructure.</p>	<p>Climate change Air Connectivity and infrastructure Health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Climatic factors Air Human health</p>
NA99	<a href="#">Using the planning system to promote healthy weight</a>	<p>This guidance supports local authority public health and planning teams to use the powers of the planning system</p>	<p>Contribute towards improving the quality of the environment by actively promoting walking</p>	<p>Communities Health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Population Human health</p>

	<a href="#">environments</a> (PHE, 2020)	to promote healthy weight environments. It helps to support local authorities taking proportionate actions to protect vulnerable and at-risk groups, such as young children, from less healthy environments.	and cycling, enabling easier access to healthier food and drink options and supporting a diverse and healthy high street retail offer. By doing so this can help promote a healthy weight and reduce inequalities associated with obesity prevalence.		
NA100	<a href="#">Waste Management Plan for England</a> (Defra, 2021)	Provides an analysis on the current waste management situation in England.	Set out to improve resource efficiency to reduce waste and provide the opportunity for enhanced recycling and recovery.	Land	Soil
NA101	<a href="#">Water Abstraction Plan</a> (Defra, 2021)	This document sets out how the government will reform water abstraction management over the coming years and how this will protect the environment and improve access to water.	Encourage sustainable abstraction to help to protect the environment and improve access to water.  Encourage the sustainable use of water resources to minimise the impact of increased development and population growth across North Northamptonshire.	Water Communities	Water Population
NA102	<a href="#">Water for Life</a> (HM Government, 2011)	Sets out how to build resilience in the water sector. Objectives includes improving water quality, working with local communities to make early improvements in the health of our rivers by reducing pollution and tackling unsustainable abstraction and ensuring long term affordability for customers.	To ensure the protection and enhancement of water bodies across North Northamptonshire, including improving water quality, availability and reducing risk of flooding.	Water	Water

NA103	<a href="#">Wetland Vision</a> (2008)	Presents opportunities for the conservation, restoration and creation of freshwater wetlands in England over the next 50 years. To deliver sustainable wetland biodiversity and conserve the historic environment.	Conserve and restore wetland habitats.	Biodiversity Landscape	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Cultural heritage and landscape
NA104	<a href="#">Working Together to Promote Active Travel</a> (Public Health England, 2016)	The guidance recognises the importance of active travel for public health and wellbeing, and the environment. It sets out actions for transport planners and others to help increase active travel.	Contribute to increased walking and cycling by endorsing the creation of spaces which are well connected, well designed, safe and accessible.  Seek to link active travel and public transport.	Communities Health and wellbeing Connectivity and infrastructure	Population Human health
<b>Regional and sub-regional</b>					
RE01	Oxford-Cambridge Arc: <a href="#">Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc</a> (July 2021)	The Oxford-Cambridge Arc is defined by the areas covering Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Cambridgeshire. This forms a geographical 'Arc', which provides a place to live for approximately 3.7 million residents and supports over 2 million jobs. A Spatial Framework is under development for the area which will take a strategic approach to planning for growth and infrastructure over the long term, including the delivering of one million homes and jobs by 2050, whilst respecting the natural environment and not making changes to the Green Belt protections. The	To have regard to the Oxford-Cambridge Strategic Framework.	All matters	All matters

		consultation on the Strategic Framework took place between 20 July to 12 October 2021.			
RE02	<a href="#">Planning for Growth: A position statement from England's Economic Heartland's Transport Forum</a> (England's Economic Heartland, 2016)	<p>Sets the vision to build on a world-leading and globally competitive innovation and knowledge-led industries by shared goals and strong collaboration between the private and public sectors and academic partners, to raise our global competitiveness, grow the economy, and build economic resilience for the country. The vision is to deliver a transport system that integrates infrastructure and services in support of both economic activity and place-shaping in line with the Government's emerging Industrial Strategy. It seeks to improve physical connectivity between larger urban centres, with a particular emphasis on east-west connectivity, and improved access into and within larger urban centres.</p> <p>In addition to economic growth and supporting infrastructure, objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide high quality, safe access to services, including education and training opportunities; and</li> <li>• To protect and enhance the built and natural environment.</li> </ul>	To have regard to the strategic policy position and seek opportunities to enhance the transport network across North Northamptonshire.	Economy Connectivity and infrastructure	Material Assets
RE03	<a href="#">Regional Transport Strategy: Connecting People.</a>	The Transport Strategy sets out a policy framework designed to harness the region's inherent strengths in order	To have regard to the Transport Strategy and seek opportunities to enhance the	Connectivity and	Material assets

	<a href="#">Transforming Journeys</a> (England's Economic Heartland, 2021)	to deliver their vision 'To support sustainable growth and improve quality of life and wellbeing through a world-class decarbonised transport system which harnesses the region's global expertise in technology and innovation to unlock new opportunities for residents and businesses, in a way that benefits the UK as a whole'.	transport network across North Northamptonshire to deliver sustainable transport that can improve health and wellbeing, environmental improvements, and enhance employment opportunities.	infrastructure Economy Community Health and wellbeing Climate change Air	Population Human health Climatic factors Air
RE04	<a href="#">South East Midlands Energy Strategy</a> (SEMLEP, 2018)	The key objective of SEMLEP's Energy Strategy is to ensure that energy availability does not limit the area's growth and prosperity. It details the route map to secure clean energy to power business and housing growth in the area in line with local, national, and international commitments to cut emissions and improve energy efficiency.	To have regard to the Energy Strategy in the approach to securing clean energy in North Northamptonshire.	Connectivity and infrastructure Economy Community Health and wellbeing Climate change Air	Material assets Population Human health Climatic factors Air
Re05	South East Midlands Where Innovation Fuels Growth – Strategic Economic Plan (SEMLEP, 2017)	The Strategic Economic Plan sets out strategic investments and future actions needed to grow the economy to its full potential, for the future prosperity of the communities in the South East Midlands. To realise the potential, the plan recognises the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that strategic pieces of East-West transport infrastructure, and transport connectors into them, are built;</li> <li>• Have world-class broadband and wireless networks in place to respond to rapidly changing</li> </ul>	To have regard to the Strategic Economic Plan to support the sustainable growth and prosperity of communities in Northamptonshire, providing sufficient employment opportunities and new homes.	All matters	All matters

		<p>business needs and capabilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put current and future employer needs at the heart of skills development; and</li> <li>• Deliver sufficient homes to meet the housing needs of our ever-growing population.</li> </ul>			
RE06	<a href="#">Growing People – SEMLEP Skills Plan</a> (SEMLEP, 2017)	<p>‘Growing People’ is an employer-led strategic plan for skills development in the South East Midlands. The plan identifies four skill related challenges affecting the economies nationally and within the SEMLEP area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skill gap - a shortage and mismatch of skilled people needed by employers in growth sectors.</li> <li>• Ageing population - The proportion of the working age population is predicted to increase over the next 20 years but this will not keep pace with the net job growth.</li> <li>• Digital – the growth of the digital tech sector and the increasing pace of the introduction of the use of digital technology in other sectors will continuously have an impact on the way we work and job roles.</li> <li>• BREXIT – potential impact on migration patterns.</li> </ul>	<p>To have regard to the SEMLEP Skills Plan and to seek opportunities for North Northamptonshire to address the potential local skills challenges.</p>	<p>Economy Communities Connectivity and infrastructure</p>	<p>Material assets Population</p>

RE07	<a href="#">Heritage at Risk: Midlands Register 2021</a> (Historic England, 2021)	The Register provides a snapshot of historic sites known to be at risk from neglect, decay or inappropriate development. The register includes listed buildings and structures, places of worship, archaeological sites, registered parks and gardens, battlefields, wreck sites, and conservation areas.	To have regard to the sites on the Heritage at Risk register within and in proximity to North Northamptonshire.	Historic environment Landscape	Cultural heritage Landscape
RE08	<a href="#">South East Midlands Local Industrial Strategy</a> (SEMLEP, 2019)	The Local Industrial Strategy sets out the collective ambition for the whole of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, as well as specific ambitions for the SEMLEP area. It supports the aims of the national Industrial Strategy which is government's long-term plan to boost productivity by backing businesses to create high-quality, well paid jobs throughout the United Kingdom, with investment in skills, industries, and infrastructure. It outlines the five foundations of productivity to be ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places.	To have regard to the Local Industrial Strategy to help ensure the long-term productivity in North Northamptonshire.	All matters	All matters
RE09	<a href="#">Anglian River Basin District Draft Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027</a> (Environment Agency, October 2021)	This is the second draft Anglian Flood Risk Management Plan, and it represents a step forward in developing an integrated, place-based strategic approach to flood risk management across the river basin district.  This plan is closely aligned with the government's 25 year Environment	Seek to reduce the risk of flooding to people, homes, and businesses across North Northamptonshire.  Avoid proposing future development in high-risk flood areas and seek to incorporate nature-based	Water Climate change Connectivity and infrastructure	Water Climatic factors

		<p>Plan and the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for England. It sets out the main flood risk issues and changes in the Anglian River Basin District (RBD) relating to surface water, ground water, sewer, canal, reservoir, land management, and coastal flood risks. It sets out the likely implications of climate changes in the Anglian RBD and conclusions from the hazard and risk maps, such as the number of properties at risk and the risk to natural and historic environments.</p> <p>This plan should be read alongside the draft 'Part A: National Overview of Flood Risk Management in England for Second Cycle FRMPs', the 'Anglian River Basin District Second Cycle Flood Risk Management Plan – Strategic Environmental Assessment: environmental report and non-technical summary', and the 'Flood Plan Explorer' which is a new interactive mapping tool.</p>	<p>solutions to minimise flood risk.</p> <p>Seek to create climate resilient places, including building resilience into new development and infrastructure to improve flood protection and reduce future flood risks.</p> <p>To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered with the Plan.</p>		
RE10	<a href="#">Draft Drought Plan 2022</a> (Anglian Water, March 2021)	Provides an overview on how Anglian Water propose to manage water resources during a drought to protect public water supplies, whilst minimising any environmental impacts that may arise.	To work with the relevant water companies and stakeholders to ensure the risk to water supplies are understood and appropriately addressed.	Water	Water

RE11	<a href="#">Water for Life and Livelihoods – Part 1: Anglian River basin district. River basin management plan</a> (Environment Agency, 2015)	<p>The River Basin Management Plan provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment and informs decisions on land-use planning.</p> <p>The Anglian river basin district extends from Lincolnshire in the north to Essex in the south and from Northamptonshire in the west to the east Anglian coast.</p> <p>The plan sets out significant water management issues, which are the main issues that limit the uses and potential benefits of managing the water environment in the river basin district in a sustainable way. The issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical modifications</li> <li>• Pollution from waste water</li> <li>• Pollution from towns, cities and transport</li> <li>• Changes to the natural flow and level of water</li> <li>• Negative effects of invasive non-native species</li> <li>• Pollution from rural areas</li> </ul> <p>In addition, it notes that climate change will lead to increasing winter rainfall, more intense storms and continuing sea level rise.</p>	<p>Seek to reduce the risk of flooding to people, homes, and businesses across North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Avoid proposing future development in high-risk flood areas and seek to incorporate nature-based solutions to minimise flood risk.</p> <p>Seek to create climate resilient places, including building resilience into new development and infrastructure to improve flood protection and reduce future flood risks.</p> <p>To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered with the Plan.</p>	Water Climate change Connectivity and infrastructure	Water Climatic factors
RE12	<a href="#">Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy</a>	<p>This strategy sets the Environment Agency’s approach to managing new and existing abstraction and impoundment within the Nene</p>	<p>Encourage sustainable abstraction to help to protect the environment and improve access to water.</p>	Water	Water

	(Environment Agency, 2021)	catchment in the Anglian river basin district.	Encourage the sustainable use of water resources to minimise the impact of increased development and population growth across North Northamptonshire.		
RE13	<a href="#">River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan</a> (Environment Agency, 2009)	This plan gives an overview of all types of flood risk in the River Nene catchment and sets out their preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50 to 100 years.	<p>Seek to reduce the risk of flooding to people, homes, and businesses across North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Avoid proposing future development in high-risk flood areas and seek to incorporate nature-based solutions to minimise flood risk.</p> <p>Seek to create climate resilient places, including building resilience into new development and infrastructure to improve flood protection and reduce future flood risks.</p> <p>To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered within the Plan.</p>	Water Connectivity and infrastructure	Water
RE14	<a href="#">River Nene Regional Park CIC: River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan</a>	This Management Plan seeks to provide a clear framework for effective partnership working, to bring together background information on the catchment and identify a range of	To protect and enhance all water bodies in North Northamptonshire, to ensure access to clean and plentiful water, to reduce the risk of	Water Climate change Biodiversity	Water Climatic factors Biodiversity

	(River Nene Regional Park, 2014)	<p>projects that contribute to the achievement of key objectives. The management plan aims for the River Nene to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be cleaner and healthier.</li> <li>• Support more fish, birds, and other wildlife.</li> <li>• Meet the needs of drinking water suppliers and business.</li> <li>• Provide a more attractive amenity for people to enjoy.</li> <li>• Be sensitively managed by everyone whose activities affect it.</li> <li>• Protect its irreplaceable heritage assets.</li> <li>• Continue to provide drainage and manage flood risk.</li> </ul>	<p>flooding, including exploring the use of natural flood management and nature-based solutions.</p> <p>To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure the protection and enhancement of water bodies in the area.</p>	Historic environment Landscape	Cultural heritage Landscape Fauna and flora
RE15	<a href="#">Water Resources Management Plan 2019</a> (Anglian Water, 2019)	Sets out how Anglian Water will manage the water supplies in the region to meet current and future needs over a minimum of 25 years (2020 to 2025). The plan addresses the supply demand balance, which if no actions were taken, would see the Anglian region experience significant water shortages in the next five years.	To work with the relevant water companies and stakeholders to avoid negative impacts on water quality and water resources to allow access to clean and plentiful water.	Water Connectivity and infrastructure	Water
RE16	Local Plans in adjoining local authorities	North Northamptonshire is bordered by the following local authority areas, for which the following local plan documents are adopted or in preparation:	To have regard to adopted plans bordering North Northamptonshire.	All matters	All matters

		<p>To the west, the former Daventry district adopted the <a href="#">Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan</a> (Part 2) 2011-2029 in 2020. West Northamptonshire is preparing the plans for the former Northampton borough, the <a href="#">Northampton Local Plan Part 2</a>, and for the former South Northamptonshire District, the <a href="#">Part 2 Settlements and Countryside Local Plan</a>. These three 'Part 2 Plans' follow on from the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Part 1) 2014. West Northamptonshire Council is now preparing a new Strategic Plan for the area, which will replace the West Northamptonshire JCS and guide development in the period up to 2050.</p> <p>To the north west, Harborough District Council adopted the <a href="#">Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031</a>, in 2019, which allocates land for a minimum of 3,975 new homes and a minimum of 59 ha of employment land in the District.</p> <p>To the north, South Kesteven District Council adopted the <a href="#">Local Plan 2011-2036</a> in January 2020, which includes allocations for around 9,500 homes, alongside several employment land allocations.</p> <p>In Rutland, the <a href="#">adopted Local Plan</a> sets out the planning policies for</p>			
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		<p>Rutland for the period to 2026, comprising of the Core Strategy DPD, Site Allocations and Policies DPD, and Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD.</p> <p>To the east, the <a href="#">Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036</a> was adopted in May 2019, setting out the approach to securing sustainable development to meet their identified need. <a href="#">Peterborough Local Plan 2016 to 2036</a> was adopted in July 2019, setting the policies for the growth and regeneration of Peterborough and the surrounding villages.</p> <p>To the south, Bedford adopted their <a href="#">Local Plan 2030</a> in January 2020, which sets out the levels of growth including a minimum of 3,169 new dwellings and 6,900 net additional jobs.</p> <p>Milton Keynes adopted their Plan in 2019, <a href="#">MK 2016-2031</a>, which makes the provision for the development of 26,500 net dwellings and an additional 282.1 hectares of employment land.</p>			
<b>Local</b>					
LC01	<a href="#">North Northamptonshire Corporate Plan</a> (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)	<p>North Northamptonshire Council was established on 1 April 2021, when four districts/boroughs (Corby, Kettering, East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough) and half of the county</p>	<p>To ensure the commitments are considered and reflected in the development of the Strategic Plan.</p>	All matters	All matters

		<p>council came together to form a Unitary authority.</p> <p>North Northamptonshire Council has adopted six key commitments:</p> <p>'1. Active, fulfilled lives: We will help people live healthier, more active, independent and fulfilled lives.</p> <p>2. Better, brighter futures: We will care for our young people, providing them with a high quality education and opportunities to help them flourish.</p> <p>3. Safe and thriving places: We will enable a thriving and successful economy that shapes great places to live, learn, work and visit.</p> <p>4. Green, sustainable environment: We will take a lead on improving the green environment, making the area more sustainable for generations to come.</p> <p>5. Connected communities: We will ensure our communities are connected with one another so they are able to shape their lives and the areas where they live.</p> <p>6. Modern public services: We will provide efficient, effective and affordable services that make a real difference to all our local communities.'</p>			
LC02	North Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plans	The following plans follow on from and support the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (the strategic Part 1 Local Plan); these plans include non-strategic development allocations and detailed	To have regard to the Local Plans in North Northamptonshire.	All matters	All matters

		<p>policies in line with the vision, strategy and strategic policies of the JCS.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough</a> was on adopted 26 February 2019; the <a href="#">Part 2 Local Plan for Corby</a> was adopted on 29 September 2021; and the <a href="#">Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan</a> was adopted on 1 December 2021. The <a href="#">East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2</a> is at an advanced stage of the plan-making process where the Examination hearings will commence on 6 April 2022.</p>			
LC03	North Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Plans	<p>There are currently 41 designated neighbourhood plan areas across North Northamptonshire, of which 17 have been adopted or ‘made’ Neighbourhood Plans. In the Corby area, the made plan is Gretton, with a successful Neighbourhood Plan referendum having taken place for Cottingham in February 2022. In the East Northamptonshire area, the made plans are Barrowden and Wakerley, Brigstock, Chelveston cum Caldecott, Glapthorn, Higham Ferrers, King’s Cliffe, Raunds, Rushden, Stanwick, and Warmington. In the Kettering area the made plan is Broughton. In the Wellingborough area, the made plans are Earls Barton, Irchester, Knuston and Little Irchester, Wollaston, and Ecton.</p>	To have regard to the Neighbourhood Plans in North Northamptonshire.	All matters	All matters

LC04	Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Northamptonshire County Council, 2017)	The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is the land use planning strategy for minerals and waste related development in North and West Northamptonshire. It provides the basis for investment in new minerals and waste development, and where and why it should be located within the former County. The Plan considers the impact and design of new minerals and waste development, and focuses on how developments can least impact the surrounding land use and the wider community.	To have regard to the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.	Land	Soil
LC05	<a href="#">Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) 2015-2020</a>	The document provided an evidence base and framework for wildlife conservation priorities across Northamptonshire for 2015–2020. This included the conservation and protection of habitats of international importance, including the highest priority actions to conserve Northamptonshire’s most threatened and declining habitats and species. It set out how biodiversity shall be integrated into the development process to ensure policy requirements were met.	Protect and enhance species and habitats.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Flora and fauna
LC06	<a href="#">Northamptonshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2015)</a>	This SPD explains how biodiversity shall be integrated into the development process to ensure that legislation and policy requirements are met, and best practice standards are achieved. It	Protect and enhance species and habitats. Enhance opportunities for achieving biodiversity net gain.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Flora and fauna

		offers a standardised approach which all applicants should follow. The SPD expands on the main principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and relevant local planning policies, and should be used together with expert ecological assessment of the details of each specific case.			
LC07	<a href="#">Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2020-2023</a>	The Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy sets out a framework for tackling the causes and effects of climate change in the former County. The Strategy has three key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness of the issues of climate change and its impact on Northamptonshire;</li> <li>• Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases across the County; and</li> <li>• Planning for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.</li> </ul>	Seek opportunities to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change across North Northamptonshire.	Climate change	Climatic factors
LC08	<a href="#">Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment and Key Issues</a> and <a href="#">Green Infrastructure Making the Connection</a> (RNRP, 2006)	The Environmental Character Assessment and the individual assessments have informed and acted as a basis for developing policy that helps protect, enhance and improve the environment, the landscape, biodiversity and the historic and cultural heritage in the coming years. The assessment are important to consider key challenges including climate change, changes to	To have regard to the principles in the Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy.	All matters	All matters

		<p>agricultural management and the need to accommodate new growth and development including housing and employment areas and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>The Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Strategy provides a positive long-term vision which provides environmental context for development and regeneration and increases opportunities for access, leisure and recreation.</p>			
LC09	<a href="#">Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020</a>	<p>Vision to improve health and wellbeing of all people in Northamptonshire and to reduce health inequalities by enabling people to help themselves.</p>	To support opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing and address local inequalities.	Health and wellbeing Communities	Human health Population
LC10	<a href="#">Northamptonshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020</a> (Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board)	<p>Outlines the aims to achieve health and wellbeing goals. The priorities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Every child gets the best start</li> <li>2. Taking responsibility and making informed choices</li> <li>3. Promoting independence and quality of life for older adults</li> <li>4. Creating an environment for all people to flourish</li> </ol>	To consider the implication of proposals on the health and wellbeing of all people in North Northamptonshire, providing opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing.	Health and wellbeing Communities	Human health Population
LC11	<a href="#">Northamptonshire Rail Strategy</a> (2013)	The rail strategy sets out the former Northamptonshire County Council's plans and policies in relation to rail services and infrastructure, both passenger and freight, across Northamptonshire.	To have regard to the Northamptonshire Rail Strategy.	Connectivity and infrastructure	Material assets
LC12	<a href="#">Northamptonshire Walking Strategy</a> (2013)	The strategy sets out the former county's aspirations and approaches to make walking a more attractive option for short journeys. The strategy sets out the policies that will help to	To have regard to the Northamptonshire Walking Strategy to encourage walking in North Northamptonshire.	Connectivity and infrastructure Health and wellbeing	Material assets Human health

		encourage more people to choose to walk and guide future walking action plans.			
LC13	<a href="#">Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (2012)</a>	An overarching strategy document that sets out what the former County Council's strategic aims and goals were for transport and transport infrastructure in the former Northamptonshire County.	To have regard to the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan.	Connectivity and infrastructure	Material assets
LC14	<a href="#">Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document 2015</a>	The SPD has been produced to help Local Planning Authorities, developers, and others to ensure that development has no significant effect on the SPA, in accordance with the legal requirements of the Habitats Regulations. It sets out some of the potential threats to the SPA which relate to poorly located or designed development and increasing recreational disturbance.	Protect and enhance the biodiversity at the SPA. Consider the location of development and the potential impact on the SPA.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Fauna and flora