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Meeting: EAP Planning Communities
Date: Monday 27th March, 2023
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG


To members of the EAP Planning Communities

Councillor David Brackenbury (Chair), Councillor Jennie Bone, Councillor Robin Carter, Councillor Mark Dearing, Councillor Barbara Jenney, Councillor Anne Lee and Councillor Steven North

Substitutes: Councillor Ross Armour and Councillor Elliot Prentice

Agenda Supplement

The following report has now been published which was not available at the time the agenda was published

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<p>Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council</p>  <p>Proper Officer 20 March 2023</p>			

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PLANNING COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL Monday 27 March 2023

Report Title	Consultation on the Scope and Options of the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan
Report Author	Terry Begley – Principal Planner (Local Plans) Terry.Begley@northnorthants.gov.uk
Relevant Executive Member	Councillor David Brackenbury – Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration

List of Appendices

- Appendix A – Draft Scope and Options consultation document
- Appendix B – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- Appendix C – Equality Screening Assessment

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to consider the Scope and Options for the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan and associated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Equality Screening Assessment for public consultation. This is the first stage of public consultation as the Local Plan progresses towards adoption.
- 1.2. It also presents revisions to the Local Development Scheme for endorsement ahead of full review by the Panel in the Summer and subsequent presentation to Executive and Full Council for adoption.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report introduces the first stage of public consultation for the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan. The draft Regulation 18 consultation documents appended provide information on what are expected to be the key issues for the Plan with the purpose of gathering feedback from the public and stakeholders on the content and key options. The public consultation is scheduled for eight weeks starting as soon as practically possible.
- 2.2. The report also presents revisions to the Local Development Scheme for endorsement ahead of a full review by the Panel at a future meeting in the Summer, and subsequent presentation to Executive and Full Council for adoption.

3. Recommendation

3.1. That Members of the Planning Communities Executive Advisory Panel:

- a) Provide comment on the Scope and Options for the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan as attached to this report at Appendix A, to be published, with or without revisions, for public consultation alongside the associated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Equality Screening Assessment attached to this report at Appendix B and Appendix C respectively.
- b) Endorse revisions to the Local Development Scheme for publication ahead of a full review by the Panel during the Summer, and subsequent presentation to Executive and Full Council.

Reason for recommendations:

- 3.2. To ensure early and meaningful engagement on the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Plan and associated documents is undertaken in line with relevant legislation and the adopted North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement.
- 3.3. Local Plans must be prepared in accordance with the published Local Development Scheme. The current Local Development Scheme is out of date and as such the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan would be unlikely to pass examination as its preparation would not have complied with this requirement. The Local Development Scheme is also used to keep the public and other interested parties informed on plan progress and it is incumbent upon the Council to keep the timetable up-to-date as an accurate reference should there be changes to the plan-making programme.

Alternative Options Considered:

- 3.4. The only alternative option is not to comment on the consultation documents. Not to comment on the consultation documents would be a missed opportunity to positively engage with the preparation of the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. The Council is required to identify the needs of Gypsy and Travellers in the area, and to plan to meet those needs through its Local Plan. Full Council on 31 March 2022 approved a [Local Development Scheme](#), which included provision for the preparation of a Local Plan to address the accommodation needs of gypsy and travellers across North Northamptonshire.

- 4.2. The Plan will provide planning policies and site allocations to meet the identified needs for Gypsy and Travellers¹ and ensure high standards of design, development and living conditions. Ensuring the provision of good quality and a sufficient supply of accommodation is key to addressing some of the disparities and inequalities faced by the Gypsy and Traveller community. In addition, it will strengthen the Council's ability to use effective enforcement powers.
- 4.3. The Plan will be developed through engagement with local communities and stakeholders, including representatives of Gypsy and Traveller bodies and planning agents, in accordance with the adopted [Statement of Community Involvement](#) and legislative requirements for consultation, combining what evidence is telling us about the needs of Gypsy and Travellers, what people want to see happen in their local area, and how we can best make provision for this through a clear development strategy across North Northamptonshire.
- 4.4. To ensure plans are prepared on a sound basis, local planning authorities are required to undertake consultation at the start of the process in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) which specifies that, as part of the plan preparation process, representations must be invited on what the Local Plan ought to contain.

5. Issues and Choices

Scope and Options

- 5.1. In total, nine policy areas have been identified so far as requiring consideration for inclusion in the Plan and which are discussed in the consultation document:
 - Vision and Outcomes for the Plan.
 - Options to meet future requirements.
 - Site Size.
 - Geographical distribution.
 - Allocation of reserve sites
 - Assessment criteria for site allocation and determination of planning applications.
 - Transit sites and temporary stopping places.
 - Site design
 - Retention of sites.
- 5.2. The document is intentionally high-level at this first consultation stage of the plan making process. The content is focused on providing information on what are expected to be the key issues for the Plan with the purpose of gathering the views of the public and stakeholders on the content and key options.

¹ For the purposes of this document the term 'Gypsy and Travellers' does not constitute a single, homogenous group, but encompasses a range of groups with different histories, cultures and beliefs including Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Gypsy Travellers and Welsh Gypsy Travellers, New Travellers, Waterway Travellers and Travelling Showmen.

Importantly, the Plan does not suggest any locations for allocation of sites or include pitch targets for Gypsy and Travellers. This is to ensure a frontloaded consultation process and because the technical work to inform decisions continues to be developed.

- 5.3. At this early stage, the scope of policy areas that need to be considered for inclusion in the Gypsy and Traveller Plan is an initial evaluation derived from existing evidence within the [North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment](#) and follows the work and consultation undertaken to prepare the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. The potential for future legislative reforms and changes to national planning policy and guidance may result in a need to amend the scope of the Plan. Significantly, consultation on the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy](#) and its supporting documents include proposals for the introduction of National Development Management Policies. The expectation is that in the future a standardised set of national policies will apply across the whole of England that will be used, alongside slimmed down Local Plans in the determination of planning applications. At present there is a lack of clarity on what these might address or say, but any implications that they will have will need to be fully considered as the Plan evolves. In addition, updates to the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and preparation of a Pitch Deliverability Assessment together with further work on the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan may result in the scope needing to be revised or updated.
- 5.4. The Gypsy and Traveller Plan is being progressed in parallel to work on the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan and will cover the same plan period between 2021 and 2041. In determining the scope for the Gypsy and Traveller Plan, consideration will also need to be made of workload and resource implications of progressing with work on both key policy areas at the same time, and the relationship with other ongoing work such as the consideration of an Article 4 Direction to control Housing in Multiple Occupation, supporting the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and adopting the East Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan as well as projects associated with the transformation of planning services and delivery of proposals in North Northamptonshire.

Environmental Assessments

- 5.5. As required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Government Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and associated Regulations, the Scope and Options document is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in Appendix B. The principal role of this Scoping Report is to set out a suggested framework against which future iterations of the Plan can be assessed to establish its likely social, economic, and environmental impacts. As required by the regulations, feedback will be sought on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report as part of the Scope and Options engagement.
- 5.6. As the Plan progresses, the Sustainability Appraisal work will be extended to reference the conclusions of a separate process relating to the Habitats

Regulations Assessment which must accompany the later stages of a statutory plan.

Local Development Scheme

- 5.7. The Local Development Scheme is a statutory document required under Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended. Formulating the timetables within the Local Development Scheme, keeping them up-to-date, and making publicly available will ensure that the Council complies with the necessary tests in preparing a Local Plan for examination.
- 5.8. The subject matter and timetable for the preparation of the Plan is specified in the Local Development Scheme. Planning law requires the Plan to be prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme. The Local Development Scheme was last updated in March 2022 and a further review is now required.
- 5.9. The current Local Development Scheme describes the role and subject of the Plan as follows:

The Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Sites Allocations Policy, when adopted, will form part of the statutory North Northamptonshire Development Plan. This document will explore projected need for gypsy and traveller accommodation throughout North Northamptonshire. It will seek to allocate land to provide sufficient pitch numbers to meet need identified through the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for North Northamptonshire, published in March 2019.

- 5.10. It is reiterated that at this early stage in the plan making process, the scope of the Plan is undecided, but the consultation document set out in Appendix A suggests a wider scope and content than prescribed in the current Local Development Scheme. Therefore, it is recommended that the role and subject of the Plan is amended, as follows:

The North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan, when adopted, will form part of the statutory North Northamptonshire Development Plan. This document will set planning policies and site allocations to meet the identified needs for Gypsy and Travellers and ensure high standards of design, development and living conditions.

- 5.11. It is also recommended that the title of the Plan should be renamed to the more simple 'North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan'.
- 5.12. The current Local Development Scheme aims for early stakeholder and community engagement in June 2022, followed by consultation on the Draft Plan in April 2023. It therefore needs to be updated to reflect current consultation arrangements and the planning policy work programme reported to this Panel in January 2023, as follows:

- Early stakeholder and community engagement – April 2023
- Draft Plan for consultation – September/October 2023

- Publication consultation – January/February 2024
- Submission to the Secretary of State – April 2024
- Examination – July 2024
- Adoption – February 2025

5.13. The timetable will need to be kept under review going forward and may subsequently be revised further in light of the forthcoming consultation stage and full review of the Local Development Scheme by the Panel in the Summer.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. Subject to feedback at the Panel, officers will finalise the Scope and Options for the Plan and prepare consultation materials ready for the public consultation to begin. Any updating, drafting of amendments and the graphic design of the Scope and Options for the Gypsy and Traveller Plan and associated documents prior to publication and consultation on the documents will be undertaken with the agreement of the Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Economy. This will include effecting any changes required by this Panel.
- 6.2. Public consultation on the Regulation 18 Scope and Options and associated documents will take place over eight weeks as soon as practically possible. This is longer than the 'usual' six-week period for such consultations, to reflect the fact that the period spans the Easter holidays and other bank holidays.
- 6.3. During the consultation period, evidence underpinning the Plan will continue to be developed. Specifically, consultants are expected to provide the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update by the end of April 2023 and the Pitch Deliverability Assessment and Design Standards by September 2023.
- 6.4. Following the close of consultation, the analysis of comments made and the officers' response to these will be reported to the Panel for its consideration. The results of the consultation and outcomes of the evidence gathering will inform work on the next stage of the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan and associated Sustainability Appraisal, currently scheduled for September 2023.
- 6.5. The Council's constitution requires that the Local Development Scheme be adopted by Full Council. The current Local Development Scheme approved in March 2022 requires multiple amendments to reflect changes in circumstances that affected progress of this Plan and the Strategic Plan. A full review will be conducted by this Panel in Summer 2023, prior to presentation to Executive and Full Council. This report only relates to the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan. As such, subject to Panel endorsement, it is proposed that revisions to the Local Development Scheme are published within the Scope and Options consultation document and uploaded to the Councils website to enable the public and interested parties to keep track of development plan document progress, prior to a full review by the Panel in the Summer 2023 and subsequent presentation to Executive and Full Council.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1. The current stage of plan making and evidence gathering will be resourced by the existing Planning Policy budget. A review of further resources will be undertaken as part of the Local Development Scheme and budget setting process to assess the appropriate level to support future requirements. The preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan and accompanying documents will be demanding of staff and resources and need to be balanced with other policy priorities identified in this report, in terms of procurement of consultants, evidence base preparation and consultation, at a time of budget pressures and significant and competing work demands. It will require careful resource management and collaborative working with other services within the Council, such as Environmental Health, Flood and Water Management, Highways, etc.

7.2. Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1. The Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan is a Development Plan Document and as such, when formally adopted, will form part of the statutory Development Plan for North Northamptonshire.
- 7.2.2. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 set out the requirements and the statutory procedure for the preparation of Plans.
- 7.2.3. Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations requires the local planning authority to notify and invite representations on the content of the draft plan to: (i) such specific consultation bodies as the local planning authority consider may have an interest in the subject of the proposed plan; (ii) such general consultation bodies as the local planning authority consider appropriate; and (iii) such residents or other persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area as the local planning authority consider appropriate. The subsequent stages are formal consultation on the Draft Plan; submission and examination; the Inspectors Report; and adoption.
- 7.2.4. This Panel is currently providing the governance necessary for the project. All representations received during this consultation stage will be reported to this Panel for consideration.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1. Improving the standard of new and existing homes and ensuring housing supply meets demand is a priority for North Northamptonshire Council, as set out in the Corporate Plan. This includes accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community. Policy 31 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy requires local planning authorities to protect existing lawful sites and ensure sufficient sites for gypsy and travellers in line with a robust evidence base. Where necessary part 2 local plans are expected to allocate further sites to accommodate identified needs.

7.4. Risk

7.4.1. A delay to the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan being produced could lead to more regular planning appeals and unauthorised encampments with potential significant disruption with communities, poor living conditions for gypsies and travellers, and costs for the Council. Whilst the Council will seek to ensure that the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan is progressed in accordance with the latest timetable and minimise risks of delay, it should be noted the following external factors are beyond the Council's control and may have an impact:

- Legislative reforms and changes to national planning policy and guidance. The Government published the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy, including proposals for a new system of plan-making and the creation of National Development Management Policies on 22 December 2022. These proposals are at the consultation stage, and it is not certain of the outcome or when any changes may take effect. At present however, the Government states that it is critical that the preparation of local plans should continue before the new system is in place and consulted on transitional arrangements that allow plan makers until 30 June 2025 to submit plans under the existing legislative framework.
- Failure of consultants to deliver evidence on time. As referenced above, the Pitch Deliverability and Design Standards will provide the requisite evidence to underpin the Plan and ensure that the land allocations are soundly based and deliverable. The outcomes of the evidence will affect the overall strategy adopted by the Plan. The timetable to prepare evidence and digest the information is very tight and progress in line with the adopted Local Development Scheme will be dependent upon consultants meeting required deadlines.
- Unanticipated scale and nature of consultation responses received including new evidence submitted unexpectedly which will require further time to review and analyse.

7.4.2 There are ways to mitigate these risks – continuing to monitor any changes in legislation or national planning policy as part of the plan making progress, keeping the scope and timetable of the Plan under review, exploring technological and innovative ways of delivering the service and managing consultation responses as part of the transformation of the planning service, and robust project management and reporting arrangements to ensure that any risks are identified and considered in a timely manner.

7.4.3 If the Council does not revise the Local Development Scheme, there is a risk that the Council will contravene the legal requirements to prepare, maintain and publish a Local Development Scheme for the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan it proposes to prepare. This would put the Plan at risk of being found legally non-compliant when submitted for examination in due course. Although there is a move away from the original timetable, it is deemed that this approach is a pragmatic and reasonable one to seek to deal with this aspect of the Local Development Scheme so as to ensure that the Plan progresses.

7.5. Consultation

7.5.1. In the event, public consultation is approved for the Regulation 18 Scope and Options document, this will be organised as soon as practically possible. An extended consultation period of eight weeks is considered appropriate to ensure the Easter holiday period and other bank holidays do not disadvantage those wishing to comment on the document in accordance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. As part of the consultation the following arrangements will be put in place:

- Early notification of the consultation period to the Parish and Town Councils following Panel approval.
- Emails will be sent to all elected Members prior to the start of the consultation.
- All contacts on the planning policy consultation database will be informed of the consultation and invited to respond. This will include Gypsy and Traveller representative organisations.
- Local newspapers will be used to cover and advertise the consultation.
- Online publication of all consultation documents on the Councils website via the Consultation and Engagement hub.
- Social media will be used.
- Discussion with relevant authorities on cross boundary strategic planning matters.
- Hard copies of relevant consultation materials will be made available at Council offices and libraries.
- Planning officers will be available during office hours to respond to any phone or email queries relating to the consultation.

7.6. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.6.1. There is no identified need for wider consideration by scrutiny although should members of the scrutiny commission request it to go into the work programme, they can do so, and officers will assist.

7.7. Equality Implications

7.7.1 An Equality Screening Assessment has been carried out in consultation with the Council's Equalities Officer and can be found in Appendix C. The Equality Screening Assessment concludes that there is scope within the Plan to promote equality of opportunity and positively impact on all section of the community in North Northamptonshire, including those who share a protected characteristic. The most significant impacts are, however, likely to be felt by Gypsy and Travellers and by members of settled communities living near existing or future sites. This is because the Plan is about development of accommodation specifically for Gypsy and Travellers.

7.8. Climate Impact

7.8.1. The Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan will provide opportunity to respond to the Council's Climate and Environment Emergency declared in July 2021. The

Sustainability Appraisal, prepared in parallel with each stage of the Plan, will assess the impact of the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan on climate change and its ability to minimise the contribution to climate change through appropriate mitigation, and to support adaption measures to build resilience against the impacts of climate change in North Northamptonshire.

7.9. Community Impact

- 7.9.1. The provision of planning policies and site allocations to meet the identified needs for Gypsy and Travellers and ensure high standards of design, development and living conditions will help to facilitate fair and equal treatment for Gypsy and Travellers with subsequent benefits including promoting better access to health and education and better integration and coexistence of the Gypsy and Traveller community with the settled community and assist in reducing unauthorised encampments.

7.10. Crime and Disorder Impact

- 7.10.1. The Sustainability Appraisal, prepared in parallel with each stage of the Plan, will assess the impact of the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan on communities and its ability 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.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1. [North Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme](#)
8.2. [North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement](#)
8.3. [North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment](#)
8.4. [Full Council, Wednesday 28 July 2021](#)
8.5. [North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Scope and Issues Consultation](#)
8.6. [Summary of Scope and Issues Consultation Responses and Officer Responses](#)

Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

Scope and Options Consultation

March 2023

www.northnorthants.gov.uk

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1.0 Introduction

What is the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

1.1 Improving the standard of new and existing homes and ensuring housing supply meets demand is a priority for North Northamptonshire Council, as set out in the [Corporate Plan](#). This includes accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community.

1.2 In response the Council is producing an important Development Plan Document called the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan (otherwise referred to as ‘the Plan’). This will set out planning policies and site allocations to meet the identified accommodation needs for gypsy and travellers¹ and ensure high standards of design, development and living conditions.

1.3 The identification of sites and broad locations to accommodate the existing and future need for Gypsy and Travellers through the planning process, alongside site design guidance, will ensure a better quality of life and living conditions, promote better integration with the settled community, provide a more stable environment in which educational attainment and access to health services and employment can be improved, and reduce the number of unauthorised encampments. For the Council it is key to ensuring enforcement powers are effectively implemented.

What is the Scope and Options consultation?

1.4 The Scope and Options consultation is the start of the plan making process where regulations specify that representations must be invited on what the Local Plan ought to contain. The aim of this consultation document is to invite views of interested parties on the scope and contents of the Plan. It provides information on what are expected to be key policy areas for the Plan and contains a series of questions and options which relate closely to the key policy areas identified. This includes the vision and outcomes for the Plan, meeting future requirements, size of sites, geographical distribution, allocation of reserve sites, assessment criteria for sites, provision of transit sites, site design, and retention of sites. It is important to emphasise that no decisions have been made on the content of planning policies at this stage in the process, such as the location of allocated sites or the number of pitches/plots that will be required. The consultation document is intentionally high level to ensure a frontloaded consultation process and because the technical evidence to inform decisions continues to be developed.

What is the policy context?

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework² (NPPF) sets out the Government’s planning policy on a range of matters.

1.6 Paragraph 4 explains that ‘*The Framework should be read in conjunction with the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, and its planning policy for waste. When preparing plans or making decisions on applications for these types of development, regard should also be had to the policies in this Framework, where relevant.*’

1.7 Paragraph 35 states that plans are ‘sound’ if they are ‘*Positively prepared – providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the areas objectively assessed needs ...*’

1.8 Paragraph 62 then states that (emphasis added) ‘*Within this content, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people,*

¹ For the purposes of this document, the term ‘Gypsy and Traveller’ will include the many different people and groups that fit under the umbrella term, which can include Roma people, Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Gypsy Travellers, New Travellers, Liveaboard Boaters and Travelling Showmen. Where the reference is specific to a group, such as Travelling Showmen, it will be stated.

² [National Planning Policy Framework](#), 2021

³ | Regulation 18 Scope and Options North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan – Planning Communities Executive Advisory Panel, March 2023

students, people with disabilities, service families, **travellers**²⁷, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes²⁸).' The footnote to this section states 'Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers' housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document.'

1.9 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites³ sets out the government's planning policy for traveller sites. Paragraph 3 states that the overarching aim of government 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'

1.10 In producing local plans, local planning authorities should:

- Set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople, which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities
- Identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets
- Identify a supply of specific, developable sites, or broad locations for growth, for year 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15
- Relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density
- Protect local amenity and environment
- Set criteria-based policies to meet identified need and/or provide a basis for decisions in case applications nevertheless come forward.

1.11 Paragraph 13 of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites states that 'local planning authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally'.

1.12 The Government launched its consultation on updating the NPPF in December 2022. Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy⁴ and its supporting documents cover key elements of the planning system and outline the Government's ongoing planning reforms. While a lot of the detail is yet to emerge, the proposals confirm the future status of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, which sits alongside the NPPF, will be considered in drafting National Development Management Policies.

1.13 The [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031](#) (JCS) was adopted on 14 July 2016.

1.14 Policy 31 of the JCS protects existing lawful Gypsy and Traveller sites, plots and pitches and sets out criteria to be used when assessing the suitability of sites for allocation, and for the purposes of considering planning applications for such sites.

1.15 The supporting text to Policy 31 in Paragraph 9.55 explains that ongoing monitoring of site provision and vacant pitches should be undertaken by the Local Planning Authorities alongside discussions with Gypsies and Travellers to ensure that any additional need that may arise over the plan period is identified and can be considered when need assessments are updated, and planning applications are determined.

1.16 The Council is reviewing and updating the JCS through the preparation of the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan that will cover the period up to 2041. The [Scope and Issues Consultation](#) was published in March 2022. The outcomes of the consultation exercise and officer response were reported to the Council's Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel on 14 December 2022⁵

What evidence is available to inform the plan?

1.17 The [North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment](#) was published in March 2019 (2019 GTAA), this currently provides the most up to date assessment of Gypsy and Traveller

³ [Planning policy for traveller sites](#), 31 August 2015

⁴ Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy, December 2022

⁵ <https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/ie/ListDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=894>

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accommodation needs in the North Northamptonshire area. The 2019 GTAA provides an assessment of the accommodation needs for the former local authority areas of Kettering Borough, Corby Borough, East Northamptonshire District and the Borough of Wellingborough.

1.18 Following the formation of North Northamptonshire Council and to support the preparation of the Plan the Council has commissioned further work to ensure an up-to-date evidence base for the Plan. This further work includes a GTAA Update, a Pitch Deliverability Assessment and further specialist advice to support the preparation of the Plan.

1.19 The GTAA Update will provide an updated and consolidated evidence for North Northamptonshire, which quantifies the number of sites for Gypsy and Travellers that are required to be provided through the planning process up to 2033. This will take into account changes to the baseline position since the 2019 GTAA.

1.20 The Pitch Deliverability Assessment will provide a more detailed analysis of need and identify solutions for meeting need.

2.0 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need

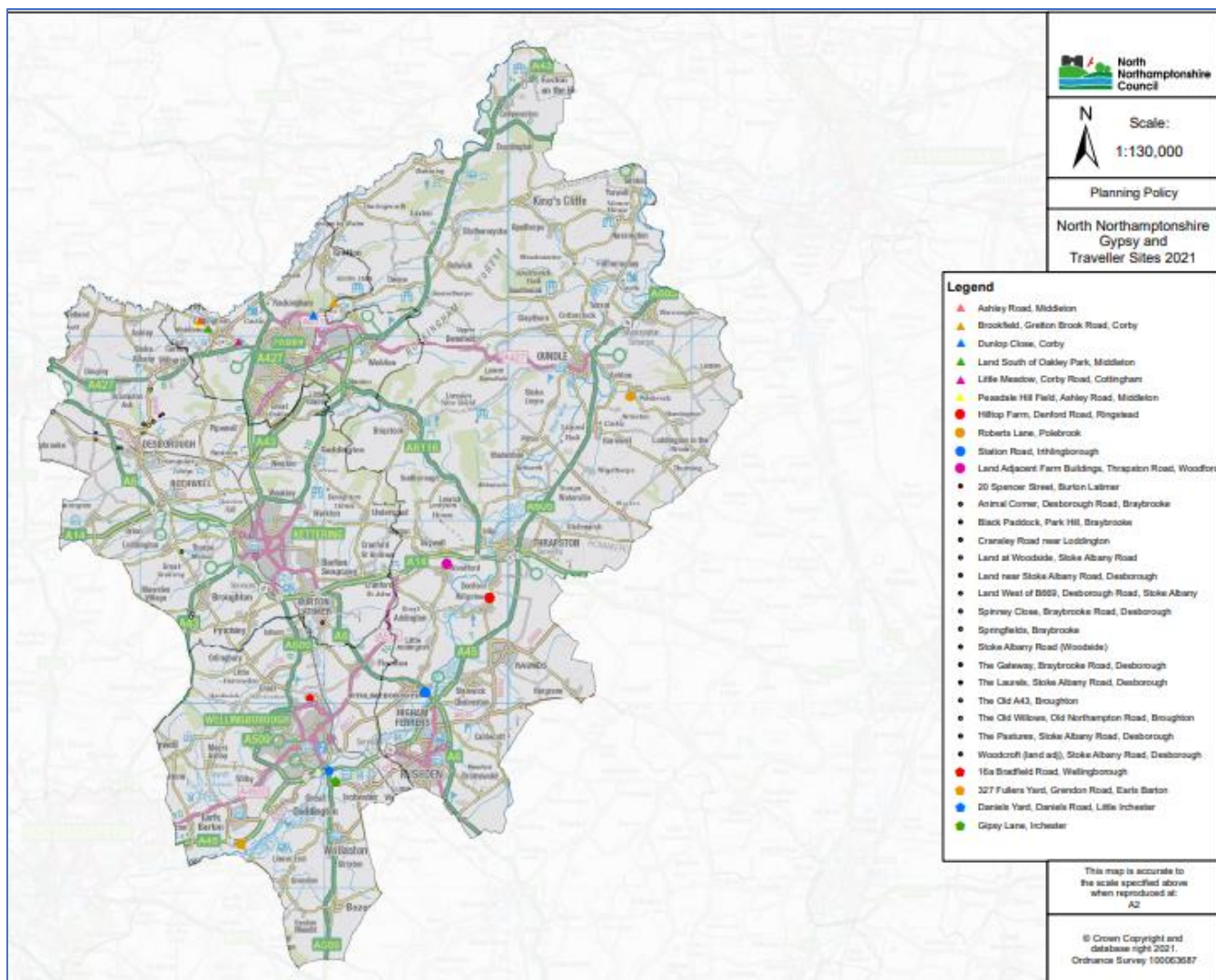
What is the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need to 2033?

2.1 The current GTAA published in March 2019 provides an assessment of need for each of the former local authority area of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering, and Wellingborough. However, in recognition of the planned Local Government Reorganisation, the 2019 GTAA also provided a summary of the overall need for North Northamptonshire. This showed an overall need for Gypsy and Traveller households that met the planning definition in North Northamptonshire for 34 pitches, a need for up to 32 additional pitches for undetermined households and need for 44 additional pitches for households that did not meet the planning definition.

Where are the existing sites?

2.2 The existing Gypsy and Traveller sites can be seen on Figure 1. The maps show that a considerable proportion of the sites are located in the northwest of North Northamptonshire in the Corby/ Desborough area. A smaller proportion of sites are located in the south/ southeast of North Northamptonshire.

Figure 1



3.0 Travelling Showmen Accommodation Need

What is the Travelling Showmen Need to 2033?

3.1 The current GTAA published in March 2019 evidenced a need for 14 additional plots in North Northamptonshire over the GTAA period to 2033.

Where are the existing sites?

3.2 The GTAA identified 5 authorised sites for travelling showmen in North Northamptonshire; these are located at Roberts Lane, East Northamptonshire (comprising 4 plots), Abbots Amusements, Wellingborough (comprising 3 plots), Appleton Yard, Wellingborough (comprising 9 plots), Bond Site, Wellingborough (comprising 9 plots), and Shepherds Yard, Wellingborough (comprising 3 plots), as illustrated in Figure 1.

4.0 Options

4.1 The following section sets out various options on which views are invited, based on the key policy areas that have been identified following a review of the existing evidence base, including 2019 GTAA and responses to the recent consultation on the Scope and Issues for the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.

4.2 The Plan will look ahead to the 2041 in line with the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. This will ensure that the Plan lasts for at least 15 years on adoption as required by current national planning policy. It is recognised that the updated GTAA will only provide evidence to 2033 and that an early review of the Plan may be necessary.

A. What are the Vision and Outcomes?

4.3 Spatial plans should include a vision for the area once the plan has been implemented. The Plan should include a vision of what the plan is aiming to achieve with regard to provision for Gypsy and Travellers.

4.4 A draft vision has been proposed, this will be reviewed and developed following consultation but provides a starting point for comment:

Vision

North Northamptonshire will meet the existing and future need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in appropriate locations through the provision of sufficient sites. Sites will be well-designed and provide suitable living conditions and a range of accommodation to meet different needs. The number of unauthorised developments and encampments in North Northamptonshire will be reduced.

Question - Vision

Q1 Please indicate which of the following options reflect your views:

- a) Support the Vision of the Plan
- b) Disagree/ Propose changes to the Vision (Please specify how the vision should be changed)

4.5 To achieve the vision the Plan will need to contain objectives which set out the actions needed to deliver the vision. A set of draft Outcomes have been proposed:

- To identify sufficient accommodation to meet the existing and future need for Gypsy and Travellers. For the first five years the plan will identify a specific supply of deliverable sites, for the remainder of the plan period the plan will identify sites or a strategy for accommodating needs.
- To provide a clear framework for making decisions on planning applications for Gypsy and Travellers.
- To set requirements to ensure sites are suitably located in appropriate locations and to provide design standards which ensure suitable living standards and high-quality sites.
- To set out the approach to transit sites and/ or temporary stopping places.

Question – Outcomes

Q2 Please indicate which of the following options reflect your views:

- a) Support the Outcomes identified
- b) Disagree/ Propose changes to the Outcomes (Please specify how the Outcomes should be changed)

B. What options are there to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Travellers?

4.6 The GTAA Update will provide an up-to-date assessment of needs and information on capacity of existing sites to accommodate additional provision. The updated evidence is most likely to identify a requirement for further provision, and the Council will need to identify a supply of specific deliverable sites and specific developable sites or broad locations.

4.7 Options for the way in which future requirements may be met include, but not limited to:

- a) Extending existing authorised sites where possible to meet the needs of existing residents and their families (i.e., making the sites larger)
- b) Increasing the number of pitches or plots on existing authorised sites (without increasing the size of the site)
- c) Allocation of new sites
- d) Examining whether existing sites which do not benefit from planning permission, are suitable to be granted planning permission
- e) Hybrid of all the above options
- f) Other (please specify)

Question – Meeting Gypsy and Traveller Requirements

Q3 Please indicate which of the options you think are appropriate and state why?

C. What size of sites should be allocated for Gypsy and Traveller sites?

4.8 A pitch is an area normally occupied by one household, which typically contains enough space for one or two caravans but can vary in size according to the size of the household. A site is a collection of pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers. In North Northamptonshire existing sites range from a single pitch occupied by one household to a larger site of around 43 pitches. Whilst it has now been withdrawn, Government Guidance on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites recommended that sites with a maximum of 15 pitches are 'conductive to providing a comfortable environment which is easy to manage'⁶.

- a) 5 pitches and under
- b) 10 pitches and under
- c) 15 pitches and under
- d) 16+ pitches

Question – Gypsy and Traveller Site Size

Q4 Please indicate which of the options you think are appropriate (ring letter(s) above and state why?)

D. What size of sites should be allocated for Travelling Showmen?

4.9 Travelling Showmen sites often are mixed in nature and combine residential, storage and maintenance use. Typically, a plot contains enough space for one household, including equipment used to store fairground rides, vehicles, and other items as well as for living accommodation, and a yard comprises a collection of plots occupied by Travelling Showmen. Existing yards in North Northamptonshire vary in scale from 3 to 4 plots to larger sites of 9 plots.

- a) 5 plots and under
- b) 10 plots and under
- c) 15 plots and under
- d) 16+ plots

Question – Travelling Showmen Site Size

Q5 Please indicate which of the options you think are appropriate (ring letter(s) above) and state why?

E. Should the Council seek to influence the geographical distribution of Gypsy and Traveller development?

⁶ Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide, May 2008
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11439/designinggypsiesites.pdf

4.10 The accommodation needs for Gypsy and Travellers corresponds with the spread of sites, with the greatest needs in the north-east and south-east of North Northamptonshire. This underlines data and analysis from the 2021 Census that emphasises the importance of close-knit family and social group⁷. Culturally, Gypsy and Traveller communities often live and travel together in family groups, even after forming new households through marriage and the need for additional pitches is often derived from the need to accommodate additional family members as they grow older and seek their accommodation. As such, it may be unrealistic to assume family groups would relocate completely to a new area as their needs change.

4.11 National planning policy states that when assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings, local planning authorities should ensure that the scale of such sites does not dominate the nearest settled community.

4.12 Considering the existing geographical distribution of Gypsy and Traveller sites and the corresponding needs, the options are as follows:

- a) Use the existing distribution as a guide for future Gypsy and Traveller development
- b) Consider a more equal distribution of development across North Northamptonshire. If so, should development be:
 - i) A more even split between each Town and Parish
 - ii) A more even split in proportion to the population of the Town and Parish
 - iii) A more even split in proportion to the area of the Town and Parish
- c) Not seek to control site distribution

Question – Geographical Distribution

Q6 Please indicate which of the options you think are appropriate (ring letter(s) above) and state why?

F. Should the Council allocate reserve Gypsy and Traveller sites?

4.13 National planning policy requires a continuous 5-year supply of sites which are deliverable. Failure to meet the obligations of national planning policy has a number of effects. It can directly impact on the wellbeing of the Gypsy and Traveller community and, like with housing for the settled population, an insufficient supply weakens the Council's ability to resist development in inappropriate locations, and can lead to less sustainable patterns of development, and planning decisions by appeal.

4.14 If a shortfall in the 5-year supply of specific deliverable sites for Gypsy and Travellers is identified the allocation of reserve sites would enable the Council to identify a site or sites for development from a list of reserve sites to ensure a continuous 5-year supply. In addition, it enables a primarily plan led approach, with sites having been assessed as suitable and appropriately located and giving the opportunity to have specific detailed policies for these sites. These would still be subject to approval of a planning application, as is the case with residential sites. The options are:

- a) Allocate reserve sites for Gypsy and Traveller and/or Travelling Showmen
- b) Do not allocate reserve sites

Question – Allocation of Reserve Sites

Q7 Please indicate which of the options you think are appropriate (ring letter(s) above) and state why?

⁷<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/gypsiesandtravellerslivedexperiencescultureandidentityenglandandwales/2022>

G. What criteria should the Council use when identifying sites for allocation and considering planning applications?

4.15 Policy 31 of the JCS sets out detailed criteria to be used when assessing planning applications and the suitability of sites for allocation to help ensure sites are suitably located in appropriate locations, as follows:

- a) *the site is closely linked to an existing settlement with an adequate range of services and facilities;*
- b) *the site, or the cumulative impacts of the site, in combination with existing or planned sites, will not have an unacceptable impact on local infrastructure;*
- c) *the site provides a suitable level of residential amenity for the proposed residents;*
- d) *the site is served (or can be served) by an adequate water supply and appropriate means of sewage disposal;*
- e) *there is satisfactory access and adequate space for operational needs including the parking, turning, and servicing of vehicles;*
- f) *the health and well-being of occupants is not put at risk including through unsafe access to the site, poor air quality and unacceptable noise or unacceptable flood risk and contaminated land;*
- g) *the size of the site and number of pitches does not dominate the nearest settled community;*
- h) *the proposed development does not have a significant adverse impact on the character of the landscape and takes account of the Landscape Character Assessment of the area. Appropriate landscaping and treatment to boundaries shall be provided to mitigate impact.*

4.16 The Scope and Issues consultation on the Strategic Plan invited views on Policy 31 of the JCS. In response, some respondents suggested policy amendments, including emphasis on low impact, low energy properties, the need for greater consideration of environmental matters, opportunities for the community to manage their health and wellbeing, and promotion of Secured by Design principles. Other respondents objected to the requirement in criteria (a) that site is closely linked to an existing settlement and there was an objection to criteria (g) on the basis that it did not refer to the cumulative impact on the settled community in the same way as criteria (b) refers to the cumulative impact on infrastructure. Another respondent sought clarification that sites should not be located on larger urban extensions.

4.17 The Plan will not be read in isolation but in the context of the Strategic Plan which may include strategic policies that address the amendments to Policy 31 of the JCS suggested by respondents. It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan will set out policies for future growth and development which are relevant to the consideration of Gypsy and Traveller provision such as infrastructure priorities, the need to address inequalities, drive up the quality of design and underpinning placemaking principles, provide a response to climate change, and offer protection to the natural and historic environment. Furthermore, Government consultation on reforms to planning policy include proposals to create National Development Management Policies that will cover planning considerations that typically apply in decision making, such as general policies for conserving historic assets, and preventing inappropriate development in areas of high flood risk.

Question – Assessment Criteria

Q8 As the Plan can delete, amend, or supersede the adopted Policy 31 of the JCS, the options are as follows:

- a) Support the assessment criteria
- b) Disagree/Propose changes to the assessment criteria

Please explain your answer and detail any specific amendments you would like to see to the criteria in Policy 31, and why?

H. Should the Council allocate transit sites or emergency stopping places?

4.18 Transit sites meet the needs of gypsy and traveller households who are visiting or passing through the area. Transit sites include full facilities where Gypsy and Travellers can live temporarily, usually for up to three months. An alternative to transit sites is emergency stopping places, these have more limited facilities

than transit sites. Other alternatives also include temporary sites and temporary stopping places, negotiated stopping places and fair and event sites.

4.19 The 2019 GTAA identified that there are increasing numbers of unauthorised encampments in many parts of North Northamptonshire. There is currently no public transit provision, although the GTAA reported that there were instances of transit provision on some large private sites. The GTAA recommended that the Council should work to identify opportunities for the provision of emergency stopping places.

4.20 Further work is required to identify the number of emergency stopping places which should be provided. The GTAA recommends that this is progressed on a North Northamptonshire wide basis rather than identifying provision within each of the four former Council areas.

Question – Transit Sites and Temporary Stopping Places

Q9 Which option should be progressed to meet the needs of gypsy and traveller households visiting or passing through the area?

- a) Allocate emergency stopping places
- b) Use an alternative option, for example, transit sites or temporary sites. Please specify which alternative option should be considered and the reasons for this.

Are there any sites or locations you think would be suitable, please state why?

I. How should the Council address site design?

4.21 Policy 31 of the JCS provides criteria which require that sites: provide a suitable level of residential amenity; are served (or can be served) by an adequate water supply and appropriate means of sewage disposal; have satisfactory access and adequate space for operational needs including the parking, turning and servicing of vehicles; and that the health and well-being of occupants is not put at risk including through unsafe access to the site, poor air quality and unacceptable noise or unacceptable flood risk and contaminated land.

4.22 The ‘Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Good Practice Guide’, which was withdrawn in September 2015, set out good practice in respect of the design of Gypsy and Traveller sites. This included guidance in relation to site layout, access and orientation, site services and facilities, health safety and accessibility and layout of pitches.

4.23 Good design is important and will help ensure that sites provide suitable living conditions for occupants, can be accessed safely, are sustainable and can be suitably accommodated in the surrounding landscape.

4.24 A policy could be included in the Plan setting out design principles which provided detailed design requirements for sites. The alternative is to rely on more general design policies which could be set out in other Local Plans such as the Strategic Plan, or by government, or other legislation, for example Environmental Health site licencing regulations.

4.25 A policy setting out design principles could address issues such as:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| out | ss | ntation |
| ndary treatment | of pitches | lscaping |
| ing | n space | services and facilities |
| ting | imunal facilities | • Amenity buildings |

Question – Site Design

Q10 Which option should be progressed:

- a) Include a policy setting out design principles (please specify what issues the policy should address).

b) Rely on general design policies and other legislation to address the design of sites.

J. Should the Council seek to retain Gypsy and Traveller sites in that use?

4.26 Policy 31 of the JCS protects existing lawful sites, plots and pitches for gypsies and travellers. Including a policy in the Plan to retain Gypsy and Traveller sites would help ensure that sites remain as Gypsy and Traveller sites and are not lost to other types of development/ use helping to maintain supply. This could apply to existing sites, allocations and sites which come through the planning application process.

Question – Retention of sites

Q11 Which option should be progressed:

- a) Include a policy to retain Gypsy and Traveller sites.
- b) Don't actively seek to retain Gypsy and Traveller sites.

5.0 Process and Next Steps

5.1 The current consultation is the first stage in preparing the Plan and runs from XX until XX 2023.

5.2 Comments can be returned via the following means:

- By email: planningpolicy@northnorthants.gov.uk
- By post: Planning Policy Team, North Northamptonshire Council, Deene House, New Post Office Square, Corby NN17 1GD

5.3 The responses to the consultation, and technical evidence mentioned previously, will inform and contribute to the development of detailed planning policies and proposals, including suggested sites and design policies. The Draft Plan will be consulted upon, and further guidance will be issued at that point about how to respond.

5.4 The timetable for each subsequent stage of public consultation is set out below:

Draft Plan published for consultation – September/October 2023

Publication consultation – January/February 2024

Submission to the Secretary of State – April 2024

Public Examination – July 2024

Adoption – February 2025

Question – Scope

Q12 Are there any issues that you consider have been missed and should be considered within the scope of the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan?



North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

March 2023

www.northnorthants.gov.uk

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North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan (hereafter referred to as 'the Plan') will be to provide planning policies and site allocations to meet the identified accommodation needs for gypsy and travellers¹.
- 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 Plan and to set out the assessment framework for undertaking the later stages of the SA. This Scoping Report derives largely from the one produced to support the Scope and Issues consultation for the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan which was published in Spring 2022.
- 1.4 The document starts by setting out the policy context for the preparation of the 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 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 Plan, including planning policies and site allocations. 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 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 are being reviewed and where appropriate replaced by the Strategic Plan. The first stage of preparing the Strategic Plan,

¹ The term 'Gypsy and Traveller' does not constitute a single, homogenous group, but encompasses a range of groups with different histories, cultures and beliefs including Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Gypsy Travellers, Welsh Gypsy Travellers, New (Age) Travellers, Waterway Travellers and Travelling Showmen.

the Scope and Issues consultation, took place between 28 March and 23 May 2022. Responses to the Scope and Issues consultation and officer responses were reported to the relevant Executive Advisory Panel on 14 December 2022. This report also considered the next steps in progressing the Strategic Plan and issues relevant to this. The Strategic Plan timetable needs to be revised and discussions are ongoing regarding this. The intention is that a revised timetable through an updated Local Development Scheme will be reported to the Executive Advisory Panel in Summer 2023. A report to Executive Advisory Panel on 30 January 2023 anticipates Spatial Options being reported to the Executive Advisory Panel in September 2023.

- 1.7 It should be noted that each of the areas (former districts/boroughs) that make up North Northamptonshire have produced individual part 2 local plans providing additional detailed planning policies to manage and guide development across each area.

North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

- 1.8 The Plan will sit alongside the Strategic Plan and will provide policies and site allocations to meet the identified accommodation needs for gypsy and travellers.
- 1.9 A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) for North Northamptonshire was published in March 2019. This currently provides the most up to date assessment of gypsy and traveller accommodation needs in North Northamptonshire. The 2019 GTAA provides an assessment of the accommodation needs for the former local authority areas of Kettering Borough, Corby Borough, East Northamptonshire District and the Borough of Wellingborough.
- 1.10 Gypsy and traveller needs will be addressed on a North Northamptonshire basis following the formation of North Northamptonshire Council. To support the preparation of the Plan across North Northamptonshire, the Council has commissioned further work to ensure an up-to-date evidence base for the Plan.
- 1.11 The Plan offers scope for the Council to respond to the updated evidence and address the existing and future accommodation needs for Gypsy and Travellers through the planning process.
- 1.12 This Scoping Report fulfils the requirements set out below with a view to establishing the likely significant effects of constituent parts of the Plan in isolation and in combination. In accordance with National Planning Practice Guidance, the Scoping Report is proportionate and relevant to the Plan, focusing on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.13 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the production of a SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents, including the 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 Regulations². Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Plan to be subject to a SA and SEA throughout its preparation.
- 1.14 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Policy Guidance), 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'.
- 1.15 The SA process comprises several stages, with the Scoping Report representing 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.
- 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 Plan and the SA report
 - Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan
- 1.16 Within Stage A, there are five connected tasks in this scoping stage:
- Stage A1: Setting out the policy context for the SA of the Plan, i.e. key Government policies and strategies that influence the considerations of the Plan and SA.
 - Stage A2: Setting out the baseline for the SA of the 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 Plan and SA should address.

² 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 A4: Drawing on Stages 1, 2 and 3, develop a framework of SA Objectives and assessment criteria to appraise the constituent parts of the Plan in isolation and in combination.
- Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.

Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

- 1.17 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.
- 1.18 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 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

The SEA Directive's Requirements	Where covered in this Scoping Report
Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe, and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan.	The full SA Report produced to accompany consultation on the Plan will constitute the initial 'environmental report', 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.

1.19 The requirements set out above are in accordance with current and up to date legislation. However, it is recognised that future legislative changes are proposed in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill in relation to the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and therefore the Council will continue to monitor these changes and respond accordingly.

Structure of the Scoping Report

- 1.20 This section describes the background to the production of the Plan and the requirement to undertake SA and other assessment processes.
- 1.21 Section 2 describes the relationship of the Plan with other assessments, plans and programmes.
- 1.22 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 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 Plan.
- 1.23 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
- 1.24 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.
- 1.25 Relevant baseline information will be updated during the SA process as and when data is published, including outputs from the 2021 Census and North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Update and Pitch Deliverability Assessment.
- 1.26 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

National policy and legislative context

Introduction

2.1 The following key pieces of legislation and guidance are relevant when developing policies relating to Gypsy and Travellers:

- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2015;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 and Planning Policy Guidance; and
- The Housing Act 1985 & Housing and Planning Act 2016.

2.2 Section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 introduced a requirement under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 for local authorities to undertake a periodical review of housing needs of the people residing or resorting to their area with respect to the provision of sites on which caravans (and houseboats) can be stationed.

National Planning Policy

2.3 PPTS sets out current Government planning policy for traveller sites and provides guidance in respect of how reviews of the housing needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople should be assessed. PPTS must be taken into account in the preparation of development plans. Local planning authorities preparing plans for and taking decisions on traveller sites should also have regard to the policies in the NPPF so far as relevant.

2.4 PPTS (Paragraph 3) indicates that “the Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community”. To help achieve this, the PPTS sets out in Paragraph 4 that the Government’s aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- a) that local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning;
- b) to ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites;
- c) to encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale;
- d) that plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development;
- e) to promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites;

- f) that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective;
 - g) for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies;
 - h) to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply;
 - i) to reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions;
 - j) to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure;
 - k) for local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.
- 2.5 PPTS (Paragraph 7) requires that local planning authorities should, in cooperation with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups, prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas over the lifespan of their development plan, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. A robust evidence base should be used to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans.
- 2.6 In planning for traveller sites, PPTS (Paragraph 9) indicates that local planning authorities should set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople, which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area.
- 2.7 It should be noted that in 2015, the definition of Gypsies and Travellers was altered to exclude those who have permanently ceased travelling. The revised definition as set out within PPTS advises Gypsies and Travellers to be:
- “Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such”.*
- 2.8 PPTS also provides a definition of Travelling Showpeople, as:
- “Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily”.*

- 2.9 Paragraph 10 of the PPTS stipulates that in producing a Local Plan, local planning authorities should:
- a) identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years' worth of sites against their locally set targets;
 - b) identify a supply of specific, developable sites, or broad locations for growth, for years 6 to 10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;
 - c) consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross-authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints across its area (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries);
 - d) relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density;
 - e) protect local amenity and environment.

2.10 PPTS also notes (Paragraph 11) that criteria should be set to guide land supply allocations where there is an identified need. Paragraph 13 of PPTS stipulates that traveller sites should be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. Local Plan Policies should therefore:

- a) promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community;
- b) promote, in collaboration with commissioners of health services, access to appropriate health services;
- c) ensure that children can attend school on a regular basis;
- d) provide a settled base that reduces both the need for long-distance travelling and possible environmental damage caused by unauthorised encampment;
- e) provide for proper consideration of the effect of local environmental quality (such as noise and air quality) on the health and well-being of any travellers that may locate there or on others as a result of new development;
- f) avoid placing undue pressure on local infrastructure and services;
- g) not locate sites in areas at high risk of flooding, including functional floodplains, given the particular vulnerability of caravans;
- h) reflect the extent to which traditional lifestyles (whereby some travellers live and work from the same location thereby omitting many travel to work journeys) can contribute to sustainability.

- 2.11 When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings, Paragraph 14 of PPTS indicates that local planning authorities should ensure that the scale of such sites does not dominate the nearest settled community. Where there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, consideration may be given to allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable traveller sites (Paragraph 15).
- 2.12 A rural exception site policy enables small sites to be used, specifically for affordable traveller sites, in small rural communities, that would not normally be used for traveller sites. Guidance in Paragraph 15 of PPTS indicates that rural exception sites should only accommodate households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection, whilst also ensuring that rural areas continue to develop as sustainable, mixed, inclusive communities.
- 2.13 Paragraphs 16 and 17 concern matters related to the Green Belt which is not applicable in North Northamptonshire. Paragraph 18 advises that local planning authorities should consider “wherever possible, including traveller sites suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents. Local planning authorities should consider the scope for identifying separate sites for residential and for business purposes in close proximity to one another if mixed sites are not practical”.
- 2.14 In particular, regard should be had to the need for travelling showpeople to have mixed use yards to enable both residential accommodation and space for the storage of equipment (Paragraph 19). Notwithstanding this, Paragraph 20 of PPTS clarifies that mixed use development should not be permitted on rural exception sites.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 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

- 2.17 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.
- 2.18 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.
- 2.19 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 Screening Assessment

- 2.20 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.
- 2.21 Equality Screening Assessments 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, Equality Screening Assessments consider the potential impact on protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010. These include Romany Gypsies, Scottish Travellers, and Irish Travellers.
- 2.22 An Equality Screening Assessment of the Scope and Options for the Plan has been completed in consultation with the Council's Equalities Officer. The Equality Screening Assessment concludes that the scope of the Plan provides opportunity 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 Plan evolves, it may be necessary to update the Equality Screening Assessment. The most significant impacts are, however, likely to be felt by Gypsy and Travellers and by members of settled communities living near to existing or future sites. This is

because the Plan is about development of accommodation specifically for Gypsy and Travellers.

Health Impact Assessment

- 2.23 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.
- 2.24 It is anticipated that a HIA of the Plan will be undertaken separately.

Other Key Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 2.25 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. 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 NPPF contains a wide array of relevant policy on the themes 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*”.
 - 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 Paragraph 62 ‘of the NPPF says that the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies’. It then lists a number of groups including Travellers. A footnote to the paragraph states ‘Planning Policy for Traveller Sites sets out how travellers’ housing needs should be assessed for those covered by the definition in Annex 1 of that document’.

- 3.3 PPTS states that 'local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning' and 'ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies' and 'to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply'. Further information on the PPTS can be found in Section 2 of this report.
- 3.4 '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. 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) have been used to assess design quality in North Northamptonshire for a number of years. The [National Model Design Code](#) (July 2021) provides detailed guidance on the production of design codes, guides and policies to promote successful design. It expands on the ten characteristics of good design set out in the National Design Guide, which reflects the government's priorities and provides a common overarching framework for design. Embedded within the National Model Design Code is Secured By Design, the UK Police flagship initiative supporting the principles of 'Designing Out Crime' through the use of effective crime prevention and security standards for a range of applications.
- 3.5 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 former boroughs and 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.
- 3.6 Policy 7 of the JCS states that development should support and enhance community services and facilities where appropriate by providing these on site where necessary or contributing towards, new or enhanced community services and facilities to meet the needs arising from the development.
- 3.7 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

- 3.8 Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of North Northamptonshire increased by 13.5%, from just under 316,900 in 2011 to around 359,500 in 2021³. This is one of the fastest growth rates in the country during the last few years. North Northamptonshire is spread across a distinctive network of settlements, from large (“growth”) and market towns through to villages (of which there are over 100) and 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 Bedford⁴. It is also part of the Oxford to Cambridge region identified by Government for its significant economic potential⁵.
- 3.9 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 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.^{6,7}
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 Gypsy and Traveller sites can be found throughout North Northamptonshire, with a concentration in the north-east near Desborough and Corby and south/south-west near Wellingborough and Irchester. Specifically, in the Corby area as of July 2018 there were 2 public sites with 18 pitches; and 2 private sites with 7 pitches. There were no private sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; no transit sites; and no Travelling Showpeople yards. In the East Northamptonshire area there were no public sites; 3 private sites with permanent planning permission for 72 caravans; no sites with temporary planning permission; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no

³ [2021 Census Profile for areas in England and Wales - Nomis \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#)

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

⁵ [Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc – Consultation](#) (HM Government, 2021)

⁶ [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031](#) (Former North Northants Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, 2016)

⁷ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/ks101ew> (Nomis, 2011)

unauthorised sites; and 1 Travelling Showpeople yard with 4 plots. For Kettering there were 2 public sites with 22 pitches; 13 private sites with permanent planning permission for 69 pitches; 1 private site with temporary planning permission for 8 pitches; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; and no Travelling Showpeople yards. In the Wellingborough area there was 1 public site with 3 pitches; 2 private sites with planning permission for 62 pitches; no sites that are tolerated for planning purposes; no unauthorised sites; no transit sites; and 4 Travelling Showpeople yards with 24 plots. This information is in the process of being updated and the results will be added to this report when they become available.

- 3.12 The 2021 Census records the population of North Northamptonshire as having a median age of 40 (unchanged from 2011), which is slightly lower than the regional average of 41 but the same as the national average. Table 3.1 below compares the age structures of North Northamptonshire with both national and regional averages. North Northamptonshire has a slightly higher-than-average proportion of 14-year-olds and under within its population, compared to the regional and national averages. It also has a slightly lower elderly population than the East Midlands, but broadly comparable to England's as a whole, as well as a slightly smaller proportion of those of working age than England (but very similar to the East Midlands as a whole). 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 - 2021 Census Age structure comparisons at local authority, regional and national level %

Area	14 and under	15-64	65+
North Northants	18.3	63.5	18.2
East Midlands	16.9	63.6	19.5
England	17.4	64.2	18.4

- 3.13 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)⁸, whereas the internal migration rate is 2.2 per 1,000. Most of those arriving in North Northamptonshire are within the 20-24 age bracket⁹. Updated date on migration is due to be published in Summer 2023 and will be added to the next iteration of the Scoping Report as appropriate.

⁸ [Population estimates](#) (ONS, 2020)

⁹ [Internal migration: by local authority and region, five-year age group and sex](#) (ONS, 2021)

- 3.14 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 2029.¹⁰
- 3.15 Increasing elderly population nationally is identified as a key sustainability issue. The North Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 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.
- 3.16 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.¹¹
- 3.17 The 2021 Census asked people for their ethnic group or background. 0.3% identified as 'White Gypsy or Traveller' and 'White Roma' in North Northamptonshire. The majority of the population described themselves as 'White British' (80.5%), followed by Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, who make up 3.5% of the population, and Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African who make up 3.1% (Table 3.2).

¹⁰ [North Northamptonshire Equality Policy and Strategy](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)

¹¹ [North Northamptonshire Equality Policy and Strategy](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)

Table 3.2 - 2021 Census Ethnicity in North Northamptonshire, numbers and %

	count	%
All usual residents	359,523	100.0
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	12,726	3.5
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	11,017	3.1
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	8,175	2.3
White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	289,274	80.5
White Irish	2,590	0.7
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	365	0.1
White Roma	736	0.2
White Other	31,699	8.8
Other ethnic group	2,941	0.8

- 3.18 Gypsies and Travellers' lived experiences, overview, England and Wales: 2022¹² report published by the ONS, provides qualitative evidence in relation to the lived experiences of Gypsies and Travellers. The findings provide a useful insight into the daily lives of Gypsies and Travellers in relation to issues relating to their relationship with the settled community.
- 3.19 The main findings of this analysis were mixed overall, where some of the settled community felt comfortable whilst others felt a sense of wariness due to previous negative experiences. As well as this it was found that many gypsies and travellers often masked their identity in fear of prejudice and discrimination or minimised their interactions with the settled community due to a perceived stigma of the gypsy and traveller community.
- 3.20 Furthermore, the GTAA (2019) for North Northamptonshire highlights issues with unauthorised encampments, which were found to have risen in the two years prior to the study's publication as well as sites growing larger in size. Other issues associated with unauthorised encampments in North Northamptonshire related to crime and anti-social behaviour. The perception and stigmatisation of the gypsy and traveller community therefore can be seen to be undermined by such activity related to unauthorised encampments.

¹² [Gypsies and Travellers lived experiences, overview, England and Wales: 2022](#) (ONS, 2022)

Housing

- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 Between the start of the Plan period in 2011/12 and 2021/22, 17,811 homes were delivered in North Northamptonshire, against a target of 19,250 homes. This reflects an under-delivery of 1,439 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.
- 3.23 At the 2021 Census, 84.9% of households in North Northamptonshire occupied market sector housing (66.3% owner occupation or shared ownership and 18.6% private rent/rent free); and 15.2% 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 North Northamptonshire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) final draft report (February 2023) estimates that of all households living in the private rented sector, around 35% already have sufficient income to buy a lower quartile home, with 25% falling in the rent/buy 'gap'. The final 40% are estimated to have an income below which they cannot afford to rent privately. These figures have been based on an assumption that incomes in the private rented sector are around 88% of the equivalent figure for all households. The HENA makes it clear that affordable home ownership products are likely to be targeted at households living in or who might be expected to access this sector (e.g. newly forming households).
- 3.24 Although cheaper than many parts 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 3.3 below sets this out in more detail by comparing the average house prices by property type within North Northants compared to the regional and national average as available for the 12 months ending October 2022. 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.¹³

¹³ [North Northamptonshire Authorities Monitoring Report \(AMR\) 2019/20](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2020)
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Table 3.3 – Average house prices¹⁴ by property type – October 2021 to October 2022

Area	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flats/maisonettes	All
North Northants	£447,169	£267,658	£216,556	£131,019	£281,100
East Midlands	£377,340	£234,846	£191,093	£137,123	£254,079
United Kingdom	£468,376	£287,383	£242,690	£235,237	£296,422

3.25 The total dwelling stock of North Northamptonshire as of 1st April 2021 is 153,857; 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 (84%).

3.26 Table 3.4 below provides information on the number of affordable dwellings completed in North Northamptonshire from 2011-2022. It shows that over this period 4,489 affordable dwellings have been completed across North Northamptonshire. This equates to 25% of the overall completion figure within this timescale of 17,811 (as detailed in para 3.22 above).

Table 3.4 – Gross affordable housing completions 2011-22

	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Total
North Northants	334	389	333	804	554	531	396	312	292	312	232	4,489

3.27 In March 2019 the extant 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 2020/21 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). As mentioned previously, the Council has commissioned further work to update the GTAA.

3.28 More specifically in relation to the existing supply of sites in North Northamptonshire, from the GTAA (2019) it is evident that across the four areas the sites are diverse with regards to their ownership as well as occupation by different Gypsy and Traveller groups and individuals or households that may not be part of the Gypsy and Traveller community. Table 3.5 below shows that most of the supply of sites are in private ownership in comparison to a smaller amount which are in public ownership.

¹⁴ [UK House Price Index \(data.gov.uk\)](https://www.data.gov.uk)

Table 3.5 - Status of Gypsy and Travellers Sites, as derived from the GTAA (2019) for North Northamptonshire

	Corby	Wellingborough	East Northants	Kettering	Total
Public sites (pitches)	2 (18)	1 (3)	0	2 (22)	5 (45)
Private (pitches)	2 (7)	2 (62 with planning permission)	3 (72 with planning permission)	13 (69 with planning permission)	20 (203 with planning permission)

3.29 However, it is also evident that unauthorised encampments in North Northamptonshire remain an issue, as also documented in the GTAA for North Northamptonshire in 2019. In North Northamptonshire there are currently no public transit or emergency stopping places available for Gypsy and Travellers when they pass through the area. In order to address this and improve the management of unauthorised encampments, the GTAA recommends the use of sites intended for short stay.

Education

3.30 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 agenda¹⁵. These are being established where school outcomes are currently weakest.

3.31 According to the latest performance data for 2021-22, 85% of primary schools in the area are rated as good or above, equal to the government target. Secondary schools are performing above the government target, with 83% being rated as good or above (12% over the national aim).

3.32 The latest ONS statistics show that as of 2021 there are 224,400 people aged between 16-64 in North Northamptonshire, with 5.4% of residents having no qualifications. This is lower than both the East Midlands (7.5%) and national averages (6.6%). Conversely, with regard to the highest classification of qualification (NVQ4 and above) North Northamptonshire fares lower than the East Midlands and UK averages, with 29.4% of the local population educated to this level compared to 35.7% and 43.6% respectively. Table 3.5 below sets out the qualifications of residents across North Northamptonshire in comparison to the East Midlands and the UK.

¹⁵ [Levelling up in the United Kingdom](#) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2022)

Table 3.5 - Percentage of population with qualifications

	NVQ4 and above	NVQ3 and above	NVQ2 and above	NVQ1 and above	Other qualifications	No qualifications
North Northants	29.4	52.8	75.1	88.7	5.9	5.4
East Midlands	35.7	55.9	74.7	86.5	6.0	7.5
UK	43.6	61.5	78.1	87.5	5.9	6.6

- 3.33 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 featured; 25 primary schools, four infant schools, four junior schools, five secondary schools and one 'all-through' school. In the rural northeast area, there were nine primary schools and one secondary school and in the Rushden area there were 11 primary schools, five infant schools, five junior schools and four secondary schools.¹⁶
- 3.34 North Northamptonshire has four further education facilities; these include three Tresham College campuses located in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough and a satellite campus of Moulton College located in Higham Ferrers. Tresham College are developing a new sixth form college in Corby, due to open in September 2023. There are no universities or university campuses within the authority area.
- 3.35 The Council will need to ensure that education provision matches the growth that is anticipated in the JCS. Table 3.6 below demonstrates the expected pupil yield compared to housing requirements for the plan period 2011-31. These pupil yields will need to be reviewed and updated. There is also a requirement for early years, sixth form and SEND provision to be included as part of any demand assessment for education provision, alongside other factors which may affect gross yields such as cross-border movement, elective home-schooling, and take up of private education. It is understood that the DFE is currently working towards producing guidance for local authorities on establishing consistent pupil yield forecasts on a national basis, adjusted for local circumstances; it is expected that this will be published in 2023 and will need to be considered alongside this work.

¹⁶ [School Organisation Plan 2018-23 – 'local places for local children'](#)

Table 3.6: 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
Total	1,750	35,000	525	10,500	350	7,000

3.36 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. Most recently in Corby, planning permission for a new secondary school was approved in September 2021 which will lead to ‘Weldon Village Academy’ serving 1,500 students from across Corby and the surrounding villages when it receives its first intake planned for September 2023. In addition, Hanwood Park School serving East Kettering has been approved by the Department for Education. The opening date is still to be agreed. The first primary school in Stanton Cross, Wellingborough, opened to pupils in September 2022. Construction of the first primary school on Glenvale Park, also in Wellingborough, has commenced and is expected to be completed by July 2023.

3.37 As research¹⁷ suggests barriers to education for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers who are the lowest-achieving ethnic groupings in the UK education system. They note stark disparities in attainment apparent from Early Years Foundation Stage results onwards. They also note poor participation rates in higher education; where between the 2009/10 and 2017/18 academic years, participation in higher education for all other White groups improved, it remained static for Gypsy and Roma groups and declined for Travellers of Irish heritage. In England, just 6.9 per cent of Gypsy / Roma and 10.7 per cent of Irish Traveller students accessed higher education by the age of 19 in 2019/20. Poor outcomes in mainstream schools reflect the prejudice and discrimination that young people from the Gypsy and Traveller communities face, having the lowest rates of attendance and the highest rates of permanent exclusion from schools. Exclusion rates between four and five times higher than the national average are reported. Inequalities in access to education and healthcare is reiterated by *Tackling inequalities faced by*

¹⁷ For example, [Gypsies, Roma and Travellers: The ethnic minorities most excluded from UK education](#), 2 July 2022, Dr Laura Brassington

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities (Seventh Report, Session 2017-19, HC 360) by the House of Commons' Women and Equalities Committee.

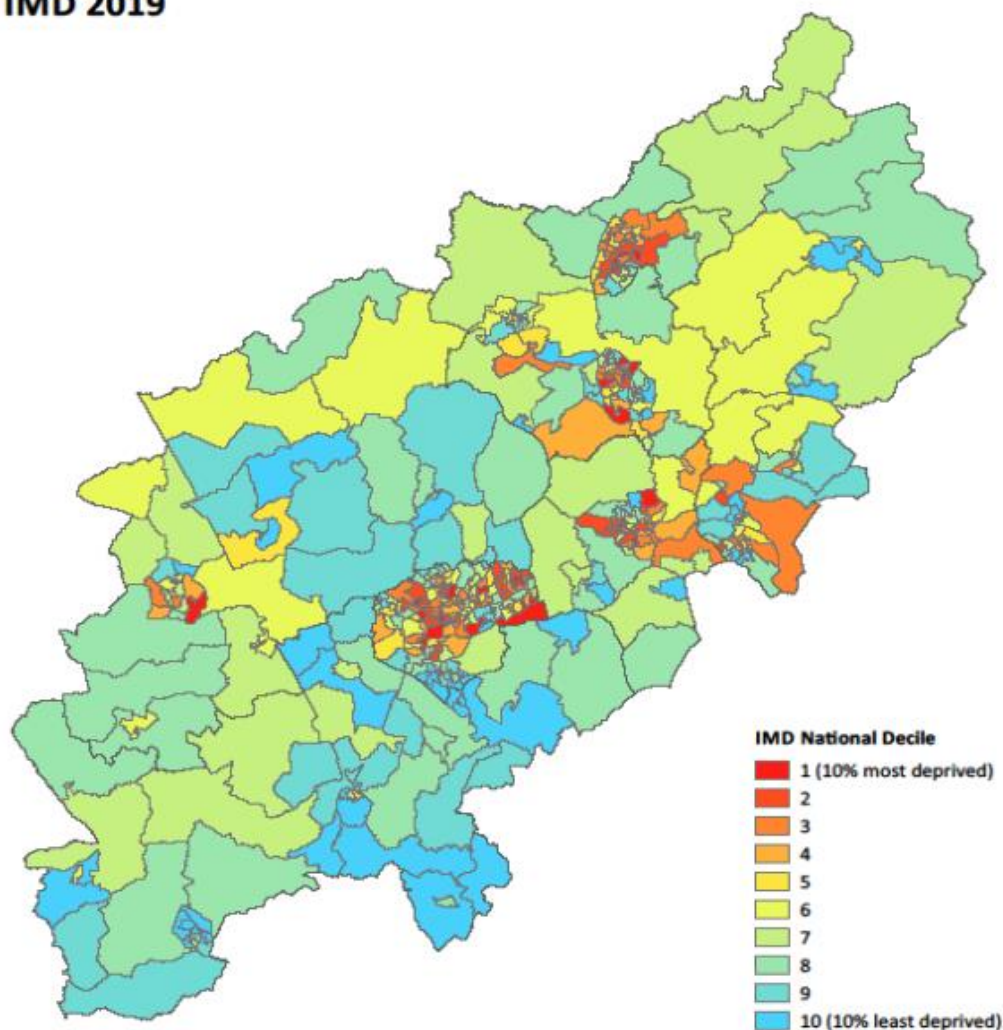
Deprivation

- 3.38 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 North Northamptonshire Council and therefore analysis on this subject will be based on the pre-existing sovereign councils.
- 3.39 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.¹⁸

¹⁸ [Northamptonshire Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Profile](#) (Former Northamptonshire County Council, 2019)
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Figure 3.1 - Levels of deprivation in Northamptonshire

**Northamptonshire
IMD 2019**



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3.40 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'¹⁹. 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.

3.41 Up to November 2022 North Northamptonshire has a marginally lower proportion of residents who receive Universal Credit (3.1%) than at the

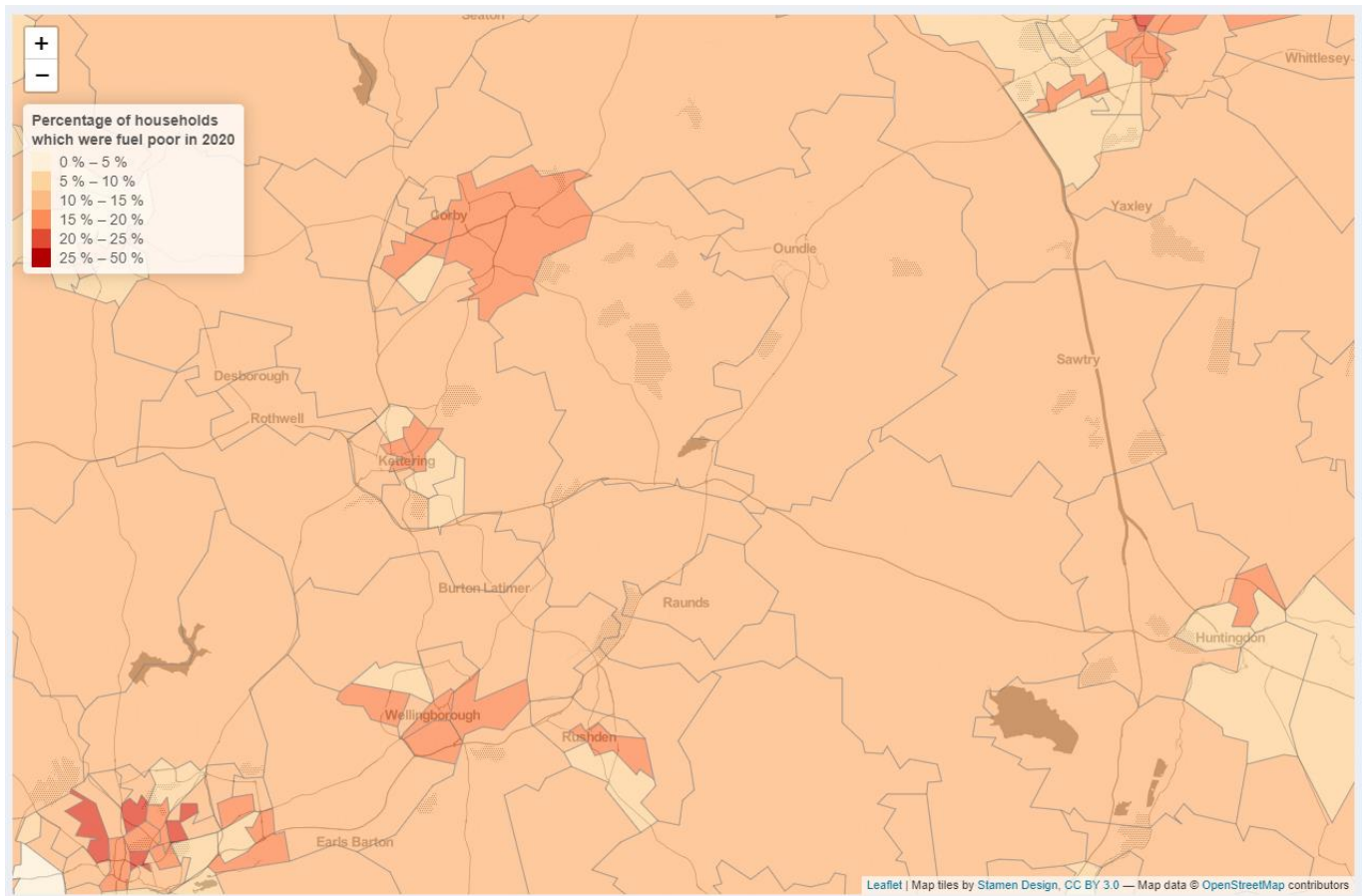
¹⁹['Left behind? Understanding communities on the edge'](#) (Local Trust and Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion, August 2019)

regional (3.2%) and national level (3.7%). The proportion of young people (aged 18 to 24) in the authority area who currently receive this benefit (5.0%) is higher than the regional average (4.1%) and also higher than the proportion of older people (aged 25 to 49) who receive it (3.5%) in North Northamptonshire.

- 3.42 In terms of fuel poverty, according to government statistics released in April 2022 (from 2020) 12.9% of households in North Northamptonshire live in fuel poverty, lower than both the regional average of 14.2% and England average of 13.2%. A household's fuel poverty status depends on the interaction of three key drivers, namely energy efficiency, income and energy prices. Figure 3.2 shows the percentage of households in each Middle Layer Super Output area (MSOA) area defined as being in fuel poverty²⁰. The areas with the highest levels of fuel poverty in North Northamptonshire are shown as: Corby area - Corby Village and Weldon (16%), Corby Town (16%), Corby Kingswood (17%); Kettering area - Kettering Avondale Grange (19%), Kettering Central East (18%); Wellingborough area - Victoria & Isebrook (16%), Croyland (15%), Central Wellingborough (17%), Queensway (16%); and East Northants area - Rushden East (17%).

²⁰ [Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2022)

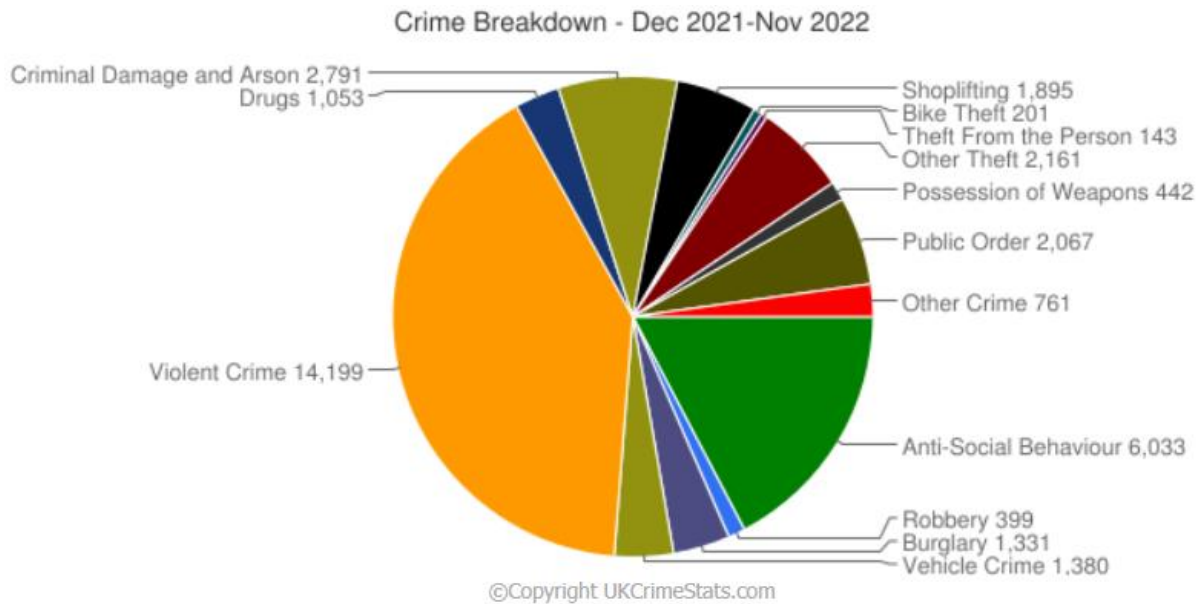
Figure 3.2 – Fuel Poverty



Crime

- 3.43 Figure 3.3 below demonstrates the types of crime reported in North Northamptonshire from December 2021 to November 2022. As can be seen, violent crime makes up the majority share of crime that took place within this timeframe, with over 14,000 incidents, followed by anti-social behaviour with over 6,000 incidents²¹. Typically, more violent crime occurs in urban areas as opposed to rural.

Figure 3.3 - Crime reported in North Northamptonshire



- 3.44 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)), increased slightly by 1% between 2011 and 2021, kept lower than it otherwise could have been by the Covid lockdowns. In 2021 there were 308 KSI road accident casualties recorded in the County, and of those 20 were children (aged 12 or under). Overall, 16% were pedestrians, 12% were cyclists, 46% were car occupants, with the rest involving another motor vehicle of some description. Nationally, KSI data showed a small 0.4% decrease from 2011 to 2021.²²
- 3.45 According to North Northamptonshire's Equality Policy and Strategy there were more racially motivated hate occurrences in 2019-2020 than any other protected characteristic, with 71 occurrences. From 2018-2019 to 2019-2020, the second highest hate occurrences were against people with disabilities (20 incidents in 2019-2020). Sexual orientation was the third highest motivation for hate occurrences in both periods (17 incidents in 2019-20).²³

²¹ <https://ukcrimestats.com/>

²² [Reported road accidents, vehicles and casualties for Great Britain](#) (Gov.uk, 2022)

²³ [North Northamptonshire Equality Policy and Strategy](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)

3.46 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, male victims experienced the largest increase (11%) of domestic abuse incidents between 2019 and 2020, compared to females (3%).²⁴

Key sustainability issues

- There is a need to carefully consider how to address any need for Gypsy and Travellers accommodation identified in the updated GTAA.
- 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.
- Increasing numbers of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments in many parts of North Northamptonshire in recent years, as well as increasing numbers of caravans on some of these encampments resulting from the absence of provision for temporary accommodation in the form of transit or emergency stopping sites.
- Higher than average population with NVQ 1 and below qualifications and lower than average with NVQ 4 qualification or above.
- Gypsy and Traveller communities face discrimination and exclusion in access to all levels of education and inequalities also exist in relation to the healthcare.
- The need to design out crime in new development using appropriate tools such as BHL and the Secured By Design Development Guides.
- Local authority expertise in preparing design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code will need to be strengthened.

²⁴ [North Northamptonshire Equality Policy and Strategy](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, 2021)

4. Health and Wellbeing

Policy context review

- 4.1 In the European region, Health 2020²⁵ provides the health policy framework. It was 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 2017²⁶ 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 Development²⁷; 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) set 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.²⁸ The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill is, at the time of writing (January 2023), making its way through parliament. Alongside the Bill the Government launched a 10-week consultation on 22 December 2022 seeking views on the proposed approach to updating the NPPF as well as on their approach to preparing national development management policies and how policy might be developed to support levelling up, and how national planning policy is currently being accessed by users.
- 4.4 The Marmot Review (2010) 'Fair Society Healthy Lives', provided a strategic review of health inequalities in England. One of its key objectives was the

²⁵ [Health 2020 Health 2020](#) (World Health Organisation, 2013)

²⁶ [On the road to Health 2020 policy targets: Monitoring qualitative indicators](#) (World Health Organisation, 2017)

²⁷ [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (United Nations)

²⁸ [Levelling up in the United Kingdom](#) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2022)

creation of healthy and sustainable places and communities and how these²⁹ set 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 Planning Practice Guidance 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 above mentioned 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 (DLUHC and MHCLG, 2019);
 - National Modal Design Code (DLUHC and MHCLG, 2021);
 - Building for a Healthy Life (Birkbeck, D., Kruczkowski, S. with Jones, P., McGlynn, S. and Singleton, D., 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).

²⁹ [Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years on – Executive summary](#) (Institute of Health Equity, 2020)

- 4.8 The Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board published the countywide Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020³⁰ which aimed to ensure the most vulnerable in the communities are supported, whilst providing the best start in life for the children in the county. The vision was to improve the 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. Plans are currently underway to update the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The strategic lead for the health, care and wellbeing system in the former Northamptonshire County is now split between the North and West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Boards. In January 2023 Integrated Care Northamptonshire (ICN) launched its 10-year strategy³¹ to support people in Northamptonshire to ‘Live Your Best Life’. The strategy sets out how to achieve better outcomes throughout all stages of a person’s lifetime: from pregnancy, birth and early years, through improved education and better employment opportunities, to better access to health and care services right through to the end of life.
- 4.9 The JCS seeks to ensure quality of life and safer and healthier communities. Policy 7 seeks to support and enhance community services and facilities arising from development, as well as providing accessible greenspace, safeguarding existing facilities and avoiding a net loss of open space, allotments, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields unless such a loss can be justified. Policy 8 seeks to ensure 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

³⁰ [Northamptonshire’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020](#) (Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board)

³¹ [Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy](#)

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%).³²

4.12 The 2021 Census data is now only available for North Northamptonshire as a whole. It appears to show health rates remaining relatively unchanged over the ten-year period. It is therefore likely that health disparities remain between different parts of North Northamptonshire. At the time of writing the 2021 Census results showing ethnic groups by health status have not been released so analysis of the health of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma populations compared to the health of the general population of North Northamptonshire will be added in the later stages of the SA process following release of the data. The latest ONS summary *Gypsies' and Travellers' lived experiences, health, England and Wales: 2022* does highlights barriers to accessing health services within this community, particularly primary care services. This can undermine access to routine immunisations and preventative care, and result in delayed diagnoses and treatment, including regular or repeat treatment. Almost all of the community member participants surveyed described difficulties accessing a GP surgery without a fixed address, as part of their own experience or that of others around them. This appeared particularly challenging for those living roadside or on Gypsy and Traveller sites.

Table 4.1 - Health status of residents in North Northants (%) (2011 Census)

Area	Corby	Kettering	East Northants	Wellingborough	North Northants (2021 Census)
Very good health	45.9	46	46.9	43.7	46.2
Good health	35.2	36.3	35.9	37	35.8
Fair health	13.1	12.9	12.8	14.2	13.1
Bad health	4.4	3.7	3.4	3.9	3.8
Very bad health	1.1	1	1	1.2	1.1

4.13 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 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

³² <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx> (Nomis, 2011)

national average of 79.7 years on this measure, with the life expectancy for females in East Northamptonshire being identical (83.4).³³ 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.

- 4.14 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%.³⁴ More recent Sport England data for November 2021-22 covering the new North Northamptonshire unitary authority shows that 57.4% considered themselves 'active' on this measure, compared to 59.3% in the East Midlands Region. The comparable national (England) figure remained at 61.4%.
- 4.15 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.³⁵
- 4.16 The latest data (for 2020/21) on the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese indicates that North Northamptonshire has a higher rate of overweight or obese people (69.6%) compared to the regional (66.4%) and national averages (63.5%)³⁶
- 4.17 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.³⁷

Open spaces, sports and recreation

- 4.18 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 East Northamptonshire Greenway in addition to many nature reserves such as Summer Leys. North Northamptonshire Council is looking to roll out a North Northamptonshire Greenway which will incorporate a number of individual Greenways. Work is also about to start on the Ise Valley Greenway, a sustainable walking and cycling route from Wellingborough to Corby, South

³³ [Life Expectancy by authority data](#) (ONS, 2020)

³⁴ [Active Lives data](#) (Sports England, 2020)

³⁵ [Health and Wellbeing in North Northamptonshire](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, April 2021)

³⁶ [Obesity Profile](#) (Public Health England)

³⁷ [Health and Wellbeing in North Northamptonshire](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, April 2021)

Meadows at Wicksteed Park, looking to restore the natural flow of the River Ise and Boughton Estate, creating new habitats, redesigning water structures enabling fish movement upstream and embracing natural flood management by creating a floodwater storage zone.

- 4.19 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 Thoroughsale Woods in Corby – remnants of the historical Rockingham Forest which itself still covers a significant area of North Northamptonshire.
- 4.20 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 – although 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. At the time of writing (March 2023) the Council is commissioning a North Northamptonshire Active Communities Framework which includes a North Northamptonshire Playing Pitch Strategy, Leisure Facilities Strategy, and an overarching Active Communities Strategy, it is expected that this work will be completed in late 2024 or early 2025.

Accessibility to services

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

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

- 4.21 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.
- 4.22 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%).³⁸
- 4.23 Access to digital services is a further important issue, which disproportionately impacts upon the Gypsy and Traveller community who often face barriers accessing services which are increasingly moving online, particularly following the Covid-19 pandemic. This issue is discussed in more detail in Section 11.

³⁸ <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/publications/north-northamptonshire-authorities-monitoring-report-16-17/> (NNJPDU, 2017)

Key sustainability issues

- Reliance on Kettering General Hospital and its capacity to handle population growth.
- The Gypsy and Traveller community experience barriers to accessing health services, particularly primary care services.
- Lower than average life expectancies in most areas.
- Higher than average obesity rates.
- Low active lifestyles compared to national averages.
- Recognise the health and wellbeing benefits brought about from improving access to green and blue infrastructure, including green open space, sports and recreation facilities, and the role this can play in reducing environmental inequality.
- Need greater consideration of the role that the built environment can play in reducing health inequalities.
- 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.

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), most recently updated in August 2022 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 6.8°C warmer by the 2070s. Average summer rainfall would fall by 45% in this scenario. Winters could be up to 3.8°C warmer, with up to 39% more rainfall by 2070.³⁹
- 5.2 There are numerous Acts that relate to addressing climate change and energy. This includes the [Planning and Energy Act 2008](#) that enables local authorities to require standards for energy efficiency in new buildings beyond those in the Building Regulations as well as providing powers to require a proportion of the energy need related to new development to be sourced in the locality of the development through renewable or low carbon generation.
- 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 CO2 and deliver wider environment

³⁹ [UKCP18 Factsheet](#) (Met Office, 2019)

benefits, shifting farmland to produce energy crops and peatlands to be restored and sustainably managed.

- 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 November 2022, the [COP27 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 2022 pact ensures that the limit to the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C is still within reach through a combined international ambition and action. The actions focus on adaptation, finance and the movement towards a low-carbon economy.
- 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 change⁴⁰, 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;

⁴⁰ [Environmental bodies set joint vision to tackle climate change](#) (Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England, 2020)

- Protecting and restoring peatlands;
- Supporting farmers towards net zero;
- Working with nature to manage flood risk;
- Taking a strategic approach to land use; and
- 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%.⁴¹ These changes came into force in June 2022. 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. These changes have been introduced as part of a wider route map to implementing a Future Homes and Buildings Standard which will require new homes to produce 75-80% less CO2 emissions, compared to current standards, from 2025.

5.9 There are a wealth of national strategies and plans to address climate change including the [Heatwave Plan for England](#) (2014), [Clean Growth Strategy](#) (2017) [Government's 25 Year Environment Plan](#) (2018) and [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener](#) (2021). 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 28th 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.

⁴¹ [New homes to produce nearly a third less carbon](#) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2021)

- Infrastructure for EV charging points to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars.
- Cycle and walking infrastructure.
- Reduce emissions through reducing embodied carbon⁴² (no current national policy approach).
- High standards of energy efficiency including thermal insulation, passive ventilation and cooling, and passive solar design.
- 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.
- Increased provision of decentralised renewable and lower carbon energy infrastructure/supply systems

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 losses⁴³. 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:

⁴² 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)

⁴³ [Draft Drought Plan 2022](#) (Anglian Water, March 2021)

- 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 Northamptonshire⁴⁴, based on the scenario of global average temperatures increasing to 2 degrees Celsius and 4 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, are set out below⁴⁵.

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

Location (12km radius)	Last 30 years	2°C scenario	4°C 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.

⁴⁴ Tables 5.1 and 5.2 include settlements located across North Northamptonshire to show the varying climate change projections.

⁴⁵ Data source: [What will climate change look like near me?](#) (BBC and the Met Office, July 2021)

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)	2°C scenario (S)	4°C Scenario (S)	4°C % change (S)	Last 30 years (W)	2°C scenario (W)	4°C Scenario (W)	4°C % 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 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 Council is committed to tackling climate change and improving air quality⁴⁶. 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 CO₂ in North Northamptonshire have decreased over the last two decades⁴⁷. Table 5.3 sets out the levels of CO₂ split by the emitter source. Overall, it shows that between 2005 and 2020, CO₂ emissions in North Northamptonshire reduced by 40%. The largest reduction in emissions in the area was 38% in industrial and commercial sectors (including agriculture), followed by domestic CO₂ emissions which saw a 38% decrease. Also, CO₂ from transport saw a 21% reduction.

⁴⁶ [Corporate Plan – Greener, Sustainable Environment](#) (North Northamptonshire Council, December 2021)

⁴⁷ [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
North Northants	2005	997.9	-58	769.6	-38%	867.1	-21%	2634.6	-40%
	2020	415		479.6		682		1576.6	

5.22 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 high⁴⁸, particularly in terms of Transport which has seen the smallest reduction across key sectors since 2020 but is an area which spatial planning can play a key role in addressing.

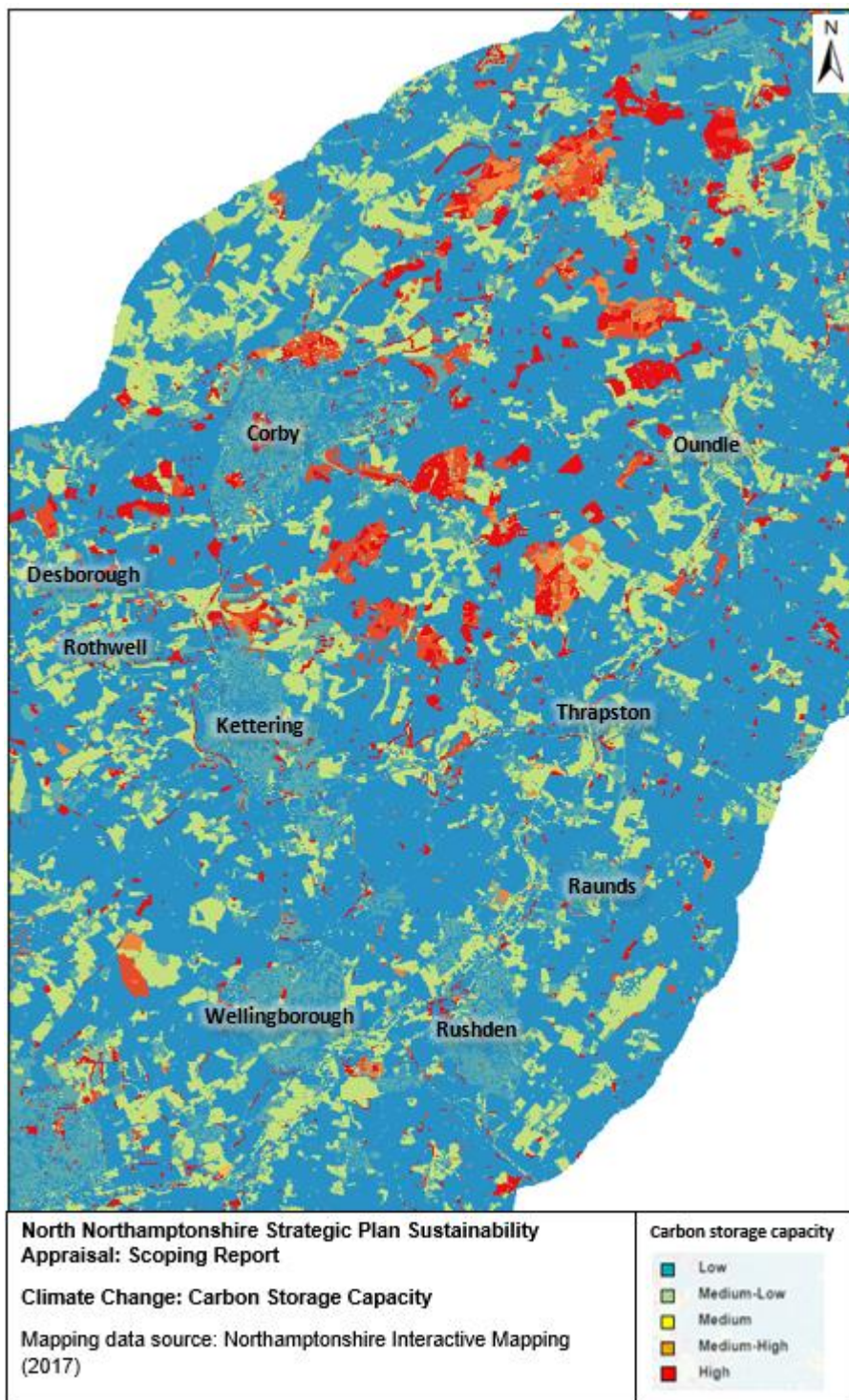
5.23 An effective way to reduce CO2 emissions is through the creation and protection of carbon sinks where natural assets absorb emissions. Habitat Opportunity mapping⁴⁹ illustrates that demand for air quality regulation is highest in the main urban centres of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and Rushden 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.

5.24 Figure 5.1 illustrates the amount of carbon locally 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.

⁴⁸ [Local Authority CO2 interactive maps](#) (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, 2019)

⁴⁹ [Habitat Opportunity Mapping in Northamptonshire and Peterborough](#) (Natural Capital Solutions, May 2018)

Figure 5.1 – Carbon Storage Capacity



Adaptation

5.25 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

- 5.26 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’⁵⁰. This classification of areas defined as under serious water stress, as undertaken by the Environment Agency, takes account of future population growth, climate change, environmental needs, and increased resilience.
- 5.27 In the Anglian catchment, the most vulnerable sources are the winter storage reservoirs and direct abstraction river intakes⁵¹. In the Rutland 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

- 5.28 As outlined above, 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.
- 5.29 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.

⁵⁰ [Water stressed areas – 2021 classification](#) (Environment Agency, July 2021)

⁵¹ [Water Resources Management Plan 2019](#) (Anglian Water, December 2019)

Table 5.4 - Peak river flow allowances for Nene Management and Welland Catchment areas (1981-2000 baseline)⁵²

Catchment	Allowance category	Change anticipated 2015-2039	Change anticipated 2040-2069	Change anticipated 2070-2125
Nene	Upper End	18%	17%	36%
	Higher Central	4%	0%	13%
	Central	-2%	-7%	4%
Welland	Upper End	22%	26%	53%
	Higher Central	10%	10%	28%
	Central	5%	4%	17%

5.30 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, reporting an increase in the severity and frequency of existing flooding issues, and outlines how 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.

Heat

5.31 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 Northamptonshire⁵³. The higher risk areas are predominantly the more urban areas of North Northamptonshire, including the areas around Corby, Kettering, and Wellingborough towns.

5.32 Local data on future exposure to average heat risk irrespective of local vulnerability is not currently available.

Energy

5.33 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 2020/21, there were two schemes delivered, one in Kettering for a solar farm and one in Corby for panels on an existing building. In 2019/20, the only scheme delivered was solar photovoltaics at a logistics site in the Corby area and during 2018/19, three

⁵² [Peak River Flow Allowances](#), Gov.uk (March 2022)

⁵³ [The Climate Just Map](#) (Climate Just)

solar photovoltaics were delivered in the Kettering, Wellingborough and Corby areas.

5.34 Kettering Energy Park is 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 19 wind turbines with a theoretical generation capacity of . 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 of converted vehicles. It is 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.

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

Other matters

5.36 The changing climate places increased pressure on some native species and creates conditions suitable for new species, including invasive, non-native species. Locally, the [Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy](#) (2020) to 2023, provides an overview of the particular challenges face in Northamptonshire, which have responded to through a number of different projects in relation to natural capital, particularly in the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) and Habitat Opportunity Mapping, towards the creation of a Local Natural Capital Plan for the South Midlands area.

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.
- The need to understand the impact of future flood risk on areas that are not currently at risk of flooding and ensure that these areas are planned for whilst also considering the relocation of vulnerable developments and infrastructure to areas of lower flood risk.
- 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.

- Transport may continue to contribute significantly to emissions in North Northamptonshire; some of this will be as a result of people and goods travelling through the area. Although there is recognition of the ban placed on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2035, the impact of which is yet to be known.
- 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 to Cambridge region is aiming to achieve a minimum 20% biodiversity net gain from all forms of development. North Northamptonshire Council is the Responsible Body for producing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will set out the local priorities and locations for nature in the authority area.
- 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) and potential wildlife sites (PWS), 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 visitors⁵⁴.

National

- 6.13 North Northamptonshire currently has 36 SSSIs, including 2 in the Corby area, 7 in the Wellingborough area, 8 in the Kettering Area and 19 in the East Northamptonshire area. Across these SSSIs there are 75 different habitats. These habitats in North Northamptonshire are of a varying condition⁵⁵, as set out in Table 6.1 below.

⁵⁴ [Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area SPD](#) (2015)

⁵⁵ [Condition of SSSI Units in Northamptonshire](#) (Natural England, accessed December 2022)

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	8	15	2	0	1
Wellingborough	6	3	0	0	0
North Northamptonshire	23	40	9	1	2

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 Parks⁵⁶

6.17 Habitat Opportunity Mapping for Northamptonshire and Peterborough⁵⁷ 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.

⁵⁶ [North Northamptonshire Pocket Parks](#) (Accessed December 2022)

⁵⁷ [Habitat Opportunity Mapping in Northamptonshire and Peterborough](#) (Natural Capital Solutions, May 2018)

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.

Figure 6.1 – Statutory Designated Sites

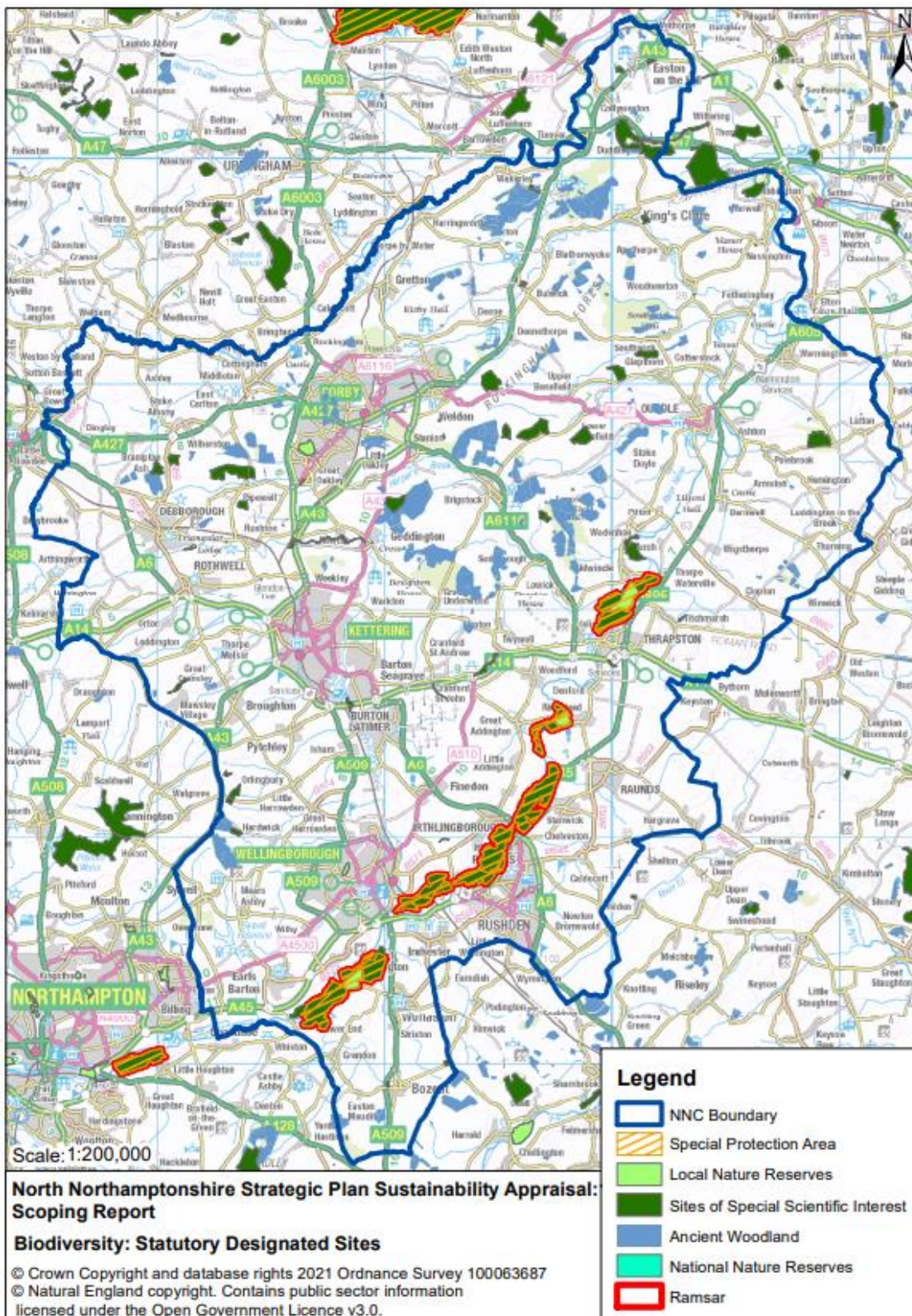
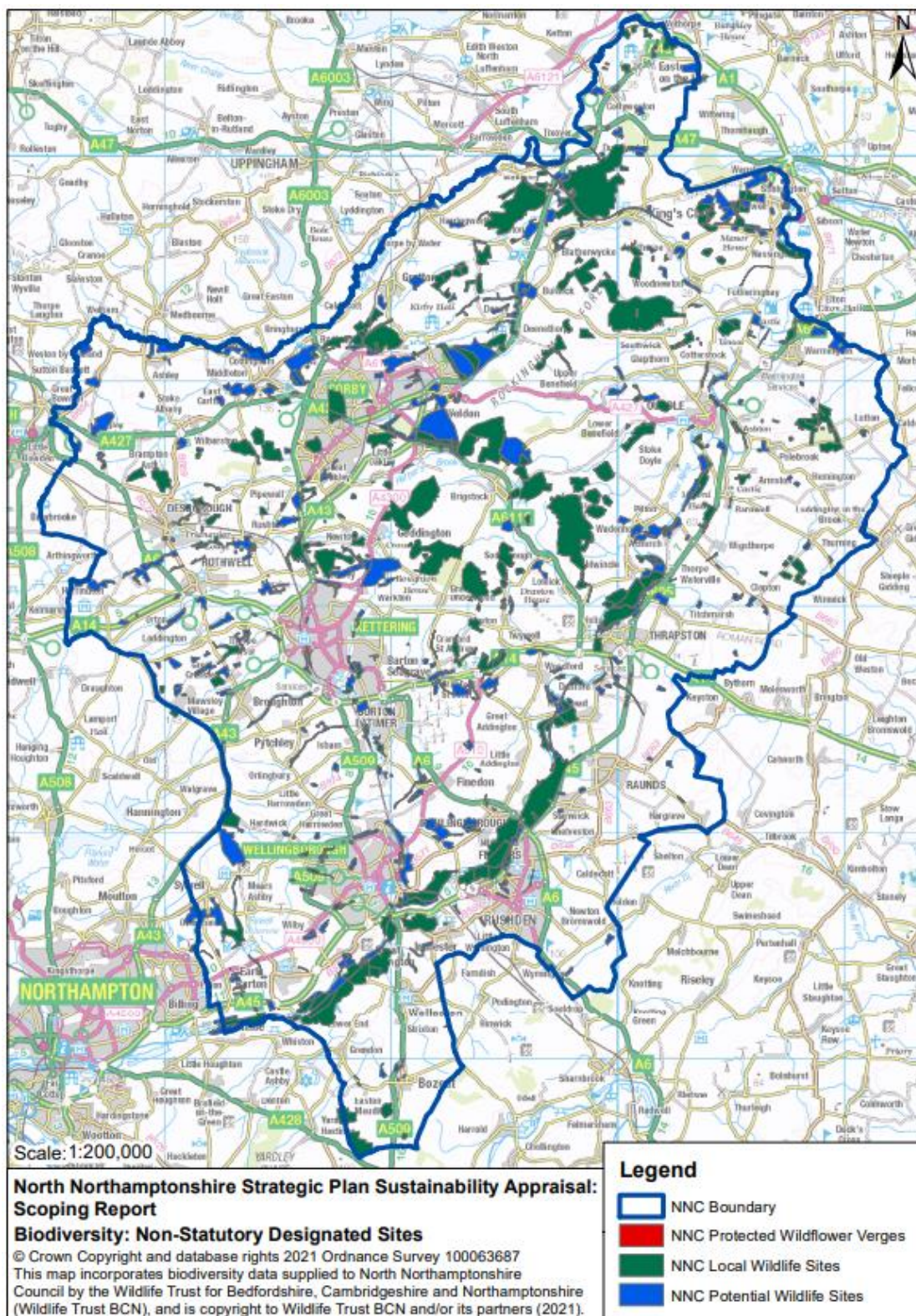


Figure 6.2 – Non-Statutory Designated Sites



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 include⁵⁸:

- 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

Taxon	Common name	Associated habitat	Key sites	Northants Status	BAP action
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 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

⁵⁸ [Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020](#) (The Wildlife Trust, 2016)

- 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. Multifunctional spaces that can provide a variety of natural capital benefits are the most appropriate to gain wider benefits.

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 progressing at varying speeds towards the 2030 emission reduction targets for individual elements. For sulphur dioxide this is 90%, for fine particulate matter this is 34%, 13% for ammonia and 72% for nitrogen oxides⁵⁹.
- 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. It is understood that these targets are yet to be published.
- 7.3 The NPPF states that planning policies should sustain 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 Northamptonshire⁶⁰. 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;
 - reduce nitrogen oxides emissions from transport;

⁵⁹ [UK Informative Inventory Report \(1990 to 2019\)](#) (Ricardo Energy & Environment (Defra), March 2021)

⁶⁰ [The Public Health Call to Action for Poor Air Quality Northamptonshire](#) (Former NCC and Public Health Northamptonshire, 2020)

- 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 (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM) at locations close to busy roads, including the A43, A14, A45, A6, A427 and A509.
- 7.8 Levels of NO₂ 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 Wellingborough⁶¹. In 2021, the annual mean NO₂ concentrations in North Northamptonshire were below the NO₂ annual mean air quality objective of 40µg/m³⁶². As a result, no Air Quality Management Areas have been declared in the plan area.
- 7.9 Levels of Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) 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 CO₂, SO₂ 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 CO₂, SO₂, PM and NO₂.
- 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.
- Recognise the importance and role of NNC in providing guidance in relation to air quality and emissions for developers specifically through the Air Quality and Emissions Guidance for Developers document,
- 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

⁶¹ North Northamptonshire Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel (North Northamptonshire, October 2021)

⁶² 2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report for North Northamptonshire ([June 2022](#)) (North Northamptonshire Council, June 2022)

data is limited such as the levels of PM and SO₂, which are not currently monitored.

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)⁶³ 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)
 - Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (Environment Agency, 2021)

⁶³ [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022](#) (HM Government, January 2022)

- 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 (including Surface Water Management Plans)

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. In addition, it is also important to recognise work being done by the Environment Agency who are currently developing an Integrated Water Management Framework for the Oxford to Cambridge region. This will provide a model approach for water planning and will help deliver environmental net gain and contribute towards climate resilience and adaptation.

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 northeast to the Wash, and the south-eastern extent of the area 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 construction⁶⁴.
- 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

⁶⁴ [Habitat Action Plan – Rivers](#) (from the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020) (The Wildlife Trust, 2016)

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 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 recently published an update of this in December 2022.
- 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 waters⁶⁵. 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 in 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)⁶⁶ 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 waste treatment and disposal, 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

⁶⁵ [Classifications data for Nene Management Catchment](#) (Environment Agency, September 2021)

⁶⁶ [Anglian River Basin District Draft Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027](#) (Environment Agency, October 2021)

implicate all three operational river catchment areas relates to the 'water industry' and 'urban and transport'.

- 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 catchments⁶⁷

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	-	-
Domestic general public	Willow Brook	-	-	--	-	-	-	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	Ise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industry	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

⁶⁷ [Nene Management Catchment](#) – Ise, Willow Brook and Nene Middle Operational Catchment 'Challenges' (Environment Agency, no date)

Urban and transport	Willow Brook	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Nene Middle	-	-	2	-	-	7	-
	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	9	20
Ise Total		0	0	3	0	9	4	3
North Northamptonshire total		1	1	13	0	39	15	27

- 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 consumption⁶⁸.
- 8.18 The Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2021)⁶⁹ 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 Nene⁷⁰.
- 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

⁶⁸ [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#) (Former NN Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, September 2017)

⁶⁹ [Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy](#) (Environment Agency, March 2021)

⁷⁰ [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.

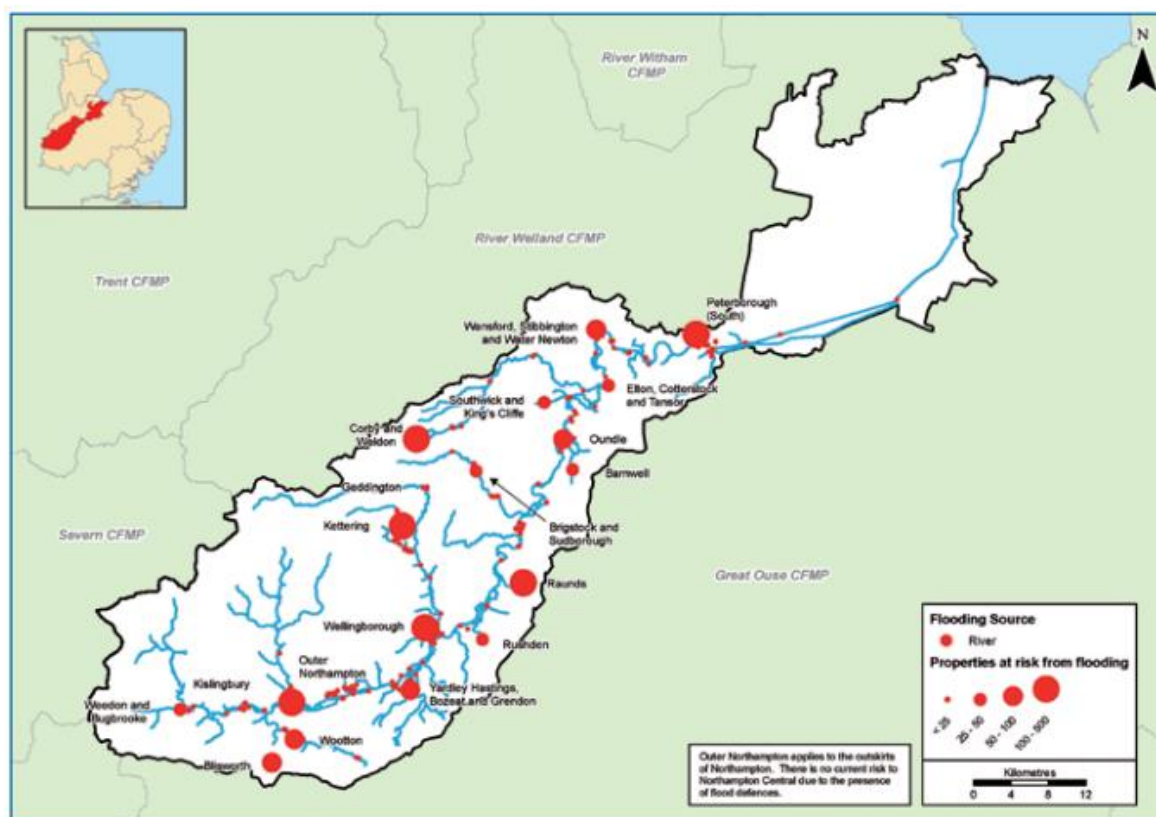
8.22 The main types of flood risk for people, property, infrastructure, and land in North Northamptonshire are⁷¹:

- **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 Glapthorn, 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.

⁷¹ [River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan](#) (Environment Agency, December 2009)

Figure 8.1 – River Nene Catchment Flood Management Area



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:

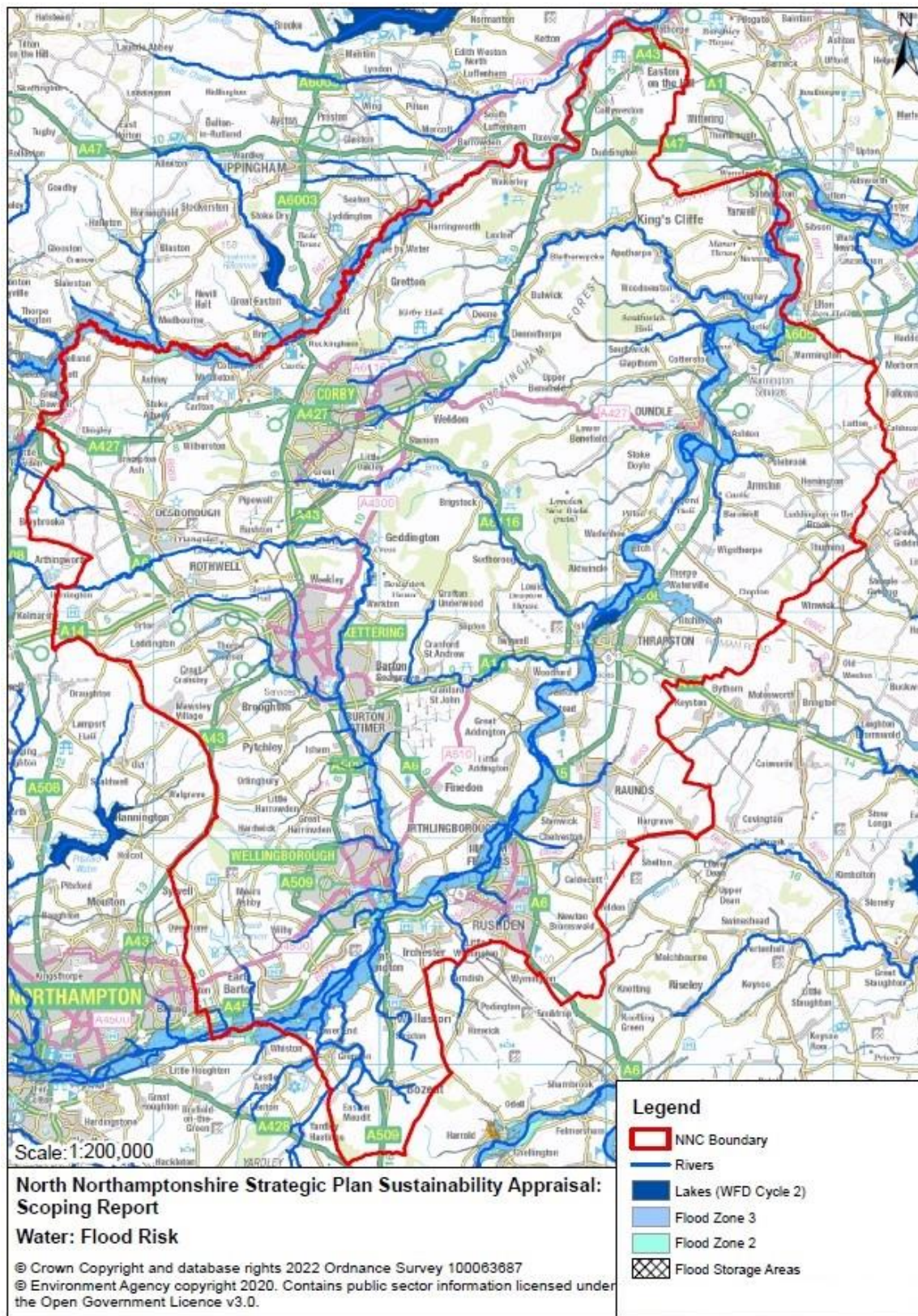
- Weldon and Gretton Ward
- Irchester Ward
- Rushden Spencer Ward
- Kingswood and Hazel Leys Ward

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 NPPF 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 Part 2A of the Statutory Guidance on Contaminated Land⁷² sets out how local authorities should implement the Environment Protection Act (1990), including deciding whether land is contaminated land as well as provisions for remediation. Further to this, the latter also provide further guidance on managing the risk of land contamination.
- 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

⁷² Part 2A [Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance](#) (DEFRA. 2012)

Northamptonshire, including providing the basis for investment in new minerals and waste development, identifying where it should go and why.

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 landscape⁷³.
- 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.

⁷³ Northamptonshire Current Landscape Character Assessment
<https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/12149/08-northamptonshire-current-landscape-character-assessment>(RNRP, 2010)

- 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

- 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 spoil⁷⁴.
- 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 2⁷⁵. 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 18 sites on the Council's [Brownfield Register](#) (2022), ranging from 0.29 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.

Land contamination

- 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 land contamination and any remediation to reduce or remove the risks to people and the environment. At present, there are

⁷⁴ [Soilscapes](#) (Cranford Soil and Agrifood Institute, no date)

⁷⁵ [Magic Map](#) (Defra)

no entries in the land contamination 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.

- 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 potential land contamination, 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 processes⁷⁶.
- 9.25 Data on land instability is provided by the Coal Authority⁷⁷, particularly in relation to previous mining activity.

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

⁷⁶ [Sustainability Appraisal for the Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan](#), (Aecom, December 2019)

⁷⁷ [Ground Stability – Which is the right report for you?](#) (Coal Authority, 2023)

- Corby – Earlstrees
- Corby - Weldon Road
- Corby - North Eastern Industrial Areas
- Rushden / Higham Ferrers - Sanders Lodge
- Rushden / Higham Ferrers - West of Bypass
- Oundle - Nene Valley

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 average⁷⁸ 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 statistics⁷⁹)

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

⁷⁸ Defra data of the former authorities has been amalgamated to provide North Northamptonshire averages.

⁷⁹ [Local authority collected waste: annual results tables](#) (Defra, January 2022)

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.

Figure 9.1 – Local Geological Sites

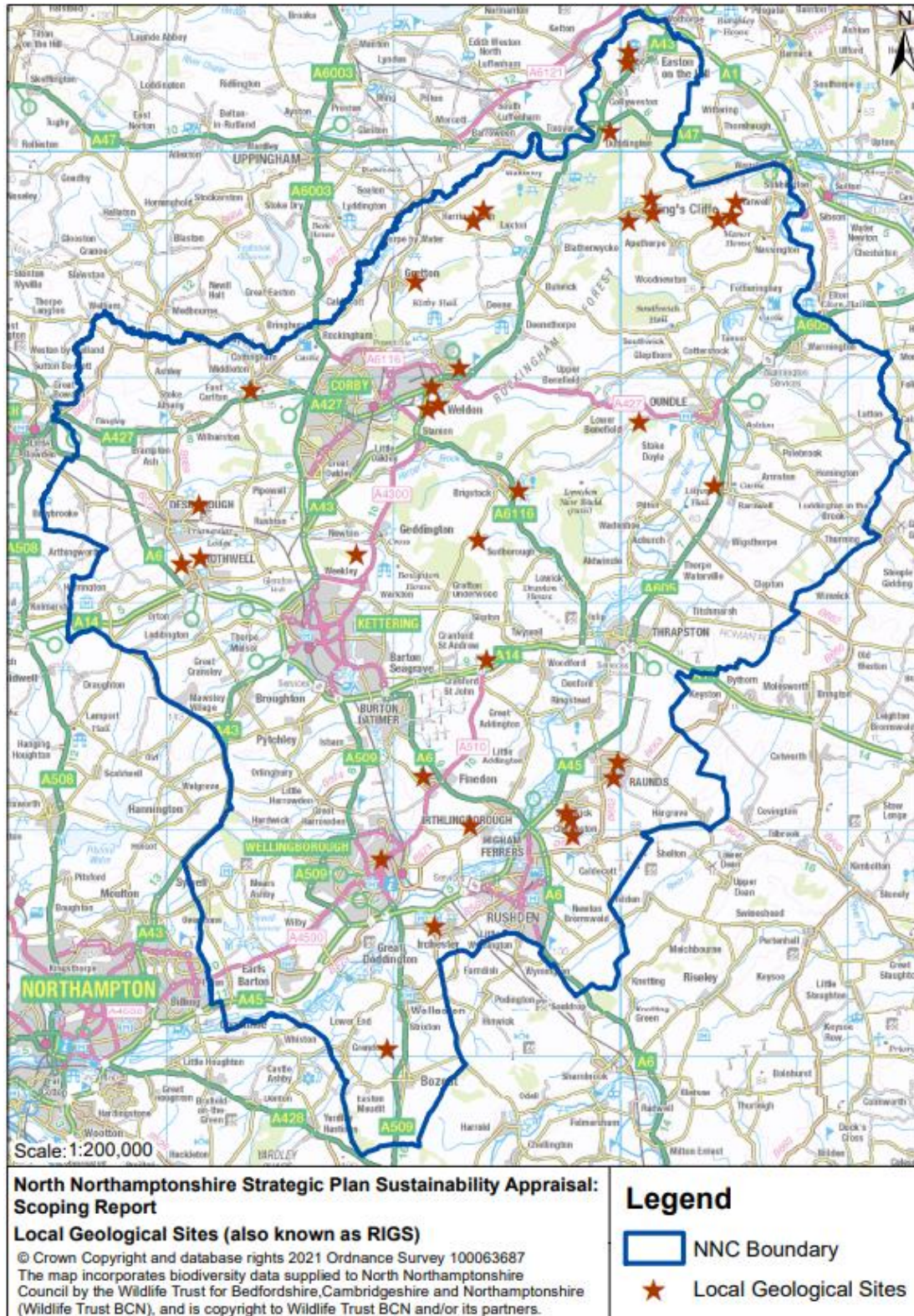
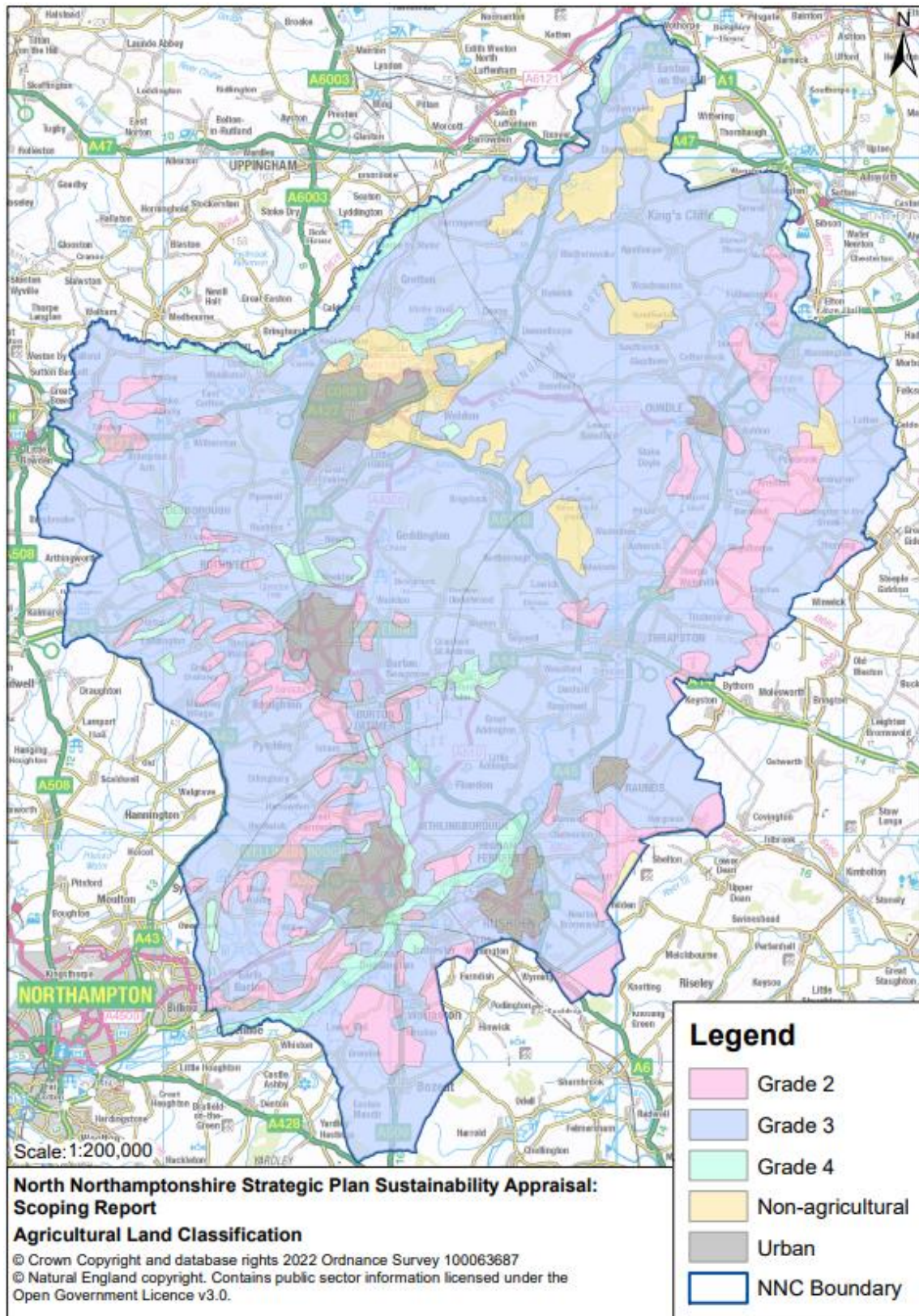


Figure 9.2 - Agricultural Land Classification



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.
- The need for the development of any new waste management facilities to consider the impact of amenity issues, especially where hubs of this type of facility exist. Also, to consider the impact of noise, odour and dust beyond the boundaries of these facilities, which are not covered by Environmental Permitting Regulations,⁸⁰ especially when considering plans for the development of housing or community hubs.
- 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.
- There is land contamination due to some of the previous land uses in areas of North Northamptonshire and the associated risks when dealing with land contamination must be managed in accordance with relevant national guidance.
- There is 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.

⁸⁰ [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations](#) 2016

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 The approach as to how best to meet the future employment needs in North Northamptonshire will be informed by the development of an evidence base, including the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) and the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), which will provide a detailed assessment of committed employment sites that have not been brought forward.

- 10.4 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

- 10.5 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.
- 10.6 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.
- 10.7 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. Recent data from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) indicated that in the period 2011-2021 the area delivered 23,000 jobs, indicating North Northamptonshire was well on its way to achieving its jobs target, with a residual 8,100 jobs to create by the end of the plan period.
- 10.8 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'⁸¹, availability of sites has decreased, and occupation costs have increased, making sites in areas such as North Northamptonshire more attractive.
- 10.9 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

⁸¹ 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.

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 East Midlands was also responsible for around £6bn of goods exports and £5bn of service exports.⁸²

10.10 North Northamptonshire is located in the Oxford to Cambridge region which the Government recognises as a globally significant location, home to 3.7 million people and contributing £111bn GVA to the UK economy.⁸³ The region has been identified by the Government as a key economic priority it wishes to support to achieve sustainable economic growth within it. 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.⁸⁴ North Northamptonshire has struggled to deliver higher value jobs and has lagged behind other areas of the region in this respect with its Gross Value Added (GVA) amongst the lowest in the region. The Oxford to Cambridge Partnership Board has been formed to champion the region as a world leader of innovation and business, acting to achieve environmentally sustainable and inclusive growth.

10.11 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.

10.12 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)⁸⁵ delivered in the area in the five

⁸² [South East Midlands Strategic Economic Plan – Where innovation fuels growth](#) (SEMLEP)

⁸³ [The Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)

⁸⁴ [Planning for sustainable growth in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#) (HM Government, 2021)

⁸⁵ [Guide to use class orders and changes that took place in September 2020](#) (Lichfields, 2021)

years from 2016-2021 by use class (as categorised prior to the use class changes in 2020).

10.13 As can be seen below, over 800,000m² of net additional floorspace was delivered during this time. With the greatest proportion (over 400,000m²) of this being B8 logistics/distribution development.

Table 10.1 - Net additional employment floorspace delivered 2016-2021 (m²)

	B1a	B1b	B1c	Unclassified B1	B2	B8	Mixed B	Total
North Northants	2,260	360	3,745	46,838	53,128	402,337	308,842	816,580

10.14 North Northamptonshire residents earned less in terms of gross weekly pay than the national average in 2022, with earnings for full-time workers averaging at £592.1 p/w compared to £642.2 p/w. The area also slightly lagged the East Midlands average of £603.7 p/w.

Table 10.2 - Employment by occupation in North Northants (%) (Jul 2021-Jun 2022)

Occupation type	%
Managers, Directors, Senior Officials	9.2
Professional Occupations	17.0
Associate Professional & Technical	14.6
Administrative & Secretarial	7.9
Skilled Trade Occupations	9.8
Caring, Leisure and other service occupations	7.9
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	9.9
Process Plant & Machine Operatives	8.9
Elementary Occupations	14.7

10.15 Table 10.2 above demonstrates the breakdown of occupations in North Northamptonshire. As can be seen the largest share of occupations falls under the professional occupations category at 17%. However, this is below the national average (25.8%), whereas the occupation category with the third largest share – associate professional & technical occupations – is very similar to the national average of 15%. North Northamptonshire has a higher proportion of those working in the second highest category of elementary occupations (14.7%

compared to 9.6%) and as process plant and machine operatives (8.9% compared to 5.7%)⁸⁶

- 10.16 In terms of specific occupations where there are notable differences between North Northamptonshire and national averages (in 2021), standout industries are ‘wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ where in North Northamptonshire this equates to 21.2% of the total jobs in the area, compared to the national average of 14.4%; for manufacturing the figures are 14.6% in North Northamptonshire, compared to 7.6% nationally. Also ‘transportation and storage’ equates to 10.6% 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 (5.3%) compared to the rest of the UK (8.9%) and it’s a similar pattern for those working in ‘financial and insurance activities’, 1.0% compared to 3.6%.⁸⁷
- 10.17 At the 2011 Census, 31% of the area’s labour force was commuting to centres outside North Northamptonshire. The 2011 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 followed by Kettering (53%) and Wellingborough (45%)). In contrast, just 36% of the East Northamptonshire labour force also worked in the area. 18,200 more workers commuted out of North Northamptonshire than commuted in at the time of the 2011 Census (comprising 40,901 out-commuters against 22,701 in-commuters). Updated data on this subject from the 2021 Census is due to be published in Spring 2023 and will be added to the next iteration of this report.

Town centres

- 10.18 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.
- 10.19 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 had 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.

⁸⁶ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx>

⁸⁷ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx>

- 10.20 According to AMRs published post-adoption of the JCS, from 2016-2021 there have been at least 46 retail developments that have been approved outside of the defined town centre areas of North Northamptonshire, which equated to approximately 43,000m² of floorspace (and this is likely to be an underestimate).
- 10.21 The JCS seeks a minimum increase of 12,500m² 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. In Kettering public realm works as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) for the town centre commenced in early 2022, with progress being made in different areas throughout the town during the year. Work on this project is due to be completed in early 2023. Good progress has also been made with regards to building improvements in the conservation area also as a result of the funding made available through the HSHAZ initiative. Also in Kettering, in 2019 the Gallery, Library and Manor House Museum (GLaM) project commenced. The following year, £3million was received to fund the physical transformation of the facilities, most of which will be used for the extension to the gallery, library, and museum to provide cultural amenity space and teaching facilities. Planning permission for the project was granted in January 2021, with work starting on site in July 2021. It is anticipated that the new facility will open in Summer 2023. Corby has been awarded £19.9m of the Government's Towns Fund, with work underway to open a new sixth form college in the Town Centre in September 2023 for 16–18-year-olds in Corby and the surrounding areas, Further projects in Corby are underway to develop a central multi-use community and cultural hub, provide practical and safe pedestrian and cycle connections from the town centre, Tresham College and the railway station, and, through the Smart and Connected Corby project, establish a smart and green town centre through harnessing connected and clean technologies. In addition, North Northamptonshire has secured £4.8m from the Core Shared Prosperity Fund to support investment in local communities and businesses and a further £1.9m of funding to support adult numeracy through the Multiply programme. Government funding was also 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.

- North Northamptonshire has one of the strongest industrial and logistics market in the country given its proximity to the “Golden Triangle”. Managing the demand and growth of logistics in a sustainable manner will be required.
- There is a chronic lack of stock below 150,000 sq. ft for the local / regional market set against the continuing demand for larger stock for the National market).
- 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.
- Supporting 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, built, 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. 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 to Cambridge region presents opportunities for the continued growth and infrastructure requirements.
- 11.3 England's Economic Heartland has published a connectivity study that identifies potential interventions to improve the transport system across the Peterborough-Northampton-Oxford strategic corridor. Further details available at <https://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/our-work/connectivity-studies/>
- 11.4 The North Northamptonshire Investment Framework⁸⁸ 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

- 11.5 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

⁸⁸ [North Northamptonshire Investment Framework](#) (Former North Northamptonshire Joint Planning & Delivery Unit/Lichfields, June 2019)

Thrapston towards Northampton, provides the connection to the M1 southwards towards London or northwards towards Leicester and the north of the country.

- 11.6 The principal railway service within North Northamptonshire is served by Midland 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 2009-10 and 2019-20 in North Northamptonshire (entries and exists) i.e., in the decade prior to the Covid-19 pandemic; in Wellingborough there had been a 3% increase in station usage; Corby 161% (the current station opened in 2009) and in Kettering there has been a 4% increase in usage in that time⁸⁹. Improvements between the East Midlands and London have resulted in the operator East Midlands Railway providing 50% more seats available during peak hours between Corby and London since launching its all-electric service in 2021⁹⁰. The east of the area is not served by rail.
- 11.7 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.
- 11.8 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 North Northamptonshire Greenway (formerly East Northamptonshire). As set out below, the GI network offers opportunities for walking and cycling across the green corridors and waterways across North Northamptonshire. The North Northamptonshire Greenway is a mainly traffic free walking and cycling route that currently runs between Rushden and Thrapston, with further links in between to other settlements along the Nene Valley, such as Higham Ferrers and 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.

⁸⁹ [Estimates of station usage](#) (ORR Data Portal)

⁹⁰ [More seats and faster journeys between East Midlands and London](#) (Network Rail, May 2021)

11.9 The proportion of people walking for travel in North Northamptonshire ranged between 6.6% (those travelling by walking five times per week) and 26.6% (those travelling by walking once per month) (2020 data). Table 11.1 shows the latest statistics available on walking as a means of transport broken down by former districts/boroughs in North Northamptonshire⁹¹. It highlights that a low percentage of people walk as their main transport method. From 2022 this data is available for North Northamptonshire only. 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

11.10 Table 11.2 sets out the methods of travel to work in the former districts/boroughs in North Northamptonshire at the time of the 2011 Census. It shows that there were little local variations in the modes of transport. The key trend is that almost half of journeys to a place of work were by driving a car or van, and a very low percentage used more sustainable modes such as public transport, walking or cycling. The 2021 Census results are only available for North Northamptonshire as a whole (table 11.3). Two notable trends between 2011 and 2021 are the increase in people working from home from 3.3% to 23.6%. Driving a car or van to work increased from 47.6% to 57.0%. However, Nomis note that the data should be read with caution, and care taken when using for planning purposes. Census 2021 took place during a period of rapid change, not least as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Extra guidance to help people on furlough answer the Census questions about work was provided but it is not possible to determine how furloughed people followed the guidance. Data from the Census does not show the proportion of private vehicles that are electric in comparison to combustion engines. Future data releases from the 2021 Census will provide further clarity that will be considered in the later stages of the SA process.

⁹¹ [Walking and Cycling Statistics England 2020](#) (Department for Transport, 2021)

Table 11.2 Mode of Transport to work in North Northamptonshire 2011⁹²

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%
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%

Table 11.3 Mode of Transport to work in North Northamptonshire 2021⁹³

Method of travel to work	North Northamptonshire
Work mainly at home	23.6%
Underground, metro, light rail, or tram	0.1%
Train	0.5%
Bus, minibus, or coach	1.4%
Taxi	1.0%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.3%
Driving a car or van	57.0%
Passenger in car or van	6.0%
Bicycle	1.6%
On foot	7.6%
Other	0.9%

⁹² Data source: Nomis 2011

⁹³ Data source: Nomis 2021

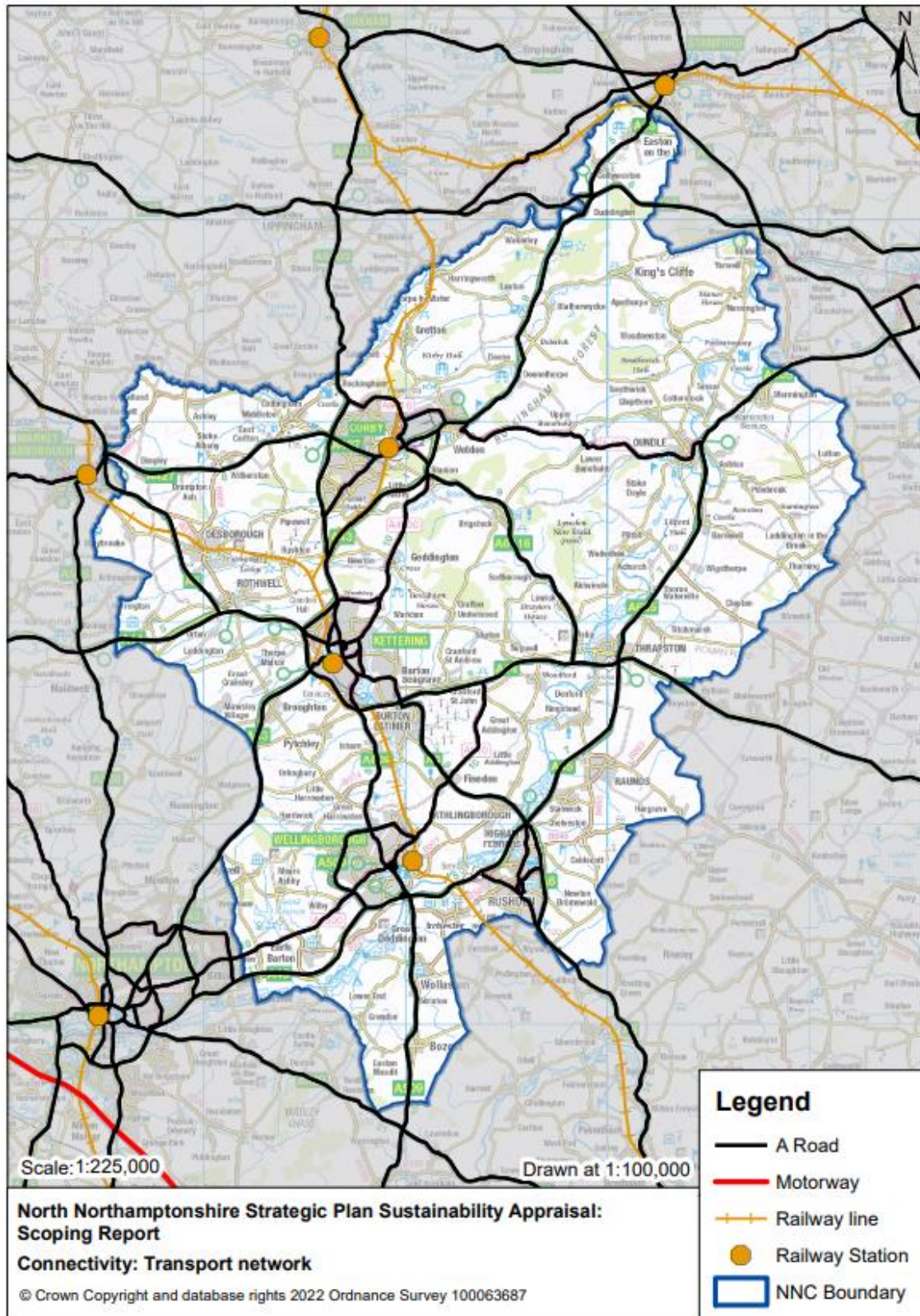
11.11 The planned growth in North Northamptonshire will mean a significant increase in demand for travel. Notably, this will impact the A43, A14 and A45 corridors, and roads that are already congested at peak times, particularly in and around Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough, and Rushden⁹⁴. Transport forecasts that modelled the planned growth for the JCS set out key junctions that are shown to experience highly significant congestion problems⁹⁵. Further modelling for the A43 in Corby sets out mitigation layouts to reduce projected queuing and delays in the future⁹⁶. This increased travel and congestion could lead to an increase in noise and air pollution and greenhouse gases resulting in health and environmental concerns.

⁹⁴ [Northamptonshire Transportation Plan Fit for Purpose – Local Transport Plan](#) (former NCC, March 2012)

⁹⁵ [Northamptonshire Strategic Transport Model \(NSTM\) TRAFFIC FORECASTING REPORT NNJPU Core Strategy Assessment](#) (WSP, May 2015)

⁹⁶ [Northamptonshire Highways A43 Corby – Junction Modelling](#) (WSP, April 2019)

Figure 11.1 - Transport network



Social infrastructure

- 11.12 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.
- 11.13 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

- 11.14 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.
- 11.15 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.
- 11.16 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

- 11.17 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.
- 11.18 Superfast broadband (>24Mbps) is now available to 99.3% of residential and business premises in North Northamptonshire. Full fibre coverage in North Northamptonshire is increasing rapidly, having more than doubled from 15.7% in June 2021 to 38.3% in December 2022 alone. The Superfast project has enabled

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

- 11.19 In June 2018, the former Northamptonshire County Council agreed new targets for the Superfast Northamptonshire project, focused on superfast and ultrafast (> 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.
- 11.20 In addition, Superfast Northamptonshire is helping to drive the provision of full-fibre connectivity to new buildings through a range of measures detailed on their website. These include signposting information from weekly lists of planning applications for new build homes to highlighting potential new customers to telecoms providers.
- 11.21 Unfortunately, progress is not benefitting all communities equally. Friends Families and Travellers has uncovered high levels of digital exclusion in Gypsy and Traveller communities in the UK. They interviewed 50 people from across Gypsy and Traveller communities in the UK in July and August 2018 to find out to what extent Gypsies and Travellers experience digital exclusion and highlight issues with digital access, skills and confidence in Gypsy and Traveller communities. Their key findings were that:
- One in five Gypsy and Traveller participants had never used the internet, compared to one in ten members of the general population.
 - Over half of Gypsy and Traveller participants said that they did not feel confident using digital technology by themselves.
 - Only two in five Gypsies and Travellers surveyed said that they use the internet daily, compared to four out of five of the general population.
 - Only 38% of Gypsies and Travellers (33% if housed) had a household internet connection, compared to 86% of the general population.

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.
- The need to increase the accessibility to next generation fibre connections in existing urban and rural communities, as well as new developments across North Northamptonshire.
- The need to consider the digital exclusion faced by Gypsy and Traveller communities.

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 190 of the NPPF and supporting Planning Practice Guidance 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 SA/SEA process.
- 12.4 The JCS 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).⁹⁷
- 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 Northamptonshire that hold special architectural or historical interest e.g., at Corby Old Village or the historical town of Finedon.

⁹⁷ [Heritage Indicator data](#) (Historic England, 2021)

- 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 2022 there are currently 14 Heritage at Risk entries in North Northamptonshire which include Barnwell Castle, Apethorpe Palace and the Church of St Peter in Raunds. Wellingborough Town Centre is listed as the only conservation area at risk⁹⁸.
- 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' and the Historic Environment Record.

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.

⁹⁸ <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 In addition, it is also important to recognise the Planning policy for traveller sites (PPTS) which includes ‘Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside’. This policy requires local planning authorities to ensure that the scale of sites in rural areas and the countryside do not dominate the nearest settled community.
- 13.4 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.
- 13.5 The Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment⁹⁹ (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.

⁹⁹ [Environmental Character Assessment](#) (RNRP, 2006)

13.6 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

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

13.8 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

13.9 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

13.10 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

13.11 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.

13.12 A proportion of Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands and a minor proportion of Northamptonshire Uplands are within the North Northamptonshire boundary.

13.13 Northamptonshire's Environmental Character and Green Infrastructure Suite 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)

13.14 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

13.15 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

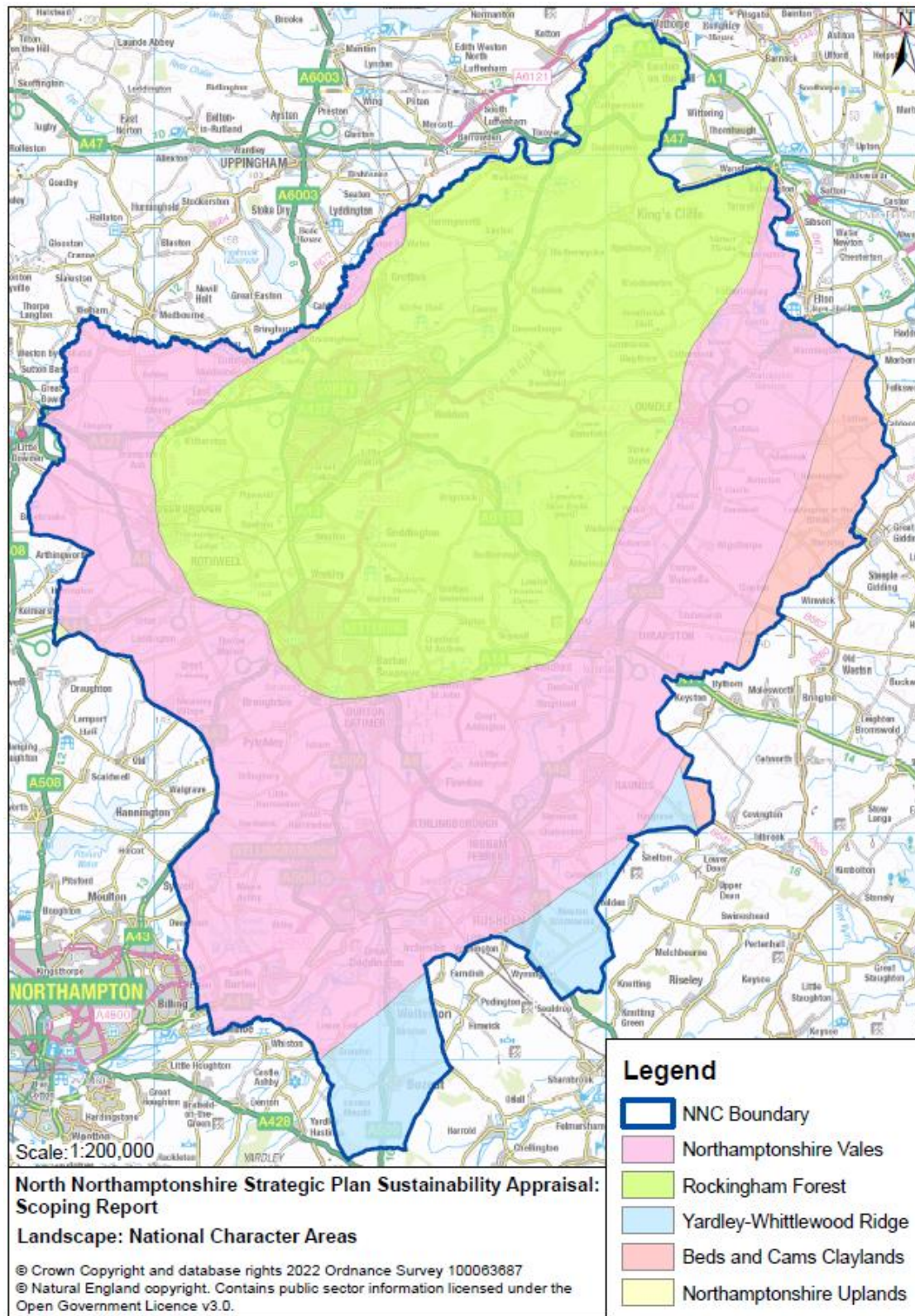
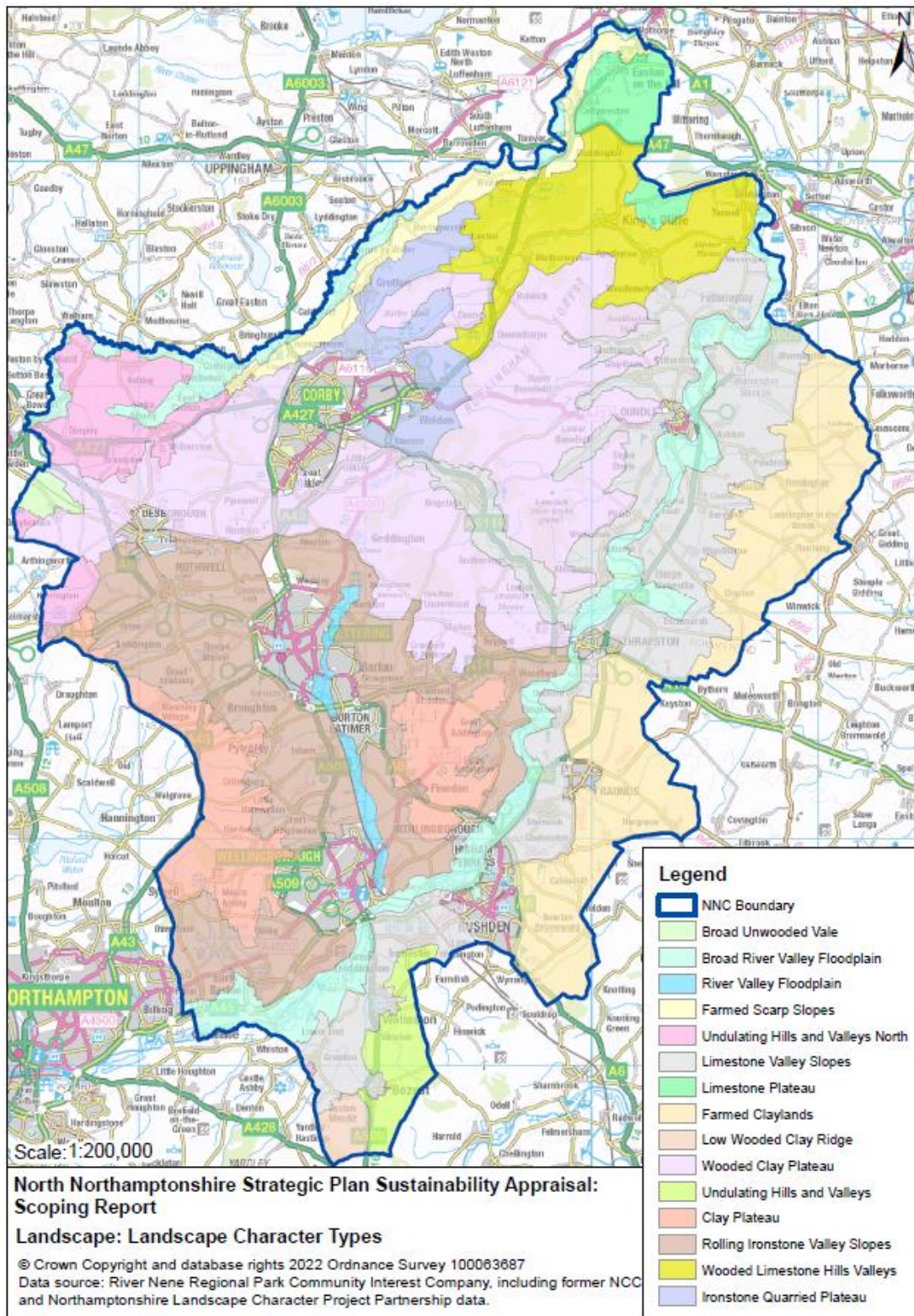


Figure 13.2 - Landscape Character Types



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 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 JCS which were taken into consideration. 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 North Northamptonshire at the start of the previous plan period. The preparation of the Plan 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 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. It also builds on revisions to the SA Framework set out for the concurrent review of the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. The SA objectives provide a method by which to test whether the 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

SA Topic	Sustainability objective	Indicator	SEA topic
Communities	SA 1: To provide sufficient accommodation to meet the existing and future needs for Gypsy and Travellers in North Northamptonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the supply of pitches and plots • Support the provision of a range of accommodation types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the Gypsy and Traveller community • Consider the housing needs of all sections of the community including gypsy and travellers 	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"> • Encourage integration of Gypsy and Traveller sites with settled communities • Promote developments that benefit and are used by existing and new residents, particularly in the most deprived areas • Protect the vitality and viability of North Northamptonshire's town centres and local centres 	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"> • Promote development that seeks to design out crime • Encourage development that promotes road safety and reduces road traffic accidents 	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"> • Support development that is accessible to services, facilities and amenity space 	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"> • Promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy, active lifestyles by maintaining, connecting, creating and enhancing multifunctional open spaces, green and blue infrastructure and recreation and sports facilities • Encourage walking and cycling 	Population Human health

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to health care facilities 	
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"> • Promote and encourage energy efficient design and the provision of renewable energy sources • Minimise greenhouse gas emission from transport and industry • Facilitate the take up of low or zero emission vehicles • Support the provision of sustainable transport methods, including walking and cycling infrastructure and reduce the need to travel • Minimise the risk of flooding • Promote other opportunities to reduce emissions through nature-based solutions 	<p>Climatic factors</p> <p>Air</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Soil</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Flora and fauna</p>
Biodiversity	SA 7: To protect, conserve, enhance, restore, and connect wildlife, habitats and species to achieve net gains in biodiversity and natural capital across North Northamptonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid adverse effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated natural assets within and adjacent to North Northamptonshire • Seek to protect the ecological network to achieve net gain in biodiversity and improve connectivity between habitats and opportunities for species to thrive • Take into the account the impacts of climate change, including the changing species distribution and migratory patterns • Provide and manage opportunities for people to connect with wildlife, whilst ensuring the protection of biodiversity sensitivity • Seek to enhance opportunities for biodiversity, natural capital and environmental gains through green infrastructure networks and environmental projects 	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Flora and fauna</p> <p>Human health</p> <p>Climatic factors</p>
Air	SA 8: To limit air pollution in North Northamptonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid, minimise and mitigate the effects of poor air quality 	Air

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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that unnecessary or unjustified sterilisation of mineral resources is prevented • Minimise any adverse impacts from mineral development on the natural and historic landscape and assets • Optimise resource use, by reducing, reusing, and recycling where possible 	
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"> • Maximise opportunities for housing and employment on PDL • Ensure contaminated land is remediated where appropriate • Minimise the loss of high-grade agricultural land • Avoid development in areas of unstable land • Protect and enhance soil quality 	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"> • Promote opportunities to enhance recycling 	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"> • Promote business development and enhance productivity • Provide for start-up businesses and flexible working practices • Provide for accessible and diverse employment opportunities • Support the prosperity and diversification of North Northamptonshire's rural economy • Support links to the wider economy of the Ox-Cam Arc, EEH and SEMLEP • Improve access to education and skills training • Encourage efficient and sustainable patterns of movement 	Population Material assets
Connectivity and infrastructure	SA 15: To deliver and enhance accessibility and connectivity of social, economic and green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sites are located close to local centres, services and facilities, key employment areas and public transport 	Population Human health

	infrastructure across all communities in North Northamptonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance networks for active travel, including walking and cycling • Maintain and enhance access to public transport provision • Improve access to infrastructure to minimise local inequalities • Support and encourage green and blue infrastructure corridors to enhance access to the natural environment and recreation opportunities • Promote opportunities to access next generation fibre connections 	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"> • Increase accessibility to the historic environment in a way that conserves and enhances it • Provide opportunities for improvements to the conservation, management and enhancement of North Northamptonshire's heritage assets, particularly heritage at risk 	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"> • Support development that takes a landscape-led approach to design and layout • Minimise and prevent poorly designed development that does not integrate with the existing landscape 	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

SEA Directive issue	SA objective
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 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
✓✓/x	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely
✓	Minor positive effect
✓/x	Mixed minor effects likely
x	Minor negative effect likely
xx/✓	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely
xx	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.

Timescale	Definition
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

Likelihood	Definition
High	Effects predicted with high level of certainty
Medium	Effects predicted are likely
Low	Effects predicted are uncertain

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

Scale	Definition
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 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 consider 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.

Consultation

- 15.3 The consultation period starts on XX and closes at **5.00pm** on XX 2022. The Scope and Options consultation document and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report can be viewed electronically at XX

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 Gypsy and Traveller Local 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 Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan?
4. Are there any additional SA issues relevant to the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local 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 North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan?

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

The purpose of this review is to inform the development of the Plan by identifying key documents that provide a direction on sustainability matters that can help shape the Plan and the SA.

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 G&T Site Allocations Plan and Sustainability Appraisal	Relevant sustainability topic area	Relevant SEA themes
International					
IN01	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (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	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (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	Convention on Biological Diversity (UN, 1993) and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	Three main objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity; • The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits 	Protect and conserve species and habitats.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora

		<p>arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.</p> <p>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'.</p>			
IN04	<p>European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Protect and enhance local heritage assets and designated conservation areas.</p> <p>Consider the impact of development on identified assets and their setting.</p>	Historic environment	Cultural heritage and landscape

		policies into the planning system and other areas of government influence.			
IN05	European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised from 1985 Granada version) – Valletta Convention (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 an instrument for historical and scientific study”.	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
IN06	European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	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.	Protect and manage the current and future landscape sustainably, recognising landscape character and heritage value. Consider the impact of development on landscapes.	Landscape Historic environment	Cultural heritage and landscape

		<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’.</p> <p>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>			
IN07	EU Air Quality Directives (2008/50/EC, 2004/107/EC, 2015/1480/EC)	<p>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 establish legally binding limits for</p>	<p>Reduce and where possible prevent harmful sources of air pollution.</p> <p>Consider the implication of development on changes to pollutant concentrations, and their implications for human and environmental health</p>	<p>Air Climate change</p>	<p>Air Climatic Factors Human health</p>

		<p>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>			
IN08	<p>EU Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC amended to 2009/147/EC)</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>EU Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Flora and Fauna Directive (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</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

		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.			
IN10	EU Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) (2020/2184)	<p>The Directive protects human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</p> <p>This Directive does not apply to natural mineral waters.</p> <p>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.</p>	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 Health and wellbeing	Water Human health

IN11	EU Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	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	EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC)	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	EU Industrial Emission Directive (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	EU Landfill of Waste Directive (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	EU Nitrates Directive (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	Protect and enhance water quality. To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to advise on appropriate measures, where required.	Water	Water

		caused by the introduction of nitrates.			
IN16	EU Promotion of use of energy from renewable sources Directive (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	EU Soil Strategy for 2020 (November 2021)	This Strategy aims to address soil degradation and land resources. The goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect soil fertility • Reduce erosion and sealing • Increase organic matter • Identify contaminated sites • Restore degraded soils • Define what constitutes 'good ecological status' for soils 	Protect and enhance soils and recognise importance of land resources.	Land	Soil
IN18	EU Urban Waste Water Directive (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	EU Waste Directive (2018/851/EC)	It sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management. 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.	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	EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Provides a single framework to protect all water bodies, inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters, and groundwater. It aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters. The Directive introduced River Basin Districts which are managed according to River Basin Management Plans which set the local objectives.	To protect and enhance all water bodies in the area and address potential mitigation where 'good status' is not achieved.	Water	Water
IN21	Kyoto Protocol Agreement (1997) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	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	Respond to the national commitment made under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Climate change Air	Climatic factors Air

		<p>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>			
IN22	<p>Paris Agreement (2016) United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</p>	<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</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>from deforestation, conservation, and sustainable management of forests. In addition, building the resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources. 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 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	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance	<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>	<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>Biodiversity, fauna and flora</p>

	especially as Waterfowl Habitat (UNESCO, 1971)				
IN24	Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 'Earth Summit' and Agenda 21 (1992) 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. Another outcome of the Rio conference was 'Agenda 21', a non-binding action plan to achieve global sustainable development. The Johannesburg convention commits to the sustainability principles and sustainable development agenda agreed at Rio De Janeiro Earth Summit. It sets a broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for</p>	Ensure sustainable development principles are embedded into the Plan.	All matters	All matters

		human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.			
IN25	Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)	The 2030 Agenda is universal, transformative, and rights-based; it is a comprehensive blueprint for eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the planet.	Ensure sustainable development principles are embedded into the Plan, to ensure fair opportunities for all communities and to safeguards the natural environment.	Communities Health and wellbeing Climate change Biodiversity Air Land Water Economy Connectivity and Infrastructure	Biodiversity Flora and fauna Human health Soil Water Air Climatic factors
IN26	European Convention on Human Rights	The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) protects the human rights of people in countries that belong to the Council of Europe.	Compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights.	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health
IN27	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	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	UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015)	The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) derive from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United	SDG should be integrated into the principles underlying sustainable development in the Plan.	All matters	All matters

		<p>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"> • Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere • Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture • Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages • Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all • Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls • Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of 	<p>Consider opportunities for development and proposals to contribute to the ambitions of the SDGs.</p>		
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		<p>water and sanitation for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all • Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all • Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation • Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries • Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable • Goal 12: Ensure sustainable 			
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		consumption and production patterns			
IN29	Health 2020 (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 monitoring update 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
National					
NA01	Agriculture Act 2020	<p>Provides the legislative framework for the government to establish new regulation and agricultural policy following leaving the EU. The Act lays the framework for DEFRA’s future Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) which will see</p>	To support sustainable farming practices, create habitats for nature recovery and support the opportunity to establish new woodlands and other ecosystems to help tackle climate change.	Land	Soil

		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.			
NA02	Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010	<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"> • Legally binding limits for concentrations in sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter (as PM10 and PM2.5), lead, 	<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

		<p>benzene, carbon monoxide and ozone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets for levels in outdoor air for four elements; cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury, together with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). 			
NA03	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	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	Climate Change Act (2008) and Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	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	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	Climate change Air	Climatic factors Air

		<p>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.</p> <p>The Climate Change Act was subsequently amended to 100% reduction, in order to reach the 2050 net zero target.</p>	<p>biodiversity. For example, design and layout will implement factors to increase resilience, such as protecting and enhancing the provision of green and blue infrastructure.</p>		
NA05	<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019)</p>	<p>Transposes the EU 'Habitats Directive' (92/43/EEC) and 'Bird Directive' (2009/147/EC) into UK law.</p> <p>The Directive lays down rules for the protection, management and exploitation of habitats and species of fauna and flora. 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>	<p>Protect and enhance species and habitats; promote the protection of European designated sites and protected species.</p> <p>A separate Habitat Regulations Assessment will determine if there are likely significant effects on designated sites.</p>	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliberately capture, injure or kill any EPS; • damage or destroy a breeding or resting place; • obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places; and • possess, sell, control or transport live or dead individuals, or parts of them. 			
NA06	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	<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	Environment Act 2021	The Environment Act sets out targets, plans and	Put sustainability at the centre of the Plan to create	Biodiversity Air	Biodiversity Air

		<p>policies for improving the natural environment, covering areas such as environmental protection, 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"> • Commitment to halt species decline by 2030. • Biodiversity Net Gain - a 10% mandatory improvement for development. • Local Nature Recovery Strategies. • Conservation Covenants – a local land charge and agreement between a 	<p>greener, fairer places to live and work, protecting and 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>Water Land Climate change Landscape</p>	<p>Water Soil Climatic factors Landscape</p>
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		<p>landowner and a responsible body.</p> <p>Other duties included in the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement for Defra to set legally binding targets on air quality, biodiversity, water, resource efficiency and waste reduction, proposed by 2022. • 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. 			
NA08	Equality Act 2010	The Act legally protects people from discrimination and harassment related to certain personal characteristics and to increase equality of opportunities.	<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</p>	Communities	Population

		<p>It sets out nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, and sexual orientation. 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"> (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected 	<p>population groups with protected characteristics, will be considered and minimised where required.</p>		
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		characteristic and persons who do not share it; (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.			
NA09	Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2015	The Regulations transpose the EU Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) into 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.	To identify and prevent potential damage to 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.	Biodiversity Landscape Water	Biodiversity Landscape Water
NA10	The Environmental Noise (England) (as amended) Regulations 2006	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	Environmental Permitting (England and	The aim of this Regulation is to streamline the legislative system for	Consideration to limit, and where possible, prevent any adverse impacts on the	Land Water Air	Soil Water Air

	Wales) Regulations 2016	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.	natural environment or human health.		
NA12	Flood and Water Management Act 2010	The Act seeks to address the threats of flooding and water scarcity and outlines organisational responsibilities for managing flood risk. 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.	Seek to reduce the risk of flooding to people, homes, and businesses across North Northamptonshire. To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered within the Plan.	Water Climate change	Water Climatic factors
NA13	Flood Risk Regulations 2009	This Regulation transposes the EU Floods	To minimise flood risk for existing and future	Water	Water

		<p>Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) on the assessment and management of flood risks into UK law.</p> <p>It sets out the duties regarding producing preliminary flood risk assessments, flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.</p>	<p>developments and set out measure to ensure future development will not exacerbate the risk of flooding.</p> <p>To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered within the Plan.</p>		
NA14	Flood and Water (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	<p>The regulations ensure that the existing flood and water regime will continue to operative fully following the UK leaving the European Union.</p>	<p>To minimise flood risk for existing and future developments and set out measure to ensure future development will not exacerbate the risk of flooding.</p> <p>To work collaboratively with key stakeholders to ensure flood risk is appropriately considered within the Plan.</p>	Water	Water
NA15	Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009	<p>The Regulations transpose the EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) into UK law.</p> <p>They set out to protect groundwater from being polluted by hazardous substances.</p>	<p>Seek to protect groundwater resources from pollution.</p>	Water	Water
NA16	Housing and Planning Act (2016)	<p>The Act contains a wide range of measures to expand homeownership,</p>	<p>To ensure sufficient supply of housing to meet the local needs.</p>	Communities	Population

		reform housing management and the planning process, and increase housing supply to tackle the housing crisis.			
NA17	Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002	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	Localism Act 2011	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	Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	This Act puts a duty on public bodies to make provision in connection with wildlife, SSSIs and	Protect and enhance wildlife and sites of interest. Development to give high regards to the enhancement	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora

		National Parks, for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.	and conservation of biodiversity.		
NA20	Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015	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	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	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	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

		of the Act outlines controls for demolition in conservation areas.			
NA22	Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	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 (1A) sets the duty on plan-makers 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.	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
NA23	Planning and Energy Act (2008)	The Act enables local planning authorities in England and Wales to set requirements for energy use and energy efficiency in local plans. It allows	To support opportunities to increase energy from renewable and low-carbon energy sources and consider the adoption of energy efficiency standards that	Climate change	Climatic factors

		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.	exceed the requirements of existing building regulations.		
NA24	Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015	The Act places a duty of 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	The National Emission Ceilings Regulations 2018	Transposes the EU National Emissions Ceilings Directive (2016/2284/EU) into UK law which aim to reduce emissions from a variety of substances and governs the emissions from various sectors, including	Seek to improve air quality to create a cleaner and healthier environment and find opportunities to contribute to a reduction in various emission sources to help meet the national targets. Consider the implication of proposals on changes to	Air Health and wellbeing	Air Human health

		<p>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>pollutant concentrations, and their implication on human and environmental health.</p>		
NA26	The promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources regulations 2011	<p>The Regulations transpose EU Energy and renewable sources Directive (2009/28/EC) into UK law.</p> <p>Aims to increase renewable energy.</p>	<p>To support and promote opportunities to increase energy from renewable and other low-carbon energy sources.</p>	Climate change	Climatic factors
NA27	The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014	<p>Transposes the Waste Regulations Directive 2008/98/EC into UK law.</p>	<p>Set out to improve resource efficiency to reduce waste and provide the opportunity for enhanced recycling and recovery.</p>	Land Health and wellbeing	Soil Human health
NA28	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017	<p>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</p>	<p>To contribute to the achievement of “Good Status” for all water bodies in North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Have regard to relevant River Basin Management Plans</p>	Water Biodiversity Health and wellbeing	Water Biodiversity Human health

		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 ecosystems, estuaries and coastal water (out to one mile from low water).	(RBMPs) in determining the spatial distribution of development. 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	The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended)	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	Town and Country Planning Act 1990	This Act regulates the development of land in England and Wales, containing 15 parts with 337 sections, including section 106 setting out	To accord with the requirements of the Act.	All matters	All matters

		details on planning obligations.			
NA31	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	<p>Primary legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK, covering four key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife • Nature conservation, the countryside and National Parks • Public rights of way • Miscellaneous provisions <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>	Protect species and habitats. Prevent any intentional or reckless disturbance to European Protected Species (EPS).	Biodiversity	Biodiversity, fauna and flora
NA32	A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (Defra, 2018)	<p>The Plan sets out the long-term approach to improving the natural environment. The plan sets out to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean air • Clean and plentiful water 	<p>To facilitate the goals and targets set out in the 25 Year Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the provision of sustainable transport methods to reduce vehicles using conventional fuel and meet emission targets. 	Biodiversity Land Air Water Climate change Landscape	Biodiversity Soil Air Water Climatic factors Landscape

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thriving plants and wildlife • Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards (including floods and droughts) • Using resources from nature more sustainably and effectively • Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment <p>It sets out to manage pressures on the environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigating and adapting to climate change • Minimising waste • Managing exposure to chemicals • Enhancing biosecurity <p>It identifies 6 action areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using and managing land sustainably • Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes • Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent damaging water abstraction. • Protect waterbodies to ensure quality. • Protect and enhance habitats and species. • Encourage tree planting and increase woodlands. • Promote the protection, enhancement and creation of green infrastructure. • Incorporate environmental net gain principles. • Build resilience to all types of flood risk and droughts, including natural management solutions. • Ensure sustainable use of natural resources. • Protect and enhance soils. • Enhance access to green spaces. • Protect and enhance the natural beauty and environmental value. • Meet waste reduction targets. • Protect native wildlife. 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste • Securing clean, healthy, productive, and biologically diverse seas and oceans • Protecting and improving our global environment <p>This is the 'sister document' to the Clean Growth Strategy and sits alongside the Industrial Strategy.</p>			
NA33	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (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	Build Back Better: Our Plan for	The Plan sets out the UK Government's plan to	Support the short and long-term growth and productivity	Communities	Population

	Growth (HM Treasury March 2021)	support growth through investment to allow every part 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.	Economy Climate change Connectivity and infrastructure	Material Assets Climatic factors
NA35	Building for a Healthy Life (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),	Communities Health and Wellbeing Connectivity and Infrastructure	Population Human Health Material assets Cultural heritage

			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 characteristics of a site and its wider context.		
NA36	The Clean Growth Strategy (BEIS, 2017)	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating Clean Growth • Accelerating the Shift to Low Carbon Transport 	Consider the approach to development and growth to help meet national net zero targets. Contribute to the reduction of emissions, promoting decarbonisation.	Climate change Air Economy Connectivity and Infrastructure	Climatic factors Air Material assets

		<p>– 24% of UK Emissions, including investing £1.2 billion to make walking and cycling the natural choice for shorter journeys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the Benefits and Value of Our Natural Resources – 15% of UK Emissions, encompassing establishing a new network of forests. <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>Greenhouse gas removal is closely linked to how the Sustainable Development goals will be achieved.</p>			
NA37	Clean Air Strategy (2019)	The Strategy recognises the importance of clean air in relation to health, life, the environment, and the economy.	Consider the approach to development and growth to help meet national net zero targets to protect human and environmental health. Consider specific actions to:	Communities Health and wellbeing Biodiversity	Population Human health Biodiversity Climatic factors

		<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. Actions are focussed on reducing and managing emissions to protect human health and the environment. The Strategy looks in details at the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing clean growth and innovation • Reducing emissions from transport • Reducing emissions at home • Reducing emissions from farming • Reducing emissions from industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve clean growth; ensure cleaner air whilst boosting economic growth • Consider future electricity, heat and industrial policies • Consider transport to reduce harmful emissions that do not exceed legal limits • Opportunities to reduce emissions from the home and address to fuel poverty • To improve environmental land management and agricultural practices to protect habitats from the impact of ammonia • To reduce industrial pollution. 	<p>Climate change Air Water Land</p>	<p>Air Water Soil Material assets</p>
NA38	<p>Climate change: second national adaptation programme (2018 to 2023)</p>	<p>The National Adaptation Programme sets out the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the challenges of</p>	<p>To seek opportunities for climate change adaptation in North Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>Climate change Biodiversity Water Air</p>	<p>Climatic factors Biodiversity Flora and fauna</p>

		<p>climate change in England over a five-year period, covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural environment • Infrastructure • People and the built environment • Business and industry • Local government sectors 		<p>Land Community Economy Connectivity and Infrastructure</p> <p>Landscape Health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Water Air Soil Population Material assets Landscape Human health</p>
NA39	<p>Net-Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming (Committee of Climate Change, 2019)</p>	<p>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.</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.</p>	Climate change	Climatic factors
NA40	<p>Connecting people: a strategic vision for rail (DfT, 2017)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Support the use of rail and seek opportunities to integrate the rail network with new and existing developments.</p>	<p>Connectivity and infrastructure</p> <p>Climate change</p>	Climatic factors

		performance whilst reducing exposure of passengers and workers to emissions.			
NA41	Creating a great place for living – Enabling resilience in the water sector (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 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. 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 public consultation which closed in 2019.	To work collaboratively with relevant water companies and stakeholders to understand the future water needs. Prevent negative impacts on water quality and water resources and ensure access to clean and plentiful water across North Northamptonshire.	Water	Water
NA42	Creating healthy places: Perspectives from NHS England's	This report investigates the importance of healthy place-making and the role of national and local	Creating healthier places requires closer working between the NHS, local authority planning teams,	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health

	Healthy New Towns programme (The King's Fund, 2019)	organisations in achieving change. It features the Healthy New Towns programme as an example of good practice for alternative ways of community engagement.	developers, public health professionals, voluntary sector organisations and communities themselves.		
NA43	Culture White Paper (DCMS, 2016)	The Culture White Paper sets out the government's ambition and strategy for the cultural sectors. It highlights the importance of historic assets in communities and that the development of the historic environment can drive regeneration, jobs and business growth. The government aims to promote the role culture plays in building stronger and healthier communities and boosting economic growth and will support the increased digitalisation of culture, to increase access. 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,	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

		government and corporate support.			
NA44	Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (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"> • double cycling to 1.6 billion by 2025 (from 0.8 billion in 2013) • increase walking activity to 300 stages per person per year in 2025 • increase the percentage of children aged 5 to 10 that usually walk to school from 49% in 2014 to 55% in 2025. 	<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	Designing out Crime (Design Council, 2011)	Resource has been created to help creative professionals understand more about how design can be used to combat	Creating strong and safe communities by reducing and preventing crime as well as the fear of it by tackling violence, anti-social	Communities	Population

		crime. It is a practical guide that will give design practitioners, clients, educators and students useful information about how the design of products, services and communications can help to prevent crimes occurring, lessen their impact, aid the recovery of stolen items or help apprehend offenders.	behaviour, re-offending and improving access to services and facilities.		
NA46	Drought response: our framework for England (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	Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future (Department for Business, Energy,	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.	Climate change Air Connectivity and infrastructure	Climatic factors Air Material assets

	and Industrial Strategy, 2020)		Encourage and support measures to provide a range of zero or low carbon sources of energy.		
NA48	Fair Society, Healthy Lives (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. 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”.	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
NA49	Future Water: The Governments	Sets Defra’s vision for the water sector up to 2030	To work collaboratively with relevant water companies	Water Biodiversity	Water Biodiversity

	<p>Water Strategy for England (Defra, 2008)</p>	<p>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. 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>	<p>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.</p>	Health and wellbeing	Human health
NA50	<p>Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England (2010)</p>	<p>Sets out how the Government's approach to public health challenges will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the population from health threats • Empower local leadership and 	<p>To consider the implication of proposals on the health and wellbeing of all people in North Northamptonshire, providing opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing.</p>	Health and wellbeing	Human health

		<p>encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone's health and wellbeing and tackle the wider factors that influence it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework. • Reflect the Government's core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles and 			
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		adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier.			
NA51	Historic England Good Practice Advice note - the Historic Environment in Local Plans (GPA1) (2015)	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.	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.	Historic environment Landscape	Heritage Landscape
NA52	Housing White Paper: Fixing our Broken Housing Market (MHCLG, 2017)	The White Paper outlines ways to address key issues in the housing market. It sets out a series of challenges, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for the right homes in the right places. • Building homes faster. • Diversifying the market. • Helping people now. 	To ensure sufficient supply of housing to meet the local needs. Accord with Government ambition to deliver sufficient housing, including a range of types and sizes and a mix of tenures, in the right locations.	Communities	Population
NA53	Inclusive Transport Strategy: Achieving	The Strategy sets out plans to make the UK's	Promote inclusive transport, where disabled users will be	Communities	Population

	equal access for disabled people (DfT, 2018)	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.	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.	Connectivity and Infrastructure	
NA54	Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (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"> • Artificial intelligence and big data; • Clean growth; • The future of mobility; and • Meeting the needs of an aging society. 	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

		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.			
NA55	Land Use: Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change (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	Levelling Up the United Kingdom (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	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (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 Plan to allow walking and cycling to be a key consideration.	Connectivity and infrastructure Health and wellbeing	Human health
NA58	Manual for Streets (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	Meeting our Future Water Needs: A National Framework for Water Resources (Environment Agency, 2020)	The national framework explores England's long-term water needs for: public water supplies, agriculture, the 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.	Contribute to the protection and enhancement of water quality to support biodiversity 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.	Water	Water
NA60	National Design Guide (MHCLG, 2021)	Provides guidance on how to design functioning places which contribute to improved health and	Consider guidance to allow North Northamptonshire to have character, nurture and sustain a sense of	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health Heritage

		<p>wellbeing, safety, security, inclusion, and create a sense of place and belonging.</p>	<p>community, and respond positively to issues affecting the climate through integrating the following 10 characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 3. Built form: compact form of development to optimise density, using the right mix of building types and forms, and creating destinations. 4. Movement: maximise journey choices through a connected transport network, prioritise and promote active travel, well-considered parking, services and utilities infrastructure. 5. Nature: integrate high quality green infrastructure and open spaces, increase sustainable management and use of water, and support biodiversity net gain. 6. Public spaces: create high quality and attractive local 	<p>Historic environment Landscape Connectivity and Infrastructure</p> <p>Water Land Air</p>	<p>Landscape Material assets Water Land Air</p>
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			<p>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> <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	National Model Design Code (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	Review opportunities and requirement for relevant design codes to be considered in new development, so that development within North Northamptonshire is	Communities	Population

		design set out in the National Design Guide (MHCLG, 2021).	designed to a high-quality and is healthy, green, environmentally responsive, sustainable and distinctive.		
NA62	National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (Environment Agency, 2020)	<p>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'.</p> <p>It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities.</p> <p>The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the risk to people and their property. • Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national. 	<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> <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>	Water Climate change Connectivity and infrastructure	Water Climatic factors

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development. <p>It sets out the need for collaborative action to deliver infrastructure which is resilient to flooding and coastal erosion.</p>			
NA63	National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government, 2021)	<p>The 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). 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan-making 	To ensure the Plan accords with the NPPF and achieves sustainable development.	All matters	All matters

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision-making • Delivering a sufficient supply of homes • Building a strong, competitive economy • Ensuring the vitality of town centres • Promoting healthy and safe communities • Promoting sustainable transport • Supporting high quality communications • Making effective use of land • Achieving well-designed places • Protecting the green belt land • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Conserving and enhancing the 			
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		<p>historic environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals. 			
NA64	National Planning Policy for Waste (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. This document should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.	Consider the implication of growth and development on waste management.	Land	Material assets
NA65	National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England (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	National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination	The National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Contamination Management (NQMS) is a	Support the appropriate assessment and investigation into potentially contaminated	Land	Soil

	Management , January 2017	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.	land across North Northamptonshire.		
NA67	Natural Environment: Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature (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. It states that the planning system will improve the sustainability of new low-carbon infrastructure and	Protect and enhance natural assets. Commit to achieving sustainable economic growth. Encourage the development of low carbon infrastructure; promote the protection, enhancement and creation of green infrastructure.	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

		its capacity to deal with climate change. This White Paper is supported by the Biodiversity 2020 Strategy.			
NA68	Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 2021)	This strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero target by 2050.	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 and support zero and low carbon energy.	Climate change Air	Climatic factors Air
NA69	Noise Policy Statement for England (Defra, 2010)	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. 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.” The aims to achieve the vision are:	Consider the implication of development on noise management. Promote good health and good quality of life.	Health and wellbeing Communities	Human health Population

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; • Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and • Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life. 			
NA70	Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy (Government Cabinet Office, July 2020)	<p>This document sets out a plan to rebuild the UK for a world living with COVID-19. 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. 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</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>	<p>Economy Health and wellbeing Connectivity and infrastructure</p> <p>Communities</p>	<p>Material assets Human health Population</p>

		encompasses further re-openings.			
NA71	Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England (2018)	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>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> <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>	<p>Land Communities</p> <p>Connectivity and infrastructure</p>	<p>Soil</p> <p>Material assets</p> <p>Population</p>
NA72	Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2015)	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	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	<p>Communities</p> <p>Health and wellbeing</p> <p>Connectivity and Infrastructure</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human health</p>

		<p>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>provision of sites in appropriate locations.</p>		
NA73	<p>Preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) for England (Environment Agency, 2018)</p>	<p>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 produced by the Environment Agency and updated every 6 years. It identifies 116 nationally significant flood risk areas by assessing the flood risk</p>	<p>The PFRA can be used to inform Strategic Flood Risk Assessments undertaken to inform the Plan.</p> <p>To fully assess the potential impacts of the Plan of flood risk locally.</p>	Water	Water

		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).			
NA74	Putting Health into Place (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 21st 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"> 1. Plan ahead collectively 2. Assess local health and care needs an assets 3. Connect involve and empower people and communities 4. Create compact neighbourhoods 5. Maximise active travel 6. Inspire and enable healthy eating 7. Foster health in homes and buildings 8. Enable healthy play and leisure 9. Develop health services that help people stay well 	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health

			10. Create integrated health and wellbeing centres		
NA75	Resources and Waste Strategy for England (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	Rural Proofing (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	Safeguarding our Soils: a Strategy for England (Defra, 2009)	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,	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. Protect and enhance the quality of soils in North Northamptonshire.	Land Water Climate change	Soils Water Climatic factors

		<p>affecting the supply of nutrients.</p> <p>The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better protection for agricultural soils. • Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon. • Building resilience of soils to changing climate. • Preventing soil pollution. • Effective soil protection during construction and development. • Dealing with legacy of contaminated land. 			
NA78	Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth (Department for Education, January 2021)	<p>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>	<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>	<p>Communities</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>Connectivity and infrastructure</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Material assets</p>
NA79	Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England	<p>This Historic England Advice Note seeks to provide advice on historic environment considerations as part of the Sustainability</p>	<p>Take into account the advice in the guidance note in assessing the effects on the historic environment.</p>	<p>Historic environment</p>	<p>Cultural heritage</p>

	Advice Note 8 (Historic England, 2016)	Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process, to ensure that potential impacts on the historic environment are properly assessed and mitigated.			
NA80	Surface Water Management Action Plan (Defra, 2018)	Contains actions that the government and others are taking to manage the risk of surface water flooding including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving risk assessment and communication. • Making sure infrastructure is resilient. • Clarifying responsibilities for surface water management. • Joining up planning for surface water management. • Building local authority capacity. 	Ensure that the surface water and drainage needs and implications of new homes, employment land, and infrastructure are taken into account. SFRA will assess surface water flood risk using the best available information.	Water	Water
NA81	Targets and indicators for Health 2020 (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	The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland,	Provides a framework for addressing air quality, emission reductions and	Consider the approach to development and growth to reduce emissions and help	Air Climate change	Air Climatic factors

	Wales and Northern Ireland (Volume 1) (Defra, 2007)	<p>concentrations to achieve the improvements in air quality.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term. • Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment. 	meet national net zero targets to protect human and environmental health.	Health and wellbeing	Human health
NA83	The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (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 st century energy management initiatives on 19 th century homes.	Seek opportunities to address energy efficiency in existing homes, as well as new developments.	Communities Connectivity and infrastructure	Population

NA84	The Environment Agency's approach to Groundwater Protection (Environment Agency, 2018)	Provides the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. It includes various 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.	To ensure the protection and enhancement of groundwater across North Northamptonshire, including improving water quality and reducing risks, including flooding.	Water Land Health and wellbeing	Water Soil Human health
NA85	The Equality Strategy: Building a Fairer Britain (Government Equality Office, 2010)	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. The Strategy is based on five interconnecting principles for change, constituting creating equal opportunities for all, developing power to	Facilitate high degrees of social mobility through the delivery of services and the provisions of sustainable transport infrastructure. Ensure location of services is effective and equally accessible. The Plan should be informed by the views of the community and therefore should be developed with high levels of community	Communities	Population

		<p>people, transparency, supporting social action and embedding equality. The Strategy is focussed upon five key priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years, education and social mobility. • Creating a fair and flexible labour market. • Opening up public services and empowering individuals and communities. • Changing culture and attitudes – building respect for all, tackling discrimination, hate crime and violence. • 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. 	consultation and engagement.		
NA86	The Heritage Statement (Department for	Sets out how the Government will support the heritage sector and	To capitalise on the area's heritage assets as a focus area for social and economic	Historic environment	Cultural heritage Population

	Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport, 2017)	<p>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>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 reflect a commitment to innovation and potentially the digitalisation of the heritage sector, to allow it to be resilient and enterprising.</p>	Communities	
NA87	The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy (Defra, 2015)	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,	<p>Avoid development and infrastructure that increases the risk of INNS introduction and spread.</p> <p>Work in collaboration with key partners to tackle existing</p>	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Flora and fauna

		freshwater and marine environments and also species native to one part of a country that become invasive in areas outside their natural range.	INNS issues within North Northamptonshire.		
NA88	The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (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"> • Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure; • Risks of shortages in the public water supply for 	<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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Climate change Land Air Water Biodiversity Economy Communities</p> <p>Landscape</p>	<p>Climatic factors Soil Air Water Biodiversity Flora and fauna Material assets Landscape Population</p>

		<p>agriculture, energy generation and industry;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks to natural capital including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity; • Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and • New and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals. 	<p>people and the built environment.</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>The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policy Statement (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.</p> <p>The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy has helped to inform this policy statement. It identifies five key areas for action:</p>	<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>	Water Connectivity and infrastructure	Water

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading and expanding our national flood defences and infrastructure. • Managing the flow of water more effectively. • Harnessing the power of nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and achieve multiple benefits. • Better preparing our communities. • Enabling more resilient places through a catchment-based approach. 	<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>		
NA90	The Marmot Review (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.</p> <p>The final report, 'Fair Society Healthy Lives', was published in February 2010, and concluded that</p>	<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.</p>	<p>Communities Health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Population Human health</p>

		<p>reducing health inequalities would require action on six policy objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give every child the best start in life 2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives 3. Create fair employment and good work for all 4. Ensure healthy standard of living for all 5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities 6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention. <p>A '10 Years on' update was produced in 2020.</p>			
NA91	The Road to Zero (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.	<p>Support the transition to low emission vehicles.</p> <p>Integrate the provision of electric vehicle charging</p>	<p>Communities</p> <p>Health and wellbeing</p> <p>Climate change</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human health</p> <p>Climatic factors</p> <p>Air</p>

		It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.	infrastructure into communities. Encourage a reduction in car journeys through promotion of alternative sustainable transport modes.	Air Connectivity and infrastructure	
NA92	The State of the Union: Reuniting Health with Planning (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"> • An integrated approach to planning for health and wellbeing • Local powers to drive change • Clear expectations on planning for health • Planning for healthcare infrastructure • Health evidence in planning • Evaluation of health in policies and development proposals • Capacity and capability of public health planners • Professional and sectoral training 	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human Health

NA93	Transport White Paper – Cutting Carbon, creating growth: making sustainable transport happen (Department for Transport, 2011)	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 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.	Consider the approach to development and growth to reduce emissions and help meet national net zero targets to protect human and environmental health.	Climate change Air Health and wellbeing	Climatic factors Air Human health
NA94	UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (Committee on Climate Change, 2022)	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. The risk assessment considers sixty-one UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following	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. To seek opportunities to address the eight risk areas identified in the third Climate Change Risk Assessment.	Climate change Biodiversity Air Land Water Landscape Economy Community Health and wellbeing Connectivity and	Climate change Biodiversity Flora and fauna Air Soil Water Landscape Material Assets Human health

		<p>eight risk areas for action in the next two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards. • Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought. • Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards. • Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards. • Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks. • Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system. 		<p>infrastructure</p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings. • Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas. 			
NA95	National Infrastructure Strategy: Fairer Faster Greener (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	UK Forestry Standard: The Government's approach to sustainable forestry (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.	Seek to protect and enhance the economic, social, and environmental benefits of forests. 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.	Climate change Water Air Land Biodiversity Landscape Historic environment Health and wellbeing	Climatic factors Water Air Soil Biodiversity Landscape Cultural heritage Human health

NA97	UK Geodiversity Action Plan (2009)	<p>The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It has been developed and agreed 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"> • Furthering our understanding of geodiversity. • Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design. • Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity. • Conserving and managing our geodiversity. • Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity • Sustaining resources for our geodiversity. 	Protect and enhance geodiversity across North Northamptonshire.	Land	Soil Material assets
NA98	UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations	The document identifies nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution around roads as the most immediate air	Aim to improve air quality across North Northamptonshire to reduce	Climate change Air	Climatic factors Air

	(Department for Transport, 2017)	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.	impacts on human health and the environment. Contribute to reducing congestion, encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles and support greater use of public transport and cycling and walking infrastructure.	Connectivity and infrastructure Health and wellbeing	Human health
NA99	Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (PHE, 2020)	This guidance supports local authority public health and planning teams to use the powers of the planning system 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.	Contribute towards improving the quality of the environment by actively promoting walking 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.	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health
NA100	Waste Management Plan for England (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	Water Abstraction Plan (Defra, 2021)	This document sets out how the government will	Encourage sustainable abstraction to help to protect	Water	Water Population

		reform water abstraction management over the coming years and how this will protect the environment and improve access to water.	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.	Communities	
NA102	Water for Life (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	Wetland Vision (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	Working Together to Promote Active Travel (Public Health England, 2016)	The guidance recognises the importance of active travel for public health and wellbeing, and the environment. It sets out	Contribute to increased walking and cycling by endorsing the creation of spaces which are well	Communities Health and wellbeing	Population Human health

		actions for transport planners and others to help increase active travel.	connected, well designed, safe and accessible. Seek to link active travel and public transport.	Connectivity and infrastructure	
NA105	Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006	These regulations make provision for the identification and remediation of contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.	Ensure that any land contamination is identified and managed through suitable means, in accordance with national legislation.	Land	Land contamination
NA106	The State of the Environment: Health, People and the Environment (Environment Agency, 2020)	This report focuses on the link between health and access to a natural environment which is clean and of high quality.	Contribute to the enhancement of a high-quality environment through growth in North Northamptonshire. This can be done by providing the opportunity to level-up communities, tackling green inequality at scale and improve the health and wellbeing of those living and working in North Northamptonshire.	Health and Wellbeing Air	Open spaces, sports and recreation Air
NA107	The State of the Environment: Water Quality (Environment Agency, 2018)	This report provides an assessment of water quality in England.	Ensure that growth and associated infrastructure in North Northamptonshire protects and enhances water quality, amenity and biodiversity.	Biodiversity Water	Biodiversity Water quality and supply
NA108	The State of the Environment: Water Resources	This report provides an overview of England's water resources in 2018.	Ensure that growth in North Northamptonshire considers development in the context of available water resources	Water	Water quality and supply

	(Environment Agency, 2018)		and balancing economic growth with protecting and enhancing the water environment.		
NA109	Secured By Design (UK Police Service)	Secured by Design is the official police security initiative that works to improve the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings to provide safe places to live, work, shop and visit.	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 improving access to services and facilities.	Communities	Population
NA110	Gypsies, Roma and Travellers: The ethnic minorities most excluded from UK education (Higher Education Policy Institute, 2022)	This report provides an insight into the barriers to education for Gypsy and Travellers.	To have regard to the barriers to education in relation to Gypsy and Traveller sites in North Northamptonshire	Communities	Education
NA111	Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities (Seventh Report, Session 2017-19, HC 360) , Women and Equalities Committee (House of Commons, 2019)	This report provides information on the inequalities in access to education and healthcare.	To have regard to the barriers to education and healthcare in relation to Gypsy and Traveller sites in North Northamptonshire	Communities Health and Wellbeing	Education Human Health
NA112	Gypsy and Traveller's lived experiences, overview, England	The report presents an overview of qualitative research exploring the lived experiences of	To have regard to the findings of this research with regards to Gypsy and	Communities Health and Wellbeing	Housing Education

	and Wales: 2022 (ONS, 2022)	Gypsies and Travellers in England and Wales	Traveller sites in North Northamptonshire		
NA113	The Housing (Assessment of Accommodation Needs) (Meaning of Gypsies and Travellers) (England) Regulations 2006	This legislation sets out the meaning of Gypsies and Travellers.	To ensure the needs of those who are defined as Gypsies and Travellers are considered through the preparation of the Plan.	All matters	All matters
Regional and sub-regional					
RE01	Oxford-Cambridge Arc: Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc (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 was under development for the area which took a strategic approach to planning for growth and infrastructure over the long term, including the delivery of one million homes and	To have regard to the Oxford-Cambridge Strategic Framework.	All matters	All matters

		<p>jobs by 2050, whilst respecting the natural environment and not making changes to the Green Belt protections. The consultation on the Strategic Framework took place between 20 July to 12 October 2021.</p> <p>However, in January 2023 the Government confirmed a new focus for the area by announcing that it would support proposals to establish an Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership, along with a commitment to provide up to £2.5million government funding for the Partnership to support its priorities in delivering sustainable growth and environmental enhancements for the region.</p>			
RE02	Planning for Growth: A position statement from England's Economic Heartland's Transport Forum (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</p>	<p>To have regard to the strategic policy position and seek opportunities to enhance the transport network across North Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>Economy Connectivity and infrastructure</p>	<p>Material Assets</p>

		<p>competitiveness, grow the economy, and build economic resilience for the country.</p> <p>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"> • To provide high quality, safe access to services, including education and training opportunities; and • To protect and enhance the built 			
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		and natural environment.			
RE03	Regional Transport Strategy: Connecting People, Transforming Journeys (England's Economic Heartland, 2021)	The Transport Strategy sets out a policy framework designed to harness the region's inherent strengths in order 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'.	To have regard to the Transport Strategy and seek opportunities to enhance the transport network across North Northamptonshire to deliver sustainable transport that can improve health and wellbeing, environmental improvements, and enhance employment opportunities.	Connectivity and infrastructure Economy Community Health and wellbeing Climate change Air	Material assets Population Human health Climatic factors Air
RE04	South East Midlands Energy Strategy (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	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

		emissions and improve energy efficiency.			
RE05	South East Midlands Where Innovation Fuels Growth – Strategic Economic Plan (SEMLEP, 2017)	<p>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.</p> <p>To realise the potential, the plan recognises the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that strategic pieces of East-West transport infrastructure, and transport connectors into them, are built; • Have world-class broadband and wireless networks in place to respond to rapidly changing business needs and capabilities; • Put current and future employer needs at the heart of skills development; and 	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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver sufficient homes to meet the housing needs of our ever-growing population. 			
RE06	Growing People – SEMLEP Skills Plan (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"> • Skill gap - a shortage and mismatch of skilled people needed by employers in growth sectors. • 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. • Digital – the growth of the digital tech sector and the increasing pace of the introduction of 	<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</p> <p>Connectivity and infrastructure</p>	<p>Material assets</p> <p>Population</p>

		<p>the use of digital technology in other sectors will continuously have an impact on the way we work and job roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BREXIT – potential impact on migration patterns. 			
RE07	<p>Heritage at Risk: Midlands Register 2021 (Historic England, 2021)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>To have regard to the sites on the Heritage at Risk register within and in proximity to North Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>Historic environment Landscape</p>	<p>Cultural heritage Landscape</p>
RE08	<p>South East Midlands Local Industrial Strategy (SEMLEP, 2019)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>To have regard to the Local Industrial Strategy to help ensure the long-term productivity in North Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>All matters</p>	<p>All matters</p>

		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.			
RE09	Anglian River Basin District Draft Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027 (Environment Agency, October 2021)	<p>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.</p> <p>This plan is closely aligned with the government’s 25-year Environment 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</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</p>	Water Climate change Connectivity and infrastructure	Water Climatic factors

		<p>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>flood risk is appropriately considered with the Plan.</p>		
RE10	Draft Drought Plan 2022 (Anglian	<p>Provides an overview on how Anglian Water propose to manage water</p>	<p>To work with the relevant water companies and stakeholders to ensure the</p>	Water	Water

	Water, March 2021)	resources during a drought to protect public water supplies, whilst minimising any environmental impacts that may arise.	risk to water supplies are understood and appropriately addressed.		
RE11	Water for Life and Livelihoods – Part 1: Anglian River basin district. River basin management plan (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. 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>	<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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical modifications • Pollution from waste water • Pollution from towns, cities and transport • Changes to the natural flow and level of water • Negative effects of invasive non-native species • Pollution from rural areas <p>In addition, it notes that climate change will lead to increasing winter rainfall, more intense storms and continuing sea level rise.</p>			
RE12	Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategy (Environment Agency, 2021)	This strategy sets the Environment Agency's approach to managing new and existing abstraction and impoundment within the Nene catchment in the Anglian River basin district.	<p>Encourage sustainable abstraction to help to protect the environment and improve access to water.</p> <p>Encourage the sustainable use of water resources to minimise the impact of increased development and population growth across North Northamptonshire.</p>	Water	Water
RE13	River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan (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	Seek to reduce the risk of flooding to people, homes, and businesses across North Northamptonshire.	Water Connectivity and infrastructure	Water

		<p>sustainable flood risk management over the next 50 to 100 years.</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>		
RE14	<p>River Nene Regional Park CIC: River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan (River Nene Regional Park, 2014)</p>	<p>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 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"> • Be cleaner and healthier. 	<p>To protect and enhance all water bodies in North Northamptonshire, to ensure access to clean and plentiful water, to reduce the risk of 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>	<p>Water Climate change Biodiversity Historic environment Landscape</p>	<p>Water Climatic factors Biodiversity Cultural heritage Landscape Fauna and flora</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support more fish, birds, and other wildlife. • Meet the needs of drinking water suppliers and business. • Provide a more attractive amenity for people to enjoy. • Be sensitively managed by everyone whose activities affect it. • Protect its irreplaceable heritage assets. • Continue to provide drainage and manage flood risk. 			
RE15	Water Resources Management Plan 2019 (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	<p>North Northamptonshire is bordered by the following local authority areas, for which the following local plan documents are adopted or in preparation:</p> <p>To the west, the former Daventry district adopted the Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) 2011-2029 in 2020. West Northamptonshire is preparing the plans for the former Northampton borough, the Northampton Local Plan Part 2, and for the former South Northamptonshire District, the Part 2 Settlements and Countryside Local Plan. 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</p>	To have regard to adopted plans bordering North Northamptonshire.	All matters	All matters
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		<p>development in the period up to 2050.</p> <p>To the north west, Harborough District Council adopted the Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031, 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 Local Plan 2011-2036 in January 2020, which includes allocations for around 9,500 homes, alongside several employment land allocations.</p> <p>In Rutland, the adopted Local Plan sets out the planning policies for 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>			
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		<p>To the east, the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 was adopted in May 2019, setting out the approach to securing sustainable development to meet their identified need.</p> <p>Peterborough Local Plan 2016 to 2036 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 Local Plan 2030 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, MK 2016-2031, which makes the provision for the development of 26,500 net dwellings and an additional 282.1 hectares of employment land.</p>			
RE17	Shared regional principles for	This document sets out the key environment principles for the Oxford-	To ensure that the principles of development in the Oxford-	Health and Wellbeing	Open spaces,

	protecting, restoring and enhancing the environment in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc (Environment Working Group Oxford-Cambridge Arc Leadership Group, 2021)	Cambridge Arc and provides clear targets and action towards tackling some of the biggest environmental challenges. These include achieving net zero carbon, the management of natural capital and resources as well biodiversity net gain and health and wellbeing.	Cambridge region are taken forward and applied to development in North Northamptonshire.	Climate Change Biodiversity Air Water	sports and recreation Mitigation Biodiversity Air Water quality and supply
RE18	Economic Recovery Strategy for the South East Economic Recovery Strategy for the South East Midlands (semlep.com) Midlands (SEMLEP, 2020)	This Economic Recovery document brings together in one place the various actions that the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) and its local partners have taken, are taking, and will take in future, to help the South East Midlands to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to grow and prosper over the longer term.	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
RE19	Active Travel Strategy: The Ambition (England's Economic Heartland, 2022)	This document describes a high-level ambition for active travel in England's Economic Heartland and is the first phase in developing a full active travel strategy for the region.	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
RE20	Regional Bus Strategy	The Regional Bus Strategy complements the	To have regard to the strategic policy position and	Economy	Material Assets

	(England's Economic Heartland, 2022)	work of local authorities by setting a consistent regional vision and approach to bus travel, while also identifying opportunities to improve cross-boundary bus movements.	seek opportunities to enhance the transport network across North Northamptonshire	Connectivity and infrastructure	
Local					
LC01	North Northamptonshire Corporate Plan (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 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>	To ensure the commitments are considered and reflected in the development of the Plan.	All matters	All matters

		<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 JCS (the strategic Part 1 Local Plan); these plans include non-strategic development allocations and detailed policies in line with the vision, strategy and strategic policies of the JCS.	To have regard to the Local Plans in North Northamptonshire.	All matters	All matters

		<p>The Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough was on adopted 26 February 2019; the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby was adopted on 29 September 2021; and the Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan was adopted on 1 December 2021. The East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 is at an advanced stage of the plan-making process with the Examination hearings having taken place in April and May 2022. Following receipt of the responses to the Main Modifications consultation for consideration, the Inspector is expected to issue the Inspector’s Report in April 2023. It is anticipated that the final Local Plan Part 2 will be presented to Members of the Council’s Planning Communities EAP in July 2023, with adoption by full Council.</p>			
LC03	North Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Plans	There are currently 44 designated neighbourhood plan areas across North Northamptonshire, of	To have regard to the Neighbourhood Plans in North Northamptonshire.	All matters	All matters

		<p>which 20 have been adopted or 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. In the Corby area, the made plans are Gretton; and Cottingham.. In the East Northamptonshire area, the made plans are Barnwell; Barrowden and Wakerley; Brigstock; Chelveston cum Caldecott Glapthorn; Hargrave; Higham Ferrers; King's Cliffe; Raunds; Ringstead; 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>			
LC04	<p>Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Northamptonshire County Council, 2017)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>To have regard to the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.</p>	<p>Land</p>	<p>Soil</p>

		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.			
LC05	Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan (3rd edition) 2015-2020	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	Northamptonshire Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2015)	This SPD explains how biodiversity shall be integrated into the development process to ensure that legislation and	Protect and enhance species and habitats. Enhance opportunities for achieving biodiversity net gain.	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Flora and fauna

		<p>policy requirements are met, and best practice standards are achieved. It offers a standardised approach which all applicants should follow. The SPD expands on the main principles set out in the NPPF and relevant local planning policies, and should be used together with expert ecological assessment of the details of each specific case.</p>			
LC07	Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2020-2023	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of the issues of climate change and its impact on Northamptonshire; • Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases across the County; and • Planning for and adapting to the 	<p>Seek opportunities to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change across North Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>Climate change</p>	<p>Climatic factors</p>

		impacts of climate change.			
LC08	Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment and Key Issues and Green Infrastructure Making the Connection (RNRP, 2006)	<p>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.</p> <p>The assessments are important to consider key challenges including climate change, changes to 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</p>	To have regard to the principles in the Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy.	All matters	All matters

		access, leisure and recreation.			
LC09	Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020	Vision to improve health and wellbeing of all people in Northamptonshire and to reduce health inequalities by enabling people to help themselves.	To support opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing and address local inequalities.	Health and wellbeing Communities	Human health Population
LC10	Northamptonshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 (Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board)	Outlines the aims to achieve health and wellbeing goals. The priorities are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every child gets the best start 2. Taking responsibility and making informed choices 3. Promoting independence and quality of life for older adults 4. Creating an environment for all people to flourish 	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	Northamptonshire Rail Strategy (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	Northamptonshire Walking Strategy (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 encourage more people to choose to walk and guide future walking action plans.	To have regard to the Northamptonshire Walking Strategy to encourage walking in North Northamptonshire.	Connectivity and infrastructure Health and wellbeing	Material assets Human health
LC13	Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (2012)	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	Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document 2015	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	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

		increasing recreational disturbance.			
LC15	Adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (July 2016) https://www.nnpjdu.org.uk/publications/adopted-north-northamptonshire-joint-core-strategy-2011-2031/	<p>The JCS is the strategic Part 1 Local Plan for the former boroughs/districts of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. It outlines a big picture to be developed in more detail through the Part 2 Local Plans and by Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>Paragraphs 9.51 to 9.57 and Policy 31 provide guidance for the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People.</p>	To ensure the commitments are considered and reflected in the development of the Plan.	All matters	All matters
LC16	North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (March 2019)	The primary objective of the GTAA is to provide a robust assessment of current and future need for the former North Northamptonshire Authorities of Corby Borough Council, East Northamptonshire Council, Kettering Borough Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough	To have regard to the findings of this research with regards to Gypsy and Traveller sites in North Northamptonshire	Communities Health and Wellbeing	Housing
LC17	Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy: A ten	This strategy has been developed together by NHS providers, local	To support opportunities to enhance health and	Health and wellbeing	Human health Population

	year strategy 2023-2033 (2023)	councils, voluntary and community organisations and other partners, with a focus on enabling residents to benefit from equitable opportunities to live their best life, wherever they are and wherever they live in the county.	wellbeing and address local inequalities.	Communities	
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Equality Screening Assessment

The Equality Screening Assessment form must be completed to evidence what impact the proposal may have on equality groups within our community or workforce. Any proposal that identifies a negative impact must have a full Equality Impact Assessment completed before the proposal progresses further.

1: Proposal

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Requirement	Detail
Title of proposal	<p>North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan – Scope and Options (Regulation 18) Consultation</p> <p>The North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan (otherwise referred to as ‘the Plan’), once adopted, will form part of the statutory Local Plan for North Northamptonshire.</p>
Type of proposal: new policy / change to policy / new service / change to service / removal of service / project / event/ budget	The Plan will contain new policies and site allocations, but there are existing Local Plan policies in place which are used for the determination of planning applications.

Requirement	Detail
What is the objective of this proposal?	<p>The Plan will set out planning policies and site allocations to meet the identified accommodation needs for gypsy and travellers¹ and ensure high standards of design, development and living conditions.</p> <p>Preparation of the Plan will follow a process prescribed in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), involving several stages, including various public consultations and examination by an independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>The current stage of plan preparation is the first stage which is the gathering of evidence and inviting comments on the scope and contents of the Plan. It is important to clarify that no decisions have been taken on the content of planning policies at this stage to ensure a frontloaded consultation process and because the technical work to inform decisions continues to be developed. The responses to the Scope and Options consultation document will inform and contribute to the development of detailed planning policies and proposals at later stages of the plan making process.</p> <p>Subsequent stages for the preparation and production of the Plan, together with estimated dates, are provided in the consultation document as set out below:</p>

¹ The term 'Gypsy and Travellers' does not constitute a single, homogenous group, but encompasses a range of groups with different histories, cultures and beliefs including Romany Gypsies, Scottish Travellers and Irish Travellers recognised as ethnic groups under the Equality Act 2010, and others such as New (New Age) Travellers, Waterway Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Requirement	Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Plan for consultation – September/October 2023 • Publication consultation – January/February 2024 • Submission to the Secretary of State – April 2024 • Examination – July 2024 • Adoption – February 2025 <p>It is important to note that the timetable will be subject to a review by the Planning Communities Executive Advisory Panel in Summer 2023.</p>
<p>Has there been/when will there be consultation on this proposal? (List all the groups / communities, including dates)</p>	<p>The plan preparation process will involve several key stages, all of which include opportunities for consultation and engagement in accordance with relevant legislation and the adopted North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council’s commitment to eliminate any forms of discrimination and ensure that consultation reaches everyone, including hard to reach groups who have traditionally been under-represented in consultation exercises.</p> <p>Consultation on the Scope and Options is the first stage of the preparation process. Although prior consultation related to the technical evidence base and North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan informed the content and key issues identified within the Scope and Options consultation document.</p>

Requirement	Detail
	<p>The following arrangements will be put in place for the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan - Scope and Options (Regulation 18 consultation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended eight weeks consultation period to ensure the Easter holiday period does not disadvantage those wishing to comment on the document. • Early notification of the consultation period to the Parish and Town Councils following Panel approval. • Emails will be sent to all elected members prior to the start of the consultation. • All contacts on the planning policy consultation database will be informed of the consultation and invited to respond. This will include Gypsy and Traveller representative organisations. • Local newspapers will be used to cover and advertise the consultation. • Online publication of all consultation documents on the Councils website via the Consultation and Engagement hub. • Social media will be used. • Discussion with relevant authorities on cross boundary strategic planning matters. • Hard copies of relevant consultation materials will be made available at Council offices and libraries. • Planning officers will be available during office hours to respond to any phone or email queries relating to the consultation.

Requirement	Detail
Did the consultation on this proposal highlight any positive or negative impact on protected groups? (If yes, give details)	<p>It is considered that the matters to be addressed in the Plan will provide scope to promote equality of opportunity and positively impact on all sections of the community in North Northamptonshire, including those who share a protected characteristic. The most significant impacts are, however, likely to be felt by Gypsy and Travellers and by members of settled communities living near existing or future sites. This is because the Plan is about development of accommodation specifically for Gypsy and Travellers.</p> <p>It is reiterated that no decisions have been made on the content of planning policies, including the number of sites required or location for allocation of sites, at this first stage in the plan making process. As the Plan evolves and policy decisions are taken, it may be necessary to update the Equality Screening Assessment. It is intended that this screening assessment will be made available and published alongside the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan – Scope and Options (Regulation 18) consultation to allow consultees to comment including organisations concerned with promoting equality for those with protected characteristics such as representatives of Gypsy and Traveller communities.</p>
What processes are in place to monitor and review the impact of this proposal?	The Council will continue to measure progress with preparing and implementing the Plan through the Authorities Monitoring Report, published annually, and made available on the Council's website. Later in the plan making process, a set of monitoring indicators will be developed specifically for the Plan.
Who will approve this proposal? (Committee, CLT)	Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

2: Equality Consideration

In turn, consider each protected group to ensure we meet our legal obligations of the Equality Act (2010).

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations	Changes	Impact
Age Different age groups that may be affected by the proposal in different ways.	The Plan is likely to have a positive impact on both adults and young people. The provision of appropriate sites to meet the accommodation needs of gypsy and travellers will facilitate access to education and healthcare that benefits all age groups but particularly children and older people. Sufficiency of sites will be of greater importance to the young who are more likely to form new households and generate a need for more accommodation. The introduction of design standards which ensure suitable living conditions and high-quality sites is likely to benefit all age groups, such as allowing access to those with limited mobility or sight, or mother and toddler facilities and seating for older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact? • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face? 	Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group. Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations	Changes	Impact
<p>Sex</p> <p>Is one sex affected more than another or are they affected the same?</p>	<p>The Plan is inclusive to all members of the community and makes no distinction between genders. The provision of appropriate sites to meet the accommodate needs of gypsy and travellers will benefit all gender groups with improved access to education and healthcare. The introduction of design standards which ensure suitable living conditions and high-quality sites will benefit all gender groups, but the potential to improve safety and perception of safety will be of greater importance to women and girls.</p>		<p>Positive</p> <p>Neutral</p> <p>Negative</p>
<p>Disability</p> <p>It is likely to have an effect on a particular type of disability? Why?</p>	<p>The Plan is likely to have a positive impact on people with disabilities. The provision of sites to accommodate the needs of gypsy and travellers will facilitate access to support services and healthcare. The introduction of design standards which ensure suitable living conditions and high-quality sites provides opportunity to facilitate safe and inclusive environments which has the potential to help prevent hate crime and will further benefit</p>		<p>Positive</p>

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations	Changes	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact? • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face? 	Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
<p>Gender Reassignment</p> <p>Will there be an impact on trans males and/or trans females?</p>	<p>people with disabilities, such as improving accessibility for those with limited mobility or sight.</p> <p>The Plan is likely to have a positive impact on people with the protected characteristic of 'gender reassignment'. The provision of sites to meet the accommodation needs of gypsy and travellers will facilitate access to support services and healthcare. The introduction of design standards which ensure suitable living conditions and high-quality sites provides opportunity to facilitate safe and inclusive environments which has the potential to help prevent hate crime.</p>		Positive
<p>Race</p> <p>Are people from one ethnic group affected more than people from another ethnic group?</p>	<p>Because some Gypsy and Travellers (Romany Gypsies, Scottish Travellers and Irish Travellers) are recognised as belonging to an identifiable ethnic group, the Plan is likely to have a very positive impact on the race characteristic, by addressing the existing and future accommodation needs of gypsy and travellers directly. At the time of the 2021 Census the percentage of people</p>		Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations	Changes	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact? • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face? 	Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
<p>Sexual Orientation</p> <p>Are people of one sexual orientation affected differently to people of another sexual orientation?</p>	<p>identifying their ethnic group as Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma that lived in North Northamptonshire was 0.1% and 0.2% respectively. This is the same percentages recorded at national level across England and Wales as a whole².</p> <p>The introduction of design standards which ensure suitable living conditions and high-quality sites provides opportunity to facilitate safe and inclusive environments which has the potential to help prevent hate crime. Hate crime statistics show that Northamptonshire has one of the highest offence rates with sexual orientation as a motivating factor in the country in 2019/20³.</p>		Positive
<p>Marriage & Civil Partnership</p> <p>Are people in a Marriage or Civil Partnership treated less favourably?</p>	<p>The Plan is likely to benefit people facing this kind of discrimination. The provision of sites to accommodate the needs of gypsy and travellers</p>		Positive

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>

³ Hate Crime Statistics, 26 November 2021 <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8537/CBP-8537.pdf>

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations	Changes	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact? • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face? 	Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
<p>Pregnancy & Maternity</p> <p>Are people who are pregnant, or have a baby of 6 months old or younger, effected by this proposal?</p>	<p>The Plan is likely to have a positive impact on pregnant women and mothers, as well as other primary care givers. The provision of sites to meet the accommodation needs of gypsy and travellers will facilitate access to support services and healthcare. The introduction of design standards which ensure suitable living conditions and high-quality sites will benefit pregnant women and mothers, as well as other primary care givers, such as facilities for mother and toddlers.</p>		Positive
<p>Religion or Belief</p> <p>Does the proposal effect people differently depending on whether they have or do not have a religion or a belief?</p>	<p>The Plan is likely to have a positive impact in terms of religion or belief. The provision of sites to accommodate the needs of gypsy and travellers will facilitate access to places of worship, support services and other community facilities. The introduction of design standards which ensure suitable living conditions and high-quality sites provides opportunity to facilitate safe and inclusive</p>		Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations	Changes	Impact
	environments which has the potential to help prevent hate crime.		
<p>Health & Wellbeing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health behaviours (E.g. diet, exercise, alcohol, smoking) 2. Support (E.g. community cohesion, rural isolation) 3. Socio economic (E.g. income, education). 4. Environment (E.g. green spaces, fuel poverty, housing standards). 	<p>The Plan is likely to have a positive impact in terms of health and wellbeing. The provision of sites to meet the accommodation needs of gypsy and travellers will facilitate access to services and facilities, including healthcare, education, and other community facilities. As research⁴ suggests that Gypsy and Travellers often experience disproportionate socio-economic disadvantage, including access to education and skills training, and health services, particularly primary care. The provision of sites to accommodate the needs of gypsy and travellers will have a potential impact on community cohesion and community relations in the area in which it is located.</p>		Positive

⁴ For example, [Gypsies and Travellers lived experiences, overview, England and Wales: 2022](#)

3: Equality Impact

Question	Response
What overall impact does the proposal have on the protected groups? If a negative impact is identified anywhere in section 2, the response will be Negative Impact.	Positive Impact
Does an Equality Impact Assessment need to be completed? (Yes, if any negative impact is found.)	No
Copy attached to relevant report?	Yes
Is this document going to be published with the relevant report?	Yes

4: Ownership

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Question	Response
Directorate	Place and Economy
Service area	Planning Policy
Lead officer's name	Terry Begley
Lead officer's job title	Principal Planner (Corby Area)
Lead officer's contact details	
Lead officer's signature	
Date completed	22/02/23

Completed forms must be sent to Equalities@northnorthants.gov.uk