

# Public Document Pack




**North  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

**Meeting:** Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel  
**Date:** Monday 16th May, 2022  
**Time:** 9.30 am  
**Venue:** Lahnstein Room, Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering, NN15 7QX

## To members of the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel

Councillors David Brackenbury (Chair), Valerie Anslow, Mark Dearing, Barbara Jenney, David Jenney, Steven North and Kevin Thurland

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## **Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel**

At 9:30am on Thursday 24 March 2022

Held in the Council Chamber, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

### **Present:**

#### Members

Councillor David Brackenbury (Chair)

Councillor Mark Dearing

Councillor Barbara Jenney

Councillor David Jenney

Councillor Steven North

#### Officers

George Candler – Executive Director for Place and Economy (virtual attendance)

Rob Harbour – Assistant Director for Growth & Regeneration

Simon Richardson – Interim Planning Policy Lead Manager

Bernice Turner – Senior Planning Officer (Local Plans)

Sue Bateman – Senior Planning Officer

Andra Stopforth – Principal Planning Officer

Richard Palmer – Planning Delivery Manager

Louise Tyers – Senior Democratic Services Officer

#### Also present

Councillor Mike Tebbutt – Assistant Executive Member

### **58. Sir William Powell**

The Chair advised that Sir William Powell, former MP for Corby and East Northants, had sadly passed away. Members and officers paused for a moment of silence in his memory.

### **59. Apologies for Non-Attendance**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Valerie Anslow and Kevin Thurland.

### **60. Members' Declarations of Interest**

The Chair invited those who wished to do so to declare interests in respect of items on the agenda.

No declarations of interest were made.

## **61. Minutes**

### **RESOLVED:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed.

## **62. North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement**

The Panel considered a report of the Senior Planning Officer (Local Plans), which outlined the responses received during consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), including officers' comments to the representations and resulting changes to the document. The Panel was also asked to recommend the revised SCI to the Executive and then full Council for adoption. The report was marked as agenda item 4 on the agenda.

It was a statutory requirement for the Council, as a local planning authority, to have an adopted SCI. Public consultation was undertaken on the draft SCI for six weeks between December 2021 and January 2022 and 49 individual representations had been received from 15 respondents including individuals, community groups, organisations and statutory bodies.

The main proposed amendments to the SCI as a result of the consultation included the following:

- Table 1, which set out the specific and general consultation bodies for engaging at consultation stages for local plans, had been updated to include: town councils, parish meetings, lead local flood authorities, and civic societies.
- Examples of 'hard to reach' groups were included at paragraph 2.16.
- References and hyperlinks to the Council's Consultation Hub and Scheme of Delegation had been added.
- Clarification was provided in paragraph 3.8 that the normal period for consultation on a planning application was 24 calendar days from publication.
- Reference to parish meetings had been included alongside parish and town councils at paragraphs 3.4 and 3.10.
- Clarification had been provided at paragraph 3.20 that the IT limitations preventing publication of all consultee comments related specifically to minerals and waste applications, but that comments could be made available upon request.

During discussion, the following principal points were noted:

- i. In response to a question as to why a hard copy of the document had not been placed in Desborough Library, it was clarified that the libraries listed in the report were those identified as the main libraries in the district. Ward Members were able to request that documents be placed in other libraries if required.
- ii. It was noted that civic societies had now been included as consultation bodies and it was believed that there were such societies in Wellingborough, Kettering and Desborough.



## **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To note the representations received during public consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement and officers' response to the representations.
- (ii) To endorse the revised Statement of Community Involvement and recommend its approval to the Executive and that it be forwarded to full Council for adoption.

### **63. Consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations and Implementation**

The Panel considered a report of the Senior Planning Officer and Principal Planning Officer, which raised awareness of the implications of biodiversity net gain and to enable the Panel to inform a Council response to the consultation on biodiversity net gain regulations and implementation. The report was marked as agenda item 5 on the agenda.

The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) were currently consulting on proposals for how biodiversity net gain would work in practice and feedback from the consultation was intended to shape developing legislation, processes and guidance. The report also set out some of the potential implications for the Council of the introduction of biodiversity net gain.

During discussion, the following principal points were noted:

- i. Whilst supporting the proposals, members did have a number of concerns. The main concerns were around the off-setting proposals, particularly that developers could look to take the approach of buying units just to get planning applications through. The proposal for off-site biodiversity units would not create better local communities and there was a need to avoid a market-based scenario. It was however recognised that the Environment Act had already passed into law and had set the overall framework for biodiversity net gain. That however did not affect other requirements such as the need to reflect the mitigation hierarchy by avoiding or reducing impacts, enhancing and restoring on site and only then creating or enhancing off-site habitats.
- ii. It was noted that the legislation would not be implemented until November 2023. Some concern was expressed that there may be a risk to rely on the legislation when it is not yet in place, but until then the local policy should prevail to secure biodiversity net gain.
- iii. It was confirmed that biodiversity net gain was already sought through Policy 4 in the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), however there was no specific target and no agreed mechanism for measuring the scale of the gain. There was now a metric in place, and we were encouraging developers to use this where appropriate to try and demonstrate and quantify the gain.
- iv. In response to a question as to what size of development would trigger biodiversity net gain and what would the effect be on affordability, officers clarified that most developments would be covered except small scale and householder applications or other specific exemptions following the

results of the consultation. It was Natural England's view that the proposals would not adversely affect viability. The costs of the scheme would be dependent on a number of factors including size, location and the existing habitat on site. The cost of providing this would come first as it was mandatory requirement. The requirement was framed as a pre-commencement condition meaning that the biodiversity gain condition must be agreed and discharged before development can begin. In determining whether to grant permission or approve the biodiversity gain plan, whether the developer had adequately assessed the onsite and offsite options would be a material planning consideration.

- v. It was noted that NNC was a large landowner and could sell biodiversity units. A net gain assessment would be needed of council owned land to enable the creation of a land bank. This would potentially offer a good opportunity to deliver offsets locally where they would be of most benefit to residents. Members stated that small scale developments should be encouraged to deliver trees on streets and widen grass verges.
- vi. Officers were seeking to work with West Northamptonshire Council about how to take this work forward. Developers were also already considering the implications for them.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) To note the report.
- (ii) That the comments made by the Panel will be considered by the Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Economy, in the response to the consultation on biodiversity net gain regulations and implementation.

**64. Executive Forward Plan**

The Executive Forward Plan for March to June 2022 was noted.

**65. Close of Meeting**

The Chair thanked Members and officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.35am.

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Chair

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Date



## PLANNING POLICY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Ise Valley Strategic Plan</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Emma Arklay</b> <b>Senior Development Officer (Planning Policy)</b> <a href="mailto:emma.arklay@northnorthants.gov.uk">emma.arklay@northnorthants.gov.uk</a>
<b>Executive Member</b>	<b>Councillor David Brackenbury</b> <b>Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration</b>

### List of Appendices

#### Appendix A – Ise Valley Strategic Plan

#### 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1. To inform Members of the content of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan (the Plan / IVSP) and to outline the benefits of working in partnership to deliver the Plan.
- 1.2. The report also seeks for Members to endorse the Ise Valley Strategic Plan to be presented to the Executive for approval.

#### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 The Ise Valley Strategic Plan can be used as a tool to attract funding that will support the development and delivery of projects within the Ise Valley that will enhance the natural environment. This Report will provide a brief insight into the preparation, content and structure of the Plan and set out examples of success to date.
- 2.2 There is an overview of how the IVSP links to other plans, programmes and strategies, including the Corporate Plan (2021). This will show how implementation of the IVSP will not only bring tangible benefits to people and wildlife but also support the delivery of Council priorities and duties conferred through the Environment Act 2021 and other national policy and regulatory requirements.

### 3 Recommendations

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- 3.1 It is recommended that the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel:
- a) Note the contents of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan and acknowledge it has been prepared by the River Nene Regional Park (RNRP) on behalf of, and with input from, the River Ise Partnership, of which the Council is an actively participating member;
  - b) Endorse the content of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan and ask that it be presented to the Executive for approval.

#### **Reason for Recommendations**

- 3.2 Endorsement from the Executive Advisory Panel and then approval from the Executive will enable Officers of the Council to use the Ise Valley Strategic Plan as a tool to attract funding streams and develop and deliver collaborative projects that will protect and enhance the Ise Valley and deliver priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan (2021).

#### **Alternative Options Considered**

- 3.3 The Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel could resolve not to endorse the content of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan nor recommend its passage to the Executive for endorsement. However, not endorsing the Plan would send a message to the River Ise Partnership that the Council does not see the River Ise Strategic Plan as a credible tool with which to attract funding for the development and delivery of projects that will protect and enhance the Ise Valley.
- 3.4 This approach could diminish the Council's credibility as an active participant within the Partnership which could reduce the Council's ability to make recommendations for project development and delivery. Rejecting the Ise Valley Strategic Plan and the opportunity to actively participate on the River Ise Partnership will not stop the Council delivering against priorities set out in the Corporate Plan (2021) but it will reduce the number of opportunities available to deliver multiple priorities effectively and efficiently.

### 4 Report Background

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#### **River Ise Partnership**

- 4.1 The River Ise Partnership first came together in October 2019 through a collective interest in the Ise Valley. The Partnership seeks to provide a coordinated approach to project development and delivery aimed at improving access to and the quality of the Valley. It is a strong and inclusive network with membership drawn from both North and West Northamptonshire Councils, land holders, tourism operators, government agencies and non-governmental organisations (pp 61-63 Appendix A). The Partnership aims to facilitate partner and community participation in the planning, development and united enjoyment of the Ise Valley.

- 4.2 The vision of the Partnership is to ensure that the Ise Valley plays a central role in North Northamptonshire's sustainable and economic prosperity; that its landscape character and sense of place is highly regarded and valued as much as our planned growth.
- 4.3 The Partnership have sought, through the writing of the IVSP, to develop a large-scale and ambitious programme that will enhance the quality of the Valley's natural environment for people and wildlife, create socioeconomic benefits through tourism opportunities for local communities, provide for natural flood management and mitigate against climate change. Further information on the mission and aims, membership and leadership of the Partnership can be found on PP 61 – 63 of the IVSP – Appendix A.

#### **Initial Progress**

- 4.4 Since its inception in 2019, and despite the impact of COVID-19 on working practices, the Partnership have made positive progress in the production of the IVSP. As part of this work they have identified and secured funding towards the creation of an Ise Valley Way (see below) and initiated the South Meadows project in Wicksteed Park which will provide river and flood plain restoration for ecological and geomorphological enhancements and reduce flood risk to industrial buildings upstream along the Slade Brook (see below).

#### **IVSP Project - Ise Valley Way**

- 4.5 The Ise Valley Way is a 'flag-ship' project for the River Ise Partnership and is included as a project within the IVSP (pp75-93 Appendix A). Initially proposed to connect the towns of Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby, through the Ise Valley, as a continuous walking and cycling route for both leisure and commuting purposes, the Partnership have begun to proactively link this project with the existing Greenway Project.
- 4.6 There is an appetite to look beyond separate approaches to advance the Greenway and Ise Valley Way. This is an opportunity for the Council and the Partnership to collaborate and share assets, skills and knowledge to bring forward a North Northamptonshire Greenway; an opportunity to improve active travel through safer routes by uniting the existing Greenway and the Ise Valley Way and then beyond by creating spurs to enhance accessibility to key network routes and develop links between settlements. It is intended that the Ise Valley Way will be incorporated into the Forward Plan for the Greenway to enable a coordinated and collaborative, North Northamptonshire approach for delivery.
- 4.7 Work on the Ise Valley Way has already been started by the Partnership; the route is identified, has been refined through ground truthing and consultants are being commissioned to develop a Feasibility Study with Interim Designs to take it to the next level. Funding of £40k was secured from the Community Renewal Fund to provide for the Feasibility Study. Funding of £100k has been secured from the Garden Communities Fund for the surfacing of land north of Wicksteed Park to Deeble Road to enhance pedestrian access, a further submission has been made to extend the River Ise footpath/cycleway to link with Hanwood Park. We are hopeful of being successful with that bid too.

- 4.8 In tandem, the Greenway Project Officer has secured £80k from the Community Renewal Fund to provide a Detailed Design Study for a new Greenway route through the recently regenerated Chester House Estate. The new Greenway route is the first step in linking the Greenway and the Ise Valley Way as it will connect to the proposed Ise Valley route in the south.

#### **IVSP Project - South Meadows, Wicksteed Park**

- 4.9 This project is also identified in the Ise Valley Strategic Plan (Table 6 p56, Appendix A) and will be delivered in two phases. Phase one provides a hydrological element, the detailed design of which is complete; it will involve the re-engineering of the River Ise and Slade Brook confluence to restore natural meandering and to reconnect the river with its natural floodplain. Phase two will bring forward a number of interventions to enhance the study area through habitat creation to increase species diversity and improve access and connectivity for people and wildlife from the wider Wicksteed parkland into and throughout the study area.
- 4.10 Educational opportunities will be capitalised through Wicksteed Park's education programme. The project will become a showcase of innovation for school children, university students and members of the local community. Interpretation boards and tailored programmes will set out to explore a variety of issues addressed through the delivery of the project including flooding and water management, ecology and landscape restoration and climate change mitigation.
- 4.11 The Project is likely to cost between £100k to £150k to deliver in its entirety. The Environment Agency have invested £50k in association with the River Nene Regional Park's investment of £40k. The focal point for this initial funding will be on delivering phase one of the project. Discussions are currently underway with developers with respect to securing S106 monies to deliver phase two.

#### **Ise Valley Strategic Plan – An Effective Strategy**

- 4.12 These examples of project development through the Ise Valley Strategic Plan demonstrate that the River Ise Partnership is already using the Plan as a practical tool to initiate partnership collaboration and attract funding streams to deliver project opportunities to enhance the Ise Valley.
- 4.13 The Plan itself provides an effective strategy to focus on bringing people, projects and funding together in an opportunistic but coordinated manner. Part 1 identifies the study area (Figure 1 p7, Appendix A) and provides a narrative around the plans, policies and programmes informing the Plan.
- 4.14 Part 2 sub-divides the study area into three zones to determine, on a local scale, how they function individually and as a whole within the study area. The zones are profiled to establish an existing baseline with respect to biodiversity, connectivity and access, community health and well-being, landscape, heritage, flooding and water management and ecosystem services. Opportunities to enhance the existing baseline are identified and the narrative continues by setting out wider issues affecting the Ise Valley.

- 4.15 Part 3 sets out that the successful implementation of the Plan is based on three strands:
- 1) Development of working practices within the Partnership and through partnership collaboration (Table 4 p51, Appendix A);
  - 2) Integration of general project principles (Table 5 p53, Appendix A) into project development; and
  - 3) Delivery of individual projects (Table 6 p56, Appendix A) that will realise the Mission and Aims of the Partnership.

#### **The Plan in Combination with other Plans, Strategies and Programmes**

- 4.16 The IVSP provides a focus on the Ise Valley. It is seeking to exemplify a natural best for North Northamptonshire by identifying opportunities to enhance the quality of the Valley for people and wildlife. The Plan aims to protect and enhance the natural and historic assets within the Ise Valley, improve access and connectivity throughout the Valley, contribute to flood and climate change management and mitigation and to create opportunities that provides for recreation, attracts tourism and supports inward investment, etc.
- 4.17 There are a lot of cross cutting threads from the ISVP into other plans, strategies and programmes that the Council is involved with. The Habitat Opportunity Mapping (HOM) for Northamptonshire is particularly relevant with respect to supporting project identification and development for the ISVP. HOM is a geographical information system; it's a tool that can be used to identify areas suited for the expansion of key habitats. It aims to highlight locations where new habitat can be created that will deliver specific benefits, whilst taking identified constraints into account.
- 4.18 These benefits are often referred to as ecosystem services. They benefit people, wildlife and the environment as a whole, for example, through the provision of food, regulation of flooding and air quality and cultural benefits such as recreational opportunities. Habitat Opportunity Mapping is an effective tool and will ensure that priority projects for the IVSP can be selected to deliver multiple benefits. It will also provide a basis to carry such projects forward into the emerging Natural Capital Investment Plan.
- 4.19 The Natural Capital Investment Plan will set out the priority and pipeline projects for North Northamptonshire to enhance and benefit our natural capital. It will inform the development of the emerging Strategic Plan for North Northamptonshire and it has a wide range of other uses, for example it will inform the Local Nature Recovery Strategy that the Council has a duty to produce. It can help meet the Council's climate change objectives and the Grounds Maintenance Team can use it to enhance existing assets.
- 4.20 Ultimately, projects in the IVSP that are informed by HOM and carried forward into the Natural Capital Plan will be in a better position to be awarded funding from multiple sources including streams made available through Government initiatives, capital funding from existing budgets and planning obligations.

- 4.21 The relevance of the IVSP with respect to duties arising from the Environment Act 2021 and policies emerging from the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan will be drawn out in Section 5 (Issues and Choices). Links between the IVSP and other corporate policies and plans will be made in Section 7 (Relevant Policies and Plans).
- 4.22 The narrative in 4.6 identifies an aspiration to link the Ise Valley Way with the existing Greenway and the future ambition of delivering a North Northamptonshire Greenway. The Council is also invested in delivering green infrastructure, open spaces and opportunities for outdoor recreation so our residents and visitors can lead active, fulfilled lives. Section 8 sets out a list of background papers. It is a list of plans and programmes which will benefit from the IVSP and the IVSP will contribute to their deliverance.

## 5 Issues and Choices

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### Issues arising

- 5.1 At the March Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel (PPEAP) (24/03/22) a Report<sup>1</sup> was presented with respect to the consultation by the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on proposals for how biodiversity net gain will work in practice. The Report explained the issues associated with biodiversity net gain.<sup>2</sup>
- 5.2 The Report noted that the Environment Act 2021 provides the legislation to protect and enhance the environment for future generations. This includes measures to clean up the country's air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity and make better use of our resources. These changes will be driven by new legally binding environmental targets enforced by a new independent Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) which will hold government and public bodies to account on their environmental obligations.
- 5.3 In addition to the above, the report highlighted other policy areas that are being developed to meet the ambitions set out in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. The Council will need to identify opportunities to deliver these policies and be seen to do so. It is likely that a number of strategies and approaches will need to be put in place to achieve this. When approved by the Executive, the IVSP can be used by Officers as a legitimate tool to help deliver some of these policy requirements, for example:
- The IVSP seeks to expand, improve and connect the network of green and blue spaces along the Ise Valley. Enhancing existing and creating new habitats will provide places for nature to become rich in wildlife and more resilient to climate change. The Ise Valley could therefore be proposed to form part of the Government's objective to create a national **Nature Recovery Network** which will in turn open up funding opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> [Item 5: Consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations and Implementation \(Bateman and Stopforth\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> an approach to development that means habitats for wildlife must be left in a measurably better state than they were before the development.



- The **species abundance target** will be a legally binding target to halt the decline of nature by 2030. Further legal detail is needed but it is anticipated this policy could stimulate investment. The IVSP is an ambitious programme to enhance the quality of the Valley's natural environment. It provides project opportunities and can direct action to secure investment opportunities. It will not only deliver an increase in species abundance but also boost species diversity.
- **Planning reforms** - The Planning for the Future White Paper published in August 2020 proposed wider reforms to the planning system. Improving biodiversity will be a core objective; the IVSP seeks to strengthen partnership working and collaboration to develop, secure funding towards and deliver projects that will enhance the natural environment.

The IVSP requires that project development integrates a set of project principles specifically to increase biodiversity, strengthen the network of habitats and ensure they become more resilient to current and future pressures.

- 5.4 Paragraphs 5.2 to 5.3 above look at some of the legislative and policy changes coming forward that relate to the natural environment. It is important to note the IVSP is also about the health and wellbeing of people who live, work and visit areas within the Ise Valley; it seeks to promote leisure opportunities to encourage active lifestyles. It aligns with national strategies including the [Cycling and Walking Plan for England](#) (2020) and [Putting Health into Place](#) (2019) which lead to local approaches like the development of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) and [Supporting Northamptonshire to Flourish: Northamptonshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020](#).
- 5.5 The Council could choose to develop its own plans and strategies to address emerging legislative and policy requirements without the input of other partners and stakeholders. This would mean that the Council would be in overall control for the development of initiatives to meet their legislative and policy duties and the delivery process. However, this would be turning a back on effective and on-going joint working with partners. It would probably lead to missed project and funding opportunities. It would not provide the most effective and efficient use of resources and would not reflect best practice.
- 5.6 Ultimately, endorsing the Ise Valley Strategic Plan is an endorsement to a collaborative and project led enhancement of the Ise Valley for people and wildlife. The ISVP will form part of the toolbox the Council will need to deliver new legislative and policy requirements.

## 6 Next Steps

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- 6.1 A similar Report to this will be taken to the Climate Change, Growth and Environment Executive Advisory Panel (CCEAP) as information and to seek endorsement of the content of the IVSP and recognition for the role it has with respect to climate change mitigation and the environment.

- 6.2 Approval of content from both PPEAP and CCEAP and a recommendation from PPEAP to take the IVSP to Executive for approval will see it progress through the decision-making process to Executive. The preferred outcome will be:
- a) An approval for the IVSP to be used both internally and, in partnership, externally, as a mechanism to enhance the Ise Valley for the benefit of people, wildlife and the natural environment; and
  - b) Recognition that the IVSP can help the Council deliver their priorities set out in the Corporate Plan and other relevant plans, programmes and strategies
- 6.3 The IVSP will be presented to Executive for approval.

## **7 Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation**

- 7.1.1 The IVSP was prepared with, and for the River Ise Partnership by the River Nene Regional Park (RNRP). The commission was jointly funded by the former Borough Councils of Kettering and Wellingborough and the Environment Agency. The former Borough Councils of Kettering and Wellingborough made their contribution using their existing planning policy budgets which have now been carried forward into planning policy budgets within NNC.
- 7.1.2 A part-time (0.5 fte) Senior Project Officer (SPO) was funded by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit (JPDU) from a grant funding stream which has been carried forward into the JPDU budget within NNC. The funding was for a three-year period ending in 2023. The SPO is appointed by the River Nene Regional Park CIC and is based in their offices. The Officer is responsible for the administration of the River Ise Partnership, for project development and delivery relating to the IVSP and for exploring funding opportunities that contribute to the delivery of projects within the IVSP.
- 7.1.3 The SPO is currently exploring a funding opportunity through the National Lottery Heritage Fund to secure funding for an additional Project Officer who can continue to support project development within the Ise Valley and secure funding to deliver them. This is a demonstration of the commitment to the continuation of the Ise Valley Partnership and the delivery of the IVSP.
- 7.1.4 The Ise Valley project forms part of the Council's Planning Policy Teams' work programme, staff resources are identified to support it. There are no direct financial implications as a result of endorsing the content of the ISVP. There may be financial implications with respect to supporting project delivery where additional funding is sought to contribute to and / or match other funding secured. However, it is expected that these resource and financial implications will be met through existing budgets and team structures.

7.1.5 The work being undertaken by the Ise Valley Partnership is transformational, having created strong working relationships across the North Northamptonshire area, which have delivered the IVSP and is now securing funds to deliver improvements in the environment.

## 7.2 Legal and Governance

7.2.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the endorsement of the IVSP. The Ise Partnership was created prior to the formation of NNC. Current Membership consists of:

7.2.2

Members	Friends of
Environment Agency	Anglian Water
Natural England	Boughton Estates
Forestry Commission	West Northamptonshire Council*
North Northamptonshire Council	
River Nene Regional Park CIC	
Bedfordshire, CN Wildlife Trust	
Wicksteed Charitable Trust	

\*West Northamptonshire Council are seeking Membership to the Partnership subject to approval by their Planning Policy Committee

7.2.3 Political oversight is provided by Cllr Mike Tebbutt (Assistant Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration) for North Northamptonshire Council.

## 7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

### North Northamptonshire Corporate Plan 2021

7.3.1 Key commitment one of the Corporate Plan targets *active, fulfilled lives*. It aims to help people live healthier, more active, independent and fulfilled lives. Delivering projects through the IVSP will improve accessibility within the Valley and beyond which will enable people to engage with outdoor leisure opportunities that will enhance their mental health and well-being.

- 7.3.2 Key commitment three seeks to create *safe and thriving places* that will enable a thriving and successful economy that shapes great places to live, learn, work and visit. The Ise Partnership aims to contribute to the development of regenerative tourism. The IVSP will become a vehicle for project development and delivery to provide socio-economic benefits for communities through employment and income earning opportunities. The drive to promote the heritage and cultural legacy of the Ise Valley will strengthen cultural identity throughout the towns and villages within the Ise Valley and attract tourism and visitors to the area.
- 7.3.3 Key commitment four is focused on a *green, sustainable environment* for North Northamptonshire. The Ise Partnership is committed to providing a coordinated, partnership approach that improves access to, and the quality of the Ise Valley. It seeks to increase the level and diversity of community participation in this resolve. The projects to be delivered will help to tackle climate change, protect the countryside and enhance the natural environment and ecology. Enabling cycle and pedestrian access from Wellingborough to Corby through the Ise Valley Way will promote opportunities for sustainable, active travel. The Council, through its active involvement, will be taking a lead on improving the green environment and demonstrate its clear leadership in tackling environmental sustainability.

### **Planning Policy**

- 7.3.4 The Ise Valley Strategic Plan directs actions and activities that will enhance the quality of the Ise Valley's natural capital and promote access to it. It will help to mitigate climate change and ensure the Ise Valley plays a central role in North Northamptonshire's sustainable and economic growth while enhancing the landscape character and sense of place.
- 7.3.5 Where planning proposals arise within the Plan's study area it can be used to support decision-making and to secure developer contributions (where appropriate). This will help to deliver the strategy set out within the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (JCS) and the relevant Part Two Local Plans for Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby. In particular, the IVSP seeks to protect and enhance the historic environment (JCS Policy 2), landscape character (JCS Policy 3), biodiversity (JCS Policy 4) and the water environment (JCS Policy 6). Contributions could also be sought to support and enhance community services (JCS Policy 7), facilitate connectivity (JCS Policy 8; Policy 15) and enhance green infrastructure (JCS Policy 19; Policy 20)

## **7.4 Risk**

- 7.4.1 There are no significant risks relating to the endorsement of the IVSP. However, it should be noted that the delivery of the Ise Valley Way and other projects within the IVSP will, in some cases, require the willingness of landowners to enable project delivery.
- 7.4.2 The Partnership, and in particular the River Nene Regional Park and NNC have a strong track record of positive working relationships with landowners to

deliver a variety of projects, for example, habitat enhancements, natural flood management and improvements to access and connectivity.

- 7.4.3 The Partnership will work proactively with landowners by explaining and demonstrating the benefits of enabling projects to be delivered on their land; they will seek to secure funding streams for project delivery to encourage engagement, these may include S106 contributions and capital project funding alongside other funding bids.

## **7.5 Consultation**

- 7.5.1 The IVSP does not form part of the Development Plan for North Northamptonshire so it is not subject to any statutory consultation process.

- 7.5.2 It has been subject to consultation within the Ise Partnership on the following dates:

- February 2021
- July/August 2021
- November 2021
- February 2022

- 7.5.3 These opportunities to comment allowed members of the Partnership to ‘fact-check’ the Plan and provide comments so that the Plan went through an iterative process of development and refinement. In the future, as the stakeholder network develops, the level of engagement will increase to identify new projects, enlist volunteers, secure funding, etc.

## **7.6 Consideration by Scrutiny**

- 7.6.1 None at this time, though should members of the Scrutiny Commission request this as an addition to the work programme, officers will be happy to provide information.

## **7.7 Equality Implications**

- 7.7.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment is being prepared in consultation with the Council’s Equalities team. It will be complete and ready for submission with the Report to Executive as an appendix.

## **7.8 Climate Impact**

- 7.8.1 Endorsing the use of the IVSP will provide key positive impacts in respect of climate change. The IVSP sets out actions, activities and an approach that, if delivered, will help the Ise Valley become a connected landscape of places and spaces to enable freedom of movement for people and wildlife; our existing and important habitats can be restored and developed so they become more

resilient to climate change, bring about environmental gain, enable ecological networks to grow and secure natural heritage through better management.

- 7.8.2 Activities will include habitat restoration and creation which for example, can assist with carbon sequestration through tree planting; enhancing the water environment to facilitate natural flow so flooding is reduced and natural flood risk management introduced and improved connectivity to enable active travel by foot or cycle to reduce reliance on private vehicles.

## **7.9 Community Impact**

- 7.9.1 The IVSP seeks to increase the level and diversity of partner and community participation in the planning for and development and delivery of projects throughout the Ise valley. The Valley will become more accessible, and people will benefit from the enhanced natural environment, greater natural capital and multiple ecosystem services.

- 7.9.2 Community participation and engagement will ensure projects are focussed on meeting local needs and foster community cohesion. A beautiful Ise Valley will promote recreation and sustainable tourism from Wellingborough to Corby and beyond. People will benefit in terms of health, fitness and well-being.

## **7.10 Crime and Disorder Impact**

- 7.10.1 There are no identified negative impacts in relation to crime and disorder related to this report; indeed, research<sup>3</sup> has shown that well managed and maintained open spaces and natural environments can help to reduce the prevalence of crime and vandalism and improve the aesthetic quality of an area.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

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- 8.1 [The Environment Act 2021](#)
- 8.2 [The 25 Year Environment Plan 2018](#)
- 8.3 [North Northamptonshire JCS 2011 - 2031](#)
- 8.4 [The Plan for the Brough of Wellingborough 2019](#)
- 8.5 [Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan 2021](#)
- 8.6 [Part Two Local Plan for Corby 2021](#)
- 8.7 [Corporate Plan North Northamptonshire Council 2021](#)

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<sup>3</sup> Forest Research: <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/?s=crime&type=&date-from=&date-to=>





# River Ise

PARTNERSHIP





**River Ise Partnership**



**Friends of the Partnership**





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## Part 1: Context and Document Review

### 1. Introduction

The Ise Valley Strategic Plan (referred to as “this Plan” in this document) is an initiative of the River Ise Partnership (referred to as “the Partnership”), a working group of the Nene Valley Catchment Partnership. Its purpose is twofold. Firstly, it brings together background information on the valley and links to the large body of relevant studies and policies. Secondly, it identifies opportunities to enhance the quality of the Ise Valley’s natural capital and promote access to it, mitigate against climate change and ensure the Ise Valley plays a central role in north Northamptonshire’s sustainable and economic growth while enhancing the landscape character and sense of place.

The Ise Valley sits within a growth area that will see the expansion of major conurbations including Kettering, Wellingborough and Corby. As such, it will come under increasing pressure through demand for recreation opportunities and ecosystem services such as clean air and water. As a result of this growth there will be the requirement for new accessible, high quality green spaces as well as the rejuvenation of existing green spaces for local communities.

The River Ise is central to the Valley and to this Plan. As the largest tributary of the River Nene, it is of particular importance not only within its locale but also to the functioning of the broader Nene Catchment.

### 2. About the River Ise Partnership

The Partnership currently includes representation from local authorities, land holders, tourism operators, government agencies and non-governmental organisations. The Vision is fully identified in the Terms of Reference (Appendix 5.1), in short, the aim is to provide a coordinated, partnership approach that improves access to, and the quality of the Ise Valley. Together the Partnership will facilitate and deliver a large-scale programme of projects to enhance the Valley’s natural environment, strengthen its natural capital and develop its ecosystem services. The importance of sustainable and economic prosperity is recognised alongside the retention of landscape character and creating a sense of place. The mission for the Partnership is that

- the Ise Valley becomes a connected landscape of places and spaces in which our existing and important habitats are restored and developed so they become more resilient to change, bring about environmental gain, enable ecological networks to grow and secure natural heritage through better management.
- the River Ise is cared for, is improved and enhanced to facilitate sustainable natural flow where water quality and habitats are improved, and flooding is reduced.

- the Ise Valley is recognised as providing a setting that allows people and wildlife to co-exist harmoniously and interdependently; where authentic tourist experiences that celebrate and conserve heritage and culture can occur.
- the benefits afforded by the Ise Valley are taken into account, not just by environmentalists but by all within its catchment.
- the ecosystem services supplied throughout the Ise Valley are identified, enhanced and protected so that the Valley continues to provide on a grand scale to let people share, experience and embrace nature and local distinctiveness.

### 3. Aims of the River Ise Partnership

The Strategic Plan will facilitate the delivery of meaningful outputs that align with the vision and mission identified above. The aims for the Ise Valley are to:

- develop a River Ise Linear Park that creates links and pathways for people and wildlife and augments connectivity from Wellingborough through Kettering and to Corby.
- facilitate the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change through project implementation.
- contribute to the reduction of flood through natural flood management techniques.
- maximise biodiversity net gains throughout the Valley,
- improve water quality in the River Ise.
- create new green infrastructure (GI) as well as protecting and enhancing existing GI.
- contribute to the development of regenerative tourism that creates socio-economic benefits for communities through employment and income earning opportunities whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

### 4. The Study Area

The Ise Valley is in north Northamptonshire. The main towns in the valley are Kettering and Wellingborough. The town of Corby is also close by. A number of smaller settlements/parishes are in or close to the valley (see Appendix 2). Most of the river, and its catchment, fall within North Northamptonshire Council's area, but the first few miles of its course, from its source to Arthingworth, fall within West Northamptonshire Council's area.

The predominant land use in the area is agriculture with some significant areas of natural vegetation, with remainder being made up of fragmented areas of leisure and sport, discontinuous urban fabric (parishes listed in Appendix 2) & some commercial & industrial development (such as Finedon Industrial Estate). The landscape character of the area is [Northamptonshire Vales](#) & [Rockingham Forest](#). The geology consists of "Lias Group - Mudstone, Siltstone, Limestone and Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock." ([British Geological Survey](#)). The area is relatively flat, there is only just over 100m difference in elevation between the source of the River Ise and its mouth.

The Plan's study area is illustrated in Figure 1. The map shows the Ise, its tributaries and the river catchment. It includes the Sustainable Urban Extensions that are planned or under



## 5. Plans, Policies and Evidence Informing This Plan

The following document review identifies legislation, strategies, plans and policy which bear relevance to this Plan. The review is important because the following documents either provide the rationale behind the need for this Plan or inform the content of this Plan to ensure the mission and aim of the Partnership is delivered through project development and delivery across the Study area. This in turn will help to deliver many aims and objectives for national and locally led ambitions and initiatives with respect to the natural environment and for health and well-being.

Some of the documents reviewed include project opportunities; where these are located in the study area, they have been identified and set out on Table 1 - 3 in Section 3 as an 'opportunity long list'. The Partnership can begin to identify priorities and work up project plans so that when funding streams become available projects can be delivered.

### 1. European Directives

A "directive" is a legislative act that sets out a goal that all EU countries must achieve. However, it is up to individual countries to devise their own laws on how to reach these goals. Some EU law has been carried over into UK law and continue to influence practice despite the Brexit transition period expiring in December 2020. Those of relevance to this Plan include:

The [Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC](#) which commits member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies. It is transposed into UK law through [The Water Environment \(Water Framework Directive\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2017](#). These regulations establish a framework for 'community' action in the realms of water policy. They impose duties on stakeholders like the Environment Agency with respect to protecting and improving water quality. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will help to protect and enhance the water quality of the River Ise.

The [Floods Directive 2007/60/EC](#) relates to the assessment and management of flood risk. It is transposed into UK law through the [Flood Risk Regulations 2009](#) and the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#). Stakeholders are required to identify flood risk and develop [Flood Risk Management Strategy](#). These set out the nature of identified risk and propose measures to manage them. FRMPs should also take into account relevant environmental objectives of the [Water Framework Directive](#). The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will help to reduce flooding in the study area and deliver environmental objectives identified for the River Ise.

The [Habitats Directive 92/42/EEC](#) aims to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora. It is transposed into UK law through the [Conservation of Habitats and Species \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#). These regulations carry forward the objectives of the directive. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will help to protect, conserve and enhance existing areas of natural importance identified in the Ise Valley e.g. Southfields Marsh Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI).



The [Birds Directive 2009](#) Birds Directive 2009 aims to protect all European wild birds and the habitats of listed species and has helped to establish a network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). It is transposed into UK law through the [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the [Habitats Regulations 2010](#). Habitats Regulations 2010. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will help to maintain the integrity of the Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area, part of which is located in an area around Wellingborough where the River Ise meets the River Nene. There will also be project opportunities to conserve and restore site features in accordance with Natural England's Conservation Objectives and Supplementary Advice.

## 2. National Approaches

The **Environment Bill** brings about urgent and meaningful action to combat the environmental and climate crises being faced in the UK. It is currently at the Report stage in the House of Commons but must be laid by Parliament by October 2022. It acts as a key vehicle for delivering the bold vision set out in the [25 Year Environment Plan](#) (2018).

The **25 Year Environment Plan (2018)** sets out the Government's approach to improve the UK's air and water quality and protect threatened plants, trees and wildlife species. The Plan sets out 10 goals 'for improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we found it'. The goals are set out below and it is noted, where relevant, how the work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will help to deliver them in a local context.

- **Clean air:** protecting and enhancing the natural environment of the Ise Valley will help produce clean air as trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen and natural resources such as newly created wetlands, planted trees and improvements to soil will filter many pollutants from the air.
- **Clean and plentiful water:** river and floodplain restoration measures to the River Ise and Slade Brook will improve water quality and flow.
- **Thriving plants and wildlife:** projects will restore poor quality and create new habitats, including wetlands, to encourage wild-life rich environments.
- **Reducing the risks of harm from environmental hazards:** projects will result in a hydrologically efficient River Ise that will reduce flooding by reconnecting the river with its floodplain.
- **Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently**
- **Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment:** projects will deliver a better natural environment and improve access for people and wildlife from Wellingborough to Corby and along the River Ise corridor.
- **Mitigating and adapting to climate change:** habitats and watercourses will be restored and recreated so they become resilient to change.
- **Minimising waste**
- **Managing exposure to chemicals**
- **Enhancing biosecurity:** improving the natural environment along the Ise Valley including the tackling of invasive non-native species will reduce the impact of existing plant and animal diseases and lower the risk of new ones.

The Department for Transport's [Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy \(2019\)](#) sets out the importance of walking and cycling for short journeys and Gear Change, the government's



[Cycling and Walking Plan for England \(2020\)](#) sets out a vision for a travel revolution in England's streets, towns and communities. The vision is for places to be truly walkable and cycling to become used for a large proportion of journeys by 2030. There is a commitment to improving the national cycle network and increasing the proportion of off-road routes. The [Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution](#) (November 2020) reiterates the importance of active travel, as well as protecting the natural environment and promoting green finance and innovation. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will help deliver a traffic free corridor along the Ise Valley to encourage people to walk and cycle more both for leisure and commuting purposes.

[Everybody Active, Every Day \(2014\)](#) is a plan by Public Health England to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, the plan identifies where measures need to be taken at a national and local level. These include making physical activity a routine part of everyday life and creating the right spaces and maximising existing assets that encourage people to be more active every day. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will create a welcoming environment with excellent walking and cycling access.

[Putting Health into Place](#) (2019) is an NHS initiative that provides a series of four practical guides to healthy place making. These set out 10 principles which encourage partnership working, community engagement, connecting spaces and designing multifunctional green space, maximising active travel and creating play and leisure spaces for everyone. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will help deliver these principles through a collaborative approach to project development to improve access and the multifunctionality of the Ise Valley.

[National Planning Policy Framework 2019](#) sets out the government's planning policies for England. It provides the framework for the production of local plans. The NPPF contains policy direction with an aim to create healthy and safe communities that provide social, recreational and cultural facilities and services to meet community needs. It highlights the importance of access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for physical activity and the need to protect and enhance Public Rights of Way. Promoting sustainable transport is considered emphasising opportunities to promote walking and cycling. There is a chapter around meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding and the need to conserve and enhance both the natural and historic environments. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will help deliver these policies by enhancing the natural environment, improving access and providing a resource that will facilitate healthy lifestyles.

### 3. County-Wide Approaches

**Supporting Northamptonshire to Flourish: Northamptonshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020** This strategy aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all people in Northamptonshire. The overall objective is to reduce health inequalities by enabling people to help themselves. One of the key priorities is to create an environment for all people to flourish. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will create an Ise Valley that enables access to a variety of multi-functional open spaces and provides a recreational and community asset to aid healthy living and sustain wellbeing.

River basin management plans (RBMPs) set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment. The River Ise is a sub-catchment of the River Nene, the [Anglian River Basin Management Plan \(2015\)](#) provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by this water environment. It lists priority issues for the catchment as water quality, habitat quality and hydromorphology. It describes future aims to improve water quality, habitat, biodiversity and flood resilience as well as re-creation of lost wetland habitat. The work of the Partnership and the implementation of projects set out in this Plan will support the realisation of these aims.

The future aims listed in the River Basin Management Plan align well the 10 goals within the [Government's 25 Year Environment Plan](#), notably:

- **Thriving Plants and Wildlife** by creating wildlife-rich wetland habitat.
- **Reducing the risks of harm from natural hazards** by creating a more hydrologically efficient system that reduces flooding and also reconnects the river with its floodplain through working together with the public and private sector to benefit the local community **Clean and plentiful water** for biodiversity through a more resilient habitat in accordance with our RBMPs
- **Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with natural environment** through making accessible natural spaces to the benefit of the local communities' health and wellbeing as well as provision of valuable educational resources.

[Northamptonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan \(2015-2020\)](#) (NLBAP) sets out the highest priorities for action required to conserve the county's most threatened and declining habitats and species. The document includes general and habitat action plans; the latter include a range of habitats found in the Ise Valley, for example: rivers, floodplain grazing marsh and wet woodland. The plan also lists priority species, those relevant to the study area include: water voles, otters and white-clawed crayfish. The NLBAP will be used to inform project development by the Partnership and the projects delivered through this Plan will help meet the targets set out in NLBAP.

[River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan \(2014\) \(RNICMP\)](#): seeks to provide a clear framework for effective partnership working for the Nene Catchment. It brings together background information on the catchment, links to the large body of relevant studies and identifies a range of projects and actions that will contribute to the achievement of key objectives. The relevant actions and projects included in the RNICMP will be used to inform the work programme for The Partnership; delivering these through this Plan will help achieve the key objectives of RNICMP.

The JDPU commissioned a report, [Mapping Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services in the Nene Valley](#) (2016) to present the findings of a project that identified, mapped and placed a value on the natural capital and ecosystem services in the Nene Valley, which incorporates the River Ise and Slade Brook. The Report highlights the key benefits provided by the natural environment, increases understanding of the interdependencies between the natural environment, people and the economy, and helps planners and decision makers to protect, enhance and restore the natural environment for the benefit of people and wildlife.

The Report is supported by mapping provided at a resolution to allow the examination of the trade-offs and synergies in the provision of multiple ecosystem services, even across small distances. This work can be used to highlight strategic locations for delivering multiple

benefits; it will help inform project development for the Partnership to ensure that projects are planned to enhance the natural capital within the study area and increase the number of ecosystem services provided.

#### 4. Local Approaches

North Northamptonshire Council (NCC) is the single unitary council responsible for providing a full range of public services to residents and businesses in the areas of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. The majority of the course of the Ise falls within North Northamptonshire Council's area, but the river rises in the area of West Northamptonshire Council (Daventry District).

The sovereign councils, now a collective in NNC work in partnership with the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Development Unit (JPDU) to establish a Development Plan for Northamptonshire. The Development Plan is a planning policy tool made up of component parts - the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) is the strategic Part 1 Local Plan for the area. It outlines a big picture that is then developed in more detail through the Part 2 Local Plans and by Neighbourhood Plans prepared by Neighbourhood Planning Groups. Similarly, West Northamptonshire, home of the source of the Ise, has a JCS supported by local plans for its districts.

The Development Plan is an important tool; it provides planning policy which directs sustainable growth in the area and informs the decision-making process for development management. As part of this process developers can be required to make financial contributions which could be used to fund or partially fund projects set out in this Plan.

Underlying the Development Plan is an evidence base which has informed the development of the planning policy and of other strategies and Supplementary Planning Documents which provide more detailed guidance for decision making.

#### 5. Documents of principle importance to the Ise Valley Strategic Plan

The [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011 – 2031 \(Adopted 2016\)](#) sets out the long-term vision and objectives for the whole of North Northamptonshire for the plan period up to 2031. It includes strategic policies for steering and shaping development. These include identifying specific locations for strategic new housing and employment and changes to transport infrastructure and community facilities. It identifies the Green Infrastructure Corridors for North Northamptonshire and recognises the importance of landscape character, biodiversity and the historic environment by providing strategic policies to protect and enhance existing provision and, where appropriate, lead to the creation of new provision. It provides policies relating to water quality and flood risk management, place shaping principles and well-connected towns, villages and neighbourhoods.

[North Northamptonshire Investment Framework \(2019\)](#) focuses on the measures required to accelerate growth of both housing and employment. The framework includes targets and projects relevant to this plan and the work of the Partnership under the headings: health and wellbeing, environment, natural capital and green infrastructure and flood management. The green infrastructure projects have been further developed through the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plans (GIDPs, outlined below) and are included in Section 3. Similarly, [North Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2015\)](#) identifies the strategic priorities for

infrastructure to support the Joint Core Strategy. The plan includes projects relevant to the relating to green infrastructure and to water and flood management. Most of these are further developed through the GIDPs, those that are not in the GIDPs are included in Section 3 of this document.

The **Part 2 Local Plans** for Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough provide a local context, complementing the strategic policies contained within the JCS. They include site-specific development allocations for residential and employment uses and detailed development management policies against which planning applications will be determined. They also provide topic- based policies relating to health and well-being, the natural environment and heritage.

Both the JPDU and the council in each area have produced Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plans. Some of these are countywide, for example, the Biodiversity SPD (2016) which explains how biodiversity should be incorporated into the development process to ensure that the requirements of legislation and policy are met.

There is also the Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area SPD (2016) which helps the Council, developers and others ensure that development has no significant effect on the SPA, in accordance with the legal requirements of the Habitats Regulations. Others are more specific to an area, for example, on securing planning obligations from development which, as noted above can fund projects set out in this Plan, open space standards, tree and landscape management and planning out crime. It is likely that as North Northamptonshire Council becomes more established the individual SPDs will be replaced by a more united North Northamptonshire approach.

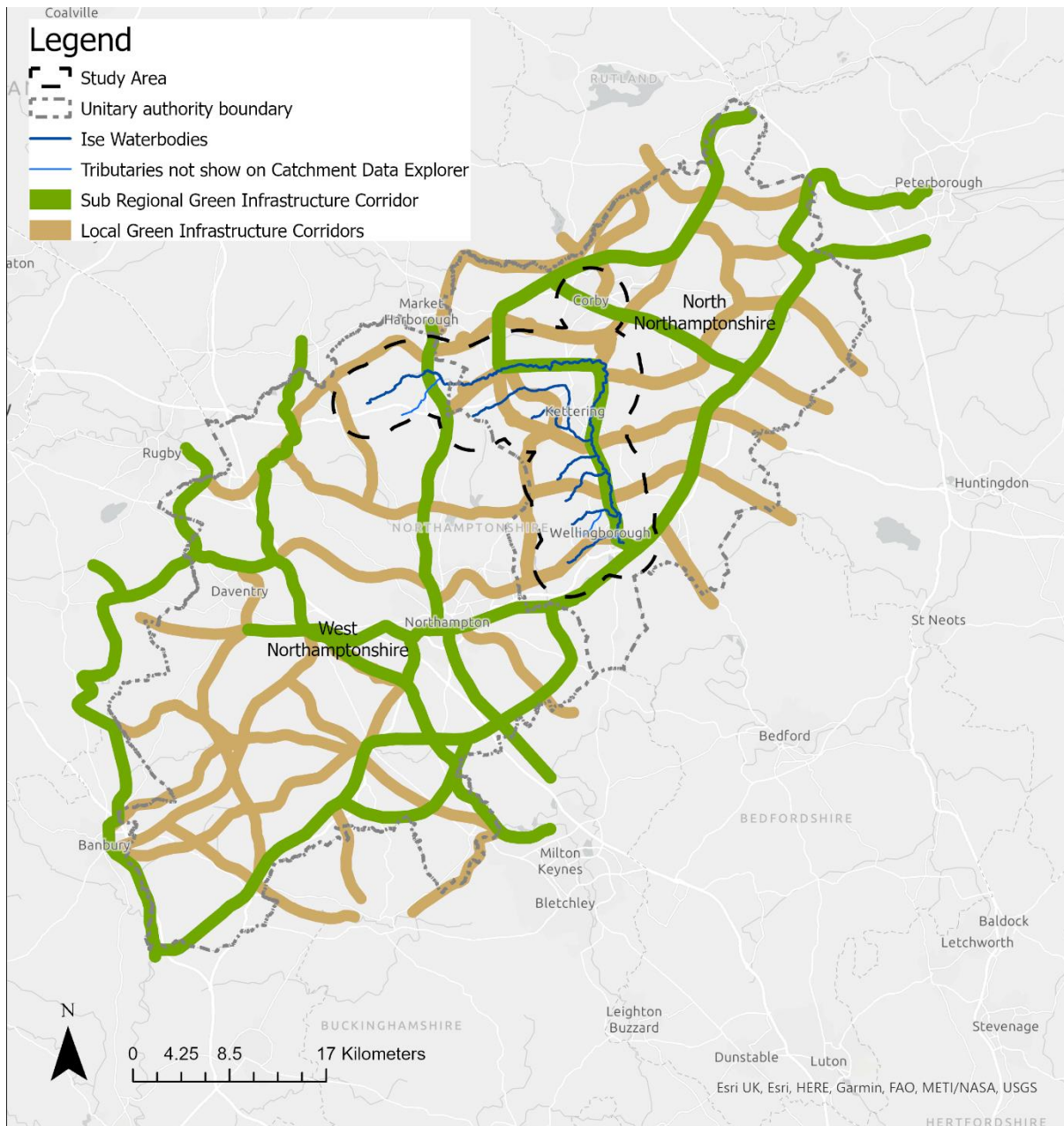
West Northamptonshire has a similar approach, with a [JCS \(2014\)](#). [Daventry Part 2 Local Plan \(adopted February 2020\)](#) covers the villages in West Northamptonshire in the Ise Valley, including Clipston, Naseby and Arthingworth. This includes relevant policies on green infrastructure, landscape, biodiversity, flood risk management, health and wellbeing and open space.

Other guidance documents that are relevant to this Plan have been developed either as a foundation to develop planning policy or to support the delivery of planning policy. These include:

## 6. Green Infrastructure

As noted above the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy identifies the Green Infrastructure Corridors for the area. The [North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(NNGIDP\)](#) (2014) was developed to set out how GI will be delivered in North Northamptonshire. It includes details of known projects which are supported by cost estimates. The NNGIDP is supported by additional detail at a local level through individual green infrastructure plans namely the [Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan for Kettering Borough \(2018\)](#); [Spatial Analysis of Green Infrastructure Resources in Wellingborough Town \(2016\)](#) and [North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure: Local Framework Study for Corby \(2005\)](#).

**Figure 2: Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Network**

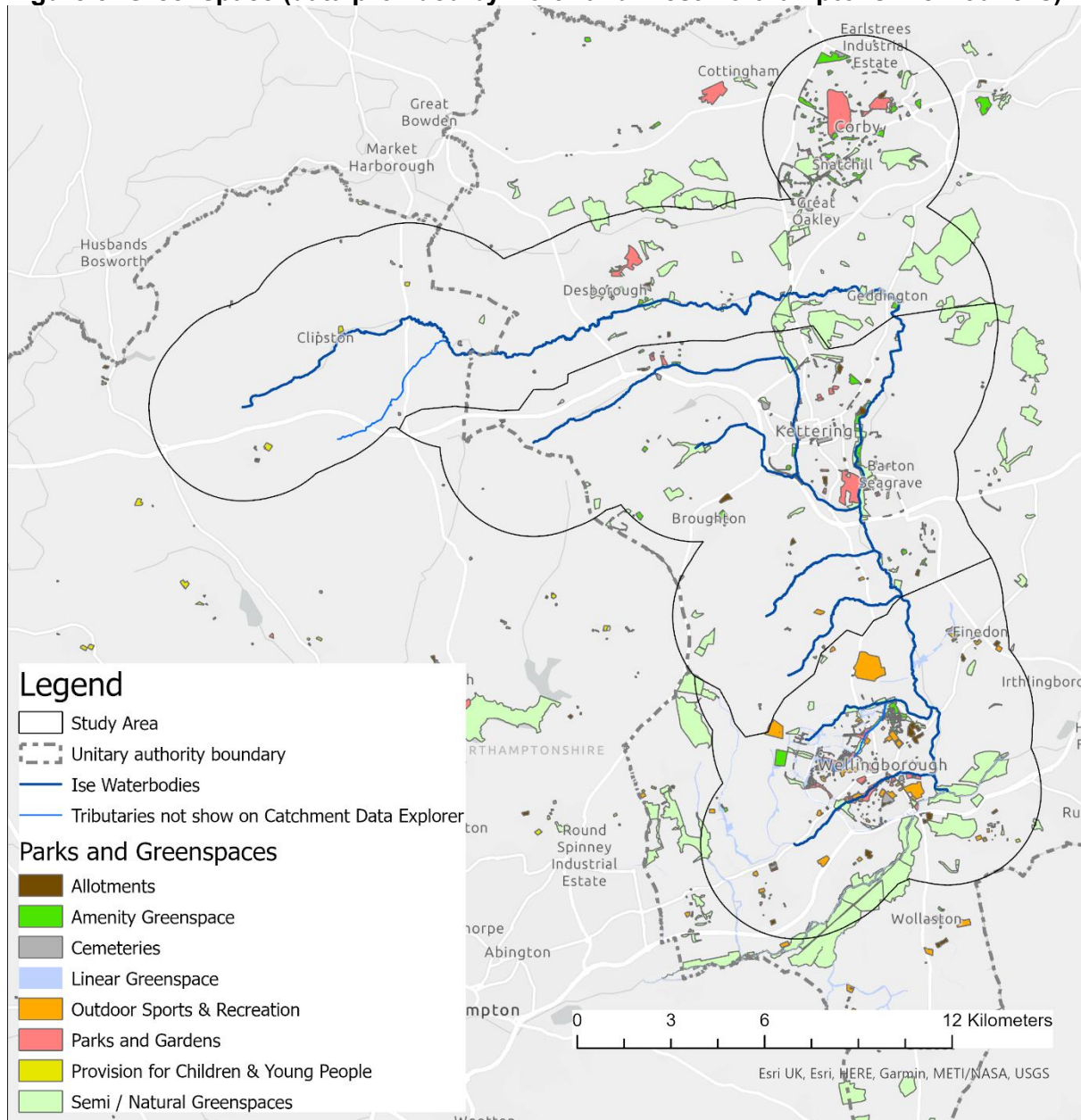




## 7. Open Space

There are locally produced open space studies for Corby (2017), Kettering (2020), Wellingborough (2017) and West Northamptonshire/Daventry (2017) – these provide an audit and assessment of existing provision and set quantity, quality and accessibility standards relevant for each locality. They enable planners to determine the amount of on-site open space provision and / or off-site contributions and maintenance costs over a set period to meet the needs arising from the new development. These documents contain recommendations and project opportunities to enhance existing and create new open spaces.

**Figure 3: Greenspace (data provided by North and West Northamptonshire Councils)**



## 8. Strategic Flood Risk Assessments

The NPPF states that a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is required to assess the flood risk to an area both now and in the future. The SFRA must take account of the impacts of climate change and assess the impact that land use changes and development in the area will have on flood risk. A level 1 assessment provides a district wide overview of risk where a level 2 is used to identify issues on a site- specific basis.

Level 1 assessments have been prepared for Corby ([2019](#)), Kettering ([2019](#)), Wellingborough ([2017](#)) and West Northamptonshire ([2017](#)). Level 2 assessments have been prepared by Corby ([2011](#)), and Kettering ([2019](#)). The assessments contain recommendations and project opportunities for flood risk management.

## 9. Surface Water Management Plans

A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) outlines the preferred surface water management strategy in a given location. In this context surface water flooding describes flooding from sewers, drains, groundwater, and runoff from land, small water courses and ditches that occurs as a result of heavy rainfall. Parts of the River Ise catchment are affected by surface water flooding, these are shown on the maps within the plans described below.

SWMPs have been prepared locally for Corby ([2015](#)), Kettering ([2018](#)) and Wellingborough ([2017](#)). The plans contain recommendations and project opportunities for surface water management. They contain some general recommendations for schemes which could be delivered through this plan (for example Sustainable Urban Drainage and Retention Reservoirs), some specific projects listed are included in the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plans and are therefore included in Appendix 6 of this plan.

## 6. A previous project on the Ise: Revital-Ise

Revital-ISE ran from 2008 to 2014, the broad aims of the project were to deliver biodiversity enhancements to river and wetland environments. Interventions included the removal of barriers to fish movement, habitat buffering and enhancement for the river, habitat restoration within the floodplain and to facilitate population growth for key species identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan e.g. native white-clawed crayfish, otters and water voles. Working with local communities, the projects improved access, both physically and intellectually, to the river and floodplain environment. People were reconnected with the rivers, wetlands and species they support. The final report of the project identifies the following as its legacy:

- Significant land management improvements in the upper reaches through Catchment Sensitive Farming,
- Improvements in the condition of the River Ise and Meadows SSSI,
- Restoration of Wicksteed Water Meadow and making it a nature reserve,
- River and backwater habitat enhancements in Kettering, Rushton and Desborough,
- The establishment of Natural-ISE volunteer group, which is still active.

## Part 2: A Strategic Approach

### 7. The River Ise

Rivers are an expression of their catchments, their path, physical condition and water quality are a reflection of the landscape they drain and through which they flow. The River Ise is no exception, and its status is an echo of the Valley it transects. The River Ise is the largest of the tributaries of the River Nene in Northamptonshire, rising near Naseby and flowing east past Desborough, turning south at Geddington, and passing through Kettering to join the River Nene at Wellingborough.

The upper reaches of the river are less modified than the lower reaches and, in areas, they retain some typical natural features such as meanders, riffles and pools. However, though the upper reaches are relatively shallow and fast flowing they are still somewhat over deepened, and this has led to a disconnection from the floodplain. On the river from just north of Kettering down to the confluence with the Nene significant modification has taken place, firstly to create formal water features in the historic parkland at Boughton House and latterly, through Kettering and beyond, the river has been straightened and deepened in an attempt to reduce the risk of flooding. The Lower Ise (downstream of Wicksteed Park) is a deeper and slower flowing system.

The Ise has several tributaries, all flowing roughly west to east. The [Slade Brook](#) meets the Ise in the southern section of Wicksteed Park. The [Loddington Arm](#) is a tributary of the Slade Brook. The [Pytchley Brook](#) joins the Ise at the Weetabix factory in Burton Latimer. The [Hardwick Brook](#) meets the Ise downstream of Burton Latimer. The [Harrowden Brook](#) flows through the north of Wellingborough through North Wellingborough Tree Belts and Finedon Road Industrial Estate. The [Swanspool Brook](#) flows through Wellingborough, through key areas of public open space including Croyland Park and Castle Fields. The Hatton Brook, a small tributary of the Harrowden Brook, also flows through public open spaces including Glamis Meadow and Wood and Hatton Park.

For the purposes of the Water Environment Regulations, the overall status of the Upper Ise (and the majority of tributaries) were classified as 'moderate' [overall status](#) in 2019. It is worth noting that for the Upper Ise all the Ecological Status elements are recorded as 'Good' or 'High' but the Chemical Status is a 'Fail' because new chemical indicators were added to the assessment list in 2019. This has pulled the overall status down to 'moderate'. The Lower Ise and Hardwick Brook were 'poor' and the Harrowden Brook's status was 'bad'. Further detail can be found in Appendix 3 or the [Catchment Data Explorer](#). By delivering projects to enhance the riverine environment the overall biological and chemical status should improve.

The river forms part of the Nene Valley [Nature Improvement Area](#), one of 12 NIAs established to help create joined up and resilient ecological networks at a landscape scale. The NIA was established in 2011 and received an initial £714,469 in funding to deliver a 3-year plan. Over three years an incredible £3.3 million was invested through the NIA which helped to re-create and re-connect natural areas from Daventry to Peterborough. The legacy lives on and through this Plan, the River Ise Partnership can continue to provide a framework of future activities in this part of the NIA.



The area where the Ise meets the Nene to the south of Wellingborough (see Fig. 3) is part of the [Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). The SPA consists of a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene. The pits form an extensive series of shallow and open waters providing a variety of habitats including reed swamp, marsh, wet ditches, rough grassland and scattered woodland. Natural England recognises the SPA as forming one of the most important inland localities in England for waterbirds in the non-breeding period. It regularly supports peak numbers of waterbird in excess of 20,000 individuals, including significant populations of bittern, golden plover and gadwall.

In response to the consultation for Kettering's Site-Specific Part 2 Local Plan Natural England highlighted that Golden Plover may forage up to 15 to 20km from the SPA. It is important to bear this in mind when planning projects as some activities on land they might associate with could have an impact on their population.

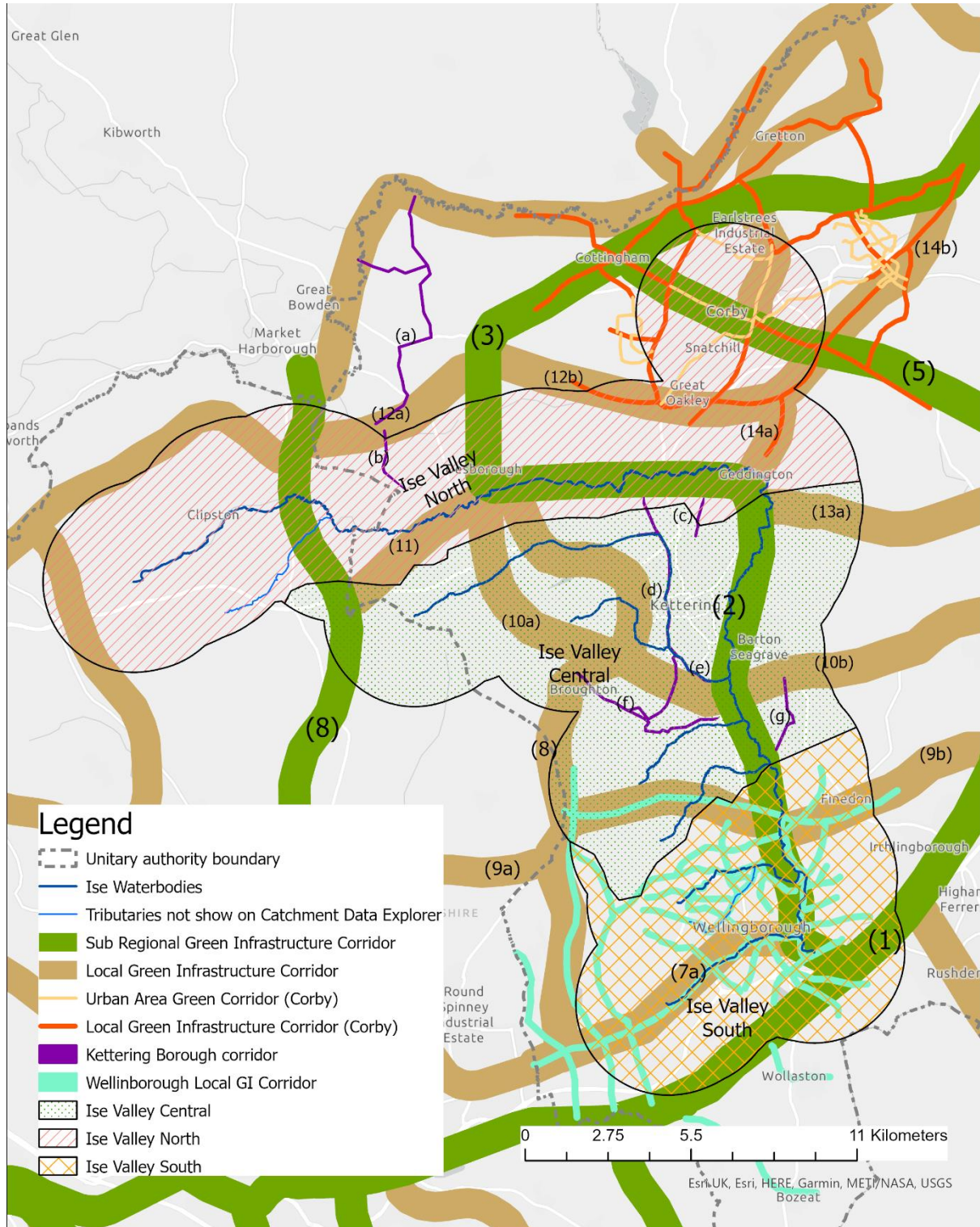
Sub-regional and local green infrastructure corridors criss-cross the Ise Valley (see Figure 2) demonstrating the importance of the green and blue infrastructure assets located here. Through Kettering, the Valley hosts an important swathe of publicly accessible green infrastructure from Ise Valley Park to Wicksteed Park.

Nestled in the green infrastructure, the valley's natural assets include sites designated for their important flora and fauna and in some cases important geological or physiological features. These sites include the [River Ise & Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSI\)](#), [Southfield Farm Marsh SSSI](#), and [Tailby Meadows Local Nature Reserve](#). The River Ise and Meadows is a 4.7km reach of river just east of Barford Bridge; it is the only section of river in Northamptonshire to be designated as a SSSI (where the river itself is the key component). There are two nature reserves managed by the Wildlife Trust in close proximity to the river, Wicksteed Water Meadows and Finedon Cally Banks. In addition to the above there are many Local Wildlife Sites and Potential Local Wildlife Sites in the study area. Delivering projects through this Plan will benefit all these important sites and will help to inform a joined-up approach to their management.

## 8. River Ise Zones

This section explains how the Ise Valley can be viewed as distinctive parts which helps to understand on a local scale how they function individually and as a whole within the study area. The Study Area has been split into the 3 zones, along the watershed between tributaries. Each zone is described below.

**Figure 4: The Study Area and Zones**



## 1. Ise Valley North Zone

In the North Zone of the Ise Valley the river flows roughly west to east, from its source in Naseby Battlefield in West Northamptonshire, to Geddington in North Northamptonshire where it turns south. There is a second channel which flows through a man-made lake at Kelmarsh Hall, joining the Naseby channel near Arthingworth. The river is less modified in this Zone compared to the South and Central Zones, and it retains some natural features such as riffles and pools. Land use is predominantly agriculture, and the area is populated with villages and small towns.

The source of the river is located in West Northamptonshire near Arthingworth and can be found close to the Brampton Arm sub-regional GI corridor (SRC) (8). See Figure 4 above. From Desborough the Ise Valley SRC (2) follows the river until it reaches the point between Geddington. Here the SRC links with the Jurassic Way SRC (3) which runs north to Stoke Albany then turns east towards Corby. At Geddington SRC (2) and the river both turn south and towards Kettering. At Cottingham the Harpers Brook SRC (5) links into the Jurassic Way.

Local green infrastructure corridors (LC) link into the SRCs to create Northamptonshire's GI Network. Running east to west these consist of Geddington to Stanion (14a), Stoke Albany to Little Oakley (12b) and the Macmillan Way (12a). Top Lodge to Desborough (11), Rothwell [Triangular Lodge] to Wicksteed Park (10a) and Sywell Reservoir to Broughton (8) drop into the Central Zone from the junction of the Ise Valley and Jurassic Way SRCs. These are also complemented by 'Borough Corridors' a-d, in the areas previously within the Borough of Kettering, and neighbourhood level corridors within the Corby area.



**Figure 5: North Ise Zone Green Infrastructure**

**Legend**

- Unitary authority boundary
- Ise Waterbodies
- Tributaries not show on Catchment Data Explorer
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest © Natural England
- Local Nature Reserves England © Natural England
- Local Wildlife Site © Wildlife Trust BCN & partners
- Potential Wildlife Site © Wildlife Trust BCN & partners
- Nature Improvement Area © Natural England & NIA Partnership
- Historic Parks and Gardens © Historic England (2021)
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments © Historic England (2021)
- Battlefields © Historic England (2021)
- Listed Buildings © Historic England (2021)

**Parks and Greenspaces**

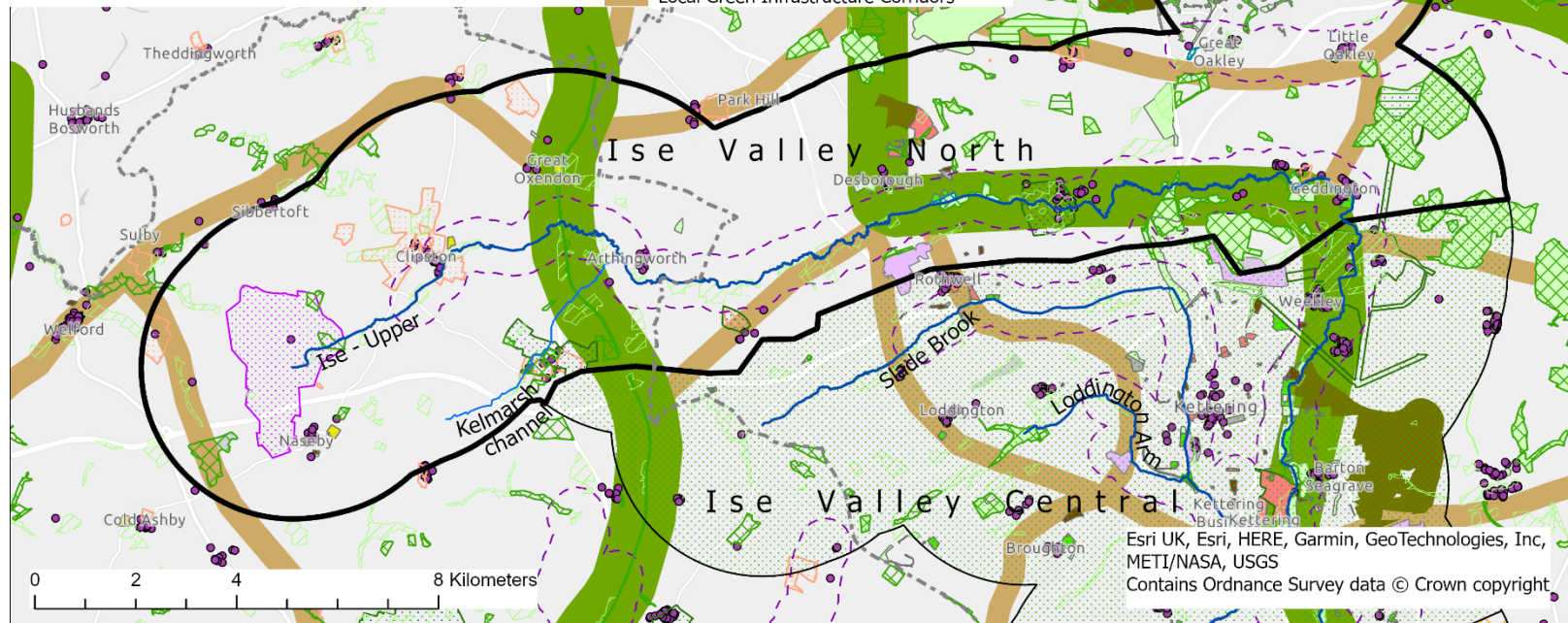
- Allotments
- Amenity Greenspace
- Cemeteries
- Parks and Gardens
- Provision for Children & Young People
- Semi / Natural Greenspaces

**SUEs and Strategic Sites**

- Committed Strategic Site
- Sustainable Urban Extension

**Green Infrastructure Corridors**

- Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Corridor
- Local Green Infrastructure Corridors



**Table 1: Profile of the Ise Valley North Zone**

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are three SSSIs in this Zone, the River Ise and Meadows, Alderwood and Meadows and Pipewell Woods.</li> <li>• There are also three Local Nature Reserves in this Zone, Kings Wood, Great Oakley Meadow and Tailby Meadow.</li> <li>• Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in the Zone include Naseby Reservoir, Weekley Hall Woods, Kings Wood Local Nature Reserve, and Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods. Potential Wildlife Sites (PWS) are spread through the areas with many along the river.</li> <li>• The river corridor is part of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SSSIs to be managed to ensure they are in ‘favourable condition’ and other designated sites to be appropriately managed.</li> <li>• Identify natural and semi natural sites that, through management plans and project delivery, could be enhanced to reach SSSI, LNR or LWS status. Existing LWS / PWS along the river should provide the initial focus.</li> <li>• The Habitat Opportunity Map for Northamptonshire will be used to identify areas for habitat improvement and creation</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access to the River Ise is poor in this in the majority of this Zone, for example between Newton, Rushton and Desborough.</li> <li>• There are some footpaths and bridle routes which are in the vicinity of the river or crossing it, for example, there are routes parallel to the river (though some distance from it) between Desborough and Arthingworth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Ise Valley Access Plan is being produced with a view to upgrading footpaths and cycleways and improving signage for wayfinding. The focus in this Zone will be from Geddington, through Newton and up to Corby. Other routes include from the source of the Ise (near Naseby) to join the route in Newton and from Geddington to Weldon via Brigstock.</li> <li>• For detailed recommendations refer to the Ise Valley Access Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Community Health and Well-Being</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a number of footpaths and bridleways in this Zone which provide opportunities for recreation and sustainable commuting.</li> <li>• The allotments found in this Zone, for example in Geddington, Rushton and Shotwell Mill Lane, provide local communities with facilities that encourage active lifestyles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for recreation and active travel would increase by upgrading poor quality paths and links in line with the Ise Valley Access Plan.</li> <li>• Encourage allotment committees to develop management and action plans for their sites to enhance</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The network of open space in this Zone includes parks like Desborough Green Space, natural and semi natural spaces like Stoke Albany Pocket Park and amenity green spaces like Rothwell Recreation Ground. This network provides areas for leisure, recreation and active play.</li> <li>• Small towns and villages have areas of open space and ‘pocket parks’.</li> </ul>	<p>provision and attract funding opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop management and action plans for open spaces to enhance provision and attract funding opportunities. Prioritise those spaces identified in the open space Audit and Assessment Reports.</li> <li>• Opportunities should be sought to provide green gym equipment and trails to encourage active engagement with and movement through open spaces</li> <li>• Opportunities should be sought to identify informal open spaces and support local communities to create pocket parks</li> </ul>
<p>Landscape</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The source of the Ise is in the Northamptonshire Uplands National Character Area, the remainder of this Zone’s landscape is divided across the Northamptonshire Vales and Rockingham Forest National Character Area. The Vales provide an open landscape of gently undulating clay ridges and valleys with an overall visual uniformity to the landscape and settlement pattern. The distinct scarp and ridge of the Rockingham Forest area is relatively well wooded with commercial conifer and broadleaved plantations, and ancient semi-natural woodlands like Geddington Chase</li> <li>• The urban settlements of Corby, Desborough and Rothwell are located in this Zone, but the area is largely rural and populated with small, historic villages like Geddington and Rushton. Levels of tranquillity run high along the river corridor and in areas of arable and pastoral farmland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When planning new projects reference should be made to Natural England’s National Character Area Profiles to identify recommendations which will enhance landscape character and increase opportunities for informal recreation</li> <li>• Development in the area must be sensitive to character and seek to enhance the visual and landscape qualities</li> </ul>
<p>Heritage</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The river rises in the site of the Battle of Naseby.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The important heritage features of the area should be protected and</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The valley in this Zone has several Scheduled Monuments including medieval settlements at Clipston, Nobold and Kelmarsh.</li> <li>• There are numerous listed structures including Triangular Lodge, Queen Eleanor’s Cross, a dovecote and some of the bridges over the Ise.</li> <li>• Historic Parkland exists at Kelmarsh, Harrington and Rushton Hall (part of Boughton House’s parkland is also in this Zone).</li> </ul>	<p>enhanced through positive management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a wayfinding and interpretation strategy to help people recognise the importance of these assets and better understand historic events like the Battle of Naseby and the Newton Rebellion</li> </ul>
<b>Flooding and water management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Agency mapping shows that the rural areas of this Zone are mostly at a low risk of flooding from rivers, apart from a corridor along the River Ise and Harpers Brook. In rural areas this is a demonstration of the floodplain operating effectively.</li> <li>• In Corby the Northern Stream, Southern Stream and Willow Brook have some areas of high and medium flood risk within the built-up area.</li> <li>• Surface water flooding is also an issue in built up areas, and is inter-related to flooding from rivers in some areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with landowners and farmers to encourage sympathetic agricultural practices (e.g. floodplain meadows rather than arable)</li> <li>• Protect the floodplain from development</li> <li>• Encourage riparian tree planting</li> <li>• Develop projects that will deliver Natural Flood Management</li> <li>• In areas of flood risk, support local communities to engage with activities so they become more flood resilient</li> <li>• Development control to promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes.</li> <li>• Clipston Flood Storage Reservoir requires improvement to prevent it overtopping leading to flooding in Clipston village.</li> <li>• The area around where the Ise passes under the Desborough/Rothwell bypass requires maintenance to reduce the impact of the Ise coming out of its banks and collecting sediment from the arable fields depositing it downstream increasing flood risk.</li> </ul>
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Zone makes an important contribution to regulatory services, for example, through flood risk management, water quality, plant pollination, and climate regulation. Provisioning services are supplied</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When planning a project, opportunities to increase the multi-functionality of the site should be explored</li> <li>• Review and enhance (or create) habitat management plans so they include opportunities to increase the</li> </ul>

<p>by livestock and crops farmed in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural services, include access to recreation, education, local heritage and for health and well-being through the natural environment</li></ul>	<p>range and provision of ecosystem services.</p>
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## 2. Ise Valley Central Zone

For the Central Zone, the river flows roughly north to south, from Geddington through the Boughton Estate, Kettering, Wicksteed Park and Burton Latimer. The new development at Hanwood Park is located to the north and east of Barton Seagrave. Hanwood Park will benefit from the close proximity of the River Ise. In this Zone the river becomes more modified deepened and slow flowing, including the canalised sections and impoundments of Boughton House, and a man-made lake at Wicksteed Park. This Zone also includes the tributaries, the Slade Brook (and Loddington Arm), Pytchley Brook and Hardwick Brook. The Slade is also heavily modified in the urban area (straightened, over deepened and slow flowing).

In the Central Zone, the river forms part of Sub-regional Green Infrastructure Corridor (SRC) (2) (Ise Valley). See Figure 4 above. SRC (2) is crossed by Local Corridor (LC) 10a (Rothwell [Triangular Lodge] – Wicksteed Park) and 10b (Wicksteed Park – Thrapston). Local green infrastructure corridors (LC) (8) (Sywell Reservoir – Broughton) and (9a) (Hockley Lodge – Finedon) join one another in this Zone, and link into SRC (2) just to the north and south of the Zone.

There are five Kettering Borough Corridors in the central zone, including Borough Corridors (d) and (e), which follow the Slade Brook.

**Figure 6: Central Ise Zone Green Infrastructure**

**Legend**

- Study Area
  - Unitary authority boundary
  - Ise Waterbodies
  - Tributaries not show on Catchment Data Explorer
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest © Natural England
  - Local Nature Reserves England © Natural England
  - Local Wildlife Site © Wildlife Trust BCN & partners
  - Potential Wildlife Site © Wildlife Trust BCN & partners
  - Nature Improvement Area © Natural England & NIA Partnership
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  - Scheduled Ancient Monuments © Historic England (2021)
  - Listed Buildings © Historic England (2021)
  - Amenity Greenspace
  - Cemeteries
  - Linear Greenspace
  - Outdoor Sports & Recreation
  - Parks and Gardens
  - Provision for Children & Young People
  - Semi / Natural Greenspaces
- SUEs and Strategic Sites**
- Committed Strategic Site
  - Sustainable Urban Extension
- Green Infrastructure Corridors**
- Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Corridor
  - Local Green Infrastructure Corridor

**Parks and Greenspaces**

- Allotments



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**Table 2: Profile of the Ise Valley Central Zone**

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southfield Farm Marsh Sites of Special Scientific Interest is close to the River Ise. There are two other SSSIs at the western edge of the Zone Badsaddle, Withmale Park and Bush Walk Woods (two sites that count as one unit) and Birch Spinney and Mawsley Marsh (site 2).</li> <li>• There are Local Wildlife Sites throughout this Zone including Cransley Reservoir on the Loddington Arm, and Wicksteed Water Meadows. There are also Potential Wildlife Sites.</li> <li>• The river corridor is part of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that new development, for example, Hanwood Park, makes provision to protect and enhance existing and create new habitats to support biodiversity.</li> <li>• Manage and maintain all designated sites to ensure they retain their designation and continue to improve in quality.</li> <li>• Identify natural and semi natural sites that, through management plans and project delivery, could be enhanced to reach SSSI or LNR or LWS status. Existing LWS / PWS along the river should provide the initial focus The Habitat Opportunity Map for Northamptonshire can be used to identify areas for habitat improvement and creation.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Zone has relatively good public access to the River Ise. From north to south: access is limited at Boughton House through the estate, south of Boughton there is a public footpath adjacent to the Ise, there is informal access to Ise through North Northants council owned greenspace, Wicksteed Park and Southfield Farm Marsh. Through Southfield Farm and Weetabix’s estate there are public footpaths which carry on through Burton Latimer Pocket Park and private grazing land.</li> <li>• The Slade Brook has limited public access except where it passes through greenspace in Kettering. A public footpath runs close to part of the Pytchley Brook. There is limited access to the Hardwick Brook.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Ise Valley Access Plan is being produced with a view to upgrading footpaths and cycleways and improving signage for wayfinding.</li> <li>• The focus for this Zone is to link Geddington, Kettering and Burton Latimer.</li> <li>• Off-road links to be provided between key attractions such as Boughton House and Wicksteed Park, as well as local amenities such as schools, leisure and business.</li> <li>• Opportunities to support links from the Ise corridor into the wider area will be sought, for example through Hanwood Park development and through Weekley Hall Wood to the village of Newton.</li> <li>• Improved links should also be sought to other key attractions close to the Zone, such as Twywell Hills and Dales.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For detailed recommendations refer to the Ise Valley Access Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Community Health and Well-Being</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths and bridleways provide opportunities for recreation.</li> <li>• Kettering has large areas of public open space associated with the rivers, notably the Ise Valley Parklands, which stretch along much of the Ise through the town. Small towns and villages also have areas of public open space and ‘pocket parks’.</li> <li>• Examples of open space include parks, Gray’s Field, semi natural including Ise Marsh and amenity green space, such as Deeble Road South</li> <li>• Allotments, including Windmill Avenue and the Green Patch Community Allotments, provide opportunities for exercise and to grow healthy food.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for recreation and active travel would increase by upgrading poor quality paths and links in line with the Ise Valley Access Plan.</li> <li>• Encourage allotment committees to develop management and action plans for their sites to enhance provision and attract funding opportunities.</li> <li>• Develop management and action plans for open spaces to enhance provision and attract funding opportunities. Prioritise those spaces identified in the open space Audit and Assessment Reports.</li> <li>• Opportunities should be sought to provide green gym equipment and trails to encourage active engagement with and movement through open spaces</li> <li>• Opportunities should be sought to identify informal open spaces and support local communities to create pocket parks</li> <li>• Open spaces should be managed to provide access to nature to improve residents’ wellbeing.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small area in the west of this Zone is in the Northamptonshire Uplands National Character Area, the majority of this Zone’s landscape is divided across the Northamptonshire Vales and Rockingham Forest National Character Area. The Vales provide an open landscape of gently undulating clay ridges and valleys with an overall visual uniformity to the landscape and settlement pattern. The Rockingham Forest area is relatively well wooded but there is limited woodland in this Zone of the Ise Valley, exceptions include small areas of woodland along the River</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When planning new projects reference should be made to Natural England’s National Character Area Profiles to identify recommendations which will enhance landscape character and increase opportunities for informal recreation</li> <li>• Development in the area must be sensitive to character and seek to enhance the visual and landscape qualities</li> </ul>

<p>Ise and larger areas around Grafton Park Wood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The river corridor provides scenic views which break up the urban areas of this Zone.</li> <li>• Parkland at Wicksteed Park and Boughton House are key landscapes in this Zone.</li> <li>• The main urban settlement in this zone is the town of Kettering, the smaller town of Burton Latimer and historic villages of Isham, Weekley and Warkton all lie close to the River Ise.</li> </ul>	
<b>Heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic Parkland at Wicksteed Park and Boughton House.</li> <li>• Scheduled Monuments: Medieval Villages at Barton Seagrave (with fishponds and moats) and Faxton.</li> <li>• There are numerous listed structures in the towns and villages of the Zone including Southfield Farmhouse, the Water Chute at Wicksteed Park and a bridge over the Ise at Boughton House.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The important heritage features of the area should be protected and enhanced.</li> <li>• Develop a wayfinding and interpretation strategy to help people recognise the importance of these assets to better understand the historic features and events of the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Flooding and water management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to Environment Agency mapping, apart from a narrow corridor along the River Ise and its tributaries, the risk of flooding from rivers is low. The majority of the areas at a significant risk of flooding are farmland or parks, where the floodplain is functioning effectively.</li> <li>• In December 2020 there was a significant flood event which caused damage to property, notably in Stratfield Way, close to the Slade's confluence with the Ise.</li> <li>• In 2007 Slade/Pytchley Brooks flooded properties and industries between Kettering Leisure Village and the Slade's confluence with the Ise.</li> <li>• EA flood alleviation scheme for Geddington created a flood relief channel and additional storage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reprofile confluence of Slade and Ise.</li> <li>• Investigate the opportunity for Natural Flood Management and flood water storage scheme at Boughton House.</li> <li>• Investigate further opportunities for flood storage along the Ise and Slade. For example a railway culvert on the Slade upstream of Kettering currently holds back water, there is potential for a large Flood Storage Reservoir in this area.</li> <li>• Promote Natural Flood Management and riparian tree planting.</li> <li>• Encourage appropriate agricultural practices, such as meadows, in the floodplain.</li> <li>• Discourage further development on the floodplain.</li> </ul>

<p>downstream of Geddington, this has reduced the flood risk in the village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface water flooding is also an issue in built up areas, and is connected to flooding from rivers in some areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development control to promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes.</li> <li>• Maintenance is required to area upstream of Station Road, Burton Latimer where the Ise is constrained in a concrete channel which is silted can lead to flooding at the Weetabix factory.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ecosystem Services</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Zone is relatively urban, so the key ecosystem services are cultural, recreation, education, local heritage and for health and well-being through the natural environment.</li> <li>• Regulating services contributed in this Zone include flood risk management, water quality, plant pollination, and climate regulation. In the more rural parts of the Zone provisioning services are provided by animals and crops farmed in the area. Food is also grown on allotments in the urban areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved access and habitat management will</li> <li>• Increase contributions to a range of ecosystem services, for example review and enhance (or create) habitat management plans so they include opportunities to increase the range and provision of ecosystem services</li> <li>• Opportunities to increase the multi-functionality of the site should be explored</li> <li>• The Hanwood Park development provides an opportunity to increase the ecosystem services provided.</li> </ul>

### 3. Ise Valley South Zone

In the South Zone of the Ise Valley, the river continues to flow roughly north to south, from Burton Latimer, past Findon and Wellingborough, through the Stanton Cross development, to its confluence with the River Nene. In this Zone the river is modified deepened and slow flowing. This Zone includes the tributaries the Harrowden Brook and Swanspool Brook.

In the South Zone, Sub-regional Green Infrastructure Corridor (SRC) (2) (Ise Valley) continues to follow the river until its confluence with the River Nene in SRC (1) (Nene Valley [Northampton – Wansford]). See Figure 4 above. In this Zone SRC (2) is crossed by Local Corridor (LC) 9a and 9b (Hockley Lodge – Finedon, and Finedon – Little Addington) and joined by LC 7a (Ecton to Wilby). Local Corridors (9a) and (7a) and connect to LC (8) close to the edge of this Zone.

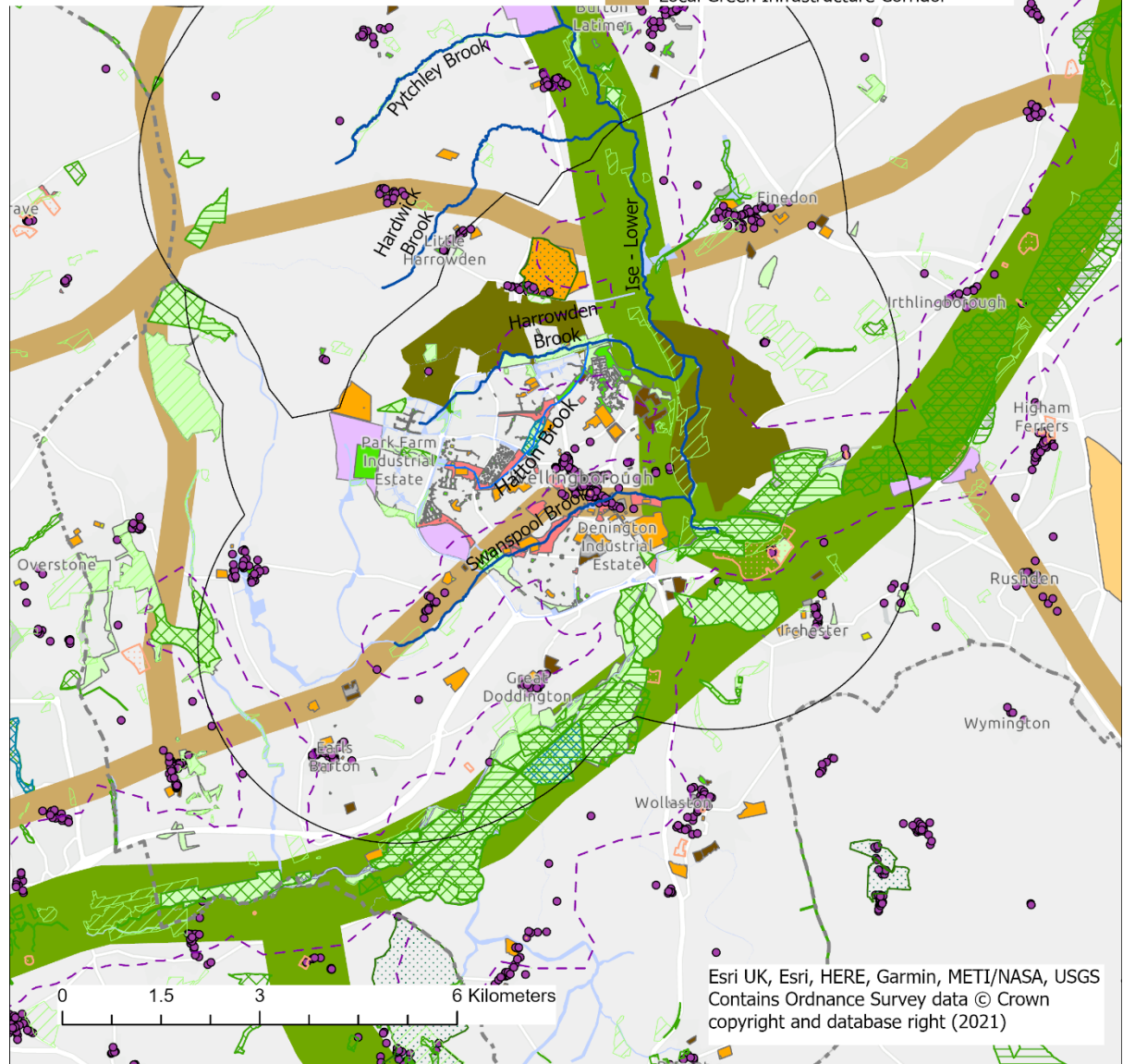
There is also a network of Wellingborough Local Corridors in this Zone.



**Figure 7: South Ise Zone Green Infrastructure**

**Legend**

- Study Area
  - Unitary authority boundary
  - Ise Waterbodies
  - Tributaries not show on Catchment Data Explorer
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest © Natural England
  - Local Nature Reserves England © Natural England
  - Local Wildlife Site © Wildlife Trust BCN & partners
  - Potential Wildlife Site © Wildlife Trust BCN & partners
  - Nature Improvement Area © Natural England & NIA Partnership
  - Historic Parks and Gardens © Historic England (2021)
  - Scheduled Ancient Monuments © Historic England (2021)
  - Listed Buildings © Historic England (2021)
  - Amenity Greenspace
  - Cemeteries
  - Linear Greenspace
  - Outdoor Sports & Recreation
  - Parks and Gardens
  - Provision for Children & Young People
  - Semi / Natural Greenspaces
- SUEs and Strategic Sites**
- Committed Strategic Site
  - Sustainable Urban Extension
  - SUE (Masterplanning Stage)
- Green Infrastructure Corridors**
- Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Corridor
  - Local Green Infrastructure Corridor
- Parks and Greenspaces**
- Allotments





**Table 3: Profile of the Ise Valley South Zone**

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area where the Ise meets the Nene is forms part of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area. It is also one of four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the others are Hardwick Lodge Meadow, Finedon Top Lodge Quarry and Irchester Old Lodge Pit.</li> <li>• The Hatton Brook flows through Glamis Meadow and Wood Local Nature Reserve. Summer Leys LNR lies in the far south of this zone on the River Nene.</li> <li>• Recognised Local Wildlife Sites include Irchester Country Park and Wellingborough Marsh. There are also a number of Potential Wildlife Sites.</li> <li>• The river corridor is part of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new developments, for example, Stanton Cross and Wellingborough North, make provision to protect and enhance existing and create new habitats to support biodiversity.</li> <li>• The SSSIs will be managed to ensure they are in ‘favourable condition’ and other designated sites will be protected and improved.</li> <li>• Identify natural and semi natural sites that, through management plans and project delivery, could be enhanced to reach SSSI or LNR or LWS status. Existing LWS / PWS along the river should provide the initial focus</li> <li>• The Habitat Opportunity Map for Northamptonshire will be used to identify areas for habitat improvement and creation.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the River Ise is currently limited in this Zone.</li> <li>• There is good informal access to much of the urban section of the Swanspool Brook, as it passes through public open space.</li> <li>• There is public access to a short section of the Harrowden Brook where it passes through public open space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stanton Cross development will provide new paths providing greater access along the Ise.</li> <li>• An Ise Valley Access Plan is being produced with a view to upgrading footpaths and cycleways and improving signage for wayfinding. The focus in this Zone will be from Finedon Station Road to the confluence with the River Nene, through the development of Stanton Cross.</li> <li>• Linking to other key routes and locations in and close to this Zone will add further value to access work along the Ise. For example, the proposed Greenway route along the Nene will link to Chester House and Stanwick Lakes.</li> <li>• For detailed recommendations refer to the Ise Valley Access Plan</li> </ul>

Community Health and Well-Being	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpaths and bridleways provide opportunities for recreation and sustainable commuting.</li> <li>• Wellingborough has large areas of public open space associated with the rivers, for example Croyland Park on the Swanspool Brook. Semi-natural Greenspace in this Zone includes North Wellingborough Tree Belts on the Harrowden Brook. There is extensive amenity greenspace along the Hatton Brook and in the north-western area of the town.</li> <li>• Irchester Country Park and Finedon Pocket Park also provide space for recreation outside of the urban areas.</li> <li>• Allotments, including Breezehill, and Ladywell, provide opportunities for exercise and to grow healthy food.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for recreation and active travel would increase by upgrading poor quality paths and links in line with the Ise Valley Access Plan.</li> <li>• Open spaces should be managed to provide access to nature, this will help to improve residents' wellbeing.</li> <li>• Encourage allotment committees to develop management and action plans for their sites to enhance provision and attract funding opportunities.</li> <li>• Develop management and action plans for open spaces to enhance provision and attract funding opportunities. Prioritise those spaces identified in the open space Audit and Assessment Reports.</li> <li>• Opportunities should be sought to provide green gym equipment and trails to encourage active engagement with and movement through open spaces</li> <li>• Opportunities should be sought to identify informal open spaces and support local communities to create pocket parks</li> </ul>
Landscape	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The whole of this zone is located in the Northamptonshire Vales National Character Area. The Vales provide an open landscape of gently undulating clay ridges and valleys with an overall visual uniformity to the landscape and settlement pattern. The Nene Valley is a key feature in this zone, and the River Ise flows into it</li> <li>• The River Ise and Swanspool Brook corridors provide scenic views which break up the urban areas of this Zone.</li> <li>• The River Nene corridor also passes through the southern part of this Zone and is a key landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When planning new projects reference should be made to Natural England's National Character Area Profiles to identify recommendations which will enhance landscape character and increase opportunities for informal recreation</li> <li>• Development in the area must be sensitive to character and seek to enhance the visual and landscape qualities</li> </ul>
Heritage	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are five Scheduled Monuments in the Zone including the Chester House estate which includes remains of Roman, Iron Age and Medieval Settlements.</li> <li>• There are numerous listed buildings in the towns and villages of the Zone, particularly in Wellingborough and Finedon, as well as four at Chester House Estate.</li> <li>• Great Harrowden Hall Parkland is an historic estate in this Zone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The important heritage features of the area should be protected and enhanced through positive management.</li> <li>• Develop a wayfinding and interpretation strategy to help people recognise the importance of these assets and better understand historic events.</li> </ul>
<b>Flooding and water management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risk of flooding is low through much of the Zone but there are significant areas at a high risk of flooding from rivers around the River Ise and Nene, with smaller areas around the Swanspool and Harrowden Brooks. Much of the area at high risk of flooding is the on floodplain in farmland or public open space.</li> <li>• Surface water flooding is also an issue in urban areas and is inter-related to flooding from rivers in some areas.</li> <li>• Finedon to Wellingborough Road bridge can be a pinch point for the River Ise/Harrowden brook in flood, industrial premises have flooded and are still at risk if no maintenance is carried out to the flood arches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further development should not be permitted in the flood plain.</li> <li>• Promote Natural Flood Management and riparian tree planting.</li> <li>• Encourage appropriate agricultural practices, such as meadows, in the floodplain.</li> <li>• Development control to promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes, for example in the Stanton Cross development.</li> </ul>
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the urban areas of this Zone the key ecosystem services are cultural with attractive views, recreation and education.</li> <li>• The area contributes to regulating services, including to flood risk management, water quality, plant pollination, and climate regulation.</li> <li>• Provisioning services are provided by farmland and allotments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stanton Cross and Wellingborough North developments provide opportunities to enhance ecosystem services.</li> <li>• Ecosystem services can also be enhanced through good habitat management and improving access.</li> </ul>

## 9. Issues Affecting the Valley

The Ise valley is largely rural, comprising a mixed farming landscape interspersed with some important areas for wildlife - woodlands, grasslands and wetlands - and historic parkland. However, it also lies within the [Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#) where major population growth is planned up to 2050. This will see the expansion of the towns of Kettering, Wellingborough and Corby. Smaller settlements in the valley also set to expand include Desborough and Rothwell. This expansion will increase the pressure on the natural assets of the catchment. Furthermore, new accessible, high quality and relevant green spaces within and close to existing and new communities will be required, as will the rejuvenation of existing green spaces, many of which are not fulfilling their potential. Access to the river is currently limited and there is an opportunity to link spaces along the river and to promote the Ise Valley to capitalise on the ecosystem services it can provide.

- Total length of main Ise channel – 51km
- Catchment Area – 121km<sup>2</sup>

Issues affecting the Ise Valley include:

- A. New development leading to population growth will increase pressure on the natural environment
- B. The enhancement of existing and creation of new open space and / or destinations will be required to meet the need generated through population growth
- C. The importance of balancing of needs between people and wildlife when enhancing existing and creating new open spaces
- D. Limited access to the river for recreation - some access exists for pedestrians but for cyclists, routes are highly restricted.
- E. Physical modifications to the watercourse, for example, weirs and deepening and straightening works. 14 barriers to flow (and fish passage) along the river (see Appendix 3) affect its flow in both flood and drought conditions.
- F. Climate change - projects need to be resilient against the effects of climate change and, where appropriate, help to mitigate them.
- G. Pollution - agricultural and urban for example, run-off from land or storm water overflows (see Appendix 3)
- H. Flooding – flood risk to properties from the Ise and its tributaries is relatively low, but it could rise due to development and climate change.
- I. Non-native species – including Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) and Himalayan Balsam are a threat to native flora and fauna.
- J. Management and maintenance of designated habitats to ensure restoration, conservation and enhancements, for example to SSSI's or LNRs. There are also opportunities to create new habitats.

## 1. Access

There is limited existing public right of way access to the Ise. There is bankside access at Geddington, Warkton, Wicksteed Park, Ise Lodge and Burton Latimer and in the future at Stanton Cross. There is a lot of unofficial access close to the river throughout its length. The aforementioned access is mainly suited to foot access only with fairly narrow paths. Cycle access is severely limited throughout, and where there is access for bicycles, it is more suited to off-road bicycles as opposed to road bicycles.

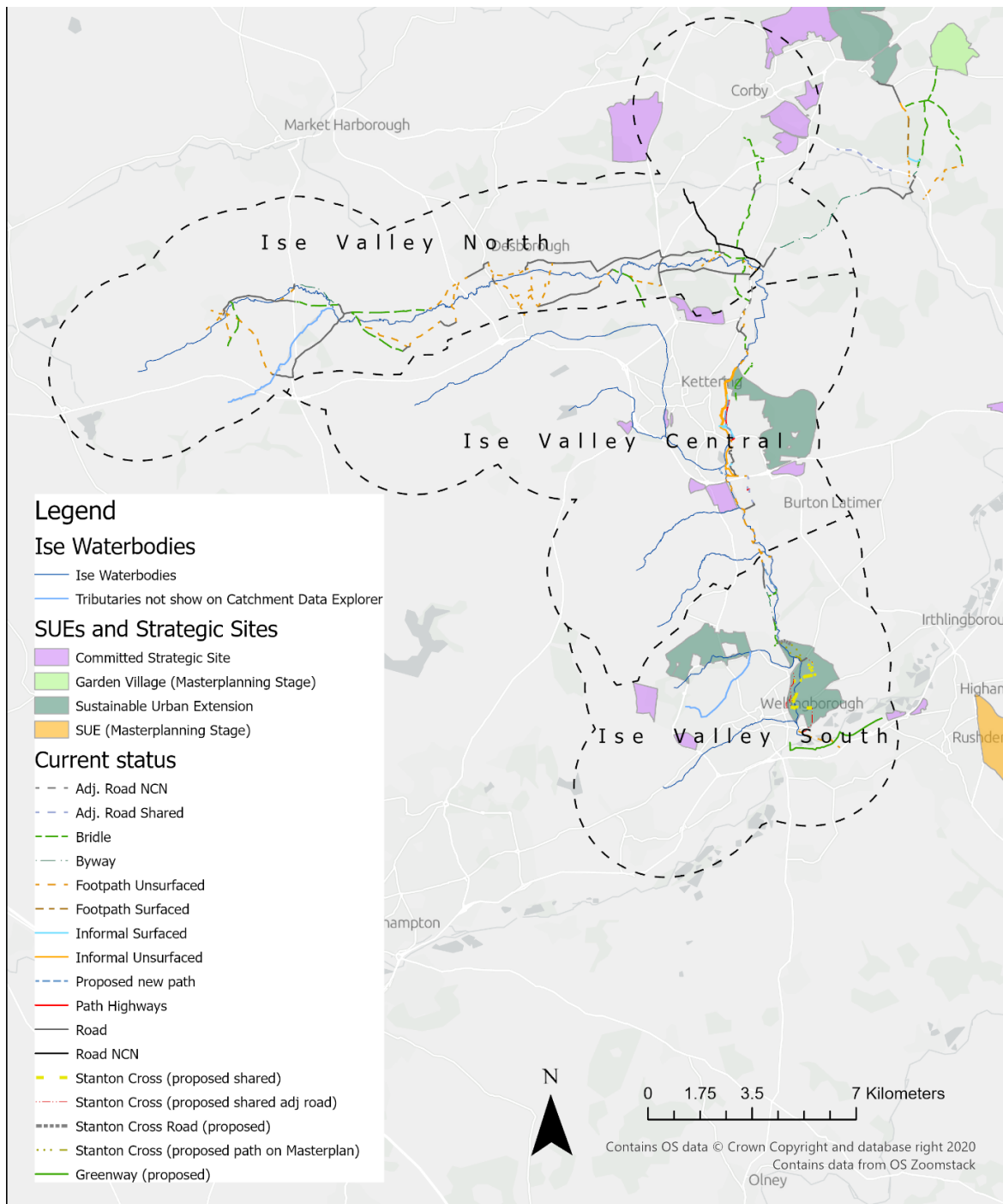
The River Ise Partnership aspires to create full access for both pedestrians and bicycles from Wellingborough through to Geddington and out towards Corby that follows the Ise as closely as possible. An access plan has been created which highlights the routes that need to be established and how they tie into existing routes. In the longer term this could be expanded to make the connections from Geddington, towards the headwaters of the Ise near Kelmarsh and Arthingworth. One framework for establishing these routes would be to mimic the [Nene Way](#), which runs alongside the River Nene from Northampton to Peterborough, and having an “Ise Valley Way” as a spur which joins the Nene Valley Way in Wellingborough.

The proposed route will link in to [North Northamptonshire's Greenway](#) (and be included in the new North Northamptonshire Greenway Forward Plan when it is published). as well as the [Nene Way](#), to help provide walking and cycling routes to local destinations and beyond.

In the short-term information from the ground truthing will be used to identify areas where small improvements could make the route more accessible, as well as areas where the landowner is part of the partnership, so landowner agreement is relatively straightforward (e.g. North Northamptonshire Council and Wicksteed Trust).

An overview map is shown below (Figure 8), and a draft route plan is included in Appendix 4.

**Figure 8: Overview map of proposed Ise Valley route showing current use.**



## 2. Recreation

Fishing – Currently no fishing clubs have control over the fishing on the River Ise (except Wellingborough & District Nene Angling Club for a short section) which means the fishing is only allowed in possession of a valid rod license with permission of the landowner. There are good stocks of roach, chub, dace and minnows as well as small numbers of other coarse species. There was historically a small population of Grayling, however, in recent years there have been no reports of any being caught. Bankside access could be improved in locations such as Burton Latimer pocket park and other areas by installing fishing platforms built with composite materials and digging out stepped access where vertical banks are currently treacherous all year round.

Water based activities – due to the size of the river, and poor access to the water, there is very limited opportunity for the use of canoes or paddleboards. The best opportunities are in the lower reaches around Burton Latimer and Wellingborough. There is currently no provision for access for these activities and if there is appetite to increase these activities on the Ise then portage points would need to be installed. Wicksteed Park offers waterborne vessels for hire on the on-line lake. Similarly, for wild swimming, the Ise is not suited to accommodate this activity. There is growing interest in wild swimming within Northamptonshire and although the Ise would offer a safer venue as there is no boat traffic there are only very short sections in the Lower Ise where swimming could be accommodated.

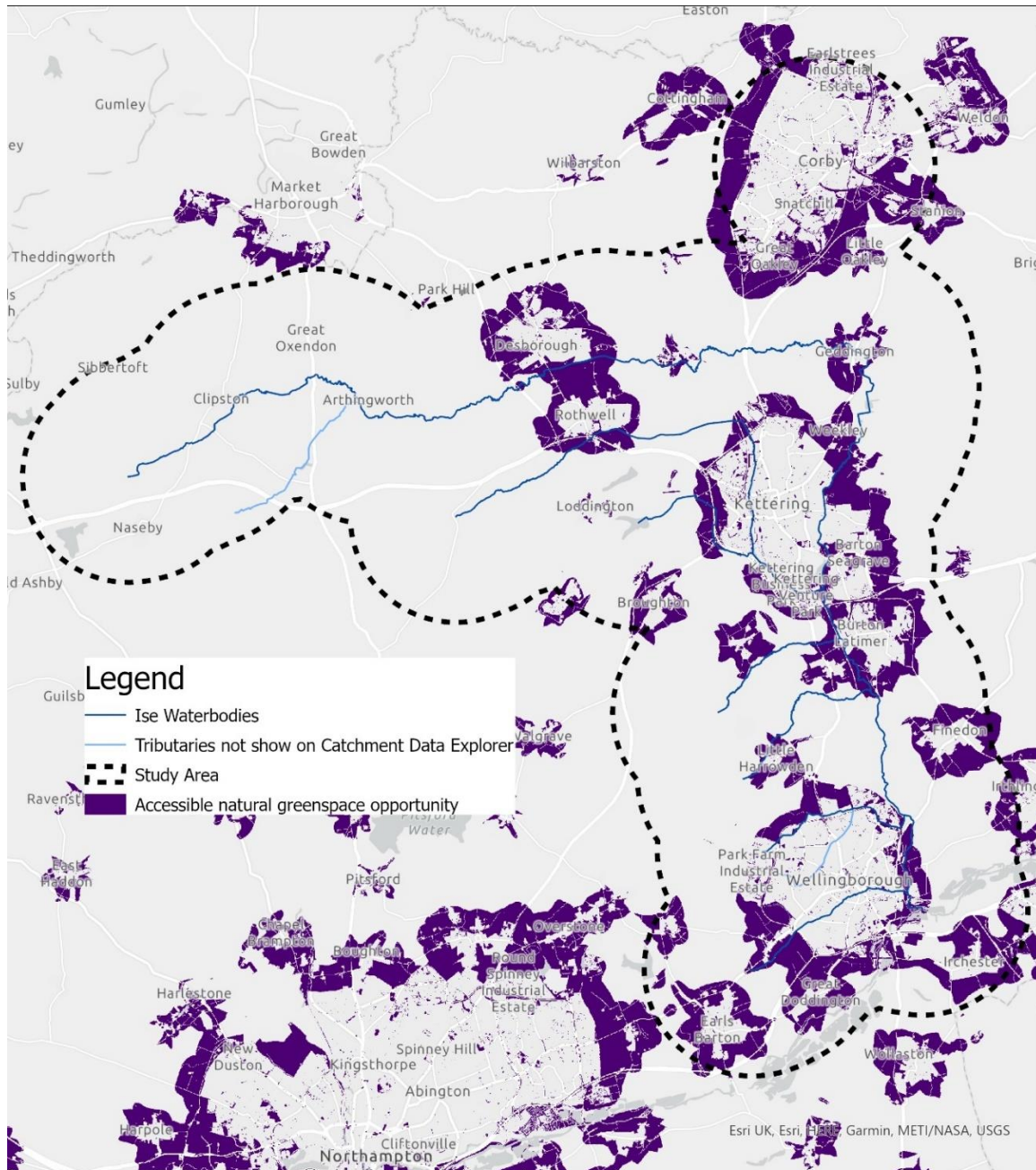
There are several locations in the upper reaches that are suited for accessing the river for paddling during low flow conditions, the ford at Geddington being a popular attraction for families with children.

New greenspaces along the Ise will be created at Stanton Cross, east of Wellingborough as part of the development. There are also opportunities to create new and improve existing greenspaces in other areas of the Ise Valley.

There are a number of existing public greenspaces around the River Ise and its tributaries. For example, in Kettering, the Ise Valley Parklands, owned and maintained by North Northamptonshire Council, stretch from Charlotte Place Park in the north of the town (with equipped play area, football pitch, BMX track) along the river to past allotments, further play and sports areas, and a community pavilion, to Wicksteed Trusts land in the south (which is also open to the public 364 days a year). The parkland includes amenity grass and trees, with some more naturalistic areas of woodland and meadow.



**Figure 9: Shows opportunities for accessible natural greenspace around the Ise Valley. Data: © Natural Capital Solutions Ltd 2018.**



### 3. Biodiversity & Environment

#### 1. *Physical Environment, Flow and Connection to Floodplain*

There are 14 known barriers to fish passage on the Ise, all of which are weirs except a sluice on the Boughton Estate. Using the obstruction prioritisation scheme developed for implementation of the Eels Regulations 2009 most of these barriers are ranked as 'Low' priority obstructions for eel, however, the three most downstream weirs are ranked 'Medium'. All of the structures have a negative impact on the aquatic environment, some more so than others, as not only is there a barrier to fish movement but the structures cause varying levels of impoundment within the channel. Slowing the flow, increasing the deposition of sediment in localised areas, and obstructing the movement of natural coarse materials, namely gravel, downstream. The effects noticeable through siltation and a densely vegetated channel. All of these barriers to flow disrupt the sediment supply downstream as well as potentially leading to further incision of the channel as the bed is scoured and not replaced.

In the upper reaches of the Ise at Kelmarsh Hall, an on-line estate lake has been created on the grounds of Kelmarsh Hall, significantly slowing the flow in the river and changing the flow dynamics dramatically both upstream and downstream of the lake. On the Environment Agency's [Catchment Data Explorer](#) the River Ise is shown as the channel running from Naseby Field past Clipston, but the Kelmarsh Hall channel is labelled as the Ise on Ordnance Survey maps (see Figure 4).

In the middle reaches there are 2 significant modifications to the course of the Ise at Boughton Estate and Wicksteed Park that impact on the natural flow and function of the river.

In the grounds of Boughton House, the Ise has been canalised to create ornamental features including 'The Long Reach', which was inspired by the water features of Versailles, commissioned by the first Duke of Montagu, and 'Broadwater Lake' which evolved from a series of elaborate basins, reaching its current size around 1746. The weir and sluice installed to help create these features slows the flow of the Ise leads to siltation and a densely vegetated channel for some distance upstream. However, the important heritage and landscape contribution of these features necessitates the retention of the weir. The estate has carried out restoration of the water features and installation of a new sluice to help harmonise with the natural flow of the river Ise and maintain levels within the canal system, and will work with the partnership on projects such as natural flood management.

The Ise at Wicksteed Park runs through a series of small weirs, a small pond, a large lake and a bypass channel. The lake was created in 1921 and restored in 2014, it is used for boating. Upstream the channel in the Wicksteed Water Meadows shows impacts of the impoundments. In summer levels the river has little to no flow and there is significant in channel reed growth that is evidence of sedimentation and low flows. There is also significant lily pad growth in some areas which, as it is not typical for this type of river, demonstrating that the channel is over deepened.

There are a number of artificial impoundments with 11 other known structures distributed along the Ise, including the ford at Geddington and weirs at Burton Latimer and Stanton Cross. These impoundments reduce the flow upstream, creating a slow, silty and densely vegetated channel. This is less significant on the lower Ise, which is characterised by its deeper channels and slower flows than the Upper Ise, however, the vegetation growth in channel impacts erosion and winter flows.

The three large impoundments at Kelmarsh, Boughton and Wicksteed Park are very unlikely to be modified to restore a more natural course to the river, however, there are opportunities to improve flows and create a more natural channel. Wicksteed water meadows is the only existing functioning historic water meadow in the county, restored through Revital-Ise and currently managed by Wildlife Trust BCN on behalf of the Wicksteed Trust. The meadows offer an opportunity to re-establish multiple channels and divert the flows through shallower and narrower channels to increase flow.

Connection to floodplain is an issue in the Ise catchment. There are stretches where, due to disconnection of floodplain, the flow in channel is too high and has removed bed armouring leading to extensive bank collapse and degradation of riffle pool habitats. Reconnecting the river to the floodplain would help to reduce these impacts.

Wicksteed Trust have identified a potential project on their land where the Slade Brook meets the Ise. This is another area where multiple channels could provide a more natural system. The Slade Brook would run through several smaller channels and meet the Ise downstream of where it currently meets. This would reconnect the brook to its floodplain, increase wetland diversity and potentially reduce the risk of flooding on the Slade.

Riverside shading is very good along the length of the river, with only two small sections lacking in shade. These areas are between Arthingworth and Thorpe Underwood & Burton Latimer pocket park heading downstream towards the confluence with the Harrowden Brook. The level of shading in some areas is too heavy and this can impact on aquatic vegetation growth, leaving long stretches with bare substrate only.

## 2. *Flooding*

The [flood map](#) shows that very few developed areas at a 1 in 100 risk of flooding in the Ise catchment. The Ise and its tributary the Slade Brook flooded in December 2020 with some damage to properties. Many of the greenspaces are within the zone of 1 in 100 risk of flooding and this must be considered in project planning, for example when choosing path surfaces or species to plant.

## 3. *Species and habitats*

There are historic records of Water Vole in the Ise and more recent sightings. As this species is suffering serious decline in the UK, confirming their presence, and managing habitat for them could provide an excellent activity for volunteers in the Ise Valley. Otter have recolonised the majority of watercourses in Northamptonshire, if volunteers are trained to survey for Water Vole, they could also be trained to survey for Otter at the same time. This would add valuable data and would also help with volunteer motivation if Water Vole field signs are scarce. Volunteers could also look for American Mink field signs as these non-native animals predate Water Vole. The use of [mink rafts](#) could be considered depending on the outcomes of these surveys.

In 2020 eDNA sampling for fish was carried out at Warkton and Geddington on the Rive Ise. Twelve species were detected. The species belong to 5 orders, 6 families, and 12 genera. They included Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) and Stone Loach (*Barbatula barbatula*); both are indicators of good water quality. Bullhead are listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, on Annex II of the European Commission Habitats Directive (3) and are Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Annex II species at a

number of sites. Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) DNA was also detected. No traces of Grayling DNA were found, this does not confirm absence. However, there have been no positive records of Grayling since around 2000. Before 2000 the Ise was notable for being the only river Northamptonshire river to have Grayling. A reintroduction could be considered.

[The River Ise and Meadows SSSI](#) downstream of Barford Bridge is an important habitat for a number of uncommon and rare species in the UK and locally. There is evidence of a historic population of native White Clawed Crayfish within the SSSI boundary. This population has not been verified in recent years and of concern is the increasing evidence of the invasive American Signal Crayfish along the Ise, particularly in the Lower Ise. This invasive species poses a huge risk to any remaining White Clawed Crayfish still present, due to a disease they carry (crayfish plague). The SSSI is comprised of 3 units, 2 terrestrial and 1 river, the terrestrial units are favourable or unfavourable – recovering with the river unit currently in unfavourable condition due to phosphate ([last assessment March 2018](#)).

There are some important lowland meadows designated as Local Wildlife Sites around Desborough. Lowland fen was once widespread in the valley but is now confined to isolated fragments such as [Southfield Farm Marsh SSSI](#). This SSSI was comprised of 5 units, one was destroyed with the construction of the A14, the 4 remaining units received their most recent [assessments in 2009/2013](#), one was in favourable condition while the other 3 were unfavourable – recovering.

The Partnership aims to improve habitats and biodiversity, with particular attention to the notable species and protected areas already found in the Ise Valley. The Partnership plans to ensure long term management of key sites, restore degraded sites and create new habitats. Activities will be planned in such a way to ensure net environmental gain.

#### 4. *Land use*

Land use in the rural areas of the catchment is mixed arable and pasture. To reduce the impact of agricultural chemical run off and soil erosion ideally fields close to the river should be converted to pasture. The planting of trees, hedges or shelter belts would also help to reduce overland flow and contribute to natural flood management. These features would also contribute to the visual and recreational quality of the valley.

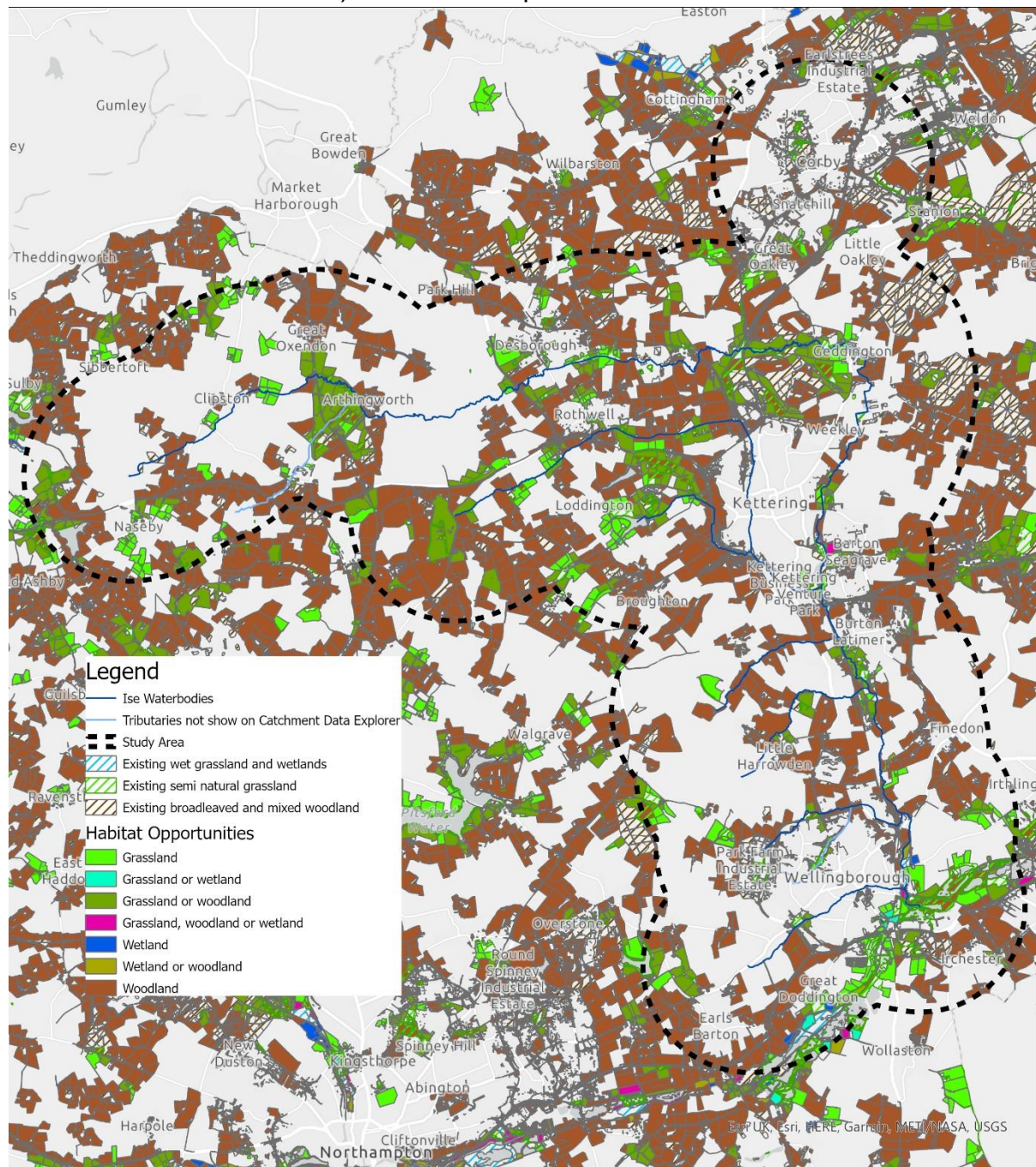
#### 5. *Habitat Opportunity Mapping*

Habitat Opportunity Mapping for Northamptonshire and Peterborough was carried out by Natural Capital Solutions. This process identifies areas where habitats could be created or improved while considering constraints such as existing land use. Existing habitats as well as combined opportunities for woodland, wetland and grassland are shown in Figure 10.

There is overlap between the locations identified for the different habitats so further work would be required to prioritise the type to be created.



Figure 10: Shows habitat opportunity mapping results for the Ise (with a 3km buffer around the Ise waterbodies). © Natural Capital Solutions Ltd 2018.



The Ise Valley has a fascinating history. One branch of the river rises in the fields where the [Battle of Naseby](#) took place in 1645. Another branch flows through landscaped grounds and an ornamental lake at [Kelmars Hall](#) (which was built in 1732 for the Hanbury family). In 1439 Sir William Tresham bought the village of Rushton St Peter, he had [Rushton Hall](#) built, which is now a hotel. The [Triangular Lodge](#) was designed by Sir Thomas Tresham and built between 1593 and 1597. Nearby [Corby](#)'s history goes back as far as the 8th Century when the area was settled by Danish invaders. The town received its royal charter in 1568. More recently Corby has been known for the production of iron and steel. In Newton, the site of the 1607 Newton Rebellion, there is a [dovecote and the remains of a late 16th century house](#). At the historic village of [Geddington](#), after passing the Eleanor Cross, where the Queen's funeral cortege rested in 1290, visitors can cross the river at the ford or the [bridge](#), which was added in 1250. The [Boughton](#) estate includes a large area of the Ise Valley and the river travels through several formal ornamental ponds in the [grounds](#) of the house. [Kettering](#) received its royal charter in 956. In the 19th century the town grew with the boot and shoe industry. [Wicksteed Park](#) opened in 1921 as the UK's first amusement park, the river flows through an online lake here. The Park estate also includes Kettering's only scheduled Monument, Castle Fields with known remains from the Bronze age, Iron Age and roman periods as well as a clear medieval history in the landscape including the site of a Domesday Watermill once powered by the Ise. The grounds of the adjacent Barton Hall were the subject of a red Book by Humphrey Repton (1793). [Wellingborough](#) was occupied by "Waendel's people" in the 6th century and, like Kettering, grew with Northamptonshire's shoe industry.

There are many other historic small towns and villages in the valley including: [Clipston](#), [Arthingworth](#), [Desborough](#), [Rothwell](#), [Weekley](#), [Warkton](#), [Barton Seagrave](#), [Burton Latimer](#), [Isham](#), and [Finedon](#).

The maps in the zoning section (Figure 5, Figure 6 and Figure 7) show the locations of listed buildings, scheduled monuments, parks and gardens, and battlefields.



## 10. Links to existing and previous projects

### 1. *Forest for Life*

The project will link with the Forest for Life project, also hosted by RNRP, to identify opportunities for tree planting and woodland management in the Ise Valley. For example, tree planting to increase shading (between Arthingworth and Thorpe Underwood & Burton Latimer pocket park heading downstream towards the confluence with the Harrowden Brook).

### 2. *Revital-Ise*

The Revital-Ise Project (referred to above) produced a final report in 2014, including a table of projects identified by the project (those still relevant are included in the following section or Appendix 6)

### 3. *Projects from Green Infrastructure Delivery Plans*

The projects outlined in [Kettering Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2018](#) which fall within the Ise Valley are included in the table in the following section or in Appendix 6.

[Wellingborough](#) and [Corby](#)'s green infrastructure documents do not identify specific projects, but costed projects are identified in the [North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan](#) for all three towns. Many of these fall within the Ise Valley. These are included in the Table in the following section or Appendix 6.

### 4. *Engagement with other groups active in the catchment.*

It is the desire of the partnership to build upon the excellent work already being delivered within the Ise Valley by seeking to add value to initiatives that are already underway and by supporting the delivery of partner aspirations.

#### Natural-Ise

Natural-Ise is an independent volunteer group, originally set up with support from the previous RNRP project on the Ise (Revital-Ise). The group works with North Northamptonshire Council to manage some areas of meadow close to the river in the Ise Valley Parklands in Kettering, and has planted hedges and trees. They are interested in planting an orchard and have been in talks with the Council's grounds team about a suitable location, the Grounds team mentioned an existing orchard which is underused.

One issue the group identified was an aging membership, this has been a particular issue during Covid 19. As it is important to keep their members safe, this means that there have been limited opportunities to volunteer during 2020.

Another issue identified was that some residents find naturalistic management 'messy' and can be unsupportive of changes to parks maintenance.

Some suggested activities to support the group with:

- Co-organise an event to promote the group to potential new members and to educate neighbours about naturalistic management.
- Organise training to manage the existing orchard, on pruning etc.
- Support with planting new fruit trees, if agreed with tree officer.
- Train the volunteers on water vole/otter field signs and water quality testing, so that they can monitor their stretch of river

This group could provide a model for setting up community groups for other areas of the Ise Valley to help care for the environment.

In addition to the clear link with the Natural-Ise Group we will also seek to establish relationships with each of the following groups to further identify synergies and initiatives for shared delivery:

[Kettering Eco Group](#)

[Wellingborough Eco Group](#)

[Friends of Croyland Gardens \(and the lost zoo\)](#)

[Castle Fields Community Group](#)

Communities/managers of pocket parks:

Burton Latimer Pocket Park

Rothwell Pocket Park/Recreation Ground

Desborough Pocket Park

Dog Kennel Spinney (on a small tributary)

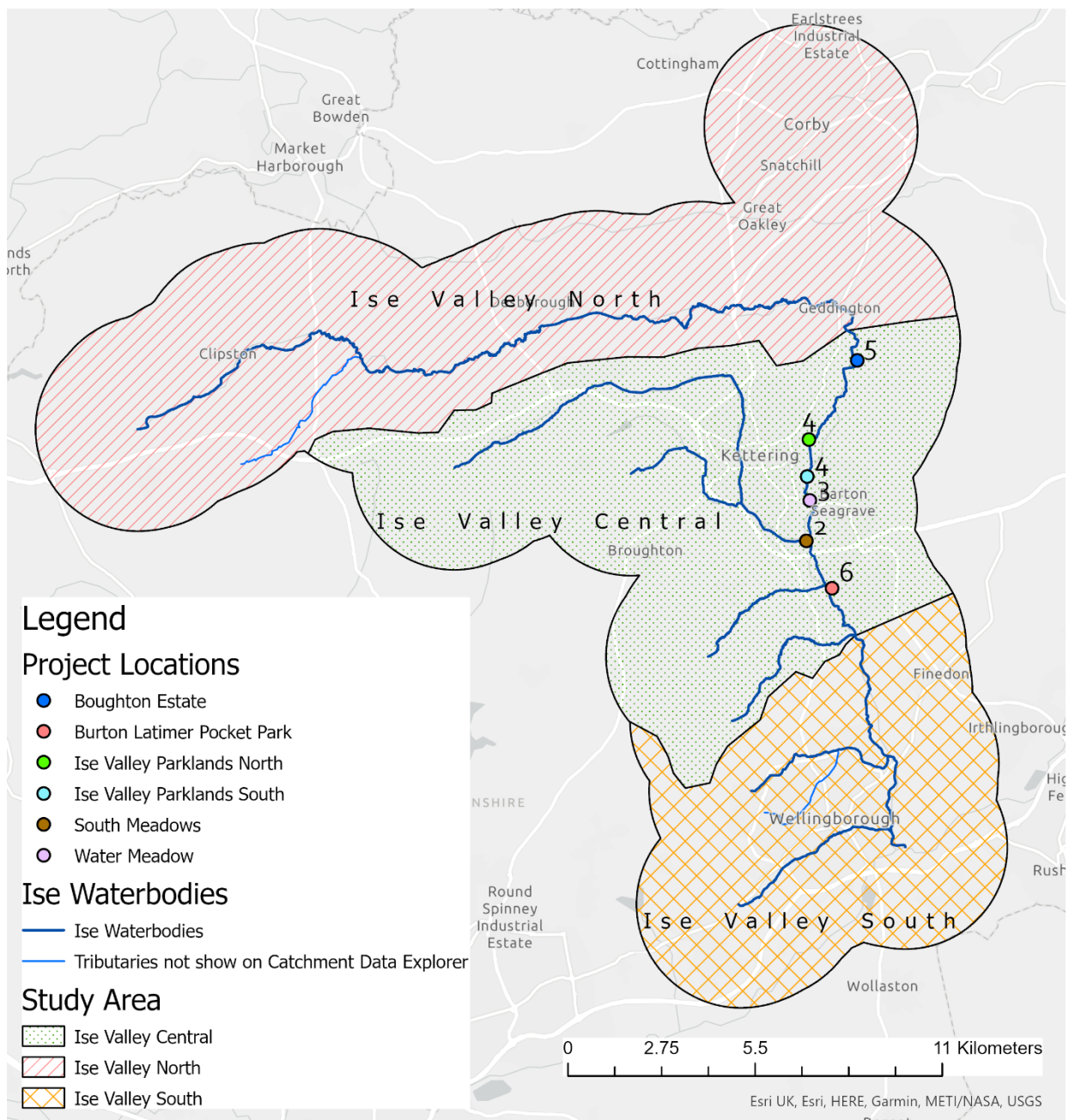
The Grange Pocket Park

## Part 3: Implementation

### 11. Actions to Address Issues

The Table 6 on the following page shows the projects identified by the River Ise Partnership. See Appendix 6 for a further table with projects identified by previous projects, and in previous documents, which might also be delivered through the partnership. Refer to the map below for zones. The map also shows the locations of identified projects which will take place at a specific site, many of the projects will take place in a number of locations or could occur anywhere within the Ise Valley. See Appendices for an additional list of potential funders.

**Figure 11: Map of Ise Zones. Showing the approximate locations of the projects which will take place at a specific site (numbered in Table 6 below).**



## Actions to deliver the Ise Strategic Plan

The issues affecting the Ise Valley are set out in detail through Section 9, these are summarised below as:

- A. Population growth leading to increased pressure on the natural environment
- B. Necessity to enhance existing and create new open spaces and / or destinations to accommodate population growth
- C. Balancing of needs between people and wildlife in open spaces
- D. Limited access to the river for recreation
- E. Physical modifications to the watercourse
- F. Resilience to climate change and contribution to mitigation.
- G. Pollution
- H. Flood risk
- I. Threat of non-native species to native flora and fauna
- J. Management and maintenance of designated habitats to ensure restoration, conservation and enhancements

These issues can be addressed through the successful implementation of the Ise Strategic Plan. Implementation is based on three strands:

- 1) Development of working practices within the Partnership and through partnership collaboration;
- 2) Integration of general project principles into project development and
- 3) Delivery of individual projects that will realise the Mission and Aims of the Partnership.

This section will develop these strands into tasks, activities and initial actions to provide a direction for the Partnership in the implementation of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan.

Further projects identified from existing strategies and documents are included in Appendix 6.

**Table 4: Working practices**

<b>Task:</b> Increase the level and diversity of partner and community participation in the planning for and development and delivery of green infrastructure; to ensure improvements are delivered within the riverine environment and to promote recreation and sustainable tourism throughout the Ise Valley				
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Initial Action</b>	<b>Leading Partners</b>	<b>Comments</b>
a)	Work with existing groups to pool resources and expertise that will enable on-going project delivery	Complete an audit of potential groups and organisations; host a workshop to foster allegiance; develop a directory of contacts that identifies areas of interest	RNRP, NNC	
b)	Work with landowners to advance sensitive farming practices and increase an uptake of stewardship/ELMS funding	Develop a directory of landowners and programme to contact to inform them of and engage them in Countryside Stewardship and sensitive farming practices	RNRP?	
c)	Work with landowners, planners and developers to facilitate project development and delivery throughout the study area	Identify 'champions' who can put a project lead in contact with the appropriate people upon the initiation of a new project	NNC, RNRP	
d)	Increase community participation in the development and delivery of projects	Facilitate the development of 'Friends of' (or similar) groups and establish a volunteer support and development programme to enable the ongoing management and maintenance of enhanced open spaces / GI	RNRP, NNC	
e)	Develop community-based programmes focussed on meeting identified need e.g. public and individual health; community cohesion	Audit existing outdoor activities to identify potential programmes and contacts; host a workshop to explore opportunities and short list some initial activities	RNRP, NNC	

f)	Work with partners, landowners, local communities and interest groups to develop tourism programmes, activities and opportunities that will promote the natural, riverine and heritage assets of the Ise Valley	Arrange an 'Ideas Workshop' bringing interested parties together to identify project opportunities.	RNRP, Destination Nene Valley?	
g)	Work with partners, landowners, local communities and interest groups to develop business opportunities to support recreation and sustainable tourism in the Ise Valley		RNRP, DNV?	



**Table 5: General Project Principles**

<b>Task:</b> Enhance the quality of the natural land environment throughout the Ise Valley to increase biodiversity, strengthen the network of habitats and ensure they become more resilient to current and future pressures				
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Initial Action</b>	<b>Leading Partners</b>	<b>Comments</b>
h)	Use Habitat Opportunity Mapping to identify priority areas for habitat creation or improvement	Arrange a half day seminar to introduce partners to the Habitat Opportunity Mapping and enable them to engage in hands on activities to increase confidence in using the tool	WTBCN	
i)	Connect to ecological networks beyond the study area	Ensure Project Plans show how they connect to the ecological network	RNRP, WTBCN	
j)	Improve the connectivity between open spaces and places of interest throughout the study area to benefit people and wildlife	Using the existing plans for the Ise Access route identify places of interest and look at how interpretation and planting could be used to promote access and enable freedom of movement for wildlife	RNRP	
k)	Initiate tree planting and management programme (including topping out, pruning and felling) to enable habitat regeneration and avoid tree overshadowing	Identify interested parties and develop a programme of tree planting activities and prioritise maintenance where needed most	NNC, RNRP, WTBCN	
l)	Increase meadow enhancement and / or creation throughout the study area where appropriate.	Identify opportunities for meadow enhancement and / or creation that can be included as part of project planning or projects within their own right.	NNC, RNRP, WTBCN	

<b>Task:</b> Enhance the quality and flow of the water environment along the River Ise and through its tributaries to increase biodiversity, strengthen the network of habitats and ensure they become more resilient to current and future pressures				
m)	Reconnect the Ise with its floodplain where appropriate	Identify opportunities along the Ise where this could be implemented	EA, RNRP	
n)	Restore 'straightened' sections of the Ise to original natural course through re-meandering	Identify opportunities along the Ise where this could be implemented	EA, RNRP	
o)	Actively reduce levels of pollution and improve water quality in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive	Use existing data to develop an action plan that will deliver projects to reduce pollution and improve water quality	EA, RNRP	
p)	Introduce large woody materials into the river channel to restore habitat diversity and help vegetation to mature along the river	Ensure, where appropriate, project plans include the opportunity to realise this action	EA, RNRP	
q)	Include wetland creation where appropriate	Identify opportunities where wetland creation would be appropriate	EA, RNRP	
r)	Enable fish movement through the removal of barriers and installation of fish passes	Using existing information develop an action plan seeking to remove existing barriers and install fish passes where possible	EA, RNRP	
<b>Task:</b> Promote the heritage and cultural legacy of the Ise Valley through recreation and tourism				
s)	Development a River Ise Heritage and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan	Identify heritage and tourism champions who can produce the Strategy and Action Plan	DNV, RNRP	
t)	Conserve, protect, enhance and / or restore historic assets and their settings	Audit and assess historic assets located within the study area as a basis to develop an opportunities map that can	DNV, RNRP	

		be used to improve historic assets as funding arises		
u)	Raise awareness of and showcase the history and culture of the Ise Valley	Install interpretation boards and panels where appropriate as part of project delivery	DNV, RNRP	

**Table 6: Projects Table**

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>River Ise Zone</b>	<b>Approximate cost</b>	<b>Partners (lead in bold)</b>	<b>Potential funders</b>	<b>Issues addressed</b>
<b>1)</b>	Ise Valley Access Project	Creation of the 'Ise Valley Way' a cycling and pedestrian route from Wellingborough, through Kettering and into Corby. Links developed to the existing Greenway and spur routes created for access from rural settlements. Opportunities for wider environmental benefits will be sought for each stretch of route developed	North Central South	See developed Access Plan and associated project briefs	<b>RNRP</b> ; River Ise Partnership; NNC	Highways England (designated funds); Garden Communities; S106; Landfill Tax opportunities	A, B, C, D, F, G
<b>2)</b>	South Meadows Project, Wicksteed Park	Re-engineering of the R. Ise and Slade Brook confluence to restore natural meandering and to reconnect the river with its natural floodplain; Environmental improvements to improve access, habitat restoration and educational opportunities to South Meadows	Central	Indicative costs: £119k for river elements £125K for amenity elements	<b>Environment Agency; NNC; Wicksteed Park; RNRP</b>	Environment Agency; RNRP; Wicksteed Park; S106	A; B; C; D; E; f; H; I; J
<b>3)</b>	Water Meadow restoration, Wicksteed Park	Restoration of the Water Meadow due north of South Meadows on Wicksteed Park	Central	TBD	<b>Environment Agency; Wicksteed Park; Wildlife Trust</b>	TBD	A; B; C; F; I; J
<b>4)</b>	Deliver an Ise Valley Parklands	Re-imagine the Ise Valley parklands to create managed natural, semi natural open space with enhanced access, play and natural play facilities, improved habitat creation, tree planting and interpretation panels	Central	TBD	<b>NNC</b>	TBD	A; B; C; D; F; I; J

5)	Environmental Enhancements at Boughton Estate	Introduction of natural flood management measures; habitat enhancements; water quality improvements	North	Indicative cost <£500k	<b>Boughton Estate; EA, Natural England;</b>	Natural England (Capital through Stewardship Agreement); Environment Agency to fund feasibility study	A; B; C; F; G; H; J
6)	Burton Latimer Pocket Park	Access improvements; river restoration; introduction of natural play facilities	Central?	£250k	<b>RNRP; Burton Latimer Town Council</b>	TDB	A; B; C; D; F; I; J
7)	Wildlife Survey (riverine)	Survey for water vole, otter, mink, crayfish and other species to identify opportunities for habitat enhancement / creation	North Central South	TBD	<b>Wildlife Trust; RNRP</b>	TBD	A; C; I; J
8)	Riverine Barrier Survey	Survey to identify barriers to fish and other water-born wildlife and identify locations for fish passes, otter tunnels and other measures to promote freedom of movement	North Central South	TBD	<b>Environment Agency; RNRP, Wildlife Trust</b>	TBD	C; E; F; I; J
9)	Grayling re-introduction	Re-introduction programme to put graylings back in the R. lse to regeneration the grayling population	North Central South	TBD	<b>Environment Agency; RNRP</b>	Environment Agency	C; E; F; J
10)	Local Wildlife / Potential Wildlife Site Surveys	Survey all sites within study area to inform the development of project plans for habitat enhancements	North Central South	TBD	<b>Wildlife Trust; RNRP</b>	TBD	A; B; C; D; F; I; J

11)	Forest for Life (climate change initiative for the regeneration of the Rockingham Forest)	Identify opportunities for woodland enhancement and creation e.g. (tree planting and woodland management) within the Forest for Life boundary	North Central	TBD	<b>RNRP</b> , Rockingham Forest Vision, NNC, FC, FE, WTBCN, Royal Forestry Society, Welland Rivers Trust, Hazel Woodland Products, Butterfly Conservation, Natural England, volunteer network	TBD	A; B; C; F; H; I; J
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## Part 4 – Evaluating our Success

To ensure the relevance of this plan is maintained it is suggested that the plan will undergo a comprehensive review every 4 years. The review will be undertaken in consultation with delivery partners and will aim to identify new projects for implementation in line with the refresh of aspirations and vision.

Evaluating the effectiveness of the partnership and the delivery of this strategic plan will be done through the quarterly meetings of the partnership with an annual review each March. As set out in the Terms of Reference an annual review will examine:

- meeting the catchment objectives identified in the Ise Valley Strategic Plan
- project development and delivery
- review the partnership ToR along with the relevance, successes and value of the partnership.

The annual review will include qualitative measures of progress, for example images of project sites and confirmation that the partners are happy with the progress made.

Individual project evaluation will be determined, to a large extent, by the funders and the conditions on the specific grants that are accessed to fund implementation. The Strategic Plan document will receive an interim review annually to ensure that the content is up to date and that the partnership's aspirations have not changed.

## 5. Appendices

### 1. Appendix 1: River Ise Partnership Terms of Reference

#### 1. Terms of Reference (ToR) Term

ToR is effective from 15/04/2021 and will be ongoing until terminated by agreement of the Partnership.

#### 2. Role of Group

This partnership first came together in October 2019 through a collective interest in the River Ise Catchment and has since become a working group of the Nene Valley Catchment Partnership (NVCP). Members of partnership have agreed to invest their time and ideas and, where appropriate, resources to investigate, identify and propose future opportunities for the greater good of the catchment. The group will act to secure funding to support the delivery of initiatives and have influence on local policies and priorities. The group will report to the NVCP, on request, ahead of their quarterly catchment partnership meetings.

#### 3. Partnership Vision

#### **The Partnership will...**

Provide a coordinated approach aimed at improving access to and the quality of the Ise Valley. It will be a strong and inclusive network of individuals, professionals and organisations to enable collaborative action that will deliver real outcomes. It will facilitate the level and diversity of partner and community participation in the planning, development and united enjoyment of the Ise Valley.

#### **...for the benefit of the Ise Valley by: -**

Developing a large-scale and ambitious programme to enhance the quality of the Valley's natural environment, to strengthen its natural capital and develop its ecosystem services. Our Vision is to ensure that the Ise Valley plays a central role in north Northamptonshire's sustainable and economic prosperity; that its landscape character and sense of place is regarded as equally important as the economy and valued every bit as much as our planned growth.

#### 4. Our Mission

- For the Ise Valley to become a connected landscape of places and spaces in which our existing and important habitats are restored and developed so they become more resilient to change, bring about environmental gain, enable ecological networks to grow and secure natural heritage through better management.
- That River Ise is cared for, is improved and enhanced to facilitate sustainable natural flow where water quality and habitats are improved, and flooding is reduced.
- For the Ise Valley to be recognised as providing a setting that allows people and wildlife to co-exist harmoniously and interdependently; where authentic tourist experiences that celebrate and conserve heritage and culture can occur.

- That the benefits afforded by the Ise Valley are taken into account, not just by environmentalists but by all within its catchment.
- That the services supplied throughout the Ise catchment are identified, enhanced and protected so that the Valley can continue to provide on a grand scale to let people share, experience and embrace nature and local distinctiveness.

## 5. Our Aims

We will seek opportunities to enhance the quality of the Ise Catchment's natural capital, mitigate against climate change and ensure the Ise Catchment plays a central role in north Northamptonshire's sustainable and economic growth while enhancing the landscape character and sense of place.

The key aims of the River Ise Partnership are to:

- develop a River Ise Linear Park that creates links and pathways for people and wildlife and augments connectivity from Wellingborough through Kettering and to Corby
- mitigate against climate change
- contribute to natural flood management
- minimise impacts on the catchment and provide net gains for biodiversity
- improve water quality
- create new green infrastructure (GI) as well as protect and enhance existing GI
- seek opportunities to develop sustainable tourism that creates socioeconomic benefits for communities through employment and income earning opportunities

## 6. Membership & Leadership

The group is open to any organisation or individual who can help inform or deliver the Vision, Mission and Aims of the Partnership as well as those who may be impacted by future implementation.

The Partnership will share leadership responsibility with a representative from a member organisation taking the Administrative Seat (AS) role for a period of 12 months starting each April. The AS organisation is indicated below.

Current membership:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- BCN Wildlife Trust
- Wicksteed Charitable Trust
- River Nene Regional Park CIC
- Forestry Commission
- North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit
- North Northamptonshire Council
- West Northamptonshire Council

Friends of the partnership:

- Anglian Water
- Boughton Estates

Record of Administrative Seats:

20/21	Environment Agency
21/22	River Nene Regional Park to facilitate
22/23	

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Partners commit to assist with delivery of the above Vision, Mission and Aims by the following principles. This commitment will be confirmed through a letter/email supporting these Terms of Reference to the Administrative Seat

- Attend, support and input to partnership meetings either in person, by representative or in proxy.
- Identify and, where appropriate, contribute to opportunities for funding and resources.
- To remain inclusive and capitalise on opportunities, existing Members will identify and invite new Members accordingly and, where appropriate, assimilate activities with plans, programmes and projects administered by other Members to enable delivery for the benefit of the catchment.
- Where appropriate share relevant data and information to assist with the progress of projects within the Ise catchment.
- Members should provide one months' notice to the Partnership if their organisation is unable to continue support.

## 8. Accountability

The group is accountable to the Nene Valley Catchment Partnership. It is not envisaged that anything discussed at the meetings will be confidential and, as such, the individuals are at liberty and encouraged to report back to their own organisations and networks as they see fit.

There exists the potential for projects/measures to be identified on privately owned land. In these circumstances, the projects will remain aspirational only and internal to this group until the land holder has been engaged and feasibility determined.

## 9. Meetings

The group will meet quarterly with additional meetings if required. The nominated chair will organise the meetings that can be either face-to-face or by virtual means (e.g. tele/video-conferencing). The Administrative Seat will set the agenda and arrange for Minutes/Action notes to be taken and circulated via email.

## 10. Monitoring & Review

The initial review period will be one year each March, this will be to assess the success of the Partnership in its first full year. This would be in respect to:

- meeting the catchment objectives identified in the Ise Valley Strategic Plan
- project development and delivery
- review the partnership ToR along with the relevance, successes and value of the partnership.

## 11. Sharing of information and resources

The resources and information utilised within the group should not contain any confidential material and it is envisaged that all stakeholders will willingly and freely provide any information and resource that they deem relevant for sharing within the group unless otherwise stated.

## 2. Appendix 2: Stakeholders

### 1. Organisations active in the Ise Valley

There is a plethora of organisations active in various aspects of land and water management in the Ise Valley. This section provides further information on the local organisations and partnerships focussed entirely on the area. Delivering the projects and aspirations set out by this Plan will require a collective, partnership approach. This will draw on the knowledge, experience and the expertise of Stakeholders located within or working for the good of the Ise Valley.

#### 1. *Local Authorities*

[North Northamptonshire Council](#) (NNC) is the single unitary council responsible for providing a range of public services to residents and businesses in the areas of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. These services include, *inter alia*, planning policy and development management, maintaining parks and open spaces, flood and water management, health and leisure, culture and tourism and community grants and funding. The Council, through the delivery of their services has an opportunity to facilitate the delivery of this Plan. West Northamptonshire Council covers the source and the first few miles of the Ise's course.

The [North Northamptonshire Joint Planning & Delivery Unit \(NNJPDU\)](#) became part of the Place and Economy services of North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) on 1st April 2021. It continues to provide strategic planning for North Northamptonshire alongside its urban design and delivery service. The new [West Northamptonshire Council](#) covers the westernmost part of the Ise catchment and includes [West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit](#).

#### 1. *Parishes on the Ise*

**Naseby**  
**Haselbeck**  
**Clipston**  
**Arthingworth**  
**Kelmarsh**  
**Harrington**  
**Desborough**  
**Rothwell**  
**Rushton**  
**Geddington**  
**Newton and Little Oakley**  
**Weekley**  
**Warkton**  
**Cranford**  
**Burton Latimer**  
**Isham**  
**Barton Seagrave**  
**Finedon**  
**Little Harrowden**  
**Great Harrowden**



## 2. *Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)*

The LLFA is a countywide service leading the management of local flood risks (i.e. risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses). Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, LLFAs are required oversee flood risk management. The LLFAs work in partnership with *inter alia*, such as the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and local communities to share information and guidance and provide support on local flooding issues.

Working with them on project development and delivery through this Plan will help ensure projects are either resilient to flooding where relevant and / or can help mitigate flooding episodes.

## 3. *Government Agencies*

The [Environment Agency](#) is a non-departmental public body with responsibility for environmental protection. The Environment Agency is a member of the Partnership, their area of interest within the partnership is the river environment. They will provide advice and possibly funding for projects.

[Natural England](#) is the government's advisor on the natural environment. Natural England is represented on the Partnership and their advice will be particularly important for projects related to designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. They may also have funding available for projects.

The [Forestry Commission](#) is a non-ministerial department which aims to increase the value of woodland to society and the environment. The Forestry Commission administers funding, including new funds for riparian trees.

[Highways England](#) is a government company with responsibility for building and maintaining A-roads and motorways. The A14 passes over the River Ise and impacts upon it. Highways England administers a 'Designated Fund' which could potentially fund projects of the Partnership.

## 4. *Local Nature Partnership*

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. Setting up LNPs was one of the commitments arising from the Natural Environment White Paper (2011) along with the creation of Catchment Partnerships. LNPs work strategically to help their local area manage the natural environment. They aim to make sure that its value, and the value of the services it provides to the economy and the people who live there, is taken into account in local decisions, for example with regard to planning and development. In particular, LNPs have a role in coordinating closely with Local Enterprise Partnerships to help deliver sustainable growth.

**Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership** was established in 2012. One of the key objectives relates specifically to Flood and Water Management with the aim to "Prioritise natural flood management processes that follow the natural water cycle, improve water quality

and provide opportunities for habitat creation". To implement the Strategy the Northamptonshire LNP has agreed a "Transformation Programme" and from this has identified ten top priorities which it closely monitors.

#### 5. *Catchment Partnership*

[The River Ise Partnership](#) is a working group of the [Nene Valley Catchment Partnership](#). Catchment Partnerships are broad coalitions of government agencies, environmental organisations, landowners, local authorities and other groups with an interest in one of the 100+ Water Framework Directive catchments in England. Catchment Partnerships undertake integrated management of the water and land environments of their catchment. The River Ise Partnership will work in a similar way in this smaller sub-catchment of the Nene.

#### 6. *Heritage Groups / Organisations*

The Ise Valley has a rich heritage, and it is important that the partnership work with groups involved in its preservation and interpretation.

[Kelmarsh Hall](#) is a Grade II\* listed country house managed by The Kelmarsh Trust. There is a manmade lake on the Ise in their grounds.

[Boughton House](#) is looked after by The [Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust](#). The Ise passes through a series of formal manmade lakes in the grounds.

[Naseby Battlefield Project](#) raises funds to restore and interpret the site of the Battle of Naseby. The Ise rises in this area.

[Wicksteed Park](#) opened in 1921 as mainland UK's first theme park. The online lake was dug in 1916-17.

[Ise Archaeological Research Society](#) a local group who could be involved in any historical investigations carried out through the Partnership.

#### 7. *Environmental Groups / Organisations*

[The Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire \(BCN\) Wildlife Trust](#) manage a number of sites in the Ise Valley, notably Tailby Meadows and Southfield Marsh Farm. Community involvement and education are important roles and there is a comprehensive calendar of events and activities for families, schools and conservation tasks.

[The Biological Record Centres for Northamptonshire](#) is hosted in the Wildlife Trust offices, providing a wide range of services including organising surveys on invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and using drones for monitoring purposes.

[Woodland Trust](#) wants to see the UK rich in trees and woodland. They work towards this aim through tree planting, protection and restoration of woodland, caring for woods, research and influencing policy.

[Deer Initiative](#) is a broad partnership of statutory, voluntary and private interests dedicated to "ensuring the delivery of a sustainable, well-managed wild deer population in England and Wales".

[Groundwork Northamptonshire](#) is part of a federation of charities mobilising practical community action on poverty and the environment across the UK. Passionate about creating

a future where every neighbourhood is vibrant and green, every community is strong and able to shape its own destiny, and no-one is held back by their background or circumstances. Groundwork Northamptonshire run a community allotment adjacent to the River Ise in Kettering.

[Natural-Ise](#) is a volunteer group caring for Ise Valley Park in Kettering. The group was born out of the [Revital-Ise](#) project that ran previously. The key aims of the Revital-Ise project were to improve habitats for biodiversity in and adjacent to the River Ise and its tributaries and to improve the water quality to meet Water Framework Directive targets, whilst encouraging and facilitating partnership working and community involvement in order to meet its aims. Natural-Ise is a small volunteer group that looks after the Ise Valley Parklands in Kettering.

8. *Recreational Groups / Organisations*

[Wicksteed Park](#) is a Grade II listed park located in the south-east of Kettering, which includes an amusement park on the grounds. Wicksteed Park runs community, education and heritage activities to promote the historic landscape, heritage rides and provides new opportunities for communities to engage and participate. The River Ise runs through the park as an on-line lake, with a bypass channel to the east.

[Wellingborough & District Nene Angling Club](#) have fishing rights on a small section of the Lower Ise, a short distance upstream of the confluence with the River Nene.

9. *Agriculture/Business*

[Weetabix](#)

[National Rail](#)

[National Farmers Union](#)

[SEMLEP](#)

10. *Key Landowners*

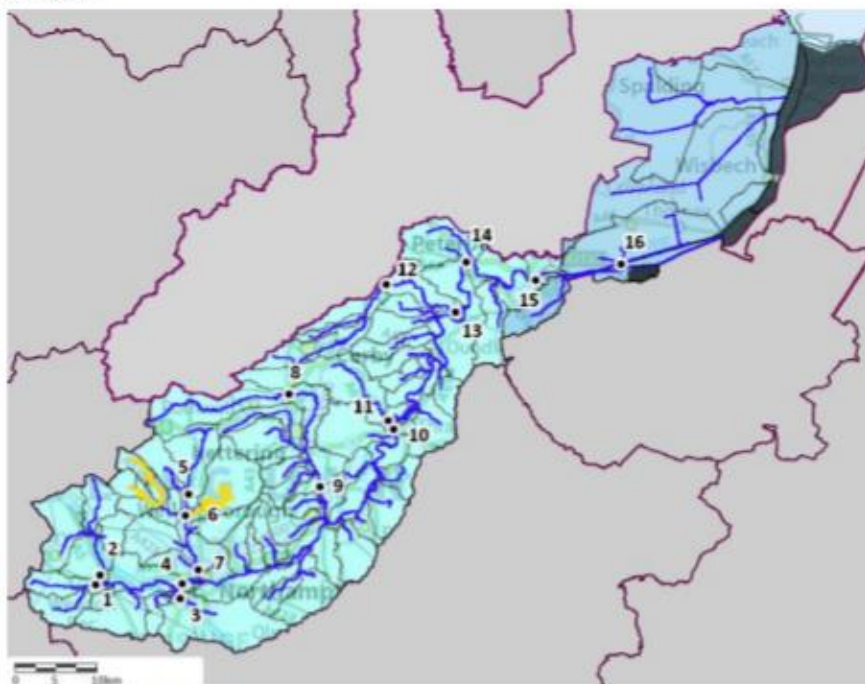
Between Corby and Kettering the landowner is the Boughton Estate, much of the area is occupied by tenant farmers. In Kettering the main landowners are North Northamptonshire Council and the Wicksteed Trust, with a small area owned by BCN Wildlife Trust. South of Kettering to Wellingborough the land is owned by individual farmers, Burton Latimer Town Council, Weetabix and the developers of the Stanton Cross. The area between the source at Naseby and Boughton's land is also largely agricultural with small areas of BCN Wildlife Trust nature reserve and the Kelmarsh Estate.

### 3. Appendix 3: Issues

#### 1. Water abstraction

AP	Name	Water Resource Availability	HOF Restriction (MI/d)	Number of days per annum abstraction may be available	Approximate Volume available at restriction (MI/d)	Is there a Gauging station at this AP?	Additional restrictions
8	Barford Bridge	Restricted water available	55	76	67.8	Yes	
9	Harrowden Mill	Restricted water available	158.7	76	181.1	Yes	

Map 6: Water resource reliability of the Nene ALS expressed as percentage of time available.



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Please note that there is no water available in the water bodies to the east and west of AP6 (the Heavily Modified rivers coloured orange on the map above).

Legend:

- Assessment Points
- Heavily Modified and Artificial Rivers (designated for water resources reasons)
- Heavily Modified Artificial lakes (designated for water resources reasons)
- Rivers

Percentage of the time additional consumptive resource may be available:

- Consumptive abstraction available less than 30% of the time
- Consumptive abstraction available at least 30% of the time
- Consumptive abstraction available at least 50% of the time
- Consumptive abstraction available at least 70% of the time
- Consumptive abstraction available at least 95% of the time
- Unassessed

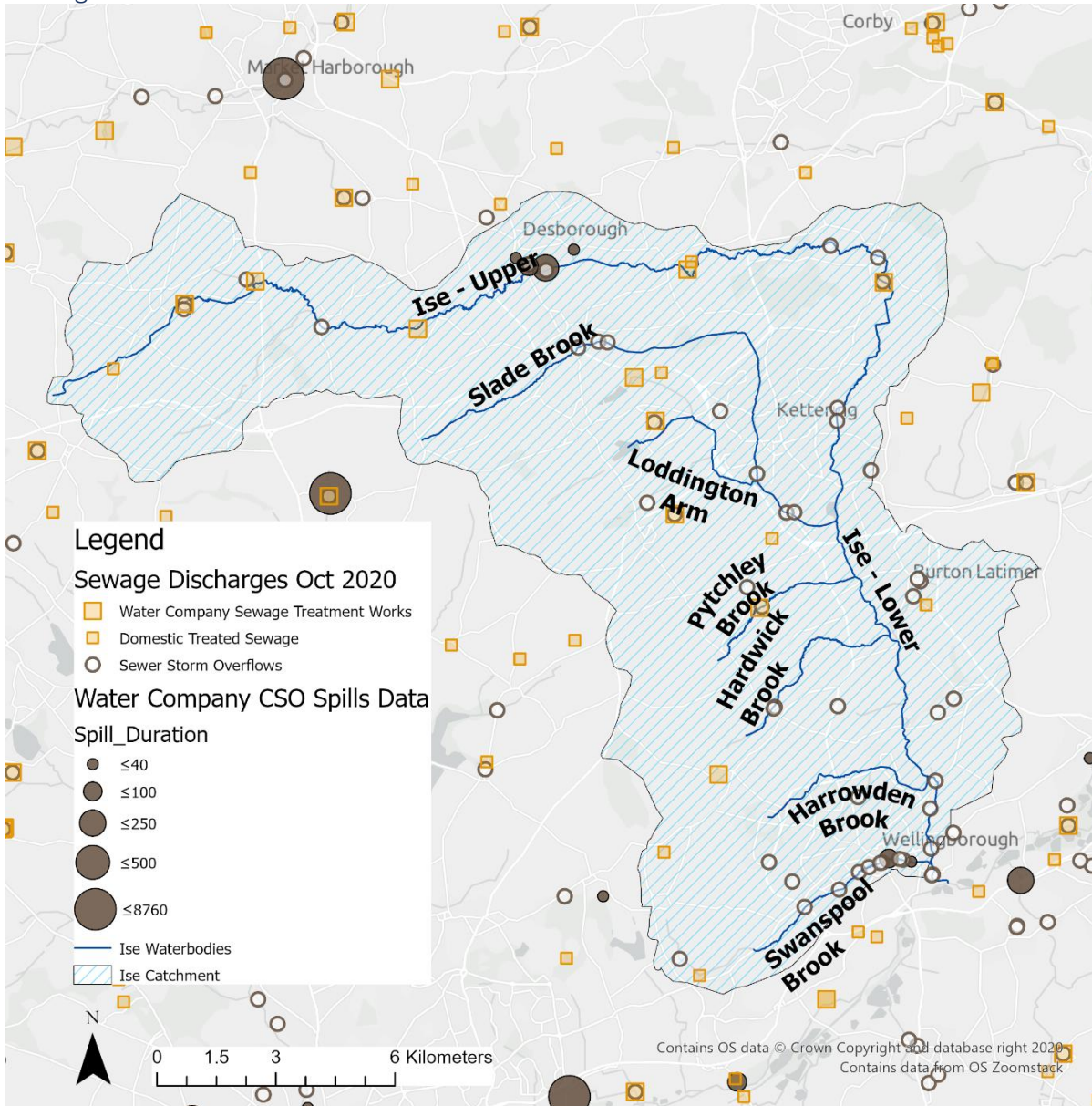
Map and contents of table above taken from [Nene Catchment Abstraction Licensing, Strategy, A strategy to manage water resources sustainably, Environment Agency, March 2021](#) Points 8 and 9 are on the River Ise.

2. Pollution from wastewater/industry/urban settlements – Based on 2001-14 data:

<b>Discharge Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	
Sewage – Non Water Company Final/Treated Effluent	4	
Sewage – Non Water Company Misc.	1	
Sewage – Water Company Final/Treated Effluent	2	
Sewage – Water Company Storm Overflow	15	
Sewage – Water Company Pumping Station	3	
Miscellaneous	28	
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	
<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Category 1</b>	<b>Category 2</b>
Contaminated water – Suspended solids	0	1
Sewage – Crude sewage	0	1
Pollutant not identified	0	3
Sewage – Processed sewage	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>



## Sewage



**Figure 12: Data from downloaded from Rivers Trust, source: Treated sewage discharges and sewer storm overflow locations were extracted from the Consented Discharges to Controlled Waters with Conditions database (Sept 2020), available under Environment Agency Conditional License via data.gov.uk. Sewer Storm Overflow Spill Duration Data were acquired under FOI request by The Guardian and Windrush Against Sewage Pollution. The Rivers Trust then matched this data to the consented discharges data using permit numbers as far as possible.**



3.

### Obstructions

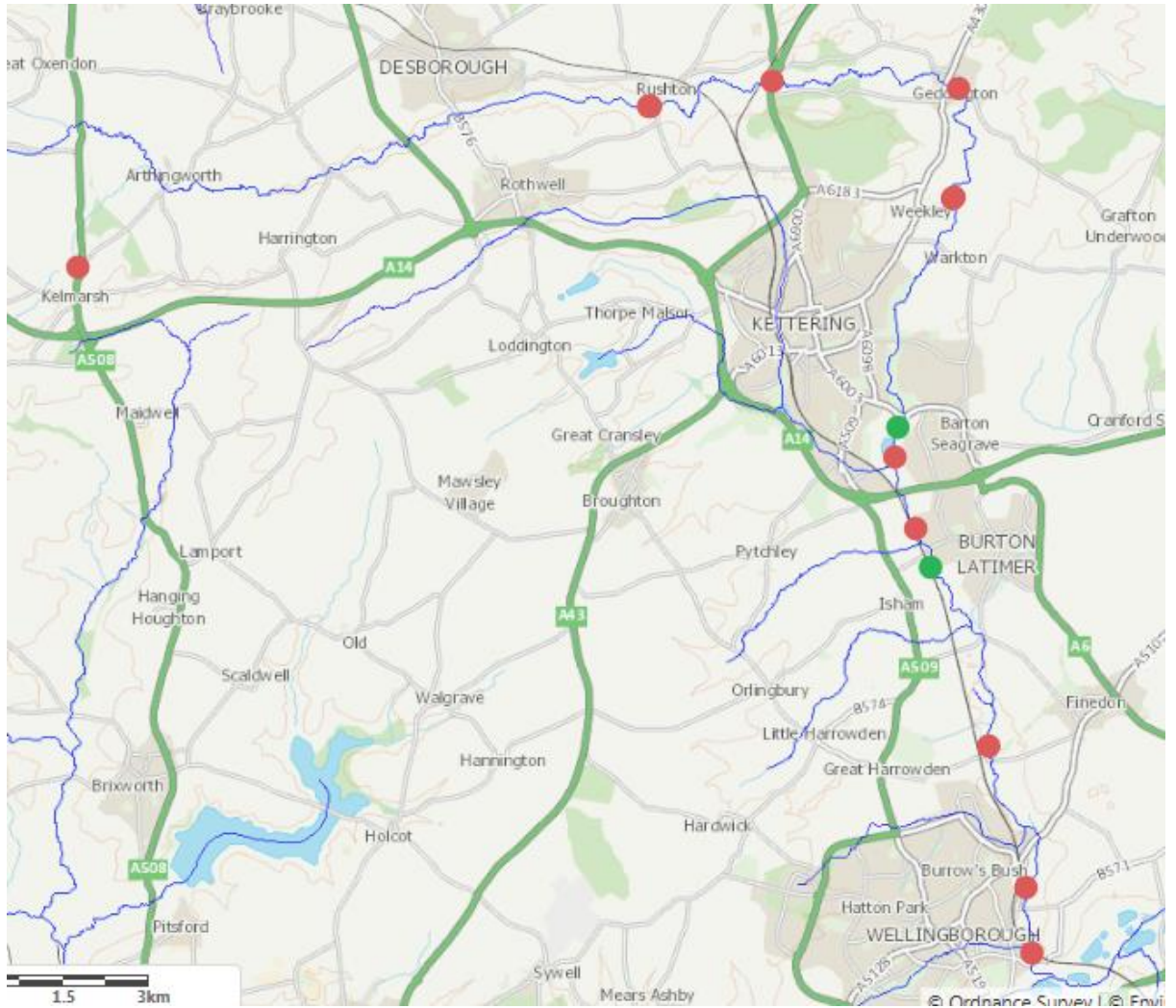
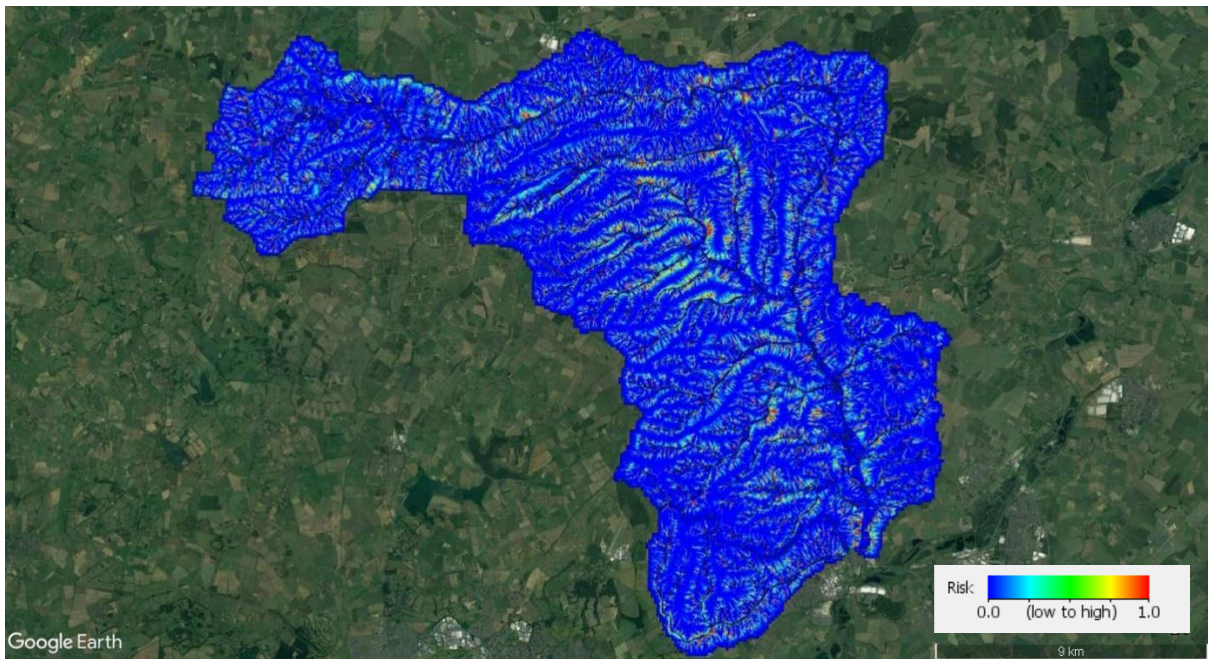
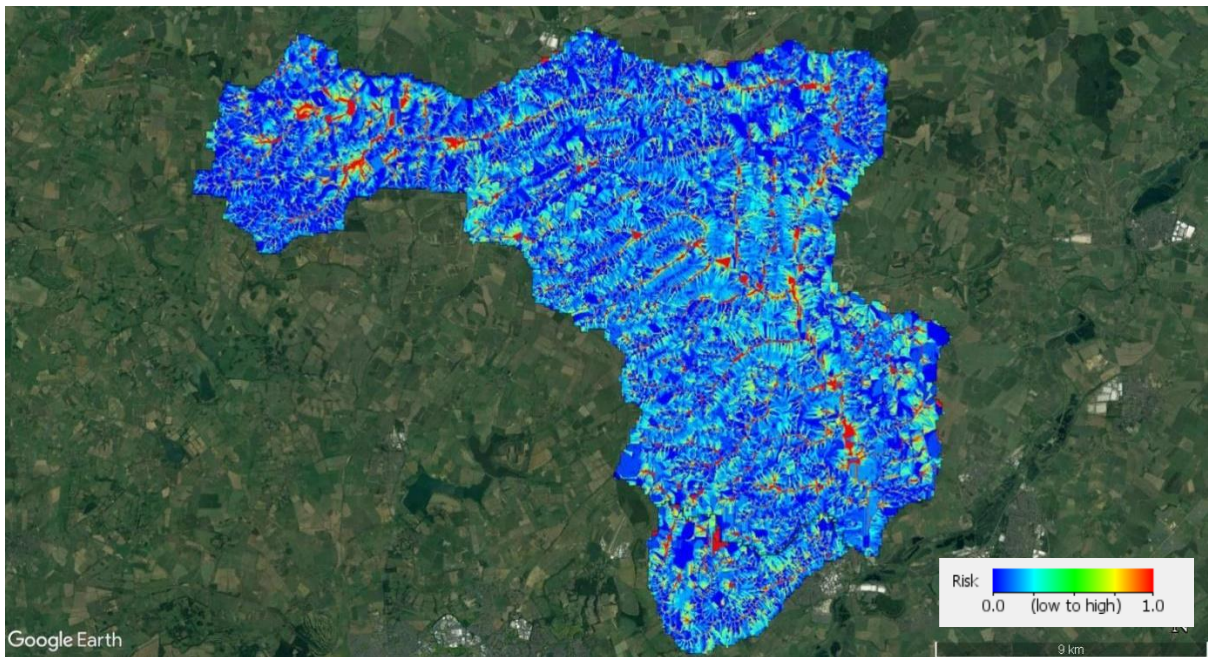


Figure 13: Map of known obstructions to flow and fish passage. Those shown in green have a fish pass, those in red do not. Map provided by the Environment Agency

Risk of pollution from agriculture – images from Scimap



**Figure 14: Map of erosion risk from Scimap**



**Figure 15: Map of surface flow from Scimap**

4. Water Framework Directive status

Cycle 2 (2019)	Ise - Upper	Ise - Lower
ID	<a href="#">GB105032045200</a>	<a href="#">GB105032045140</a>
Length	38.922 km	12.008 km
Catchment Area	86.541 km <sup>2</sup>	34.458 km <sup>2</sup>
Overall Status	Moderate	Poor
Ecological	Good	Poor
Biological	Good	Poor
Macrophytes and Phytobenthos Combined	Good	Poor
Fish	Good	N/A
Invertebrates	High	N/A
Hydromorphological Supporting Elements	Supports Good	Supports Good
Physio-chemical quality elements	Good	Moderate
Ammonia (Phys-Chem)	High	High
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)		
Dissolved Oxygen	High	Moderate
pH	High	High
Phosphate	Good	Moderate
Temperature	High	Good
Chemical	Fail	Fail



5. Reasons for not achieving good status and reasons for deterioration  
Ise – Upper

SWMI	Activity	Category	Classification Element
Diffuse source	Poor Management Livestock	Agriculture and rural land management	Phosphate
Diffuse source	Urbanisation - urban development	Urban and transport	Phosphate
Diffuse source	Poor nutrient management	Agriculture and rural land management	Phosphate
Point source	Sewage discharge (continuous)	Water Industry	Phosphate
Point source	Sewage discharge (intermittent)	Water Industry	Phosphate

Ise - Lower

SWMI	Activity	Category	Classification Element
Point source	Sewage discharge (continuous)	Water Industry	Phosphate
Diffuse source	Poor nutrient management	Agriculture and rural land management	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos Combined
Point source	Sewage discharge (continuous)	Water Industry	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos Combined
Diffuse source	Poor Management Livestock	Agriculture and rural land management	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos Combined
Point source	Urbanisation - urban development	Urban and transport	Macrophytes and Phytobenthos Combined
Diffuse source	Urbanisation - urban development	Urban and transport	Phosphate
Diffuse source	Poor Management Livestock	Agriculture and rural land management	Phosphate
Diffuse source	Poor nutrient management	Agriculture and rural land management	Phosphate

### 3. [Appendix 4 Proposed 'Ise Valley Way' between Corby and Wellingborough via Kettering](#)

#### **Introduction**

This project is proposed by the Access Working Group of the River Ise Partnership. The aim is primarily to link the towns of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough, through the Ise Valley, for cyclists and pedestrians. There may also be opportunities for spur routes off the main route, to add to broader accessibility to other settlements or key network routes. The route will capitalise upon the green infrastructure resources which the Ise Valley contributes to the area by providing green transport options, recreational opportunities, and access to the natural environment, as well as linking new Garden Communities as they develop. There are opportunities to carry out associated environmental improvements along the route. Each project, for each subsection of the route, could include a suite of enhancements. For example, path surfacing, river restoration, natural flood management and habitat improvements, as well as engaging the neighbouring communities. In July 2020 the Department for Transport (DfT) Published [Gear Change](#), their vision for cycling and walking, which recognises the importance of active travel. At the same time DfT published Cycle Infrastructure Design [Local Transport Note 1/20](#) (LTN1/20), which will inform the design standards for the Ise Valley route. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) will also feed into the plan as they develop.

#### **Objectives:**

- Provide active and sustainable transport routes between Kettering, Wellingborough and Corby.
- Promote and improve the green infrastructure of the Ise Valley.
- Link the new Garden Communities of the three towns as they develop.
- Deliver a cost-effective, high-quality project.

Costs below are based on an estimate of £50/m<sup>2</sup> to surface a crushed stone path or £75/m<sup>2</sup> for a tarmac path. Additional costs such as signage are not included in these calculations. Costs can vary widely depending on the contractor and are currently rising due to Brexit. Crushed stone is preferred in rural settings and tarmac preferred on urban routes. Distances and costs have been rounded.

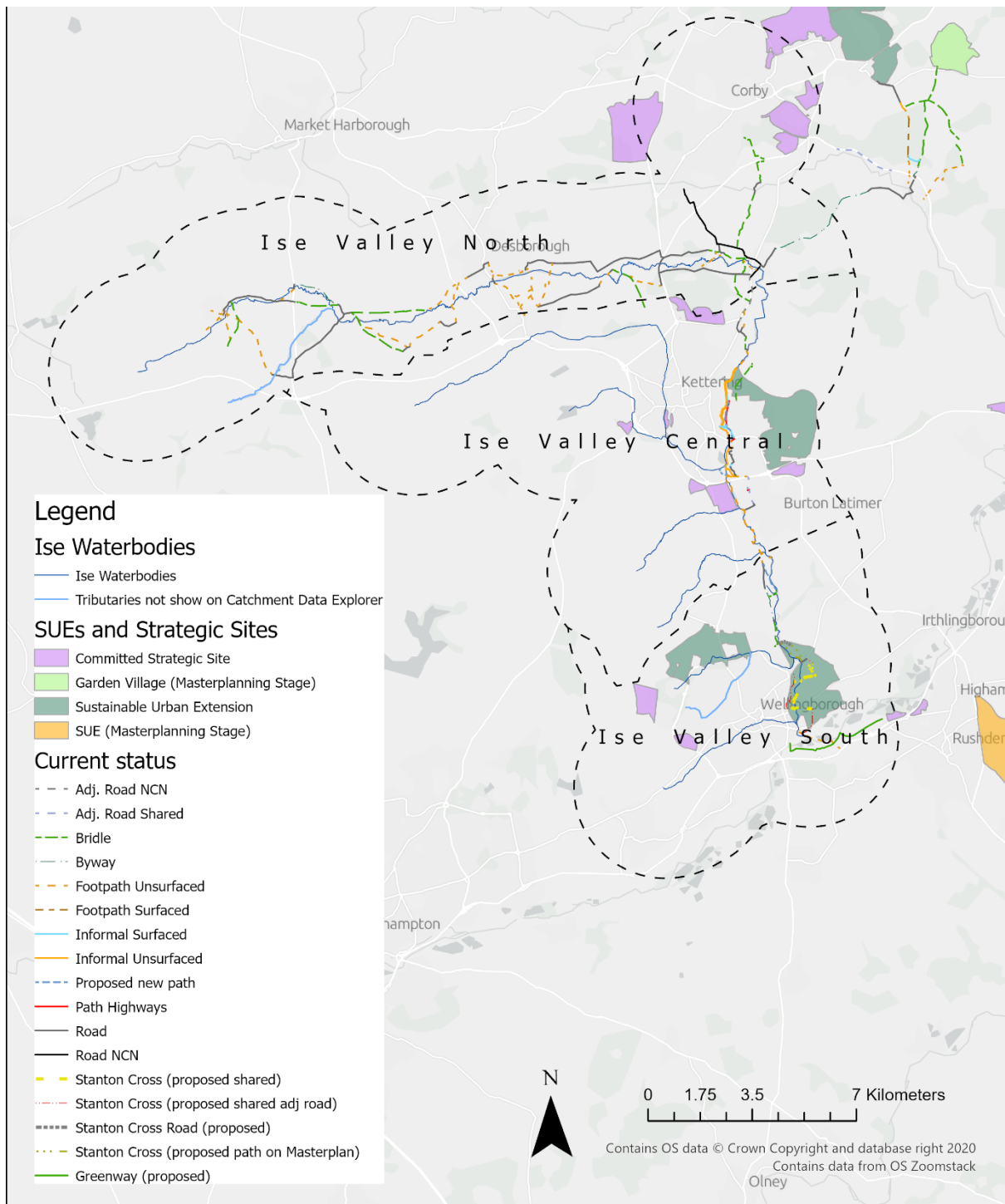
The exact route and choice of surfacing will be developed in consultation with the landowners and the community.

#### **Estimated cost:**

Surfacing total **£2,706,000 to £2,837,000**

This is for surfacing only and excludes additional costs such as signage and new crossings. Further detail for each section of the route is given below.

## Route overview





## **Northern Ise Valley**

This section concentrates on the parts of the route from Corby to Boughton House, also passing through the villages Geddington and Newton. The route can link to Corby's Heritage Trail, to link the Weldon Park Sustainable Urban Extension and several Strategic Sites, providing further opportunities to link homes and businesses, including Adrenaline Alley (which has indoor facilities for BMX bikes).

There is a longer-term aspiration to improve footpath links towards the source of the River Ise, to link the smaller towns and villages in the west of the valley including Desborough, Rushton and Clipston, and also to link from the east of the valley to Weldon Park Sustainable Urban Extension and the proposed Tresham Garden Village. These longer-term aspirations are not yet costed but are shown in the maps below.

### **Cost Estimates for Northern Ise Valley**

Boughton Estates owned land, to surface a c.4000m long, 3m wide, shared use path (B1 and B2):

- Crushed stone £620,000 **or**

Boughton (possibly sold?) c.700m, 3m wide, shared use path (B3):

- Crushed stone £110,000 **or**

Estimated total cost for surfacing the Northern Ise Valley = **£730,000** (excluding longer term aspirations)



Additional costs:

- Signage (£250+ per sign)
- Gates (£500+ each) and bollards (£200+)
- Improvement of National Cycle Network route on the road (e.g. traffic calming).
- Lighting, if needed
- Surfacing of any 'spurs'
- Removal/replacement of vegetation and fencing
- Environmental improvements/offsetting
- Planning consent and other permits where needed
- Longer term aspiration to improve routes to the source of the Ise in the west and Weldon in the east.



**Overview map of proposed paths in Ise Valley North showing their current use**

**Legend**

**Study Area**

-  Ise Valley Central
-  Ise Valley North




**River Ise**

-  River Ise
-  Tributaries not show on Catchment Data Explorer

**SSSI**

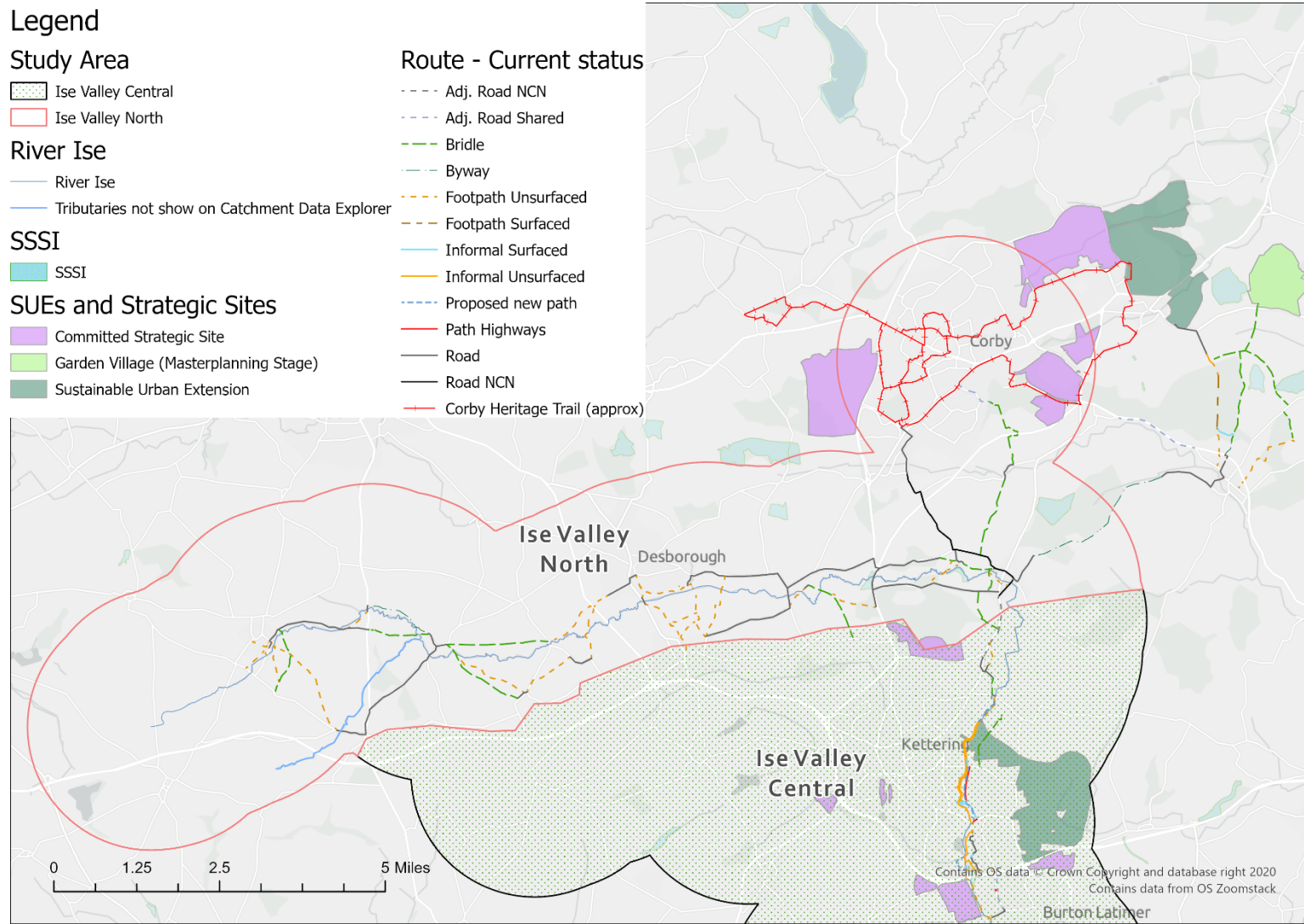
-  SSSI

**SUEs and Strategic Sites**

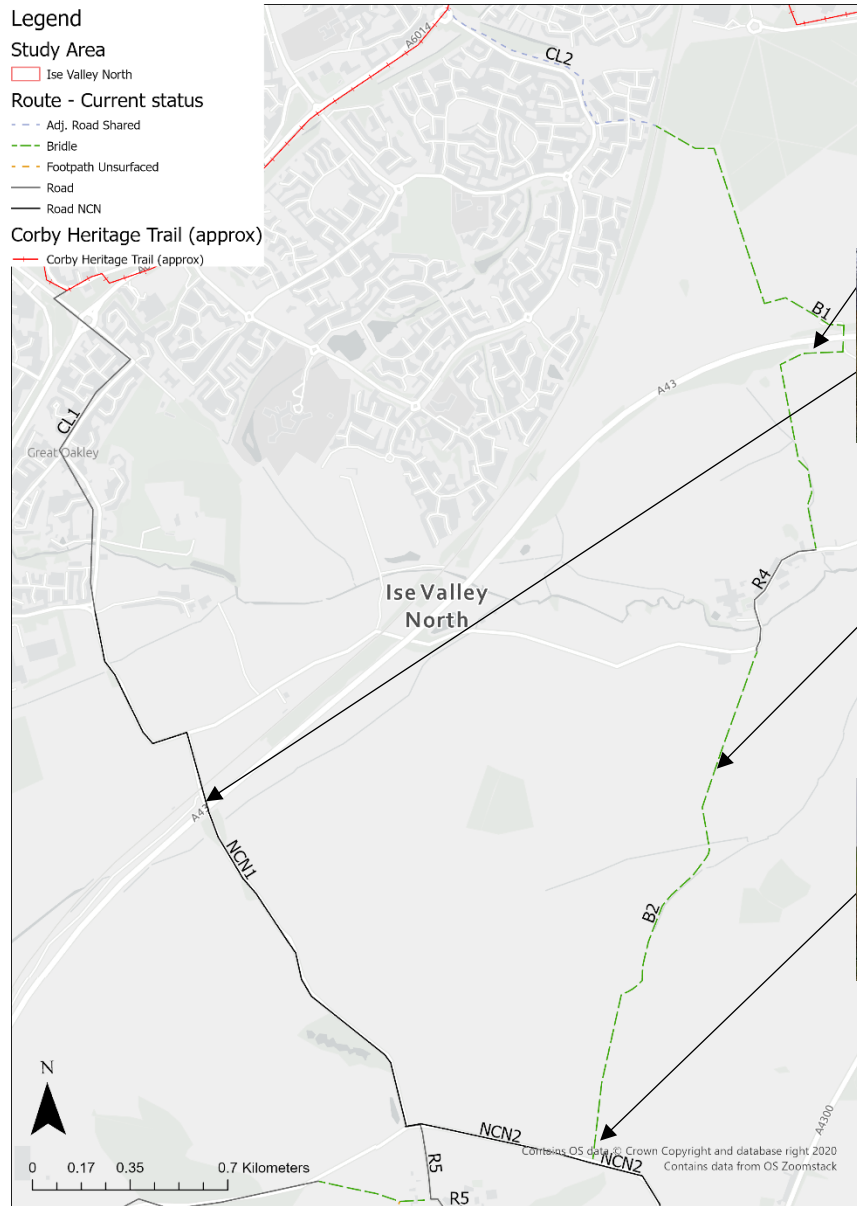
-  Committed Strategic Site
-  Garden Village (Masterplanning Stage)
-  Sustainable Urban Extension

**Route - Current status**

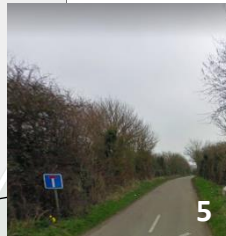
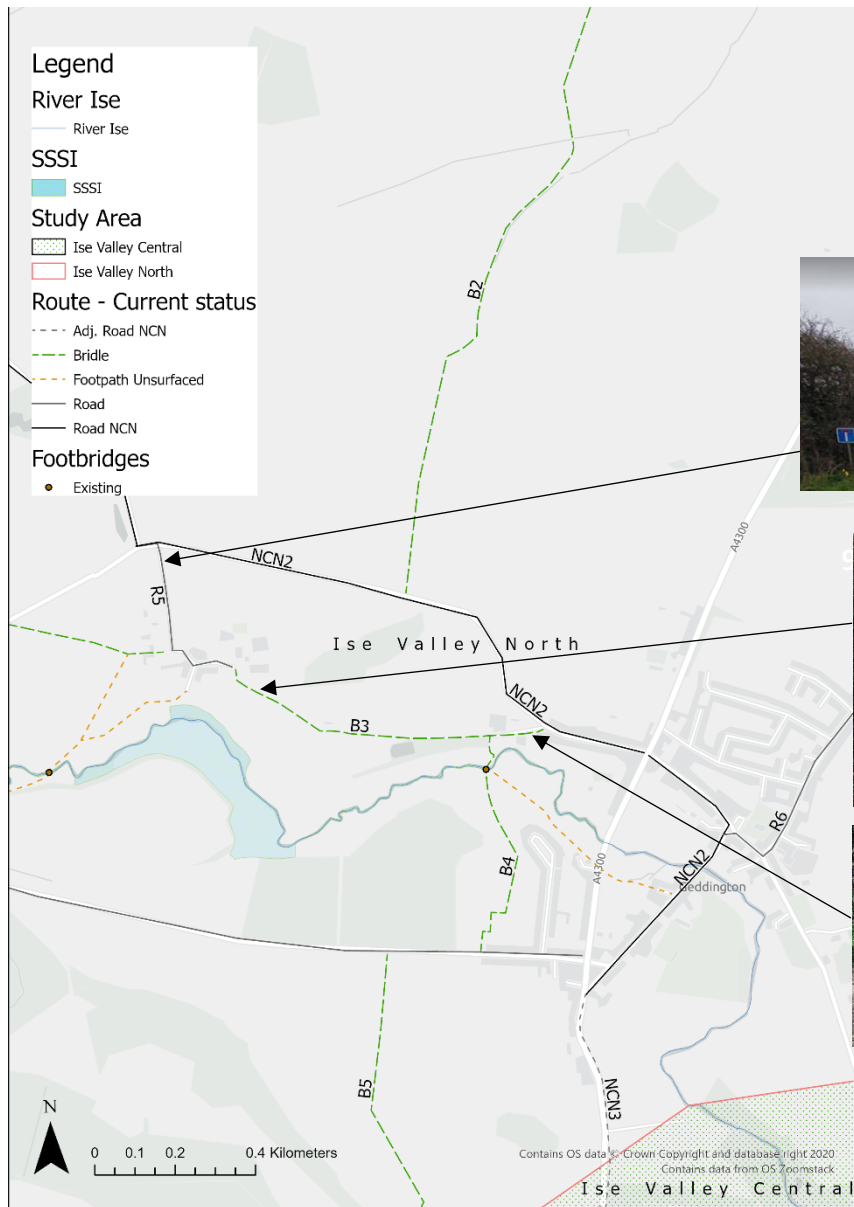
-  Adj. Road NCN
-  Adj. Road Shared
-  Bridle
-  Byway
-  Footpath Unsurfaced
-  Footpath Surfaced
-  Informal Surfaced
-  Informal Unsurfaced
-  Proposed new path
-  Path Highways
-  Road
-  Road NCN
-  Corby Heritage Trail (approx)



The following four maps and descriptions are from Corby to Geddington followed by the east and west of this zone



There are two possible links into Corby from the north of the route. The roads marked NCN1 and NCN2 on this map are part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network route number 552, leaving Corby through Great Oakley. NCN1 (photo 2) has a 60mph speed limit but it is quiet, and it may be feasible to designate it a 'quietway', with a reduced speed limit and traffic calming, to make it safer for vulnerable road users. The second route, B1 and B2 are largely unsurfaced bridleways on land owned by the Boughton Estate (some short sections of concrete such as photo 1, often muddy, see photo 3) connecting via a short section of quiet village road with footways through Little Oakley (R4). Both the bridleway (photo 4) and the road route meet NCN2 which currently has a 60mph limit until the edge of the village of Geddington, where it drops to 30mph.

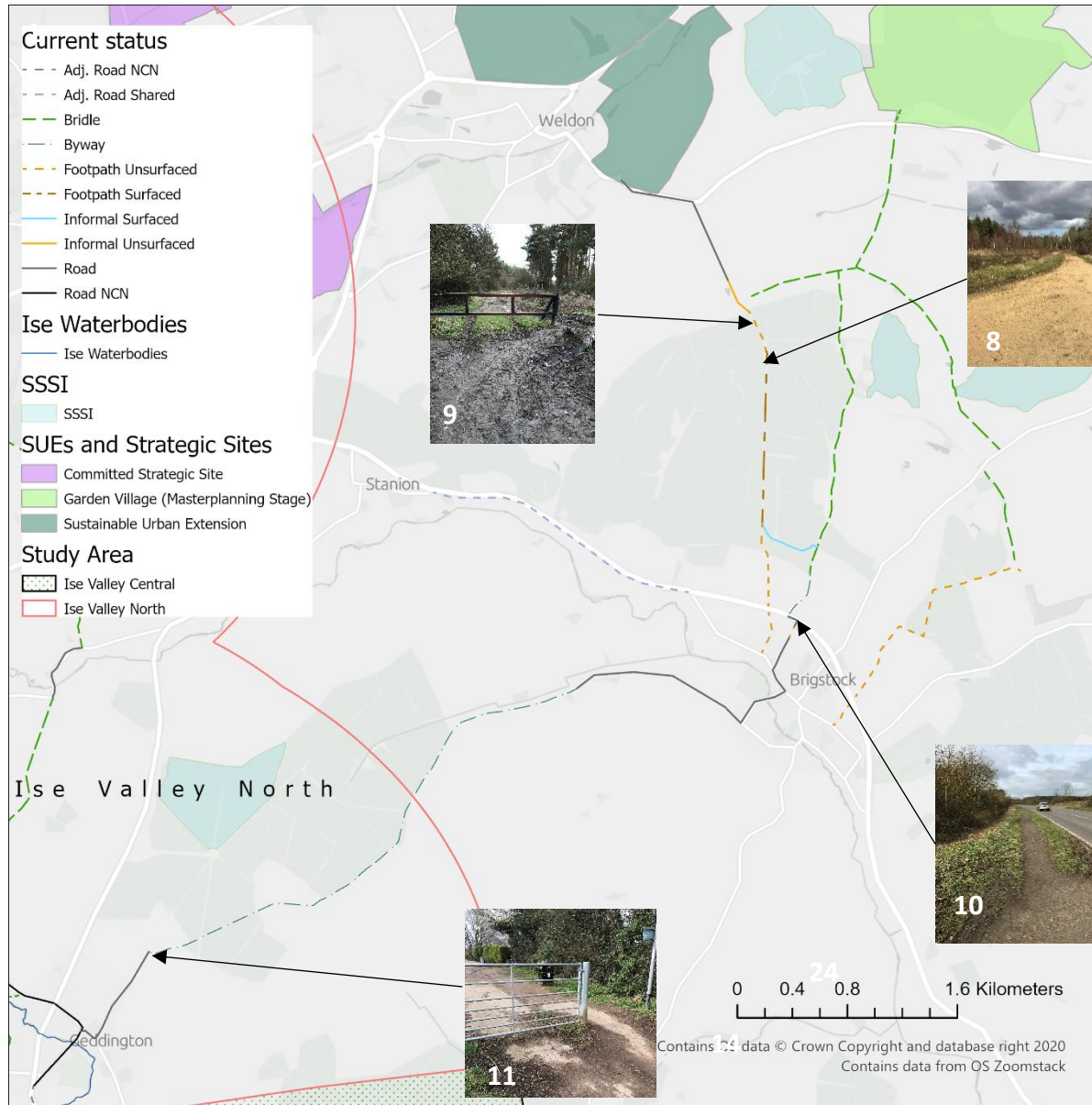


From NCN1 there is the option to take NCN2 to Geddington or leave it after a short distance to take R5 to Newton (photo 5). This is a quiet no through road, but it is fairly narrow and currently has a 60mph limit outside of the village, so some calming would be needed.

R5 leads to a bridleway (B3) which starts on a concrete track (photo 6) and ends on tarmac (photo 7), the central section is unsurfaced. There is the option to take the unsurfaced bridleways B4 and B5 via Grange Road (which is quiet, and there may be the option of extending the 30mph limit which starts close to B4). The bridleways are on Boughton Estate land (B3 being sold?) Using B5 necessitates crossing the A4300 which is a busy 60mph road. Alternatively, B4 and the 30mph stretch of Grange Road could be used to access an existing pedestrian crossing over the A4300 (this would require upgrading for cycles).

From B2 and NCN2 the route crosses the A4300 at an existing crossing (which would also require upgrading for cycles) using quiet 30mph roads past the Eleanor Cross and a historic bridge and ford over the River Ise. This joins NCN3 (part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network route number 552), which is a shared use path (cycling permitted, along with pedestrians) which is approximately 2m wide (narrower than modern standards)





This section is outside of the main Ise Valley study area; however it has the potential to provide links to Weldon Park Sustainable Urban Extension and the proposed Tresham Garden Village to the east of Corby, so it is included here.

From Geddington, Wood Street leads to an existing byway (photo 11). The byway is deeply rutted and would require improvement. From here a quiet 60mph roads lead to Brigstock.

From Brigstock it is necessary to cross the busy A6116 (photo 10). The most promising route beyond here uses a surfaced footpath through Harry's Park Wood (photo 8), Forestry England have expressed a willingness to allow permissive cycling access. This leads (via a short muddy section, photo 9) to a lane with a fair surface which leads to the A427 close to Weldon. Alternatively a muddy bridleway skirts the eastern edge of the wood.

There is also an existing shared use path alongside the A6116 to Stanion.

## Legend

### Current status

- - - Adj. Road NCN
- Bridle
- Byway
- - - Footpath Unsurfaced
- - - Footpath Surfaced
- Informal Surfaced
- Informal Unsurfaced
- - - Proposed new path
- Path Highways
- Road
- Road NCN

### Study Area

- ▨ Ise Valley Central
- ▨ Ise Valley North

### Ise Waterbodies

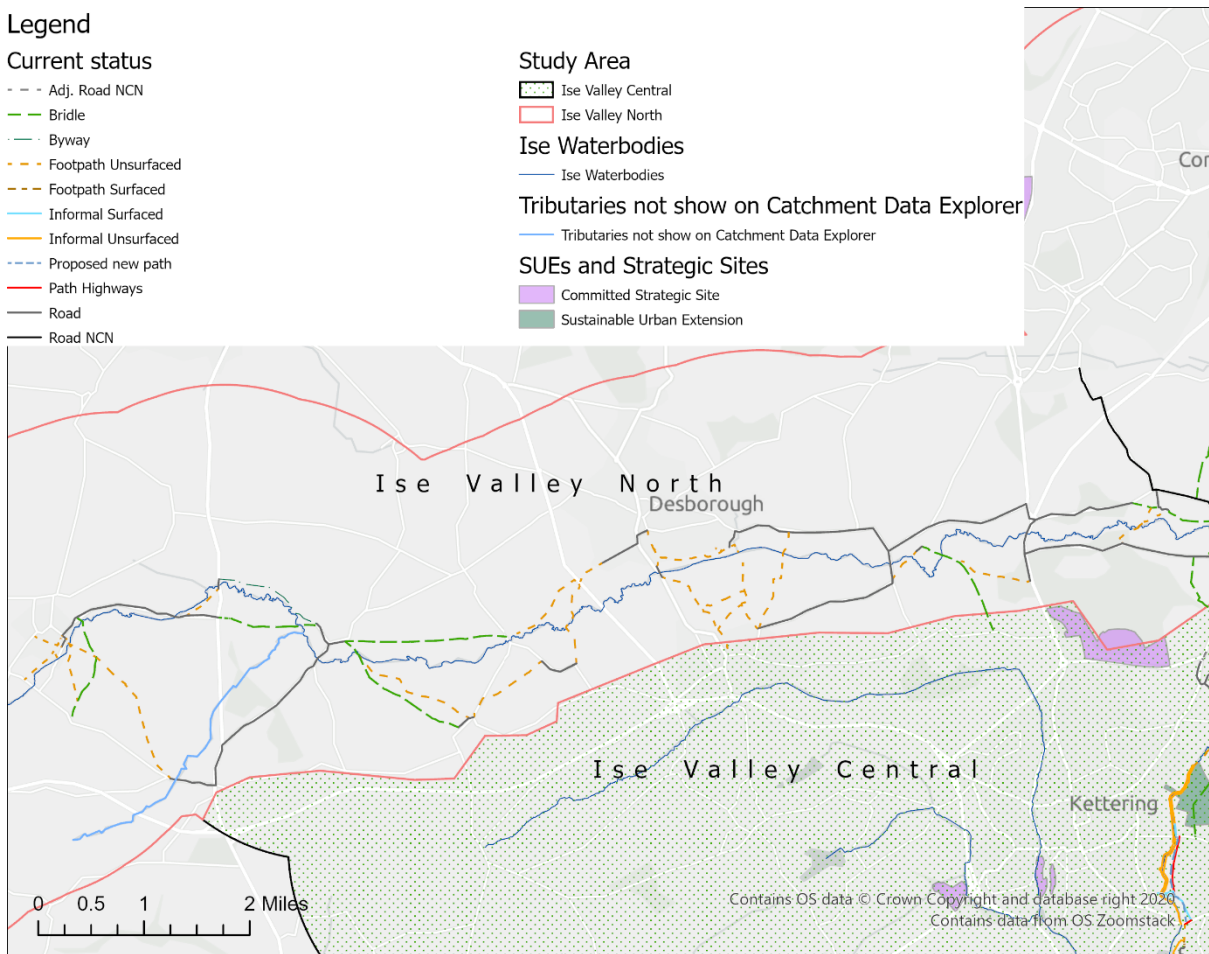
- Ise Waterbodies

### Tributaries not show on Catchment Data Explorer

- Tributaries not show on Catchment Data Explorer

### SUEs and Strategic Sites

- ▨ Committed Strategic Site
- ▨ Sustainable Urban Extension



This western section of the route is a longer-term aspiration of the Ise Valley Partnership. It is envisaged that this section may be developed at a later time, and that it may be for pedestrians, with cycling permitted on some sections. The route has not yet been surveyed or costed, the map above is based upon a desk exercise. There is limited public access currently available close to the river, particularly between Desborough in the centre of this section and Newton in the east.



### Central Ise Valley Route

This Central Ise Valley contains the sections of the route from Boughton House, through Kettering, to Burton Latimer. This will provide off-road links close to local schools and colleges including Tresham College, Kettering Science Academy, and St Edward's and Isebrook Schools, and schools in Burton Latimer. Access will also be improved to leisure and community facilities including Wicksteed Park, Ise Valley Pavilion, Hawkes Scout Hut, Ise Bowling Club, Kettering Skate Park and sports courts and Burton Latimer Pocket Park. Businesses close to the route include those in Kettering town centre and the Weetabix Factory in Burton Latimer. The route passes through the proposed Hanwood Park development and close to several Strategic Sites, providing opportunities to link homes and businesses.

### Cost Estimates for Central Ise Valley

North Northamptonshire Council owned land, to surface a 3000m long, 3m wide, shared use path on one side of river (K1 & 2,3,4/5 or 6):

- Crushed stone £450,000 **or**
- Tarmac £675,000

Wicksteed Trust owned land, single path including Slade Brook field 1300m long, 3m wide, shared use path (W3,4&5). Crushed stone only (their preference):

- Crushed stone £195,000

Disused railway embankment (currently owned by Heritage Railways Estate) 900m long, 3m wide, shared use path. Crushed stone to tie in with Wicksteed's paths:

- Crushed stone £135,500

Wildlife Trust Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire land (Site of Special Scientific Interest):

- 500m of crushed stone (2m wide) £50,000 **or**
- Boardwalk 3m x 200m, £150,000 + crushed stone 2m x 300m, £30,000) = £180,000

Southfield Farm and Weetabix 1200m

- Crushed stone 2m wide (footpath only) £120,000

Burton Latimer: Pocket Park and adjacent grazing land 2000m

- Crushed stone path 3m wide £300,000

Estimated total cost for surfacing the whole of Central Ise Valley = **£1,250,000 to £1,380,500**

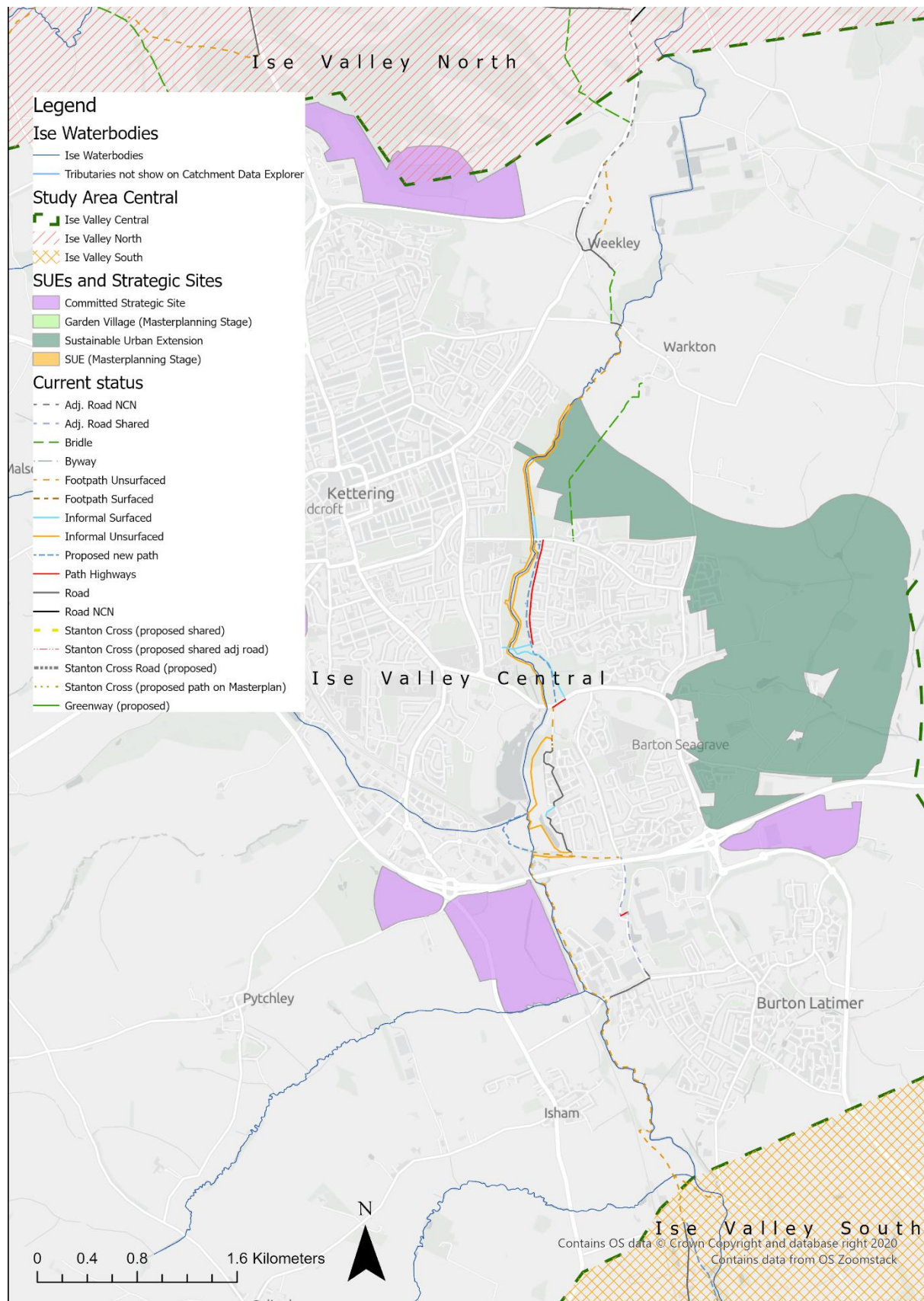
Additional costs:

- Bridge upgrades
- The bridge which will be part of Slade Brook project
- Replacing the steps down from the embankment (E1/2 to WT1) (£600,000+)
- Signage (£250+ per sign)

- Gates (£500+ each) and bollards (£200+)
- Widening of H2 (£18,000+)
- Lighting if needed
- Surfacing of any 'spurs'
- Any engineering needed where the path is narrow and close to the river (or land purchase to move route away from the river)
- Removal/replacement of vegetation and fencing
- Environmental improvements/offsetting
- Planning consent and other permits where needed
- Crossings for cyclists on Polwell Lane and Station Road
- Option to provide a path on both sides of the river on council land

Moving the crossing on Barton Road (W2) (likely to be several hundred thousand pounds)

## Overview map of proposed paths in the Central Ise Valley showing their current use



The following four maps and descriptions are from north to south through this zone.



The proposed route in this zone begins on a shared use path adjacent to the A4300, this is part of the National Cycle Network route 552. This is currently less than 2m wide, so it does not meet modern standards for shared routes. There is also no separation between the path and the highway, except for a short section where the path passes behind trees (from photo 1).

There is an existing footpath on Boughton House's land (BF1) which is currently accessed via a stile (photo 2). If this could be upgraded to allow cyclists, it would avoid a section on a busy and narrow highway (R7). Roads through Weekley are quiet (R8, R9) and provide access to an existing grassy bridleway, also owned by Boughton House (B6, the southern end is muddy in winter).

From the bridleway Pipe Lane must be crossed, it has a 60mph speed limit, but this drops to 30mph just east of the river, perhaps this could be moved westwards to improve safety for those crossing. An existing highway path (H2) could be upgraded to shared use, but it does cross a narrow footbridge (photo 4).

The section of the route on North Northants Council (NNC) land starts at a kissing gate and follows the river closely (K1, Photo 6).





K1 is a public footpath on a thin, muddy strip of NNC land close to the river (Photo 7).

Where the public right of way ends, there is a bridge (Photo 8) which allows pedestrians to use informal paths both sides of the river south of this point (on NNC land), either of which are options to upgrade. As the bridge has steps, it would require upgrading to allow wheelchair and cycle access. It is too narrow to allow cycles to pass one another but as it is quite short this may not be an issue. South of here, the paths are wider, but still muddy in places.

There is another bridge across the Ise (Photo 9) which is step free. There is access along the river on both sides under Barton Road (Photo 10), so a road crossing is not required. From here there are paths close to the river on both sides which are prone to flooding. The west bank path is through woodland. There is also an existing tarmac path (H2) close to the houses which is not suitable for shared use with cycles.

The proposed route, away from the river, (K5) passes through the edge of the car park which has a deeply textured concrete surface (Photo 11). There is a muddy desire line connecting K5 and W1 (Photo 12).



K8 and K7 are tarmacked paths on council land, wide enough for shared use. Photo 13 shows where the crushed stone path on Wicksteed Trust land (W1) meets the path on NCC land. Both are suitable for shared use, but the path on Wicksteed Trust land had some vegetation encroachment.

There is a light-controlled crossing at Barton Road (Photo 14). There is a proposal to move the crossing to the west, but this is expensive and may be a longer-term plan. The alternative is to upgrade the existing highways path to shared use (H3, Photo 15). Wicksteed Park is accessed via an existing public footpath (W4) adjacent to the mobile home park (Photo 16) the gravel path may require improvements to drainage (Photo 17).

A crushed stone footpath passes through allotments and into the arboretum, where it is currently muddy (W5). On leaving the arboretum there is a bridge over the Ise which requires upgrading (Photo 18). Proposed reprofiling of the Slade Brook and a new bridge could allow access (via W6) to the old railway embankment (owned by Heritage Railways Estate, Photo 19 and E1-3). Alternatively, cyclists could stay on the east bank and use RR5 (owned by Redrow, currently grassy/muddy) or avoid Wicksteed's paths (which close one day per year) by traveling through the new estate (RR1-4).

From the embankment WT2 is accessed via steep steps which require improvement, or via WT1 (Wildlife Trust land and part of SSSI). The farmer south of the A14 is not willing to allow upgrade of the path on his land to cycleway so this section will remain footpath but can be resurfaced (SF1). If E3 can be upgraded, cyclists can use existing shared use paths on Polwell Lane (S2).



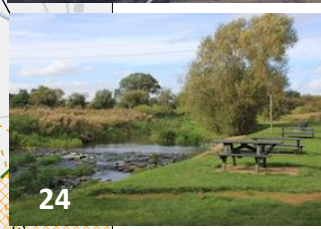
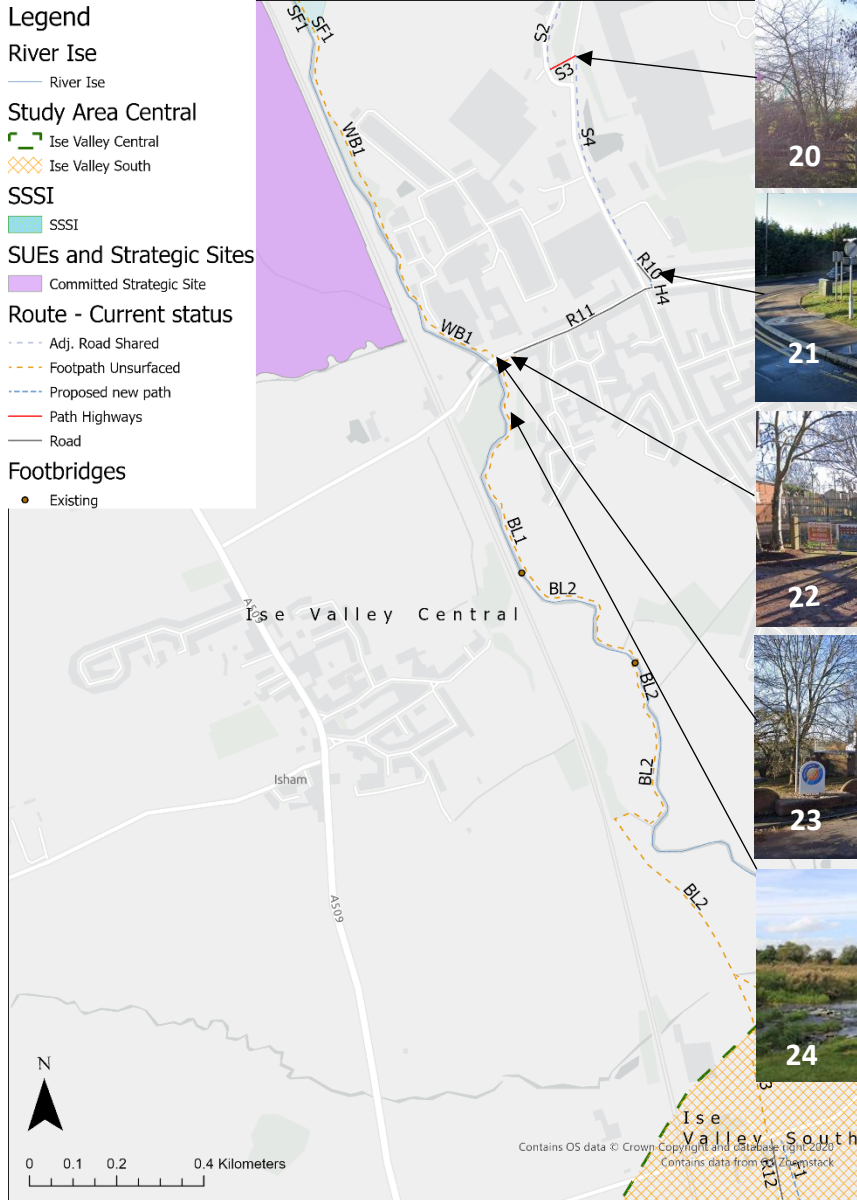


Photo 20 (S3) shows a cut through between shared use paths, it is not clear whether cycling is allowed on this section.

The shared use path ends before the end of Polwell Lane, cyclists could use the road in front of the houses (photo 21, R10) but a new path across the verge and a crossing are needed. They would then cycle along Station Road (30mph speed limit), which is quite narrow in places.

Pedestrians can follow the river on an existing footpath through Southfield Farm (SF1) and Weetabix's land (WB1 and photo 23) and cross Station Road (30mph) to Burton Latimer Pocket Park, where cyclists can re-join (dependent on the agreement of landowners south of here). The entrance to Burton Latimer Pocket Park (photo 22) is a wooden chicane which may need modification to allow use by cycles and wheelchairs. In the park there is a short section of concrete grass paving, the rest of the footpath is grass (photo 24). The Park is owned by Burton Latimer Town Council.

The footpath leaves the park through a handmade metal kissing gate which would require modification/replacement to allow cycles and wheelchairs. South of the park, a muddy footpath traverses grazing land owned by several landowners (BL2).

### Ise Valley South Route

Ise Valley South includes the sections of the route from Burton Latimer to Wellingborough. The route passes through the Stanton Cross development and close to Wellingborough Station and several Strategic Sites, providing opportunities to link homes and businesses. It also links to the Nene Valley Way and to a proposed new Greenway Link to Chester House, Rushden Lakes, Stanwick Lakes and beyond.

### Cost Estimates for Surfacing Ise Valley South (excluding Stanton Cross)

Proposed new path close to river on private land (F1) and existing bridleway (BW8) 1300m, 3m wide:

- Crushed stone £210,000

Byway on private land (BY1) 1100m, 3m wide:

- Crushed stone £164,000

Bridleway on private land (Bw9) 700m, 3m wide

- Crushed stone £108,000

Cost to upgrade footpath to make connection from Stanton Cross to Nene Way/Greenway (to be covered by developer?)

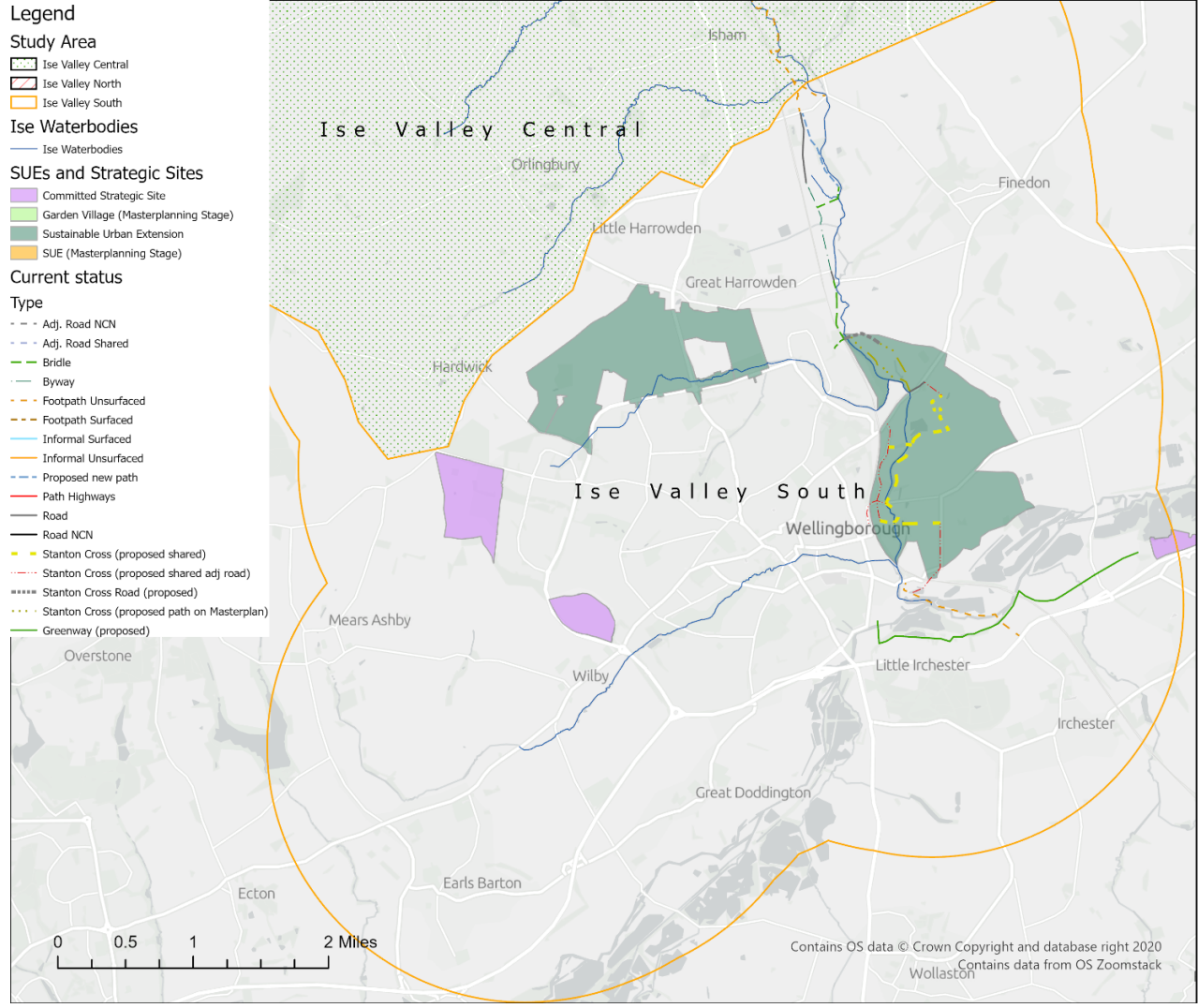
- Crushed stone £244,000

Total Costs for Ise Valley South = **£726,000** (excluding Stanton Cross)

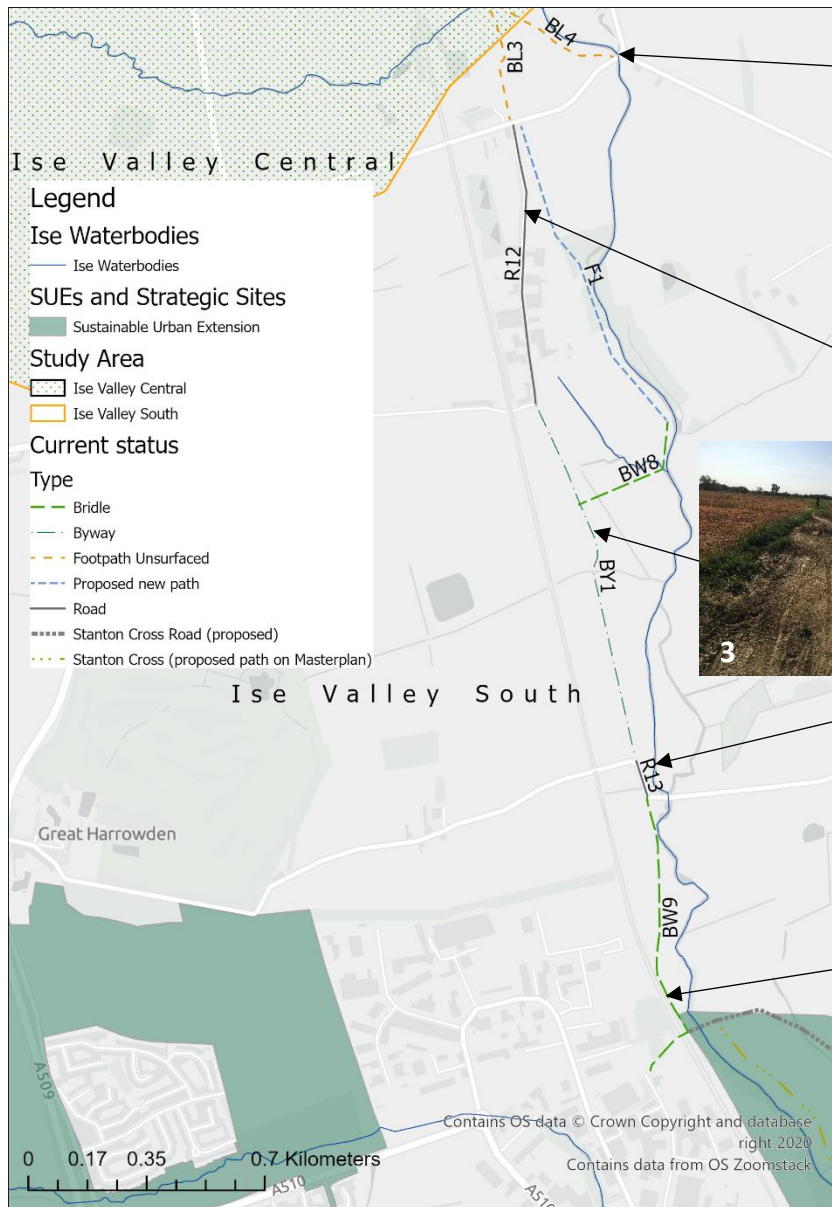
Additional costs:

- Cost to developer of surfacing in Stanton Cross
- Signage (£250+ per sign)
- Gates (£500+ each) and bollards (£200+)
- Lighting if needed
- Surfacing of any 'spurs'
- Removal/replacement of vegetation and fencing
- Environmental improvements/offsetting
- Planning consent and other permits where needed

# Overview map of proposed paths in the South Ise Valley showing their current use



The following two maps and descriptions are from north to south through this zone.

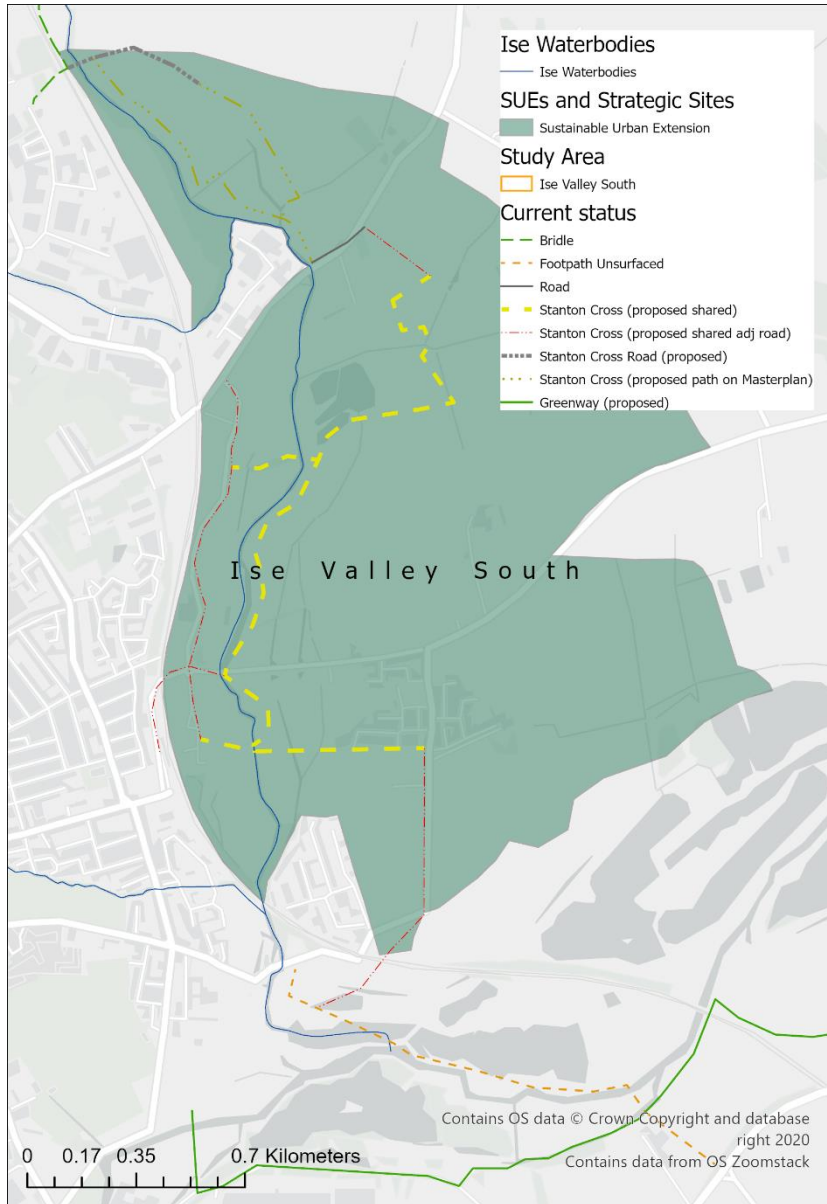


The route leaves the central and enters the south Ise Valley on an existing unsurfaced footpath on privately owned grazing land (BL3). BL4 is a possible alternative but it meets the road at a junction on a bend and up a set of steps (photo 1).

The ideal route from here would be F1 close to the river. There is currently no path or right of way via F1 so this would require negotiation with landowners and the creation of a new path. From F1 existing unsurfaced bridleway BW8 links to an existing byway (BY1). If it is not possible to use F1 then R12 (photo 2) is a quiet road through a small industrial estate. This has a 60mph limit outside of the estate and is narrow.

BY1 is an existing byway open to all traffic which is muddy and deeply rutted (photo 3). A short section of quiet road (currently 60mph limit, R13, photo 4) connects to an existing unsurfaced bridleway (BW9). BW9 is muddy and rutted in places, and the is narrowed by overhanging vegetation where it runs parallel to the railway (photo 5).





This section of the route passes through Stanton Cross Sustainable Urban Extension. The paths shown on this map are approximate and are based on the developer's publications.

South of Stanton Cross the existing footpath could be upgraded to allow cycling. This will provide a link to the proposed new section of greenway leading to Chester House.



## 6. Appendix 6: Projects identified in existing documents

The following table contains projects identified in the following documents: Revital-Ise final report, [North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2014\)](#), [Kettering Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2018\)](#) and Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership's reach statements for the upper and lower Ise.

Where partners were not identified in the existing document suggestions have been added here. Issues addressed (from Part 2, Section 9 of this document) have also been added. Some projects identified are similar to those in other documents but, where this is the case, both are retained for completeness.

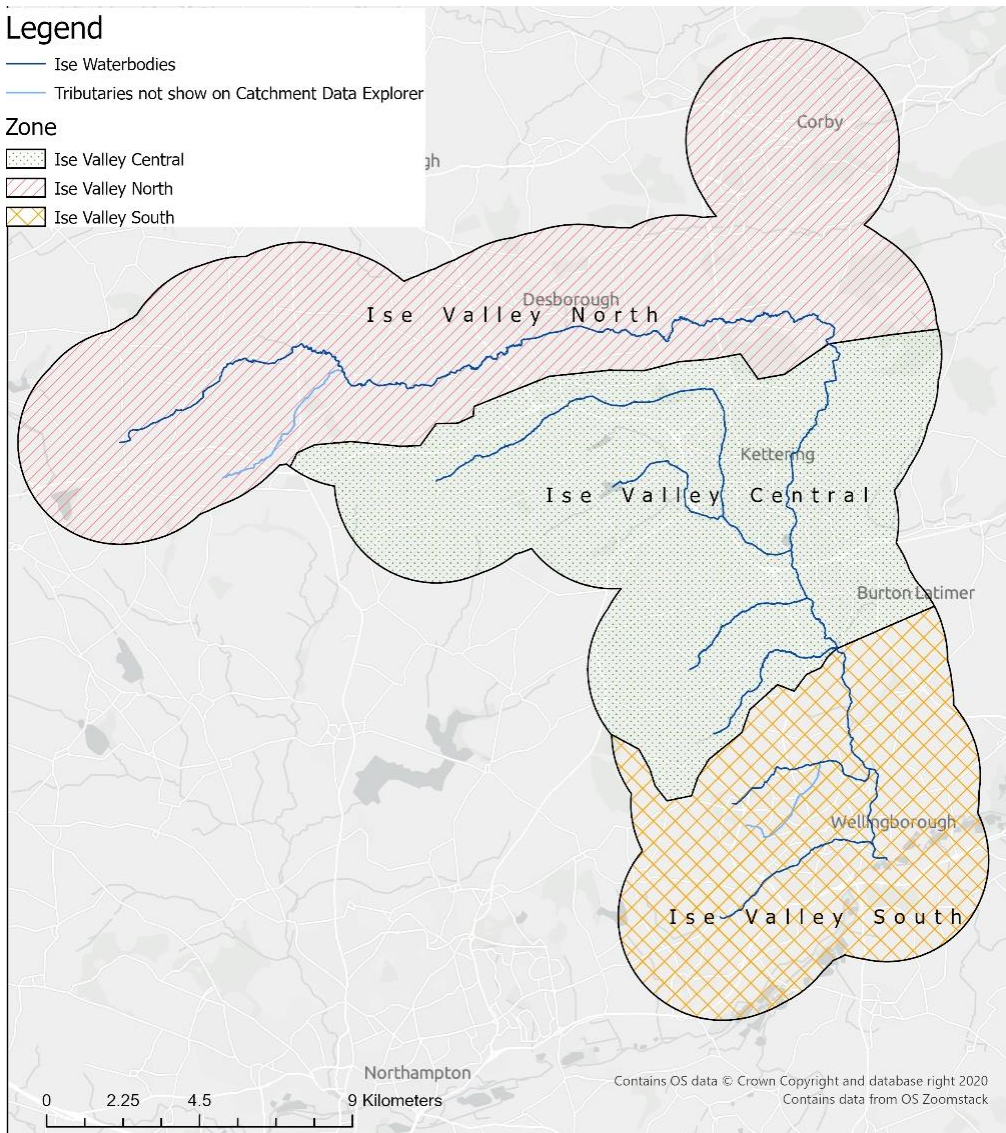
Some of the [North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2014\)](#) and [Kettering Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2018\)](#) projects have plans with further detail in the respective document.

### Legend

- Ise Waterbodies
- Tributaries not show on Catchment Data Explorer

### Zone

- Ise Valley Central
- Ise Valley North
- Ise Valley South



Source	Project	Partners	Type	Cost	Potential Funders	Issues addressed	Zone(s)
Revital-Ise final report (2014)	Kettering East GI	Bee Bee, various	Housing		North Northants CIL (?)	A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J	Central
Revital-Ise final report (2014)	Tailby Meadows: Diffuse Pollution / CSF issues here and in adjacent fields owned by Persimmon				North Northants CIL (?)	G, H, J	North
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Leftover Spaces: Greener Places	Groundwork	Development of community-led greenspaces in major settlements	£216,000	CIL	A, B, C, D, J	All
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Ise Valley Park	Developer	Creation of park (Stanton Cross) – in progress	£490,000	s.106	A, B, C, D, F, H, J	South
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Green open spaces	BCW	BCW aspiration (ongoing through NNC projects)	TBD	CIL	A, B, C, D, J	South
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Wilby Way Orchard, Stream and Meadow	WTBCN	Condition and management improvements to 3 Local Wildlife Sites	£150,000	2016	A, B, C, D, F, G, H, I, J	South
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Burton Latimer Greenspace	BLTC, KBC	Council to investigate changing an amenity greenspace to natural/semi-natural provision in south Burton Latimer	£50,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, I, J	Central
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Burton Latimer Park	BLTC, KBC	Provision of new park and garden in south Burton Latimer	£200,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Desborough Greenspace	DTC, KBC	Provision of >20 ha greenspace in north Desborough	£400,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	North
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Desborough Parks	DTC, KBC	Provision of new park or garden in east and west Desborough	£100,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	North
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Kettering outskirts	KBC	Long term aim for the council to provide 3 new natural and semi-natural sites on the outskirts of Kettering	£75,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central

<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Desborough pocket parks	DTC, KBC	Creation of two pocket parks in Desborough	£200,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	North
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Geddington greenspace	GPC, KBC	Provision of natural or semi-natural greenspace in Geddington	£50,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	North
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Kettering amenity space	KBC	Creation of 3 new amenity greenspaces in Kettering: one in the northwest and two in the south	£75,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Pytchley	PPC, KBC	Provision of accessible natural or semi-natural greenspace in Pytchley	£50,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Rothwell amenity	RTC, KBC	Provision of a new amenity greenspace in north Rothwell	£25,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central/ North?
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Rothwell park	RTC, KBC	Provision of a new park and garden in west Rothwell	£200,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central/ North?
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Tailby Meadow expansion	WTBCN	Expansion of existing nature reserve to accommodate more visitor pressure	£200,000	Developer, other	A, B, C, F, G, J	North
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	West Kettering	KBC	Greenspace creation in south and northwest Kettering	£400,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central
<a href="#">NNGIDP (2014)</a>	Westfield Gardens	KBC	New Residential Quarter development: greenspace remodelling to include community outdoor flexible space near brook that includes street skate use. Part of town centre redevelopment	£500,000	Cs.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	South

<a href="#">NNGIDP</a> (2014)	Upper Nene Valley access infrastructure	WTBCN, NE, RNRP, RSPB	Access infrastructure improvements to improve visitor experience and protect the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA	£2,000,000	HLF, other	A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J	South
<a href="#">KGIDP</a> (2018)	Glendon Lake	RNRP, EA	Creation of an on-line lake to intercept and retain rural flow and run off from Rothwell to improve water quality and reduce flood risk	£410,000 + £11k per annum		A, B, C, E, F, G, H, J	Central
<a href="#">KGIDP</a> (2018)	Slade Brook Urban Corridor	KBC, RNRP, EA	Creation of a town centre blue/green corridor along the Brook to provide enhanced recreational opportunity and improved water flow and quality	£918,000		A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J	Central
<a href="#">KGIDP</a> (2018)	North Kettering Country Park	KBC, Landowners	Linking three accessible green spaces (Prologis Park, Glendon Road Nature Reserve and Weekley Hall) as well as improving habitat and amenity value	£193,750		A, B, C, D, E, F, H, J	Central
<a href="#">KGIDP</a> (2018)	Broughton Community Orchard	BPC, KBC	Creation of a community orchard on land adjacent to the Grange Road residential development	£5,000		A, B, C, F, J	Central
<a href="#">KGIDP</a> (2018)	Broughton Pocket Park and Rights of Way	BPC, KBC	Improve the access to, condition and interpretation of the pocket park; also seek opportunities to improve way marking to the pocket park and the bridleways to Pytchley	£19,000		A, B, C, D, F, J	Central
<a href="#">KGIDP</a> (2018)	Burton Latimer Football Ground	BLTC, KBC	Woodland creation around the Football Ground and  planting to strengthen the green links to other nearby  green spaces	£9,000		A, B, C, F, H, J	Central
<a href="#">KGIDP</a> (2018)	Harvest Close Open Space Burton Latimer	BLTC, KBC	Reduce water logging (through planting and stream improvements) in the Harvest Close open space to  improve access and amenity; undertake maintenance  of the detention basin and formalise walk trails	£13,000		A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J	Central



<a href="#">KGIDP (2018)</a>	Desborough Open Space	DTC, KBC	Improve access and interpretation of this informal green space as well as habitat improvements through management and planting	£17,700		A, B, C, E, F, J	North
<a href="#">KGIDP (2018)</a>	Cotswold Avenue Park Improvements	KBC	Improve amenity and habitat of this suburban green  space through the introduction of pollinator species, trees, seating, signage and play equipment	£15,500		A, B, C, F, H, I, J	Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Lower Ise Buffers	WTBCN, RNRP, EA, NE	Lower Ise: Increase the width of buffer zones against the river on arable land, and where possible revert arable land to grassland in the floodplain.			E, F, G, H, J	Central South
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Lower Ise Restore meanders and in-channel diversity.	WTBCN, RNRP, EA	Lower Ise: Restore meanders and old courses of the river, use woody debris, and other measures to increase in-channel diversity.			E, F, G, H, J	Central South
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Lower Ise Creation/restoration of lowland meadow.	WTBCN, RNRP	Lower Ise: Creation/restoration of lowland meadow along most of the floodplain, especially around existing sites such as Southfield Farm Marsh, Burton Latimer Meadows and Wilby Way Meadows.			E, F, G, H, J	Central South
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Lower Ise Creation of wetland habitat. Re-naturalisation	WTBCN, RNRP, EA	Lower Ise: Creation of wetland habitat on poorly drained sites wherever possible. Re-naturalisation of urban stretches of the Swanspool and Harrowden Brooks by opening up culverts and creating riparian habitat in the vicinity of the water course.			E, F, G, H, J	South
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Lower Ise Increase in-channel morphological diversity (Harrowden Brook)	WTBCN, RNRP, EA,	Lower Ise Measures to improve ecological status of river: Increase in-channel morphological diversity (Harrowden Brook)			E, F, G, H, J	South
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Lower Ise Install fish passes (Harrowden Brook)	RNRP, EA	Lower Ise Measures to improve ecological status of river: Install fish passes (Harrowden Brook)			E, F, G, H, J	South

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Lower Ise Develop and revise sediment and woody debris management strategies (Harrowden Brook)	RNRP, EA,	Lower Ise Measures to improve ecological status of river: Develop and revise sediment and woody debris management strategies (Harrowden Brook)			E, F, G, H, J	South
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Buffers	WTBCN, RNRP, EA, NE	Upper Ise: Increase the width of buffer zones against the river on arable land, and where possible revert arable land to grassland in the floodplain.			E, F, G, H, J	North Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Restore meanders and increase in-channel diversity.	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise: Restore meanders and old courses of the river, use woody debris, and other measures to increase in-channel diversity.			E, F, G, H, J	North Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Creation/restoration of lowland meadow along most of the floodplain.	WTBCN, RNRP, NE	Upper Ise: Creation/restoration of lowland meadow along most of the floodplain, especially around existing sites such as Tailby Meadow and the River Ise and Meadows SSSI.			E, F, G, H, J	North Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise: Restoration/creation of Wood Pasture and Parkland.	WTBCN, RNRP, EA, NE	Upper Ise: Restoration/creation of Wood Pasture and Parkland in and around existing parkland sites.			E, F, G, H, J	North Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Restoration of habitat around Wicksteed Park.	WT, WTBCN, RNRP, EA, NE	Upper Ise Restoration of further wetland and water meadow habitat around Wicksteed Park.			A, B, C, E, F, G, H, J	Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Remove obsolete structures (Slade)	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise Measures to improve ecological status of river:  Remove obsolete structures (Slade)			E, F, G, H, J	Central

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Remove or soften hard bank structures (Slade)	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise: Measures to improve ecological status of river:  Remove or soften hard bank structures (Slade)			E, F, G, H, J	Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Increase in-channel morphological diversity (Slade)	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise Measures to improve ecological status of river:  Increase in-channel morphological diversity (Slade)			E, F, G, H, J	Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Install fish passes (Slade)	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise Measures to improve ecological status of river:  Install fish passes (Slade)			E, F, G, H, J	Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise: Operational and structural changes to locks, sluices, weirs, beach control, etc. (Slade)	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise: Measures to improve ecological status of river:  Operational and structural changes to locks, sluices, weirs, beach control, etc. (Slade)			E, F, G, H, J	Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Develop and revise sediment management & woody debris strategies (Slade)	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise: Measures to improve ecological status of river:  Develop and revise sediment management & woody debris strategies (Slade)			E, F, G, H, J	Central
Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Preserve and restore historic aquatic habitats (Slade).	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise Measures to improve ecological status of river:  Preserve and restore historic aquatic habitats (Slade).			E, F, G, H, J	Central

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership	Upper Ise Re-engineering of the river where the flow regime cannot be modified (Loddington Arm)	RNRP, EA	Upper Ise Measures to improve ecological status of river:  Re-engineering of the river where the flow regime cannot be modified (Loddington Arm)			E, F, G, H, J	Central
<a href="#">NNIDP</a>	Swanspool Brook flood storage reservoir study	NNC	Development in the area to increase the standard of protection.	£50,000 - £100,000	DEFRA, developer, partnership, CIL	C, F, G, H.	South
<a href="#">NNIDP</a>	In channel and flow mitigation improvements	Natural England, EA	River Ise meadows SSSI, Geddington must reach favourable conditions	Approx. £80,000	NE, EA, FDGiA, WFDGiA, s106	A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J	North
<a href="#">NNIDP</a>	Flood Storage Reservoir study	NNC	Development in the area. Potential for reducing flood levels downstream	£75,000 - £150,000	FDGiA, s106, developers, CIL	C, F, G, H.	South

## Appendix 7: Possible Funding Sources

### Funding for trees

Fund Name	Overview	Grant Value	Who can apply?	For more information see
<b>MOREwoods (Woodland Trust, fund by Lloyds and Bank of Scotland)</b>  <b>MoreHedges</b>	<p>Where 500+ trees are planted as woodland on at least half a hectare, we can help you design your woodland, create a bespoke species mix, supply the agreed trees and tree protection, and cover up to 75% of costs.</p> <p>We can subsidise up to 75% of the cost if you plant more than 100 metres of new hedging and allow a large tree to grow every six metres. Includes advice and guidance on planting.</p>	<	Landowners	<a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/morewoods/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/morewoods/</a>  <a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/morehedges/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/morehedges/</a>
<b>Trees for your Farm (Woodland Trust)</b>	<p>Plant 500+ trees to improve productivity and the environment on your farm. Funding of up to 100% of costs is available for agroforestry schemes benefiting the business of productive farms, including a site visit and tree planting assessment. Delivered through Sainsbury's and PUR project funding for suitable and approved sites.</p>	<	Farmers	<a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/</a>
<b>Countryside Stewardship</b>	<p>Woodland creation – this element runs for two years, during which you have to complete all of the capital works</p> <p>Woodland maintenance – if you are eligible, this element begins once your capital works are completed. It runs for ten years and throughout that time we will pay you an annual grant of £200 per hectare. (Being replaced by ELMS, below)</p>	<	Open to land managers who are either: an owner an occupier a tenant a landlord a licensor	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-grant-countryside-stewardship">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-grant-countryside-stewardship</a>



<b>Environmental Land Management Scheme</b>	There are 3 new schemes that will reward environmental land management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Farming Incentive</li> <li>• Local Nature Recovery</li> <li>• Landscape Recovery</li> </ul> (Pilots 2021/22, launch 2024)	Various	As above?	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview/environmental-land-management-scheme-overview">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview/environmental-land-management-scheme-overview</a>
<b>Carbon sales</b>	The Woodland Carbon Code is the voluntary standard for UK woodland creation projects where claims are made about the carbon dioxide they sequester. Independent validation and verification to this standard provides assurance and clarity about the carbon savings of these sustainably managed woodlands.	Various	Landowners	<a href="https://www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/buy-carbon/woodland-carbon-projects">https://www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/buy-carbon/woodland-carbon-projects</a>

#### General environmental funding

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Grant Value</b>	<b>Who can apply?</b>	<b>For more information see</b>
<b>Anglian Water - Flourishing environment fund</b>	The fund covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ land purchase</li> <li>▪ habitat creation and restoration</li> <li>▪ species conservation</li> <li>▪ invasive non-native species control and eradication where this benefits priority habitats and species</li> <li>▪ surveys that are a small part of a wider project you're seeking for, for example when a project requires a protected species survey in order to comply with the law</li> <li>▪ interpretation when it's a small part of a wider project you're seeking funding for</li> <li>▪ materials</li> <li>▪ equipment necessary to deliver the project</li> <li>▪ reasonable travel expenses.</li> </ul>	Total grant pot is £40,000 offer grants between £2,000 and £10,000	Constituted not for profit groups (Local Authorities are not included)	<a href="https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/in-the-community/protecting-our-environment/our-biodiversity-work/flourishing-environment-fund/">https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/in-the-community/protecting-our-environment/our-biodiversity-work/flourishing-environment-fund/</a>

	One application window/year (deadline 2021 was 1st Feb)			
<b>Landfill tax</b>	Projects within specified distance of a landfill See funding bulletin below	See below	See below	See funding bulletin below
<b>Wind farm funding</b>	Projects within specified distance of a wind farm	<£5000 <£7000 <£10000	Community groups in specified areas	<a href="http://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/all-grants">http://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/all-grants</a>
<b>Lottery Heritage Fund</b>	Programmes aimed at increasing participation in heritage, including natural heritage (Currently) we will prioritise heritage projects that will: boost the local economy encourage skills development and job creation support wellbeing create better places to live, work and visit improve the resilience of organisations working in heritage	Grants from £3,000 to £10,000, £10,000 to £250,000, £250,000 to £5million	Various	<a href="https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/">https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/</a>
<b>The National Lottery Community Fund</b>	General: Reaching Communities,  Awards for All funds small community projects.  The Climate Action Fund is currently closed, but will open soon and run for 10 years. Its aim is to support communities across the UK to take action on climate change.	£10,000 - £500,000 revenue £100,000 to capital  £300 - £10,000, with no match funding required.	voluntary or community organisations registered charities constituted groups or clubs not-for-profit companies or Community Interest Companies statutory bodies (including town, parish and community councils).	<a href="https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk">https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk</a>

<b>Net Gain/106</b>	Funding from offsetting of impacts of development	Various	Local authorities	North/West Northants council
<b>Highways England Designated Funds</b>	From 2020 to 2025, investing £936 million from standalone – or designated – funding. Four funding streams: Safety and congestion Environment and wellbeing (biodiversity, noise, air quality, flooding, water quality, carbon, cultural heritage, landscape, environmental legacy) Users and communities Innovation and modernisation (Preference for near to/impacted by one of their roads, e.g. A14, A1)	Various	Various	<a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/media/lh2ll0ao/designated-funds-plan-2020-2025.pdf">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/media/lh2ll0ao/designated-funds-plan-2020-2025.pdf</a>
<b>Environmental Land Management Scheme</b>	There are 3 new schemes that will reward environmental land management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Farming Incentive</li> <li>• Local Nature Recovery</li> <li>• Landscape Recovery</li> </ul> (Pilots 2021/22, launch 2024)	Various	Land managers	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview/environmental-land-management-scheme-overview">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview/environmental-land-management-scheme-overview</a>
<b>Esme Fairburn Foundation – Our Natural World</b>	Working with others, we will contribute to three key impact goals by 2030: Preserved and improved species health and habitats, Sustainable and ethical food & Clean and healthy freshwater  5 priorities: Peat, Space for nature, Nature friendly farming, Fishing in tandem with nature & Freshwater	>£30000	Constituted groups with 3+ trustees and a turnover of >£100000 (charitable work)	<a href="https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/our-aims/our-natural-world/">https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/our-aims/our-natural-world/</a>
<b>The Steel Charitable Trust</b>	The five current funding priority categories are Arts & Heritage, Education, Environment, Health, and Social or Economic Disadvantage. Applicants may apply for support towards: capital projects specific projects research programmes	£2,500 to £25,000	UK Charities Community Interest Companies (CICs) Charitable Incorporated	<a href="https://steelcharitabletrust.org.uk/">https://steelcharitabletrust.org.uk/</a>

	core costs Very few restrictions are imposed on the purpose for which a grant may be used.		Organisations (CIOs)	
<b>The Swire Charitable Trust</b>	3 Strands, opportunity, environment and heritage Environment Programme: Involve - Connecting people to the environment We fund charities that inspire and motivate individuals and communities to enhance our natural and built environment and help guide those who wish to live more sustainably. Protect and regenerate - Supporting the UK's biodiversity We fund activities that actively improve the health and resilience of the UK's ecosystems, habitats and native species.	<£25000 >£25000	Charities?	<a href="https://www.swirecharitabletrust.org.uk/">https://www.swirecharitabletrust.org.uk/</a>

#### **Other ecosystem services for sale? E.g. Natural Flood Management**

Newly announced, more detail to follow: The UK Shared Prosperity Fund <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8527/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-prospectus>

#### **Small local community grants**

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Grant Value</b>	<b>Who can apply?</b>	<b>For more information see</b>
<b>Northants Community Foundation</b>	Community projects	£500 - £5,000	Community organisations	<a href="http://www.ncf.uk.com">http://www.ncf.uk.com</a>
<b>Central England Co-op</b>	Community projects	< £5,000	Co-op members	<a href="https://www.centralengland.coop/community">https://www.centralengland.coop/community</a>
<b>Market Harborough Building Society Charitable Foundation</b>	Small capital projects (e.g. purchase of equipment)	£250 and £5,000	Specific area of Northants	<a href="https://mhbs.co.uk/my-membership/charitable-foundation/">https://mhbs.co.uk/my-membership/charitable-foundation/</a>

<b>Maud Elkington Charitable Trust</b>	Funding can be for a wide variety of projects, if they have a lasting benefit to the community	£100 to over £10,000	Organisations in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	Funding can be for a wide variety of projects, if they have a lasting benefit to the community. Contact Helen Pole, based at the Shakespeare Martineau law firm in Leicester, on 03300 240 333. Address: 2, Colton Sq. Leicester, LE1 1QH, email <a href="mailto:helen.pole@shma.co.uk">helen.pole@shma.co.uk</a>
<b>Francis and Masie Prior Charitable Trust</b>	Projects related to archaeology or the environment	<£500	East Midlands and the East of England	<a href="http://francisandmaisiepryorct.org.uk">http://francisandmaisiepryorct.org.uk</a>

**From Northants funding bulletin:**

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Grant Value</b>	<b>Who can apply?</b>	<b>For more information see</b>
<b>Mick George Community Fund</b>	Mick George provides funding for capital projects to improve public amenities, including parks, play areas, nature reserves and village halls. The fund operates across Northamptonshire.	Grants up to £50,000	Not-for-profit organisations	<a href="http://www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/mick-george-community-fund/">www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/mick-george-community-fund/</a>
<b>People's Postcode Lottery</b>	The People's Postcode Lottery Postcode Places Trust provides funding under the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving mental wellbeing</li> <li>• Enabling community participation in the arts</li> <li>• Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty</li> <li>• Supporting marginalised groups and promoting equality</li> <li>• Improving biodiversity &amp; green spaces</li> <li>• Enabling participation in physical activity</li> <li>• Responding to the climate emergency</li> </ul>	Grants up to £2,000 for community groups and CICs  Grants up to £20,000 for	Community organisations, CICs and charities	<a href="https://www.postcodeplacestrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/">https://www.postcodeplacestrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/</a>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing community access to outdoor space</li> </ul>	registered charities		
<b>Landfill Communities Fund – SUEZ Communities Trust</b>	<p>SUEZ Communities Trust (formerly SITA) provides funding for capital projects to improve public amenities, including parks, play areas, nature reserves and village halls.</p> <p>Projects need to be located near a SUEZ landfill site. See postcode checker on the website for eligibility.</p>	Grants up to £50,000	Not-for-profit organisations	<a href="https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/">https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/</a>
<b>Landfill Communities Fund – Biffa</b>	Biffa operates in the same way as SUEZ (above), for projects near Biffa landfill sites.	Grants up to £75,000	Not-for-profit organisations	<a href="http://www.biffa-award.org/">http://www.biffa-award.org/</a>
<b>Landfill Communities Fund – FCC</b>	FCC operates in the same way as SUEZ (above), for projects near FCC landfill sites.	Up to £100,000	Not-for-profit organisations	<a href="https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/">https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/</a>
<b>Landfill Communities Fund –Augean</b>	Augean operates in the same way as SUEZ (above), for projects near Augean landfill sites.	Up to £50,000	Not-for-profit organisations	<a href="http://www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/augean-community-fund/">www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/augean-community-fund/</a>
<b>Landfill Communities Fund – Viridor</b>	Viridor operates in the same way as SUEZ (above), for projects near Viridor landfill sites.	Up to £50,000	Not-for-profit organisations	<a href="https://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-funding">https://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-funding</a>
<b>Morrisons Foundation</b>	The Morrisons Foundation awards grant funding for charity projects which make a positive difference in local communities.	Up to £25,000	Registered Charities	<a href="https://www.morrisonsfoundation.com/grant-funding-request/">https://www.morrisonsfoundation.com/grant-funding-request/</a>
<b>SEMLEP Community Grants</b>	The Community Grants programme offers funding to deliver local projects that help people move back into work or training. Grants can cover 100% of project costs.	Grants between £10,000 and £20,000	Voluntary and community sector organisations	<a href="https://www.semlep.com/community-grants/?utm_source=EmailMarketing&amp;utm_medium=Announcement&amp;utm_">https://www.semlep.com/community-grants/?utm_source=EmailMarketing&amp;utm_medium=Announcement&amp;utm_</a>



				<a href="#">campaign=CommunityGrants5</a>
<b>Tesco Community Grants</b>	Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme, which funds thousands of community projects every year. The projects must meet the criteria of bringing benefits to the community.	Grants up to £1,000	Councils, community organisations, schools	<a href="https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/grant-schemes/">https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/grant-schemes/</a>

**Search:** Free funding search: <https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/Funder>

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## PLANNING POLICY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL 16 May 2022

Report Title	Houses in Multiple Occupation
Report Author	Bernice Turner – Senior Planning Officer (Local Plans) <a href="mailto:Bernice.Turner@northnorthants.gov.uk">Bernice.Turner@northnorthants.gov.uk</a>
Relevant Executive Member	Councillor David Brackenbury – Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration

### List of Appendices

Appendix A: Definitions of a HMO

Appendix B: Draft HMO Consultation Survey

### 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1. To update members on the progress of the investigation into Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). The report outlines the process for undertaking public consultation to capture the views and experiences of local people and interested parties regarding HMOs. The Panel is asked to comment on the consultation exercise and the proposals in general.

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1. The report explains progress on the investigation into HMOs. It references the report to Panel in February 2022 and developments since then. It outlines the process for undertaking a consultation survey and requests that Members comment on the consultation exercise and the proposals in general. Officers have been requested to report regularly back to this Panel.

### 3. Recommendations

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- 3.1. The Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel is asked to note the progress made with the investigation and consider the consultation activities, including the survey questions.

### Reason for Recommendations:

- 3.2. This update report is intended to keep Members informed of progress made with the investigation, but also to seek comments on the consultation exercise and proposals in general.

## **4. Report Background**

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- 4.1. In simple terms, a HMO is a home occupied by more than one household that shares an amenity such as a kitchen or bathroom; however, the definition of a HMO varies for different departments within the Council and regulatory regimes for the purposes of housing, planning and Council tax are not consistent. Further information on the definitions is included within Appendix A.
- 4.2. HMOs are an important part of the housing market that meet a variety of needs, including affordable accommodation for people that can't afford to buy or rent their own home; however, standards of HMOs can vary, and in some cases, they can have a negative impact on the community and the local environment where they are not controlled or properly managed.
- 4.3. The Government has given local authorities the power to introduce additional and selective property licensing schemes and to remove permitted development rights for HMOs through Article 4 Directions, where there is sufficient evidence.
- 4.4. Significant progress has been made gathering evidence to improve the understanding of the HMOs situation in North Northamptonshire and their impact, as reported to the Panel on 21 February 2022. The evidence revealed information on the quantity and spatial distribution of HMOs in North Northamptonshire, including the identification of six wards as 'hotspots' with the highest number and concentration of HMOs. The report emphasised the importance of reliable and robust evidence and noted key information gaps and data limitations.
- 4.5. To help fill gaps in information, where existing data does not exist or is inadequate, it was agreed that the next stage of the investigation would focus on developing local area profiles for the hotspots.
- 4.6. During discussion at the February Panel meeting Members requested a full breakdown of the different types of HMOs to give an indication of the likely associated issues. This has not been possible due to the level of information collected to date, but officers may be able to provide a more detailed breakdown as part of the local area profiles. Members also commented on the inclusion of flats and apartments within the recorded HMOs. A review of the information gathered shows that the known HMOs do include flats and apartments where these meet the respective definitions within Appendix A, but it is noted that flats and apartments only comprise 2% of the 1,114 HMOs in North Northamptonshire.

## 5. Issues and Choices

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- 5.1. Development of the evidence has so far included data collection from the following sources:
- Licensed HMOs from the Central Licensing Administration Unit and non-licensed HMOs from the area teams
  - Environmental Health/Private Sector Housing officers
  - Council Tax records
  - Enforcement notices
- 5.2. Officers have made sustained progress with the investigation since 21 February 2022 to improve the quality of the evidence through discussions with Northamptonshire Police and neighbouring local authorities. Additionally, the current consultation on the [Scope and Issues for the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan](#) contains a specific question on HMOs that should further help to reinforce and strengthen the local evidence on HMOs to inform the future approach.
- 5.3. The next stage for the investigation is to conduct an online consultation survey for a period of six weeks, including questions to tenants, landlords, residents and local community groups. The survey will address gaps or missing data and help to develop the local area profiles agreed by the Panel in February 2022. The questions outlined in the draft HMO consultation survey, attached to this report at Appendix B, have been developed in consultation with the HMO Officer Working Group to help in understanding the impact on the community and local environment, as well as the condition of the HMOs. The intention is that the draft survey at Appendix B will be further refined through an Officer Working Group meeting following discussion with Members.
- 5.4. The online consultation survey will be supported by a webpage with an interactive map feature which allows residents to identify buildings they suspect to be HMOs in their neighbourhood. This will help identify the number of HMOs in the area and verify the information reported to the Panel previously. As part of the survey respondents will be asked to provide as much information and evidence as possible.
- 5.5. It should be noted that concerns have been raised as part of the HMO Working Group about future resource requirements for the investigation following public consultation. Further updates will be brought to this Panel as required.
- 5.6. A variety of communication methods will be used to raise awareness of the online consultation survey and encourage responses, including the following activities:
- The consultation survey will be uploaded to the Council's website via the Council's Consultation Hub, which will include notifying members of the North Northamptonshire Consultation Register and the North Northamptonshire Residents' Panel.

- Consultation notification and information will be sent to contacts on the planning policy consultation database.
  - Emails/mailshots to estate agents, landlords and tenants known to the Council.
  - Advertisement posters placed in the main Council offices and libraries, and community centres within the identified 'hotspot' wards, to act as a signpost to the consultation survey.
  - Promotion through Council's social media.
- 5.7. Concurrently the HMO Working Group is exploring how to overcome barriers to data-sharing at a local level, including opportunities to harmonise systems and processes and establish a central database that can be shared and updated by relevant departments within the Council. This will help the Council to improve the internal monitoring systems and thereby establish a robust baseline position to effectively measure the outcomes and recommendations of the investigation.

## **6. Next Steps**

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- 6.1. To finalise the consultation measures, incorporating feedback from the Panel, before launching in Summer 2022.
- 6.2. The outcomes from the consultation, along with the evidence gathered, will inform option analysis and enable informed discussions on the additional mechanisms available to the housing and planning functions to manage and control HMOs, where necessary.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation**

- 7.1.1. The investigation is currently being led by the planning policy team through existing budgets; however, ongoing input will be required from a range of officers given the cross-departmental nature of the investigation, which may be impacted by the feedback received during consultation. Officer concerns relating to staff resources are noted at paragraph 5.5 of the report.
- 7.1.2. The investigation offers opportunities to identify transformation activities as part of the process; however, data gathering will continue to be time intensive in advance of the consolidation of IT systems across North Northamptonshire.

### **7.2. Legal and Governance**

- 7.2.1. Legislation relevant to HMOs includes: The Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (mandatory Conditions of Licences) (England) Regulations 2018; The Housing Act (2004); The Local Government Finance Act 1992; Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). This Panel is currently providing the governance necessary for the project.



### **7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans**

- 7.3.1. The outcomes of the investigation are expected to contribute to meeting the Council's corporate objectives as outlined within the Corporate Plan 2021-25, particularly objectives 1: Active, fulfilled lives; 2: Better, brighter futures; and 3: Safe and thriving places.

### **7.4. Risk**

- 7.4.1. The availability of information will influence the outcomes of the investigation as any measures proposed to regulate HMOs must be based on robust and credible evidence. Prematurely opting for Discretionary Licensing or Article 4 Direction, where sufficient evidence is not available could be open to legal challenge by affected parties.

### **7.5. Consultation**

- 7.5.1. This report explains the Council's intention to undertake consultation with local people and interested parties relating to HMOs to ensure any options considered as part of the investigation are informed by robust and credible evidence. A draft survey has been developed for public consultation and is included at Appendix B for Members to discuss and provide comments.

### **7.6. Consideration by Scrutiny**

- 7.6.1. Discussion at the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review Working Group on 3 May considered the impacts of high numbers of HMOs in left-behind areas and the effects on the environment. Further discussion may be needed in the future to update the Scrutiny Working Group of progress with this investigation.

### **7.7. Equality Implications**

- 7.7.1. Improving the standards in and management of HMOs within the area will benefit all members of North Northamptonshire's diverse communities. An Equality Screening Assessment and/or full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed, if necessary, in consultation with the Council's Equalities team.

### **7.8. Climate Impact**

- 7.8.1. The Council, having declared a climate change emergency in June 2021, is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve net zero energy emissions. Any climate or environmental impacts that may arise from this investigation will be considered fully through any measures proposed by the Council.

### **7.9. Community Impact**

- 7.9.1. The community impact of HMOs is a key consideration for this investigation.

## 7.10. Crime and Disorder Impact

- 7.10.1. The impact of HMOs on crime and disorder is a key consideration for this investigation. The development of robust evidence will allow the Council to have a greater understanding, which in turn should be helpful in addressing concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime.

## 8. Background Papers

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- 8.1. Planning Policy EAP on 21 February 2022 [Report on Houses in Multiple Occupation](#) (Agenda item 4)
- 8.2. Planning Policy EAP on 21 July 2021 [Minutes of meeting where verbal briefing was given by Interim Planning Policy Lead Manager](#)
- 8.3. [North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Scope and Issues](#), March 2022

## Appendix A: Definitions of a HMO

### DEFINITION USED BY LICENSING - HOUSING ACT (2004, AS AMENDED)

#### **254. Meaning of “house in multiple occupation”**

(1) For the purposes of this Act a building or a part of a building is a “house in multiple occupation” if—

- (a) it meets the conditions in subsection (2) (“the standard test”);
- (b) it meets the conditions in subsection (3) (“the self-contained flat test”);
- (c) it meets the conditions in subsection (4) (“the converted building test”);
- (d) an HMO declaration is in force in respect of it under section 255; or
- (e) it is a converted block of flats to which section 257 applies.

(2) A building or a part of a building meets the standard test if—

- (a) it consists of one or more units of living accommodation not consisting of a self-contained flat or flats;
- (b) the living accommodation is occupied by persons who do not form a single household (section 258);
- (c) the living accommodation is occupied by those persons as their only or main residence or they are to be treated as so occupying it (see section 259);
- (d) their occupation of the living accommodation constitutes the only use of that accommodation;
- (e) rents are payable or other consideration is to be provided in respect of at least one of those persons' occupation of the living accommodation; and
- (f) two or more of the households who occupy the living accommodation share one or more basic amenities or the living accommodation is lacking in one or more basic amenities

(3) A part of a building meets the self-contained flat test if—

- (a) it consists of a self-contained flat; and
- (b) paragraphs (b) to (f) of subsection (2) apply (reading references to the living accommodation concerned as references to the flat).

(4) A building or a part of a building meets the converted building test if—

- (a) it is a converted building;
- (b) it contains one or more units of living accommodation that do not consist of a self-contained flat or flats (whether or not it also contains any such flat or flats);
- (c) the living accommodation is occupied by persons who do not form a single household (see section 258);
- (d) the living accommodation is occupied by those persons as their only or main residence or they are to be treated as so occupying it (see section 259);
- (e) their occupation of the living accommodation constitutes the only use of that accommodation; and
- (f) rents are payable or other consideration is to be provided in respect of at least one of those persons' occupation of the living accommodation.

#### **255. HMO declarations**

(1) If a local housing authority are satisfied that subsection (2) applies to a building or part of a building in their area, they may serve a notice under this section (an “HMO declaration”) declaring the building or part to be a house in multiple occupation.

(2) This subsection applies to a building or part of a building if the building or part meets any of the following tests (as it applies without the sole use condition)—

- (a) the standard test (see section 254(2)),
- (b) the self-contained flat test (see section 254(3)), or
- (c) the converted building test (see section 254(4)), and the occupation, by persons who do not form a single household, of the living accommodation or flat referred to in the test in question constitutes a significant use of that accommodation or flat.

**257. HMOs: certain converted blocks of flats**

(1) For the purposes of this section a “converted block of flats” means a building or part of a building which—

- (a) has been converted into, and
- (b) consists of self-contained flats.

(2) This section applies to a converted block of flats if— (a) building work undertaken in connection with the conversion did not comply with the appropriate building standards and still does not comply with them; and (b) less than two-thirds of the self-contained flats are owner-occupied.

**PLANNING DEFINITION - THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (USE CLASSES) (AMENDMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

2.—(1) The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987(1) is amended as follows.

(2) In Part C of the Schedule, for Class C2A substitute—

(3) In Part C of the Schedule, for Class C3 substitute—

**Class C3. Dwellinghouses**

Use as a dwellinghouse (whether or not as a sole or main residence) by—

- (a) a single person or by people to be regarded as forming a single household;
- (b) not more than six residents living together as a single household where care is provided for residents; or
- (c) not more than six residents living together as a single household where no care is provided to residents (other than a use within Class C4).

Interpretation of Class C3

For the purposes of Class C3(a) “single household” shall be construed in accordance with section 258 of the Housing Act 2004(2).”

(4) In Part C of the Schedule, after Class C3 insert—

**Class C4. Houses in multiple occupation**

Use of a dwellinghouse by not more than six residents as a “house in multiple occupation”.

Interpretation of Class C4

For the purposes of Class C4 a “house in multiple occupation” does not include a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Housing Act 2004 applies but otherwise has the same meaning as in section 254 of the Housing Act 2004.”.

**Note:** HMOs with more than six residents are classified as Sui Generis in the Use Classes Order

**COUNCIL TAX DEFINITION – COUNCIL TAX (LIABILITY FOR OWNERS) REGULATIONS 1992**

The following are the classes of chargeable dwellings prescribed for the purposes of section 8(1) of the of section 8(1) of the [LGFA]-

Houses in multiple occupation, etc

Class C a dwelling which

(a) was originally constructed or subsequently adapted for occupation by persons who do not constitute a single household; or

(b) is inhabited by a person who, or by two or more persons each of whom either-

(1) is a tenant of, or has a licence to occupy, part only of the dwelling; or

(2) has a licence to occupy, but is not liable (whether alone or jointly with other persons) to pay rent or a licence fee in respect of the dwelling as a whole.

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## Appendix B: Draft HMO Consultation Survey



### Houses in Multiple Occupation – Consultation Survey

The Council has launched this online consultation survey to ask local people their views on Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in their area and help the Council to understand if further measures are needed to control HMOs in North Northamptonshire.

The first part of the survey will help the Council to understand if there are any additional HMOs within your area that the Council is not already aware of, please see the Council's interactive map <link> showing all licensed HMOs. Where possible, these will be #investigated to determine if they are in fact HMOs.

The second part of the survey will help the Council understand if there are any specific issues associated with HMOs in your area, such as parking, noise and overcrowding in communities. If there are found to be issues, then the Council will consider the most appropriate methods for managing HMOs in these areas.

*Please note that this online survey will not allow you to save your responses and return to them, so we advise that you view the survey in the first instance and prepare your responses ahead of entering them into the online form. This will avoid you losing any partial responses that have not been submitted on completion.*

If you have any questions when completing the online survey, please contact the Council via email: [planningpolicy@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@northnorthants.gov.uk) or call **0300 126 3000** and request a call back from the planning policy team.

This survey closes at 11.59pm on <date> 2022.

### Complete the HMO Consultation Survey

Please tick the most appropriate box(es) or comment as appropriate

**Q1. Please provide your full address and postcode.** Your address will be kept confidential, but this information will tell us which ward you live in.

*\*Mandatory field (make responses to all questions mandatory, except name and contact number)*

**Q2. Which of the following describes you?** You can tick more than one option.

An owner/occupier of a property in the area		An accredited landlord	
A private tenant		A student	
A social housing tenant		Live close to a HMO	

Letting/managing agent		A local business	
A landlord		Other (please state)	

The Council have included an interactive map alongside this survey showing all licensed HMOs within North Northamptonshire.

**Q3. Are there any properties within your area you feel are being used as a HMO that are not shown on the interactive map?** <link to map>

Yes		No	
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*Add function that if 'no' is selected then move straight to Q4.*

If you have selected yes, then please give full details of the property including evidence showing why this may be functioning as a HMO; not providing sufficient evidence may result in the Council being unable to investigate the issues associated with the property. Where possible please use the interactive map to select the property you are referring to. You can do this for more than one property, but please select these separately and provide the below information for each property.

<b>Property address</b>	<i>Use drop down functions</i>
<b>Date first suspected the property is a HMO</b>	
<b>Reason(s) for believing the property is a HMO</b>	
<b>Is the property causing any issues within your area?</b>	Options:  1. No 2. Yes (prepare drop down of issues – same as Q4?)
<b>Please attach evidence here demonstrating possible use as a HMO, such as photos of the property or immediate surrounding area showing any issues associated with this property</b>	<i>Attachment option for photographs etc</i>

**Add further property** <Add function within survey to allow more than one property to be selected>

The information you have provided will be used by the Council to investigate whether the property you have identified is functioning as a HMO. If you are happy to be contacted by the Council to provide further information relating to your responses, should this be required, then please provide your name and contact number below:

<b>Name</b>	<i>Not mandatory</i>
<b>Contact number</b>	<i>Not mandatory</i>

**Q4. In the last 12 months how much of an issue are the following in your area?** Please select one option for each row.

	<b>A significant issue</b>	<b>A moderate issue</b>	<b>A minor issue</b>	<b>Not an issue at all</b>	<b>Don't know or N/A</b>
Poor external appearance of HMOs and their gardens					
Noise nuisance such as loud music and parties from HMOs					
Dumped rubbish and litter around HMOs					
Poorly managed HMOs					
Poor internal property conditions within HMO					
Over-crowding as a result of HMOs					
Difficulties with car parking related to HMOs					
Crime and anti-social behaviour linked to HMOs					
Any other problems caused by HMOs please state below:					

**Q5. In the last 12 months have you contacted the Council about issues relating to HMOs in your area?**

Yes		No	
Please give details:			

**Q6. You can use this space to write any other comments you have about HMOs in your area**

If you have any questions when completing the online survey, please contact the Council via email: [planningpolicy@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@northnorthants.gov.uk) or call **0300 126 3000** and request a call back from the planning policy team.

The survey closes at 11.59pm on <date> 2022.



North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

# **North Northamptonshire Council**

**1 MAY 2022 TO 31 AUGUST 2022**

**Published by: Democratic Services**

**Leader of North Northamptonshire Council: Councillor Jason Smithers**

## INTRODUCTION

This is the North Northamptonshire Council's Forward Plan. It is published pursuant to The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. Its purpose is to provide the required 28 days notice of the Council's intention to take 'key decisions' and to hold meetings or parts of meetings in private. It gives advance notice of all the "key decisions" and "exempt decisions" which the Executive or another body or officer so authorised are likely to take over a four-month period. The Plan is updated on a rolling monthly basis.

<b>The Members of the Executive are:</b>	
Councillor Jason Smithers	Leader of North Northamptonshire Council
Councillor Helen Howell	Deputy Leader of North Northamptonshire Council Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism
Councillor Helen Harrison	Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Scott Edwards	Children, Families, Education and Skills
Councillor Harriet Pentland	Climate and Green Environment
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	Finance and Transformation
Councillor David Brackenbury	Growth and Regeneration
Councillor Graham Lawman	Highways, Travel and Assets
Councillor Andy Mercer	Housing and Community
Councillor David Howes	Rural Communities and Localism

The concept of a "key decision" is intended to capture the most important or significant decisions. "Key decisions" will normally be made at meetings open to the press and public. The press and public will only be excluded from such meetings as and when the Council's Monitoring Officer considers that this is necessary in order to avoid the public disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

The authority has decided that a Key Decision is one which is likely:-

- (a) to result in the authority incurring expenditure of which is, or the making of savings which are, significant; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards in the area of the authority."

The Council has decided that significant expenditure or savings are those amounting to above £500,000.

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes North Northamptonshire Council will also have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000.



At times it may be necessary for the North Northamptonshire Council to give consideration to items where the public may be excluded from the meeting. Members of the public are excluded from meetings whenever it is likely that, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed. This includes exclusion from access to any pertinent documents. Details of the exemption categories can be found in the 'Access to Information Procedure Rules' section in the Council's [Constitution](#). This plan provides advance notice of any items which may be held in private.

Paragraph 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 provides for members of the public to make representations to the Council on why an exempt item should be considered in public, rather than in private. Persons wishing to make such representations and/or obtain further details in respect of any issues referred to in the Plan should contact the undermentioned officer.

The Monitoring Officer may also include in the Forward Plan references to such other decisions, which are to be taken by the Council or any of its Committees or Sub-Committee or officers as they consider appropriate. These will be those decisions that are considered to be significant or sufficiently important and/or sensitive so that it is reasonable for a member of the public to expect it to be recorded and published.

All general questions or queries about the contents of this Forward Plan or about the arrangements for taking key decisions should be raised with David Pope, Democratic Services.

Please email: [democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk)

## May 2022

Subject of the Decision:	Decision Maker	Is it a key decision?	Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any	Consultation undertaken	Anticipated Date of Decision:	Report Author	Support documents (if any)
Capital Programme Update 2021/22	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director of Finance	
Housing Development - Former Grange Methodist Church Site, Kettering	Executive	Yes	Part exempt; para 3		19 May 2022	Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	
Priors Hall Golf Course	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	
Towns Fund – Train Station to Town Centre Link Road & Smart and Connected Corby Combined Projects	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	
Community Asset Transfer Policy	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	

Asset of Community Value Policy	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	
Stanton Cross Development of Governance Arrangements	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	
Council Housing Policy Update Report	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	
Continuation of the Community Library Transfer Programme	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	
Enterprise Telephony	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Director of Transformation	
Loan Book Disaggregation	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director of Finance	
Suicide Prevention Strategy	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Director of Public Health	
Highways Contract	Executive	Yes	No		19 May 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	

## June 2022

Subject of the Decision:	Decision Maker	Is it a key decision?	Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any	Consultation undertaken	Anticipated Date of Decision:	Report Author	Support documents (if any)
Capital Programme Update 2021/22	Executive	Yes	No		16 Jun 2022	Executive Director of Finance	
Budget Forecast Update 2021/22	Executive	Yes	No		16 Jun 2022	Executive Director of Finance	
Income Management Solution	Executive	Yes	Part exempt; para 3		16 Jun 2022	Director of Transformation	
Hackney Carriage Fares Tariff	Executive	Yes	No		16 Jun 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	Executive	Yes	No		16 Jun 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	

UK Levelling Up Fund	Executive	Yes	No		16 Jun 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	
Tree Strategy and Policy	Executive	Yes	No		16 Jun 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	
Pollinator Strategy	Executive	Yes	No		16 Jun 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	
Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-2025	Executive	Yes	No		16 Jun 2022	Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	

## July 2022

Subject of the Decision:	Decision Maker	Is it a key decision?	Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any	Consultation undertaken	Anticipated Date of Decision:	Report Author	Support documents (if any)
Capital Programme Update 2021/22	Executive	Yes	No		14 Jul 2022	Executive Director of Finance	
Budget Forecast Update 2021/22	Executive	Yes	No		14 Jul 2022	Executive Director of Finance	
Garden Waste: Future Service Provision	Executive	Yes	No		14 Jul 2022	Executive Director – Place & Economy	



## August 2022

<b>Subject of the Decision:</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Is it a key decision?</b>	<b>Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any</b>	<b>Consultation undertaken</b>	<b>Anticipated Date of Decision:</b>	<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Support documents (if any)</b>
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There are currently no reports scheduled for August

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