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**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Meeting: EAP Climate Change, Environment & Growth
Date: Wednesday 18th May 2022
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Remote Meeting via Zoom (this meeting is not the subject of public meeting requirements)
The meeting will be available for the public to view live at the 'Democratic Services North Northants' YouTube channel.

To members of the EAP Climate Change, Environment & Growth

Councillors Harriet Pentland (Chair), Tim Allebone, Jennie Bone, Dez Dell, Anne Lee and Jan O'Hara

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<p>Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council</p>  <p>Proper Officer 10th May 2022</p>			

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Meetings at the Council Offices

This meeting will be held using the Zoom platform.

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Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted a dispensation.

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Minutes of a meeting of the EAP Climate Change Environment & Growth Held as a Remote Meeting via Zoom at 9.00 am on Wednesday 27th April 2022

Present:-

Members

Councillor Harriet Pentland (Chair)
Councillor Jennie Bone
Councillor Anne Lee

Councillor Tim Allebone
Councillor Emily Fedorowycz
Councillor Jan O'Hara

Officers

Sue Bateman
George Candler
Valerie Finke
Greg Haynes
Rob Harbour

Senior Planning Officer
Executive Director – Place & Economy
Economic Development Officer
Climate Change Officer
Assistant Director – Growth &
Regeneration
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Associate - WSP
Principal Property & Projects Manager
Democratic Services Officer
Principal Planning Policy Officer

Also in attendance – Councillor Graham Lawman

48 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dez Dell – Councillor Emily Fedorowycz was in attendance as a substitute.

49 **Members' Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

50 **Minutes from Meeting held on 16 March 2022**

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 were approved as a correct record.

51 **Biodiversity Net Gain**

The EAP considered a report by the Senior Planning Officer, which outlined the implications of biodiversity net gain.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- Members queried what could be done locally to begin work on the net gain project, prior to November 2023, in encouraging developers to submit their biodiversity plans.
- Regarding the enforcement of net gain targets, members recognised that proving responsibility and measuring biodiversity was difficult, as well as time consuming. Therefore, it was questioned how the authority would ensure that developers and residents would be held accountable.
- While acknowledging that establishing biodiversity net gain targets was a 'step in the right direction', one member expressed concern that seeking net gain after the development of land would produce a decline in results. The member queried whether the authority should require biodiversity gain before the commencement of land development, to ensure targets would be achieved before the fact.
- One member expressed concern at the fact that those homeowners were to be exempt from biodiversity gains targets. They posited that if homeowners sought to construct extensions to their properties, they should also be subject to targets, to allow for gains to be achieved in every area.
- While members supported the Officers' aspirations for 10% biodiversity net gain, they queried how this would be quantified, since most developers would not have specialist knowledge of gains metrics. Members reiterated their desire that targets would not become a 'tick-box exercise' in response to legislation.

In response, the Senior Planning Officer clarified that:

- Mandatory net gain targets were expected to begin in November 2023, however there was a possibility that they could be delayed until 2025. While North Northamptonshire Council had an existing policy, which determined biodiversity net gain, the authority had never enforced a specific target. Nevertheless, officers assured members that until mandatory targets would come into place, they would continue to monitor biodiversity net gain. Monitoring requirements would be built into conservation covenants and would require site deliverers to monitor and report levels of net gain. Developers would subsequently be required to report to the authority, which, alongside ecological support, would verify the correct figures.
- The purpose of the local authority's implementation of targets was to achieve a genuine enhancement in biodiversity net gain. In order to establish a strong foundation for achieving these targets, prior to the commencement of land development, it would be important to choose development sites correctly and avoid the most sensitive areas. Once sites had been developed, the authority would ensure that they deliver an enhancement. Nevertheless, the Senior Officer acknowledged that the metric of measurement was not perfect.
- Subjecting homeowners to the same targets and metrics as land developers, for home extensions, was considered to be unreasonable. However, through local policy, the authority could implement lesser requirements.

- North Northamptonshire Council did not view biodiversity net gain as a ‘tick-box exercise’.

RESOLVED that:

The EAP noted the report.

52 Corby Station Link Road & Smart & Connected Corby Project (to follow)

The EAP considered a presentation by the Economic Development Officer, which provided information regarding the Corby Town Fund. In June 2021 North Northamptonshire Council was awarded funding of £19.9M for four projects in Corby.

During discussion, the principal points were noted:

- One member expressed concern that Oakley Road was a busy, congested area, in which school students often congregated, and that trains passing through overpasses presented safety risks.
- Another member acknowledged that a wheelchair access ramp had not been considered for the car park and expressed concern that the authority would not be complying with its public sector equality duty.
- Members queried whether the actual surface of underpasses would be improved or if only the lighting would be changed.

In response, the Economic Development Officer clarified that:

- The speed limit on Oakley Road would be reduced to 30mph, due to the narrowing of the road lanes. Railings on the dual carriageway would also be replaced with new ones.
- Officers had carried out several equality impact assessments and looked into North Northamptonshire Council’s accessibility policies. Having done this, the authority had considered the cost and benefits of implementing a wheelchair ramp in the car park and decided not to proceed with the installation. Nevertheless, the Economic Development Officer assured members that officers would again look into including a ramp, in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Act.
- Access to the bolts of sheets covering the surface of the underpass would need to be maintained. Since there was little graffiti and damage to the surface of the underpass, which was regarded to be in good condition, work would be limited.

RESOLVED that:

The EAP noted the report.

53 Close of Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Climate Change, Environment & Growth Executive Advisory Panel would be held virtually, via Zoom, on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 9:30am.

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CLIMATE CHANGE, GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL

Wednesday 18th May 2022

Report Title	Ise Valley Strategic Plan
Report Author	Emma Arklay Senior Development Officer (Planning Policy) emma.arklay@northnorthants.gov.uk
Executive Member	Councillor Harriet Pentland – Executive Member for Climate & Green Environment

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Ise Valley Strategic Plan

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This Report was presented to the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel on Monday 16th May. Members were recommended to:
- 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;
 - Endorse the content of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan and ask that it be presented to the Executive for approval
- 1.2. Given the mission and aims set out in the Ise Valley Strategic Plan (the Plan / IVSP) and the positive impact it will have with respect to managing and mitigating against climate change, it is appropriate that Members of the Climate Change, Environment and Growth Executive Advisory Panel are also informed about the content of the IVSP and made aware of the benefits of working in partnership to deliver the Plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 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

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Climate Change, Environment and Growth 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

Reason for Recommendations

- 3.2 Endorsement of the Plan from both the Planning Policy and Climate Change, Environment and Growth Executive Advisory Panels (with a view to approval from the Executive) will enable Officers of the Council to use the 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 Climate Change, Environment and Growth Executive Advisory Panel could resolve not to endorse the content of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan. 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

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.

- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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

- 4.10 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.
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 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

- 4.13 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.
- 4.14 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.
- 4.15 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.
- 4.16 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

- 4.17 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.
- 4.18 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.

- 4.19 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.
- 4.20 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.
- 4.21 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.
- 4.22 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).
- 4.23 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

Issues arising

- 5.1 At the March Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel (PPEAP) (24/03/22) and subsequently the April Climate Change, Environment and Growth Executive Advisory Panel a Report¹ 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.²

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

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

- 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.
- 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

- 6.1 Approval of the content of the Plan 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
- 6.2 The IVSP will be presented to Executive for approval.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

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.

7.3.6 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, research³ 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

- 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](#)

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

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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

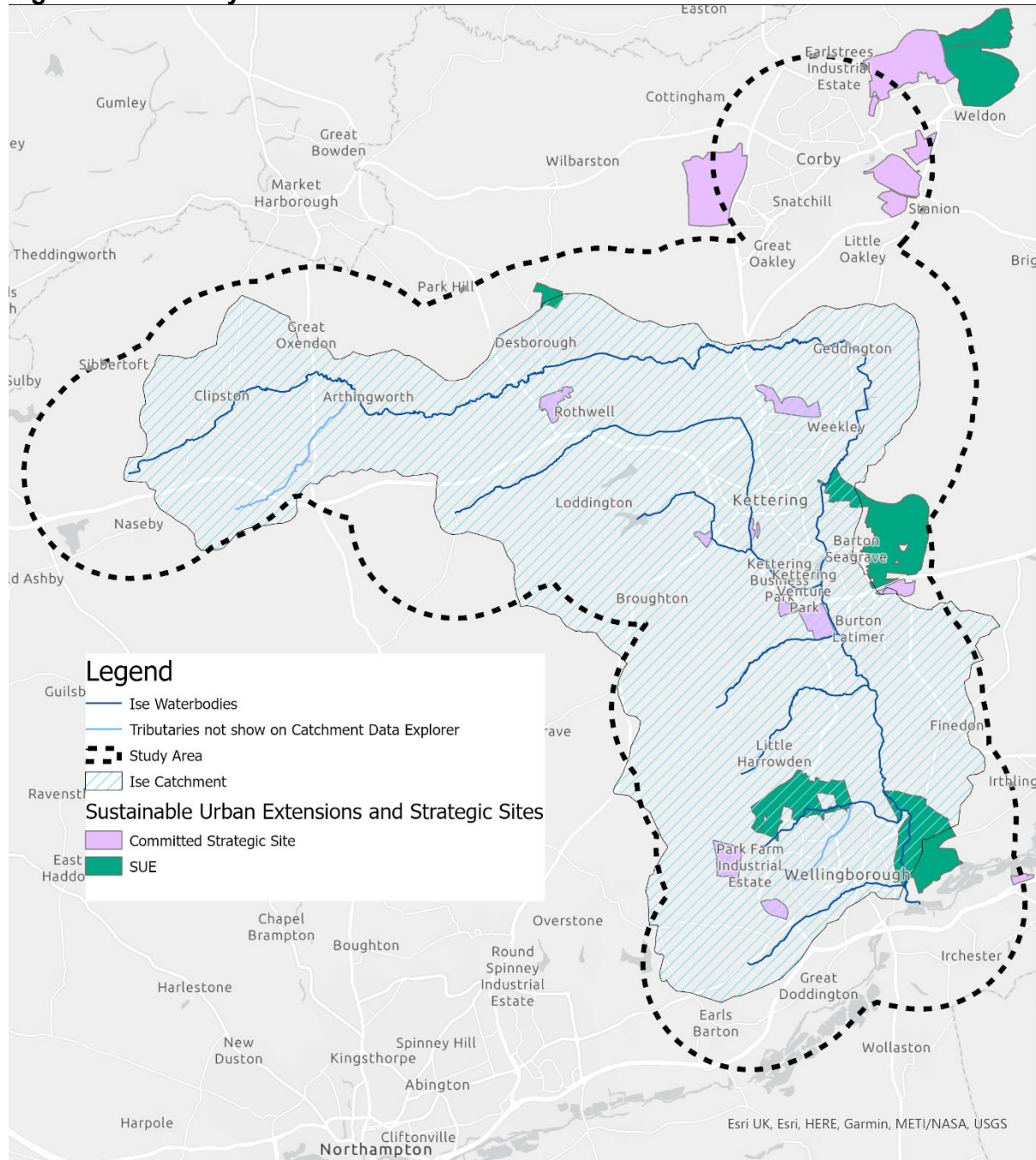
The Ise Valley is in north Northamptonshire. The main towns in the valley are Kettering and Wellingborough. The town of Corby is also close by. A number of smaller settlements/parishes are in or close to the valley (see Appendix 2). Most of the river, and its catchment, fall within North Northamptonshire 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

construction in the area. The study area boundary is a 3km buffer around the river, plus 3km from the centre of Corby. The buffer encompasses the majority of the River Ise catchment and those communities close enough to benefit most from the ecosystem services it provides. Although Corby falls outside the catchment it is included in the study area to reflect the ambition to connect the town with Wellingborough, through Kettering via the creation of a pedestrian and cycling route that will be suitable for both leisure and commuting purposes.

Figure 1: The study area



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.

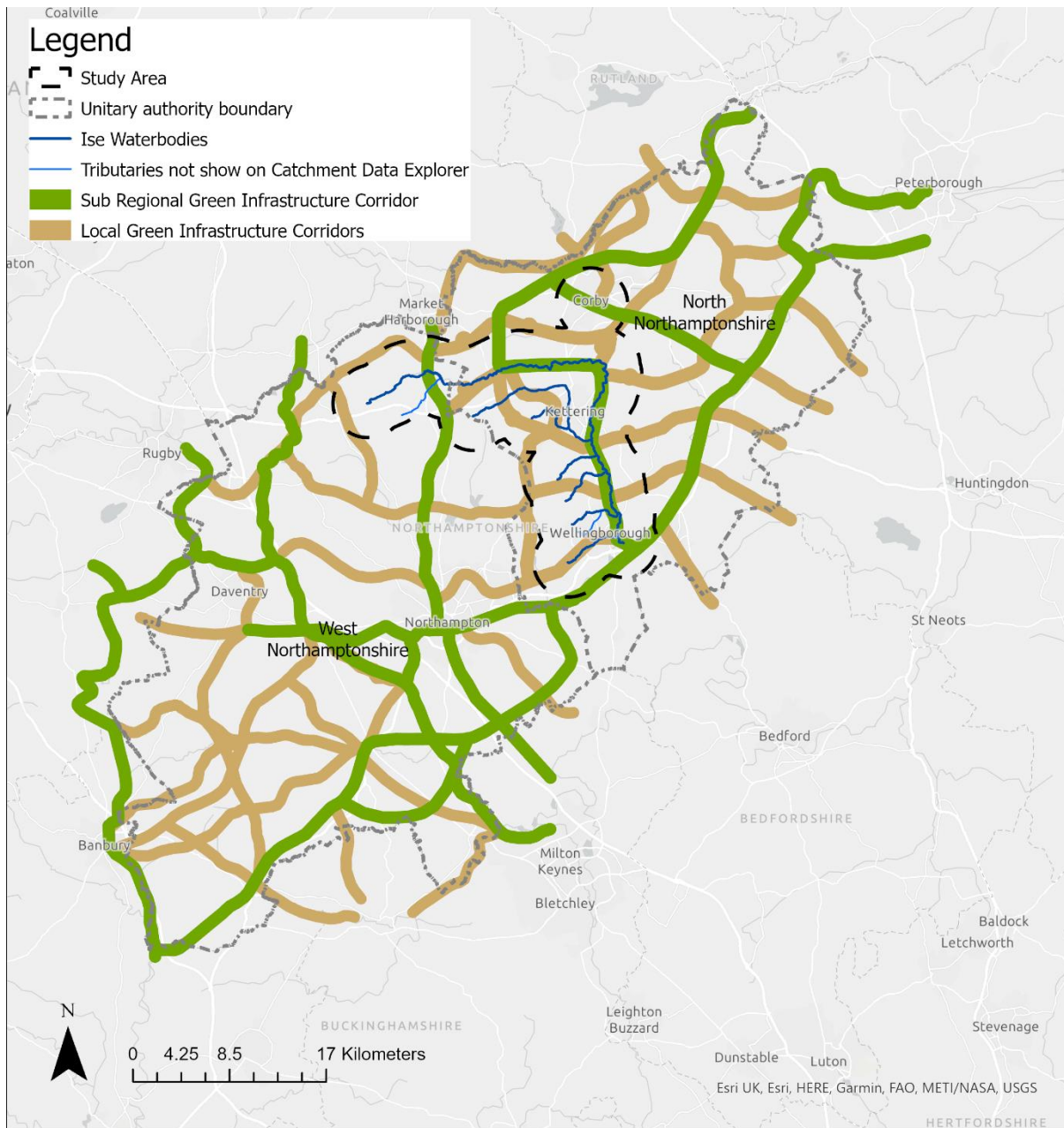
West Northamptonshire has a similar approach, with a [JCS \(2014\)](#). [Daventry Part 2 Local Plan \(adopted February 2020\)](#) covers the villages in West Northamptonshire in the Ise Valley, including Clipston, Naseby and Arthingworth. This includes relevant policies on green infrastructure, landscape, 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 \(2005\)](#).

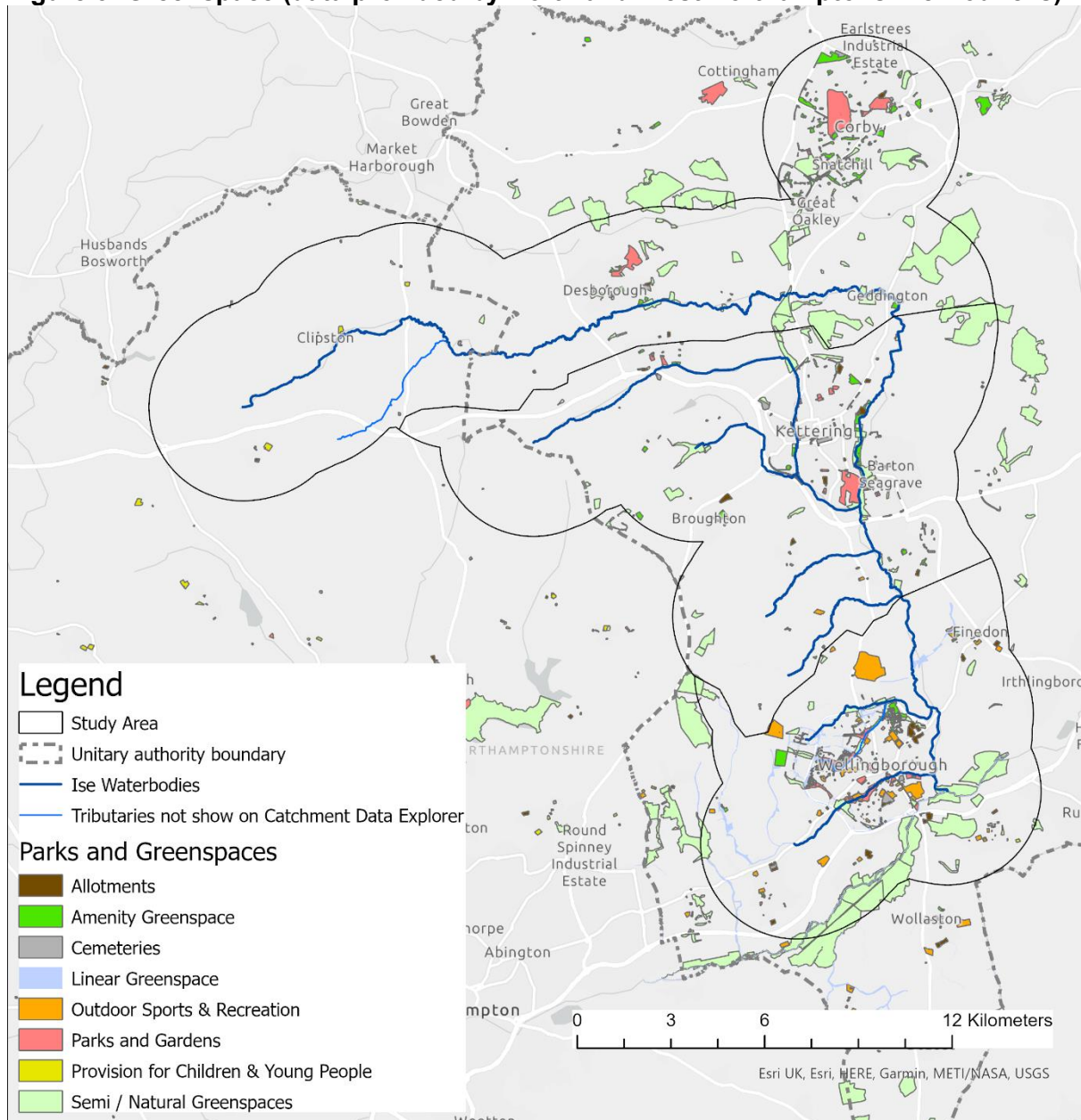
Figure 2: Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Network



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.

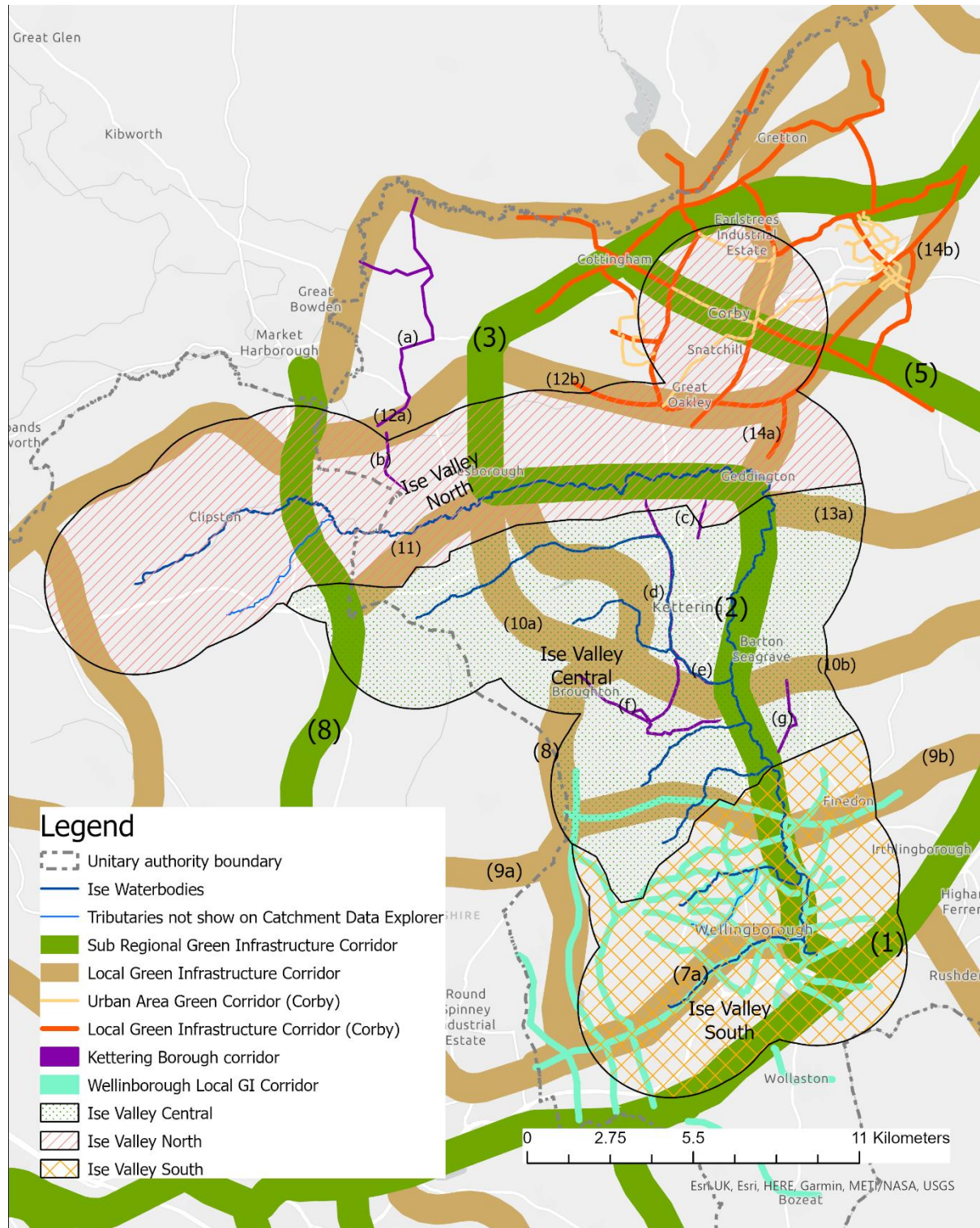
Sub-regional and local green infrastructure corridors criss-cross the Ise Valley (see Figure 2) demonstrating the importance of the green and blue infrastructure assets located here. Through Kettering, the Valley hosts an important swathe of publicly accessible green infrastructure from Ise Valley Park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

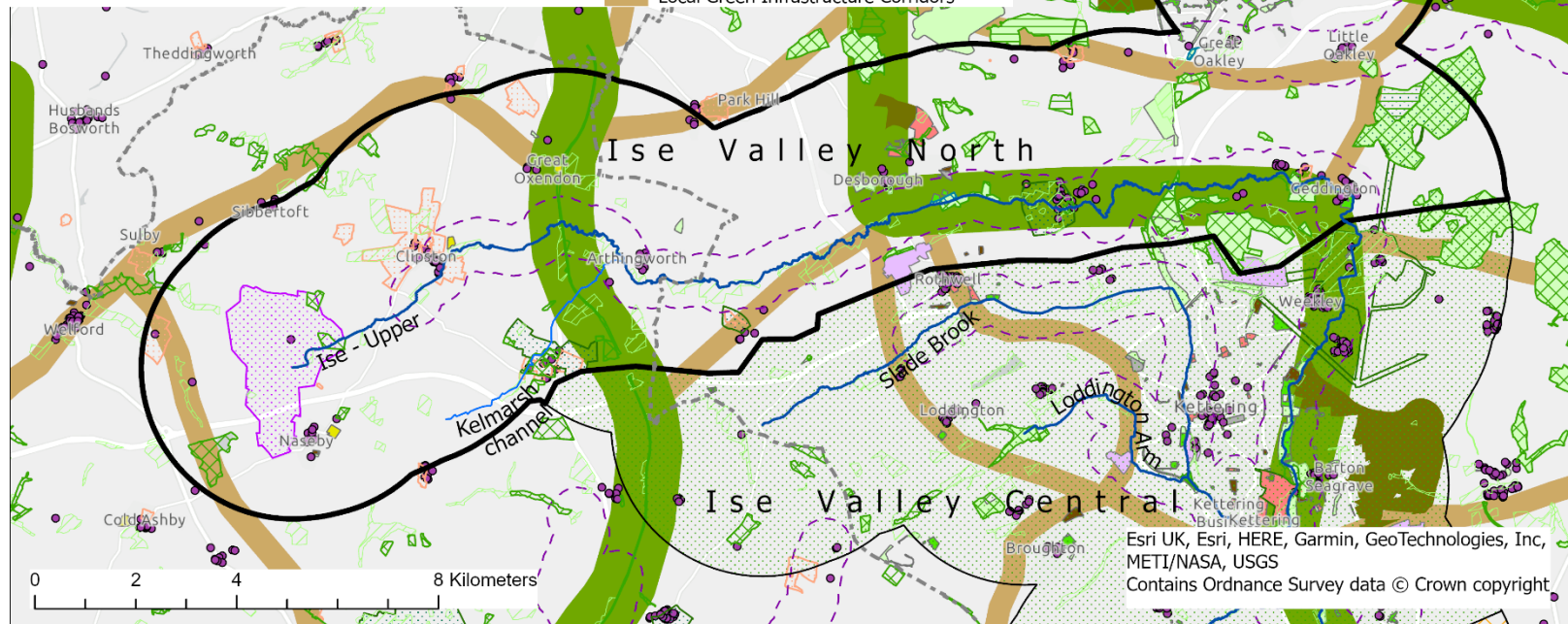
- Allotments
- Amenity Greenspace
- Cemeteries
- Parks and Gardens
- Provision for Children & Young People
- Semi / Natural Greenspaces

SUEs and Strategic Sites

- Committed Strategic Site
- Sustainable Urban Extension

Green Infrastructure Corridors

- Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Corridor
- Local Green Infrastructure Corridors



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Table 1: Profile of the Ise Valley North Zone

Existing	Opportunities
Biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three SSSIs in this Zone, the River Ise and Meadows, Alderwood and Meadows and Pipewell Woods. • There are also three Local Nature Reserves in this Zone, Kings Wood, Great Oakley Meadow and Tailby Meadow. • 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. • The river corridor is part of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SSSIs to be managed to ensure they are in ‘favourable condition’ and other designated sites to be appropriately managed. • 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. • The Habitat Opportunity Map for Northamptonshire will be used to identify areas for habitat improvement and creation
Connectivity and Access	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access to the River Ise is poor in this in the majority of this Zone, for example between Newton, Rushton and Desborough. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • For detailed recommendations refer to the Ise Valley Access Plan
Community Health and Well-Being	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of footpaths and bridleways in this Zone which provide opportunities for recreation and sustainable commuting. • The allotments found in this Zone, for example in Geddington, Rushton and Shotwell Mill Lane, provide local communities with facilities that encourage active lifestyles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for recreation and active travel would increase by upgrading poor quality paths and links in line with the Ise Valley Access Plan. • Encourage allotment committees to develop management and action plans for their sites to enhance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Small towns and villages have areas of open space and ‘pocket parks’. 	<p>provision and attract funding opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Opportunities should be sought to provide green gym equipment and trails to encourage active engagement with and movement through open spaces • Opportunities should be sought to identify informal open spaces and support local communities to create pocket parks
<p>Landscape</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Development in the area must be sensitive to character and seek to enhance the visual and landscape qualities
<p>Heritage</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The river rises in the site of the Battle of Naseby. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The important heritage features of the area should be protected and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The valley in this Zone has several Scheduled Monuments including medieval settlements at Clipston, Nobold and Kelmarsh. • There are numerous listed structures including Triangular Lodge, Queen Eleanor’s Cross, a dovecote and some of the bridges over the Ise. • Historic Parkland exists at Kelmarsh, Harrington and Rushton Hall (part of Boughton House’s parkland is also in this Zone). 	<p>enhanced through positive management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Flooding and water management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • In Corby the Northern Stream, Southern Stream and Willow Brook have some areas of high and medium flood risk within the built-up area. • Surface water flooding is also an issue in built up areas, and is inter-related to flooding from rivers in some areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with landowners and farmers to encourage sympathetic agricultural practices (e.g. floodplain meadows rather than arable) • Protect the floodplain from development • Encourage riparian tree planting • Develop projects that will deliver Natural Flood Management • In areas of flood risk, support local communities to engage with activities so they become more flood resilient • Development control to promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes. • Clipston Flood Storage Reservoir requires improvement to prevent it overtopping leading to flooding in Clipston village. • 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.
Ecosystem Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When planning a project, opportunities to increase the multi-functionality of the site should be explored • Review and enhance (or create) habitat management plans so they include opportunities to increase the

<p>by livestock and crops farmed in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultural services, include access to recreation, education, local heritage and for health and well-being through the natural environment	<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
 - 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
- Green Infrastructure Corridors**
- Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Corridor
 - Local Green Infrastructure Corridor

Parks and Greenspaces



Table 2: Profile of the Ise Valley Central Zone

Existing	Opportunities
Biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • 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. • The river corridor is part of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that new development, for example, Hanwood Park, makes provision to protect and enhance existing and create new habitats to support biodiversity. • Manage and maintain all designated sites to ensure they retain their designation and continue to improve in quality. • 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.
Connectivity and Access	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Ise Valley Access Plan is being produced with a view to upgrading footpaths and cycleways and improving signage for wayfinding. • The focus for this Zone is to link Geddington, Kettering and Burton Latimer. • 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. • 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. • Improved links should also be sought to other key attractions close to the Zone, such as Twywell Hills and Dales.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For detailed recommendations refer to the Ise Valley Access Plan
Community Health and Well-Being	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpaths and bridleways provide opportunities for recreation. 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’. Examples of open space include parks, Gray’s Field, semi natural including Ise Marsh and amenity green space, such as Deeble Road South Allotments, including Windmill Avenue and the Green Patch Community Allotments, provide opportunities for exercise and to grow healthy food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for recreation and active travel would increase by upgrading poor quality paths and links in line with the Ise Valley Access Plan. Encourage allotment committees to develop management and action plans for their sites to enhance provision and attract funding opportunities. 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. Opportunities should be sought to provide green gym equipment and trails to encourage active engagement with and movement through open spaces Opportunities should be sought to identify informal open spaces and support local communities to create pocket parks Open spaces should be managed to provide access to nature to improve residents’ wellbeing.
Landscape	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Development in the area must be sensitive to character and seek to enhance the visual and landscape qualities

<p>Ise and larger areas around Grafton Park Wood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The river corridor provides scenic views which break up the urban areas of this Zone. • Parkland at Wicksteed Park and Boughton House are key landscapes in this Zone. • 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. 	
Heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Parkland at Wicksteed Park and Boughton House. • Scheduled Monuments: Medieval Villages at Barton Seagrave (with fishponds and moats) and Faxton. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The important heritage features of the area should be protected and enhanced. • 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.
Flooding and water management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • In 2007 Slade/Pytchley Brooks flooded properties and industries between Kettering Leisure Village and the Slade's confluence with the Ise. • EA flood alleviation scheme for Geddington created a flood relief channel and additional storage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reprofile confluence of Slade and Ise. • Investigate the opportunity for Natural Flood Management and flood water storage scheme at Boughton House. • 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. • Promote Natural Flood Management and riparian tree planting. • Encourage appropriate agricultural practices, such as meadows, in the floodplain. • Discourage further development on the floodplain.

<p>downstream of Geddington, this has reduced the flood risk in the village.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water flooding is also an issue in built up areas, and is connected to flooding from rivers in some areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development control to promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes. • 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.
Ecosystem Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access and habitat management will • 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 • Opportunities to increase the multi-functionality of the site should be explored • The Hanwood Park development provides an opportunity to increase the ecosystem services provided.

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
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 - 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

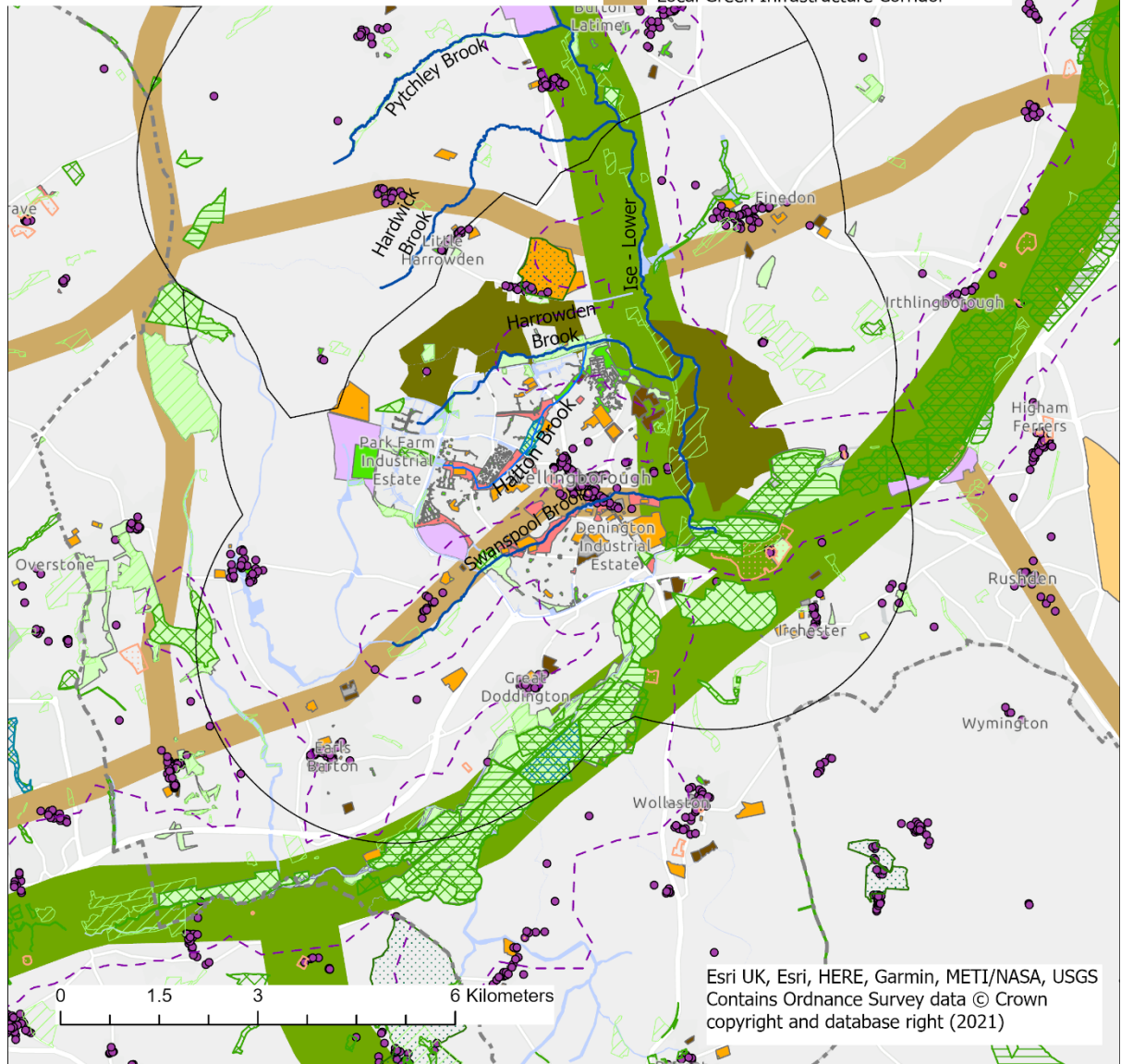


Table 3: Profile of the Ise Valley South Zone

Existing	Opportunities
Biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Recognised Local Wildlife Sites include Irchester Country Park and Wellingborough Marsh. There are also a number of Potential Wildlife Sites. • The river corridor is part of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new developments, for example, Stanton Cross and Wellingborough North, make provision to protect and enhance existing and create new habitats to support biodiversity. • The SSSIs will be managed to ensure they are in ‘favourable condition’ and other designated sites will be protected and improved. • 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 will be used to identify areas for habitat improvement and creation.
Connectivity and Access	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the River Ise is currently limited in this Zone. • There is good informal access to much of the urban section of the Swanspool Brook, as it passes through public open space. • There is public access to a short section of the Harrowden Brook where it passes through public open space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stanton Cross development will provide new paths providing greater access along the Ise. • 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. • 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. • For detailed recommendations refer to the Ise Valley Access Plan

Community Health and Well-Being	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths and bridleways provide opportunities for recreation and sustainable commuting. • 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. • Irchester Country Park and Finedon Pocket Park also provide space for recreation outside of the urban areas. • Allotments, including Breezehill, and Ladywell, provide opportunities for exercise and to grow healthy food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for recreation and active travel would increase by upgrading poor quality paths and links in line with the Ise Valley Access Plan. • Open spaces should be managed to provide access to nature, this will help to improve residents' wellbeing. • Encourage allotment committees to develop management and action plans for their sites to enhance provision and attract funding opportunities. • 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. • Opportunities should be sought to provide green gym equipment and trails to encourage active engagement with and movement through open spaces • Opportunities should be sought to identify informal open spaces and support local communities to create pocket parks
Landscape	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • The River Ise and Swanspool Brook corridors provide scenic views which break up the urban areas of this Zone. • The River Nene corridor also passes through the southern part of this Zone and is a key landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Development in the area must be sensitive to character and seek to enhance the visual and landscape qualities
Heritage	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are five Scheduled Monuments in the Zone including the Chester House estate which includes remains of Roman, Iron Age and Medieval Settlements. • 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. • Great Harrowden Hall Parkland is an historic estate in this Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The important heritage features of the area should be protected and enhanced through positive management. • Develop a wayfinding and interpretation strategy to help people recognise the importance of these assets and better understand historic events.
Flooding and water management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Surface water flooding is also an issue in urban areas and is inter-related to flooding from rivers in some areas. • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development should not be permitted in the flood plain. • Promote Natural Flood Management and riparian tree planting. • Encourage appropriate agricultural practices, such as meadows, in the floodplain. • Development control to promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes, for example in the Stanton Cross development.
Ecosystem Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the urban areas of this Zone the key ecosystem services are cultural with attractive views, recreation and education. • The area contributes to regulating services, including to flood risk management, water quality, plant pollination, and climate regulation. • Provisioning services are provided by farmland and allotments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stanton Cross and Wellingborough North developments provide opportunities to enhance ecosystem services. • Ecosystem services can also be enhanced through good habitat management and improving access.

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 – 121km²

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.

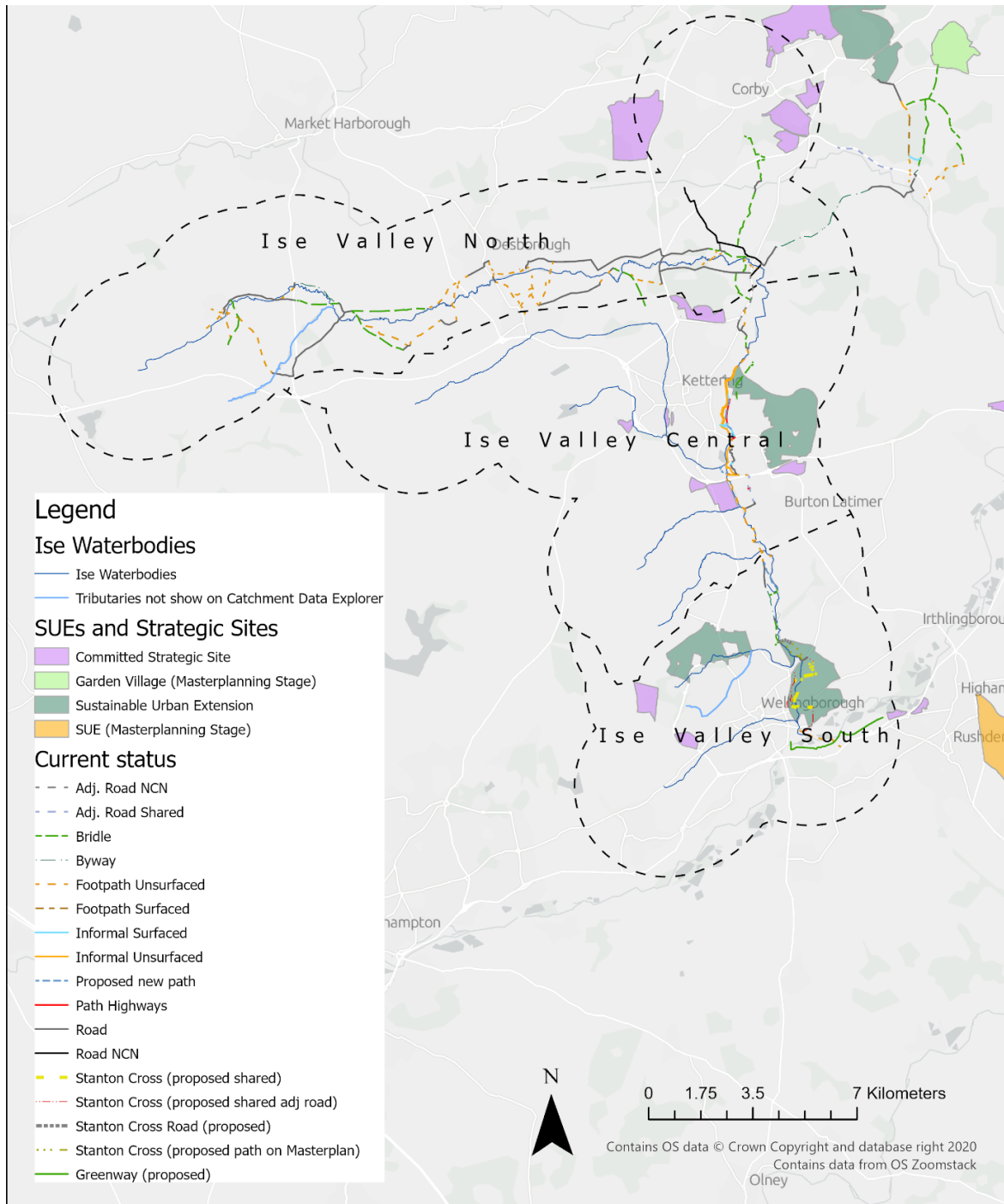
The River Ise Partnership aspires to create full access for both pedestrians and bicycles from Wellingborough through to Geddington and out towards Corby that follows the Ise as closely as possible. An access plan has been created which highlights the routes that need to be established and how they tie 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.

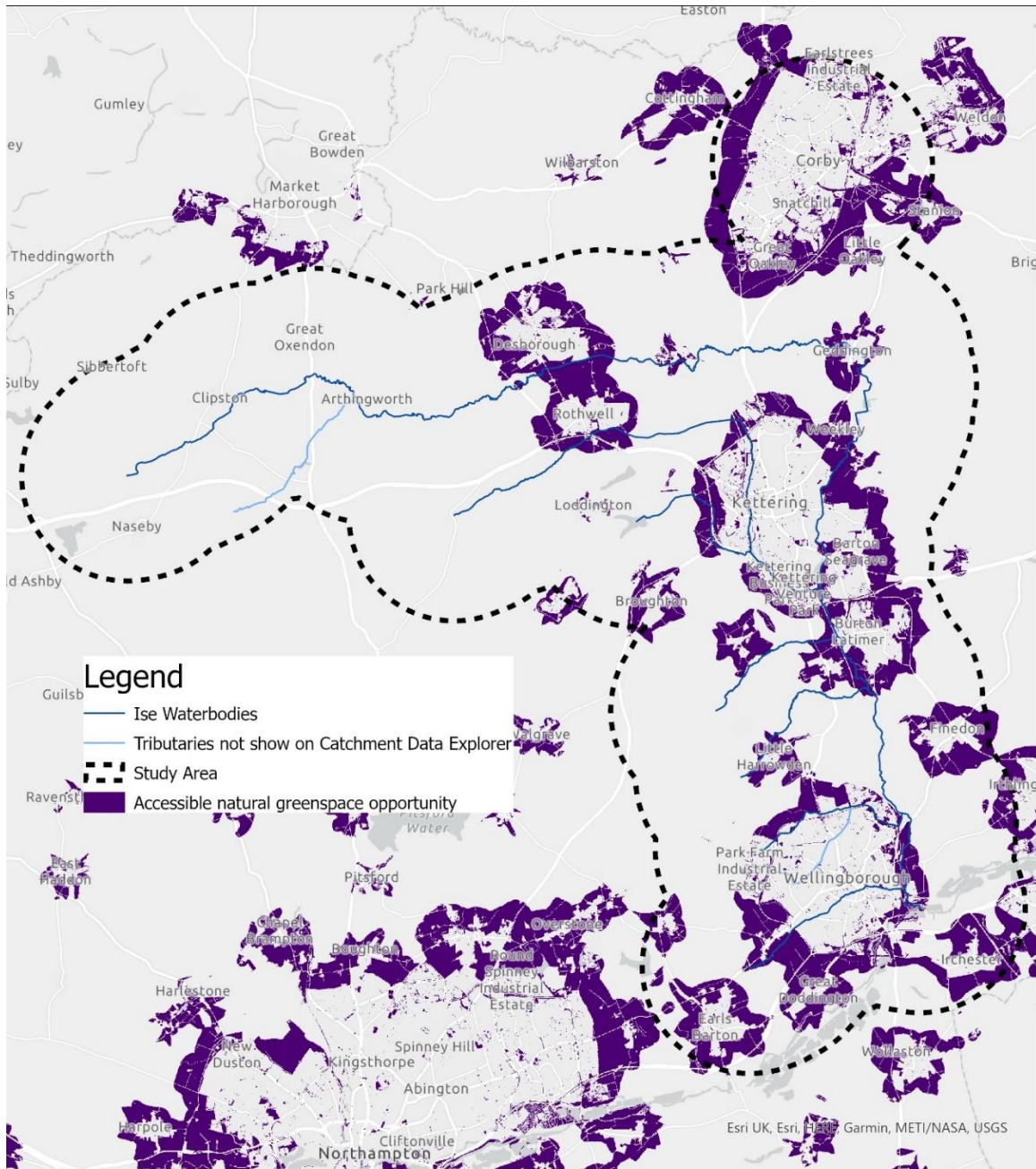
Water based activities – due to the size of the river, and poor access to the water, there is very limited opportunity for the use of canoes or paddleboards. The best opportunities are in the lower reaches around Burton Latimer and Wellingborough. There is currently no provision for access for these 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*

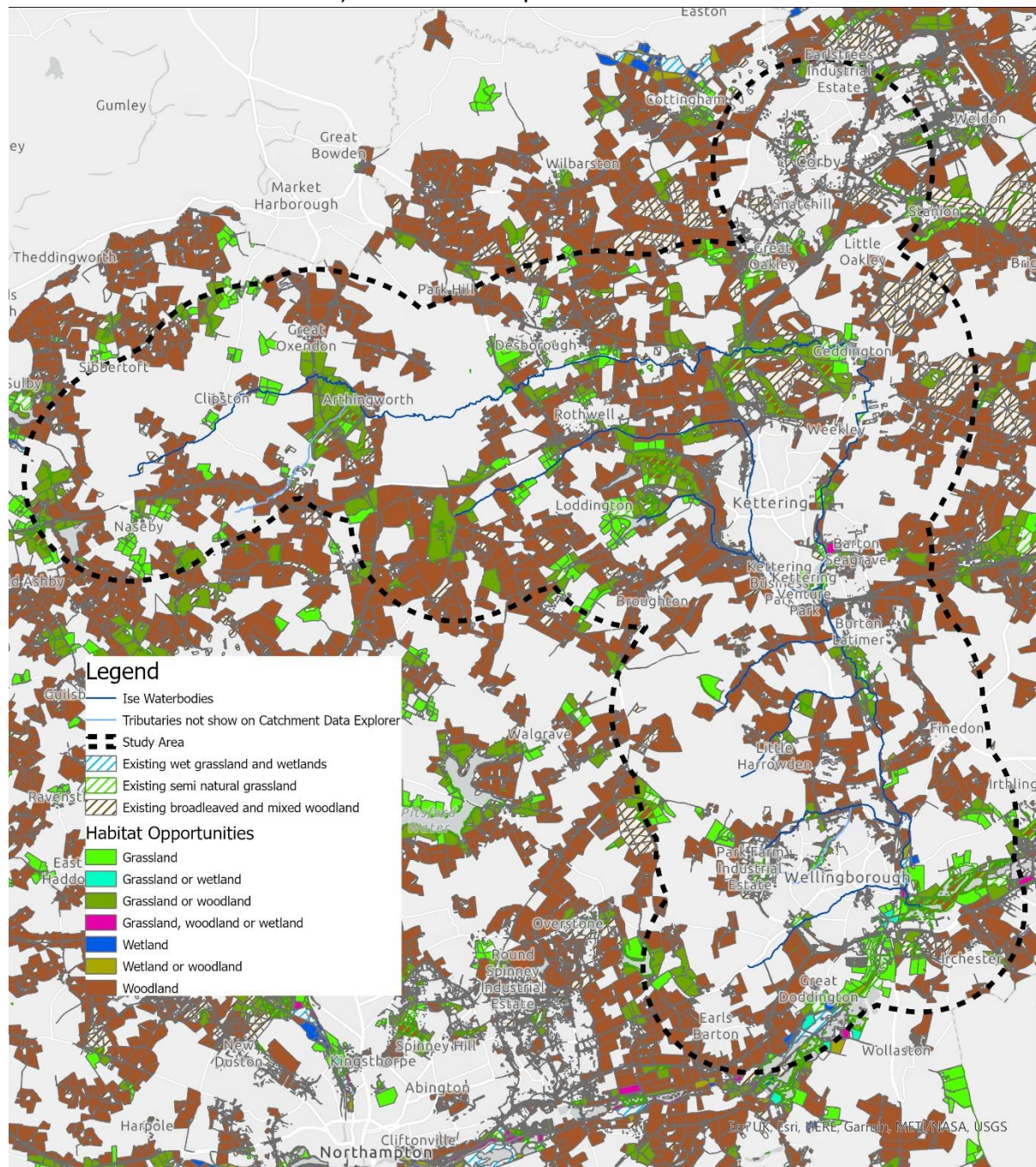
Land use in the rural areas of the catchment is mixed arable and pasture. To reduce the impact of agricultural chemical run off and soil erosion ideally fields close to the river should be converted to pasture. The planting of trees, hedges or shelter belts would also help to reduce overland flow and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

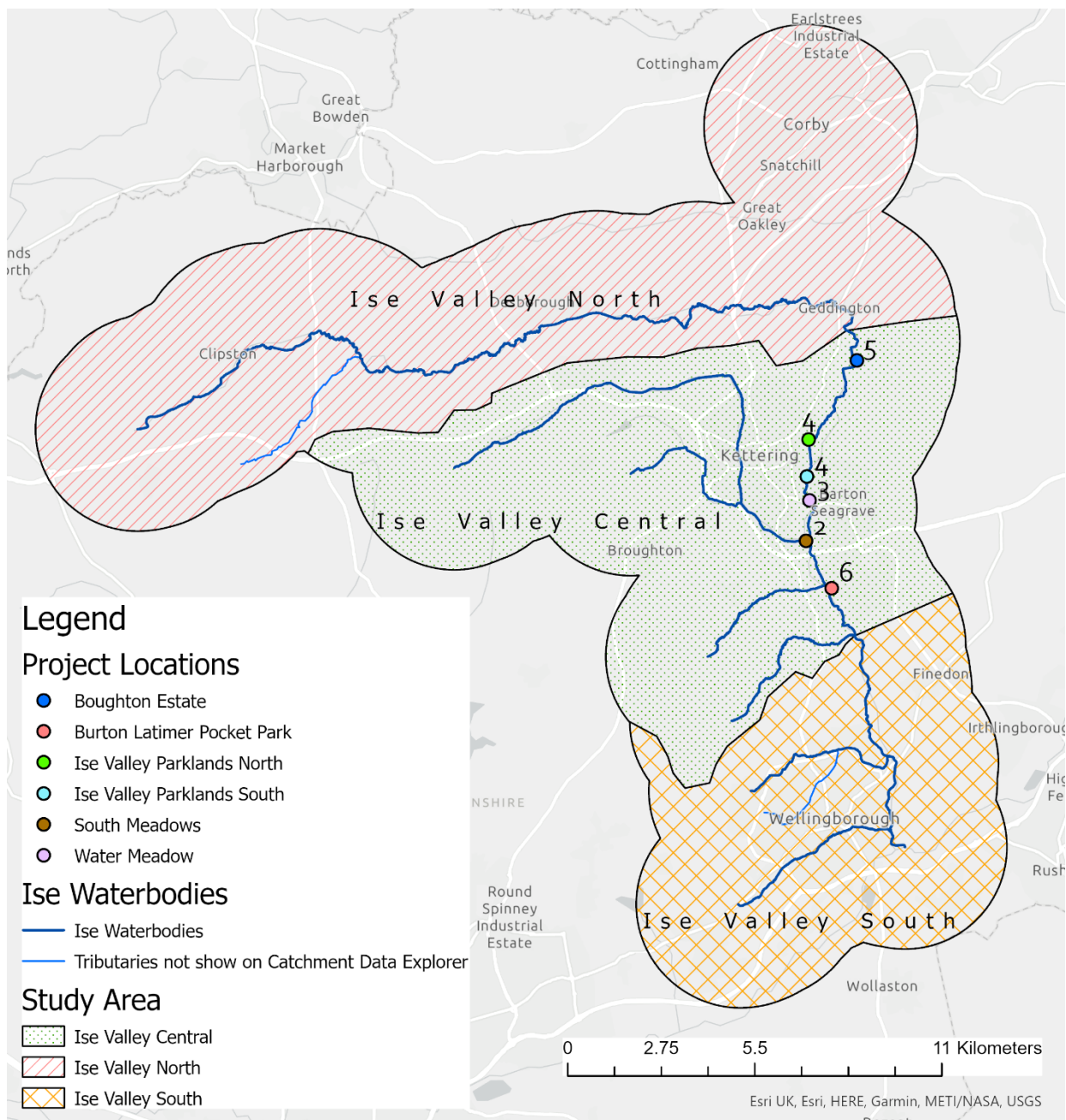
The Grange Pocket Park

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

Task: 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				
	Activity	Initial Action	Leading Partners	Comments
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

Task: 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				
	Activity	Initial Action	Leading Partners	Comments
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	

Task: 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	
Task: 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

	Project	Description	River Ise Zone	Approximate cost	Partners (lead in bold)	Potential funders	Issues addressed
1)	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	RNRP ; River Ise Partnership; NNC	Highways England (designated funds); Garden Communities; S106; Landfill Tax opportunities	A, B, C, D, F, G
2)	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	Environment Agency; NNC; Wicksteed Park; RNRP	Environment Agency; RNRP; Wicksteed Park; S106	A; B; C; D; E; f; H; I; J
3)	Water Meadow restoration, Wicksteed Park	Restoration of the Water Meadow due north of South Meadows on Wicksteed Park	Central	TBD	Environment Agency; Wicksteed Park; Wildlife Trust	TBD	A; B; C; F; I; J
4)	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	NNC	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	Boughton Estate; EA, Natural England;	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	RNRP; Burton Latimer Town Council	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	Wildlife Trust; RNRP	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	Environment Agency; RNRP, Wildlife Trust	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	Environment Agency; RNRP	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	Wildlife Trust; RNRP	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	RNRP , 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*

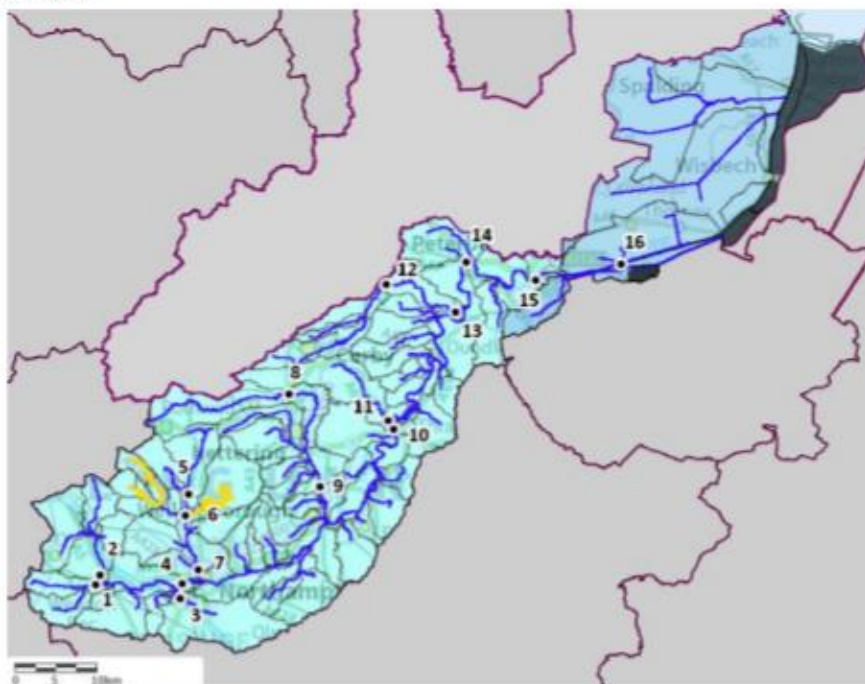
Between Corby and Kettering the landowner is the Boughton Estate, much of the area is occupied by tenant farmers. In Kettering the main landowners are North Northamptonshire Council and the Wicksteed Trust, with a small area owned by BCN Wildlife Trust. South of Kettering to Wellingborough the land is 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:

Discharge Type	Number	
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	
Total	53	
Incident Type	Category 1	Category 2
Contaminated water – Suspended solids	0	1
Sewage – Crude sewage	0	1
Pollutant not identified	0	3
Sewage – Processed sewage	0	1
Total	0	6

Sewage

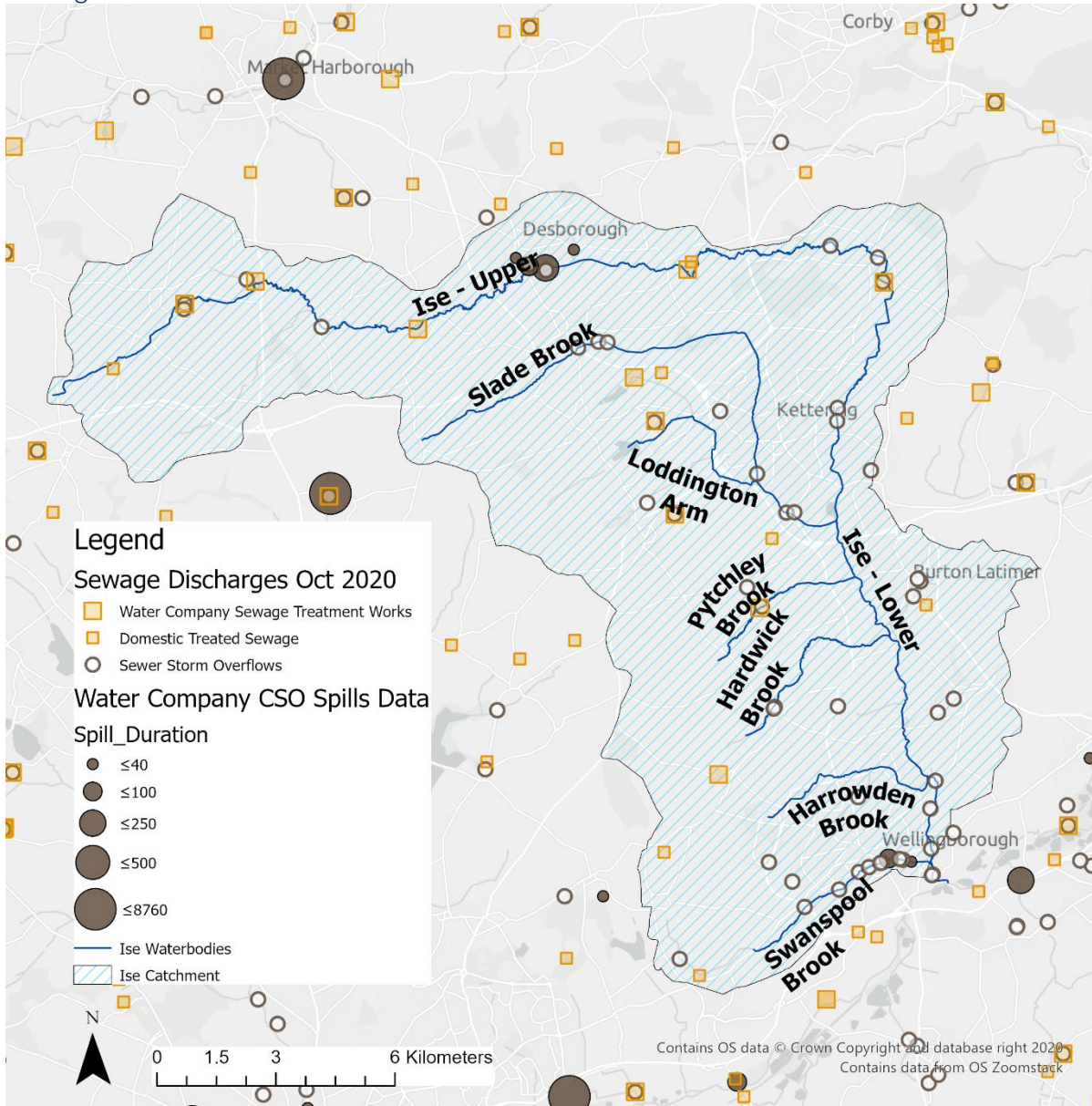


Figure 12: Data from downloaded from Rivers Trust, source: Treated sewage discharges and sewer storm overflow locations were extracted from the Consented Discharges to Controlled Waters with Conditions database (Sept 2020), available under Environment Agency Conditional License via data.gov.uk. Sewer 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

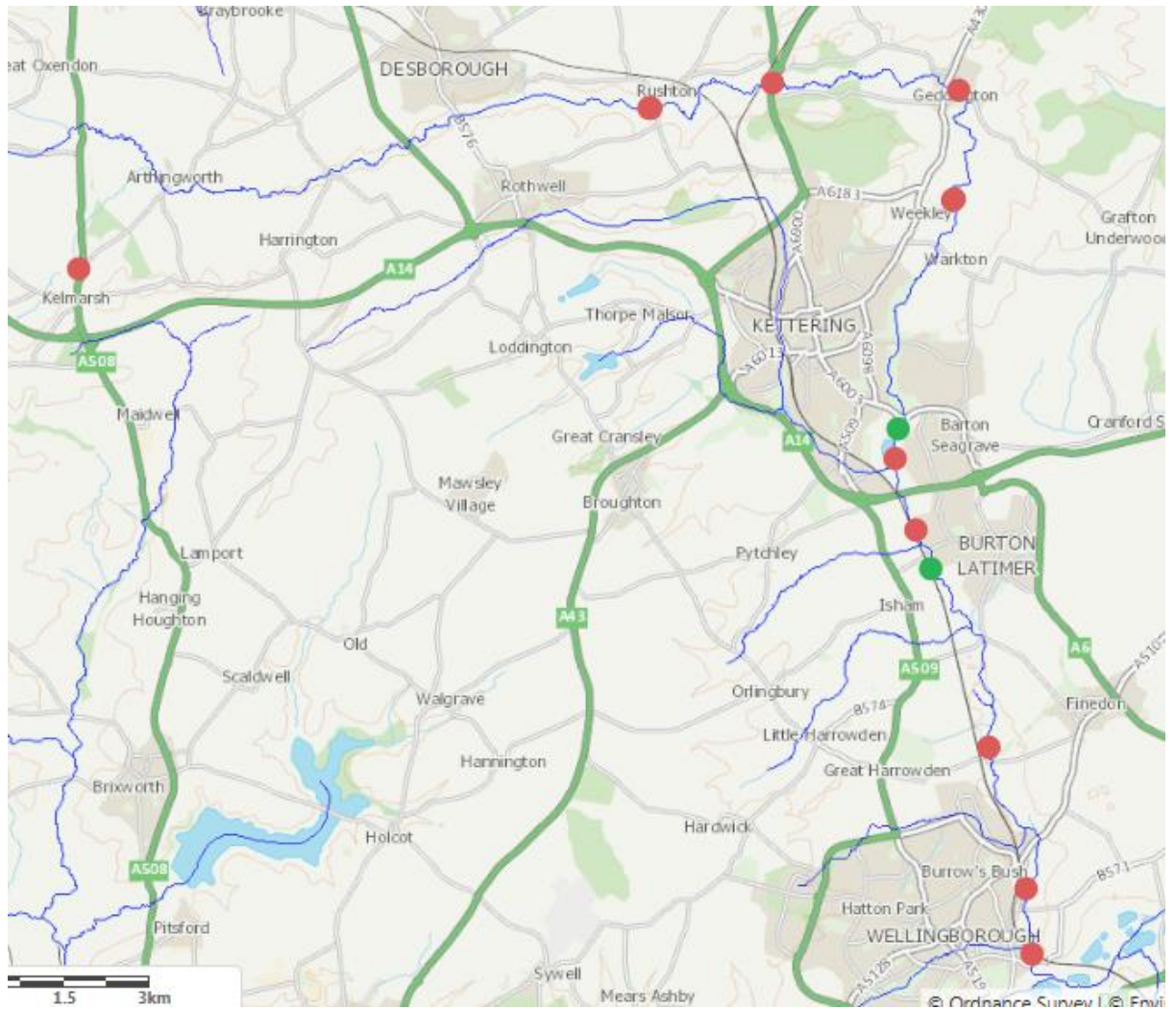


Figure 13: Map of known obstructions to flow and fish passage. Those shown in green have a fish pass, those in red do not. Map provided by the Environment Agency

Risk of pollution from agriculture – images from Scimap

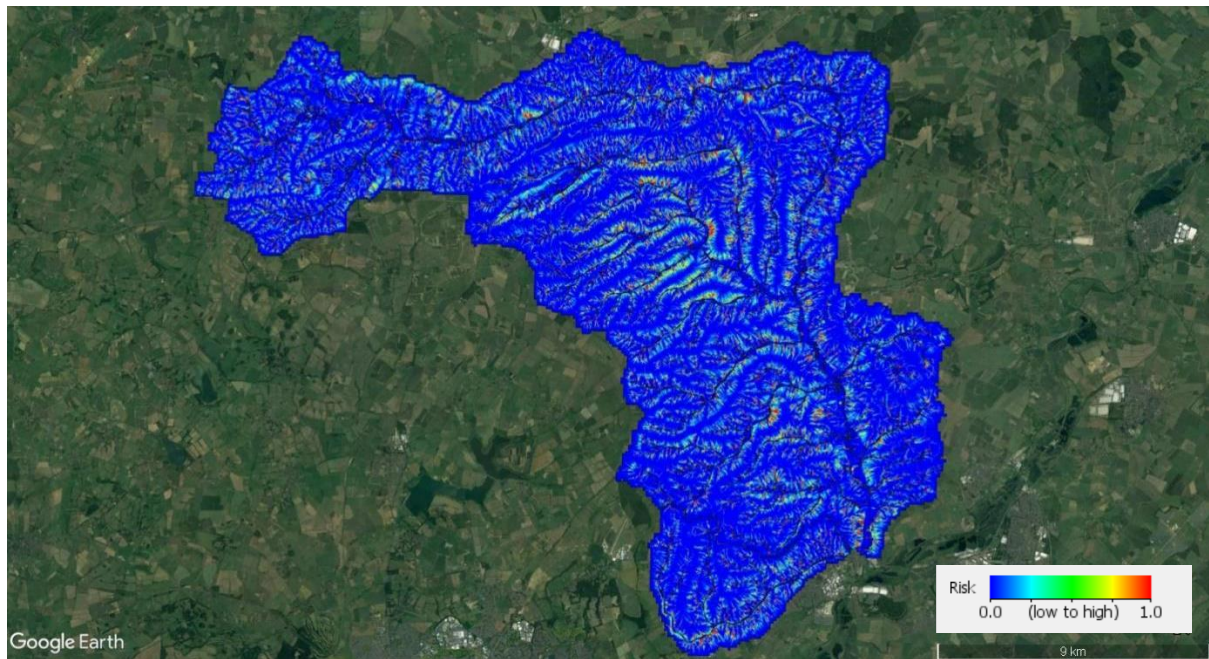


Figure 14: Map of erosion risk from Scimap

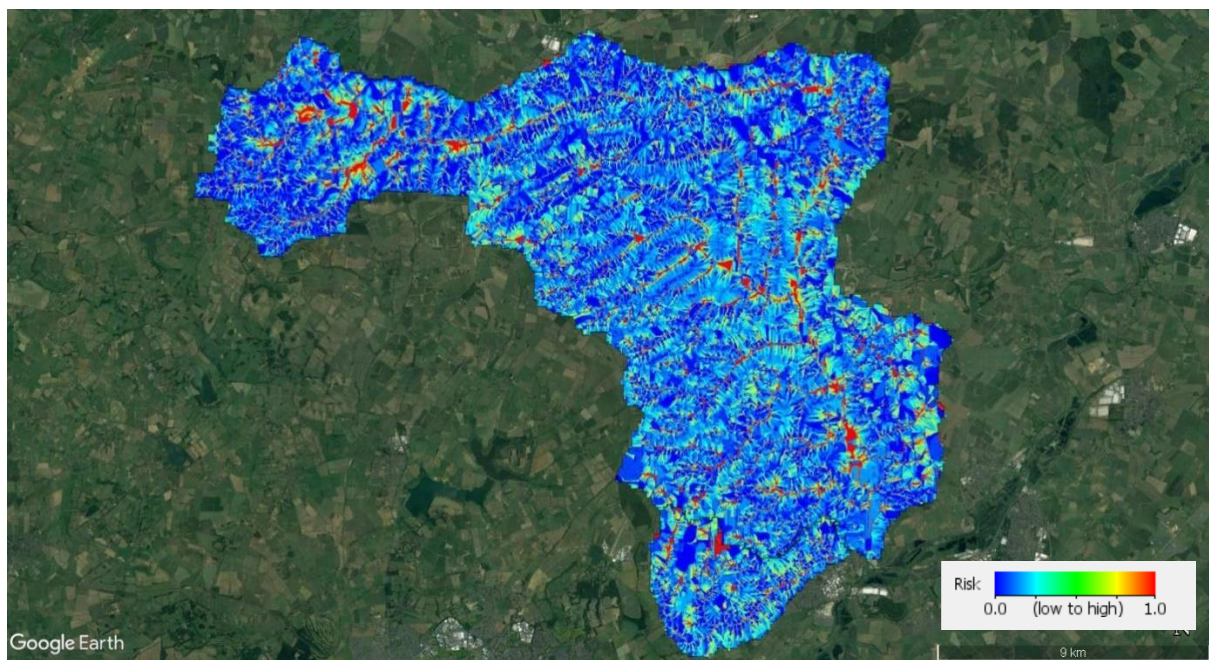


Figure 15: Map of surface flow from Scimap

4. Water Framework Directive status

Cycle 2 (2019)	Ise - Upper	Ise - Lower
ID	GB105032045200	GB105032045140
Length	38.922 km	12.008 km
Catchment Area	86.541 km ²	34.458 km ²
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/m² to surface a crushed stone path or £75/m² 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.

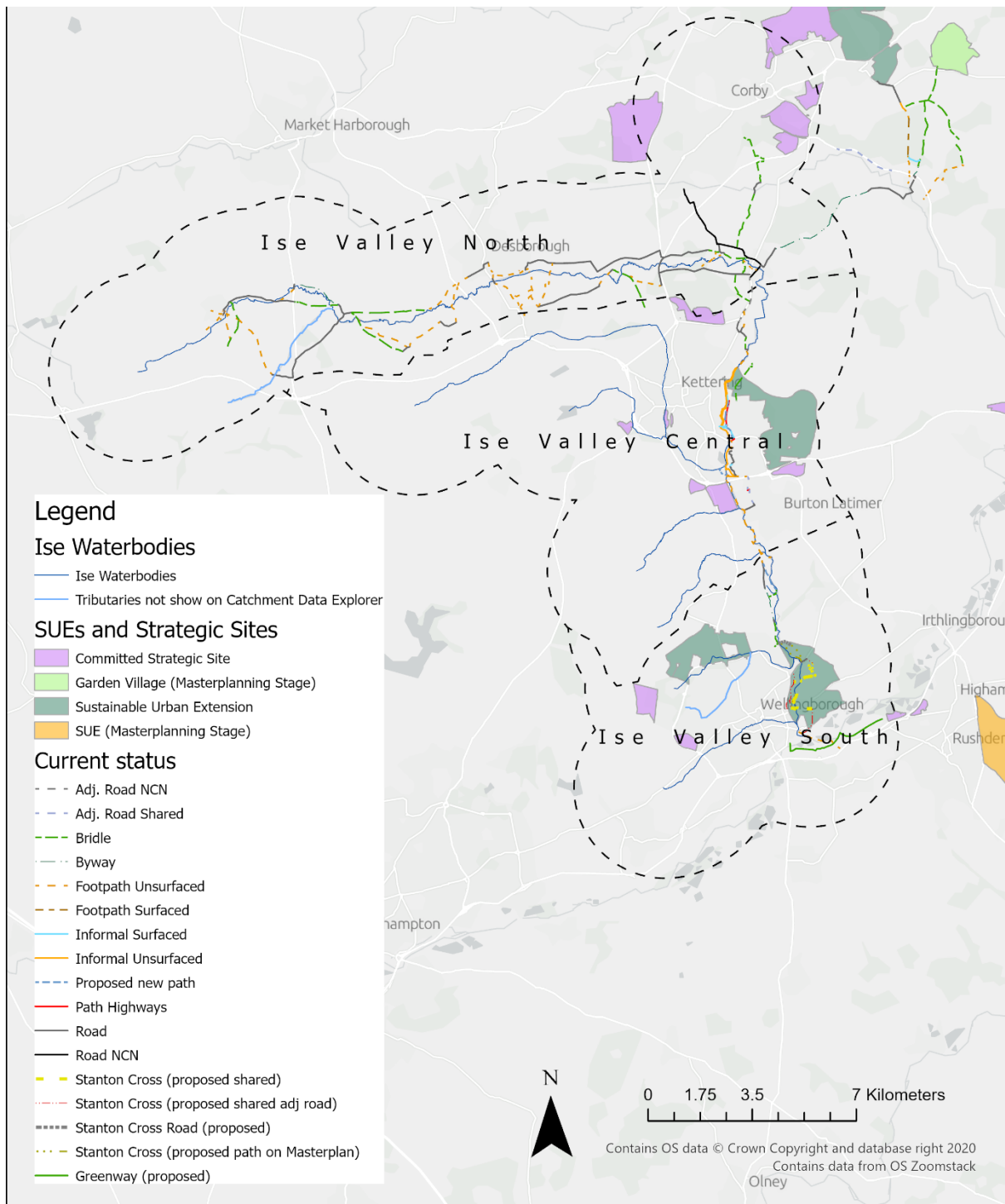
The exact route and choice of surfacing will be developed in consultation with the landowners and the community.

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

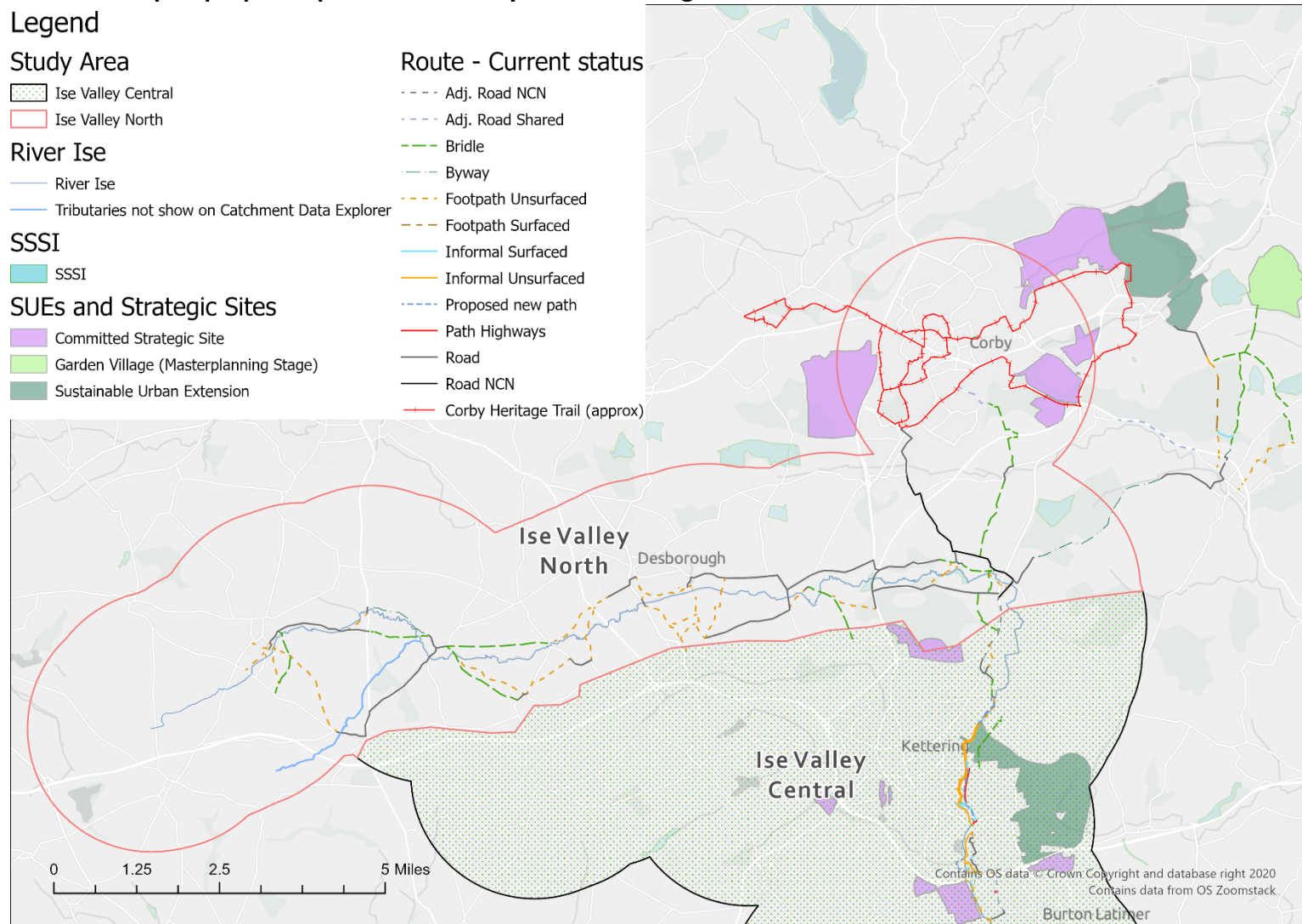
-  SSSI

SUEs and Strategic Sites

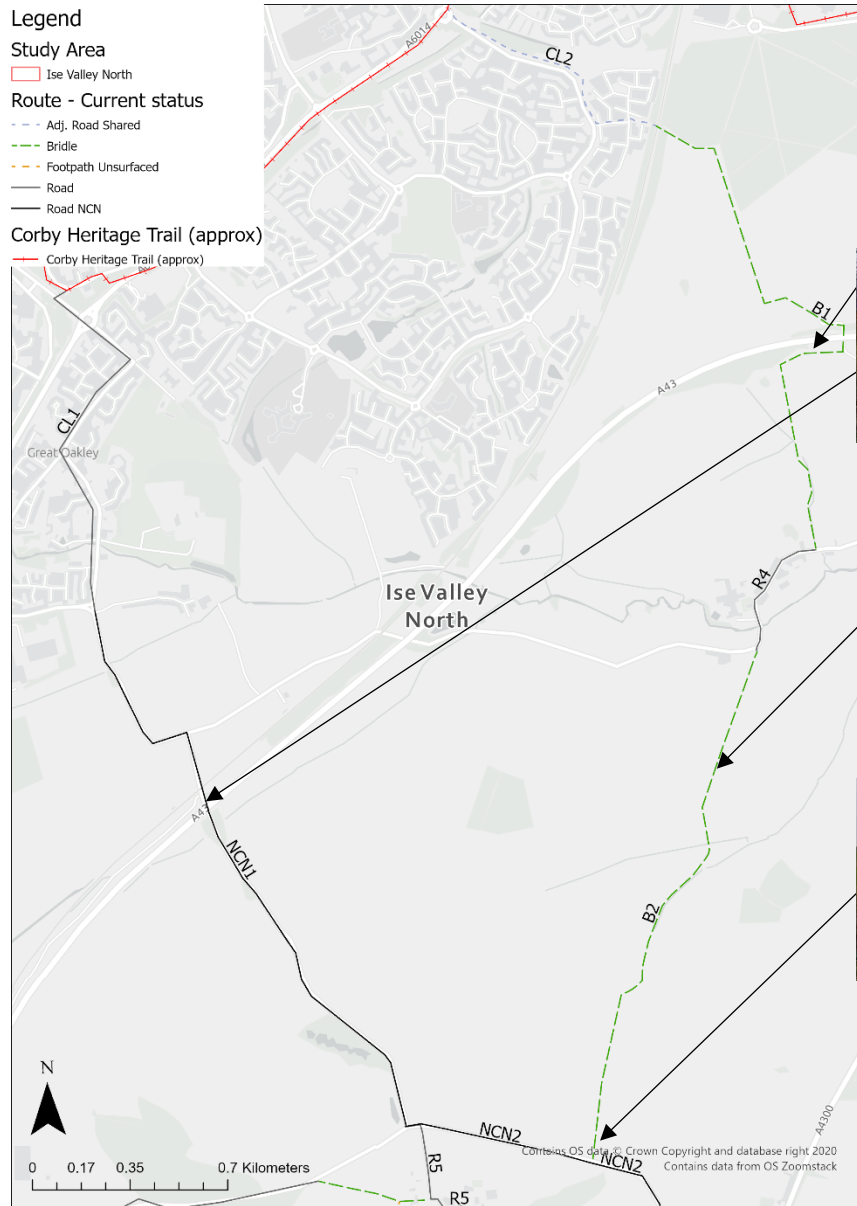
-  Committed Strategic Site
-  Garden Village (Masterplanning Stage)
-  Sustainable Urban Extension

Route - Current status

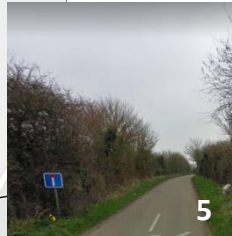
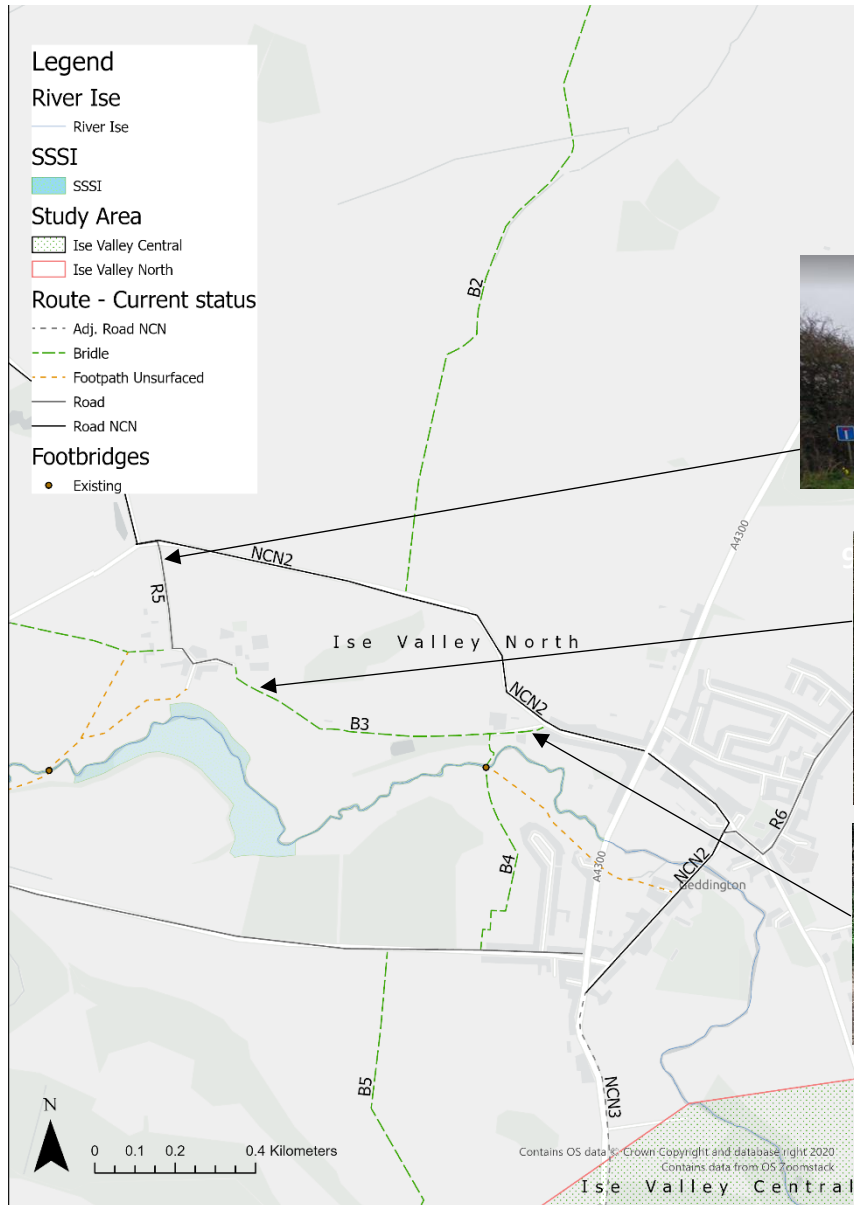
-  Adj. Road NCN
-  Adj. Road Shared
-  Bridle
-  Byway
-  Footpath Unsurfaced
-  Footpath Surfaced
-  Informal Surfaced
-  Informal Unsurfaced
-  Proposed new path
-  Path Highways
-  Road
-  Road NCN
-  Corby Heritage Trail (approx)



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

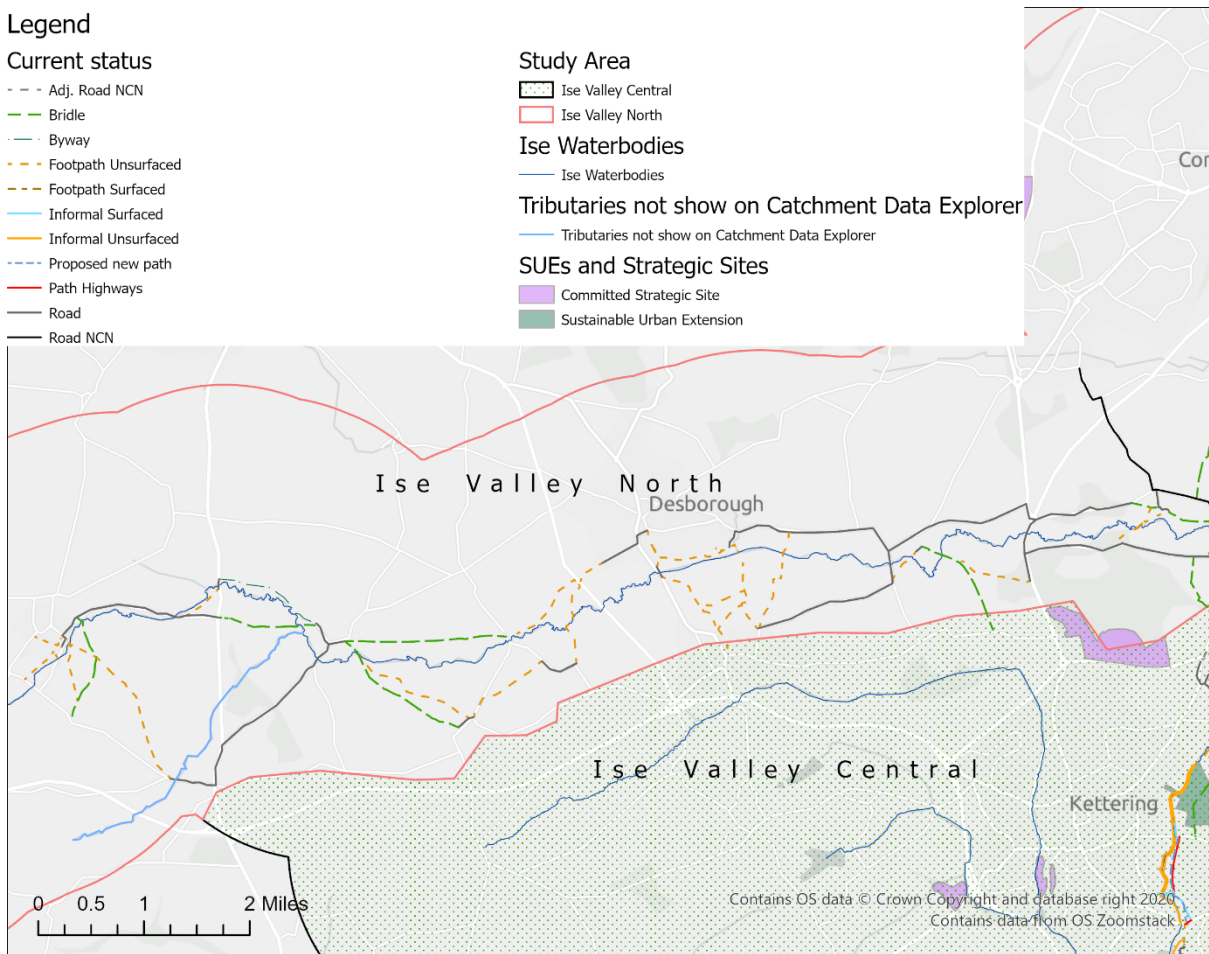
- Ise Waterbodies

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**

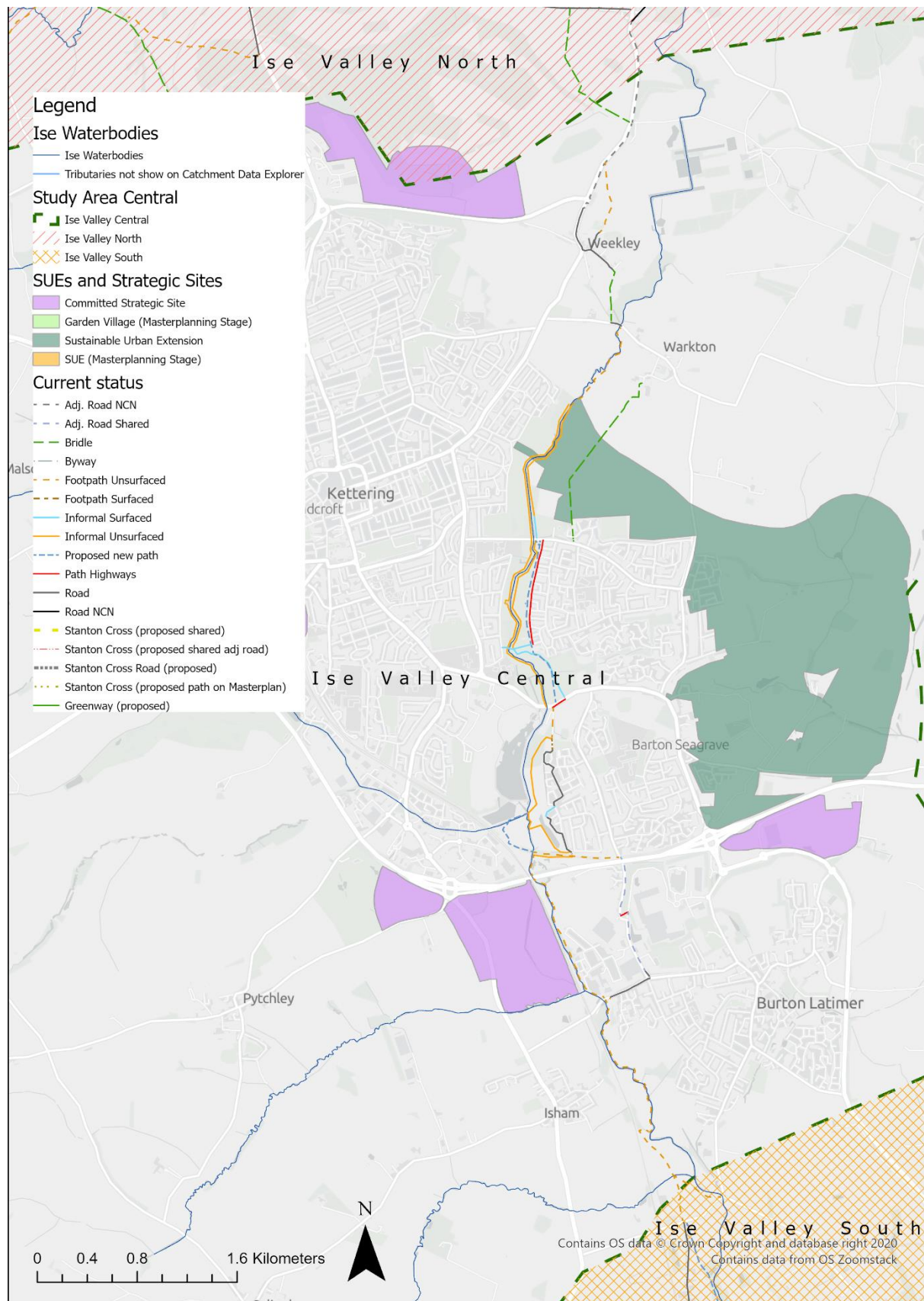
Additional costs:

- 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).

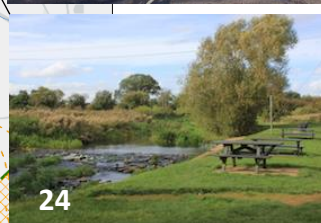
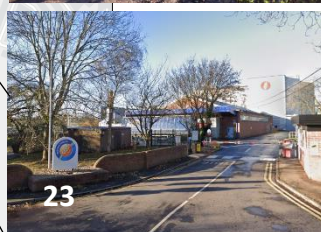
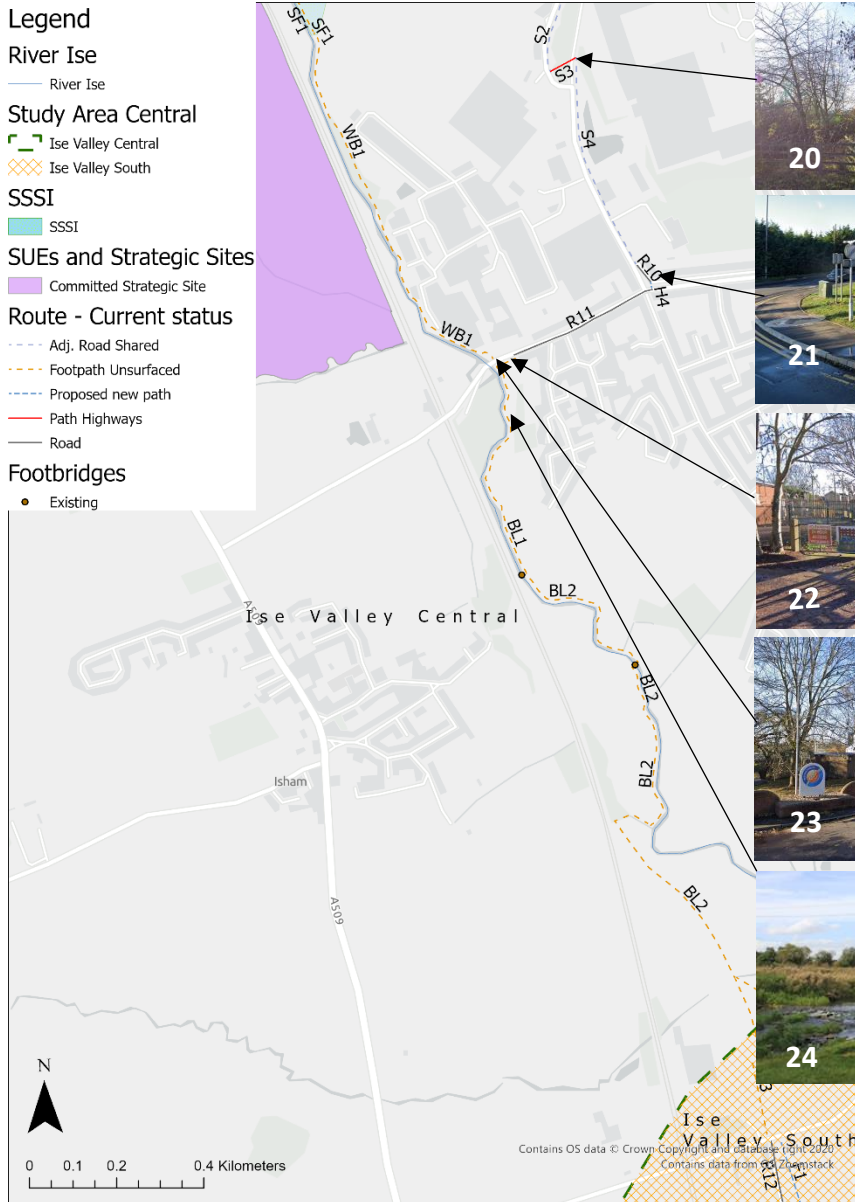


Photo 20 (S3) shows a cut through between shared use paths, it is not clear whether cycling is allowed on this section.

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?)

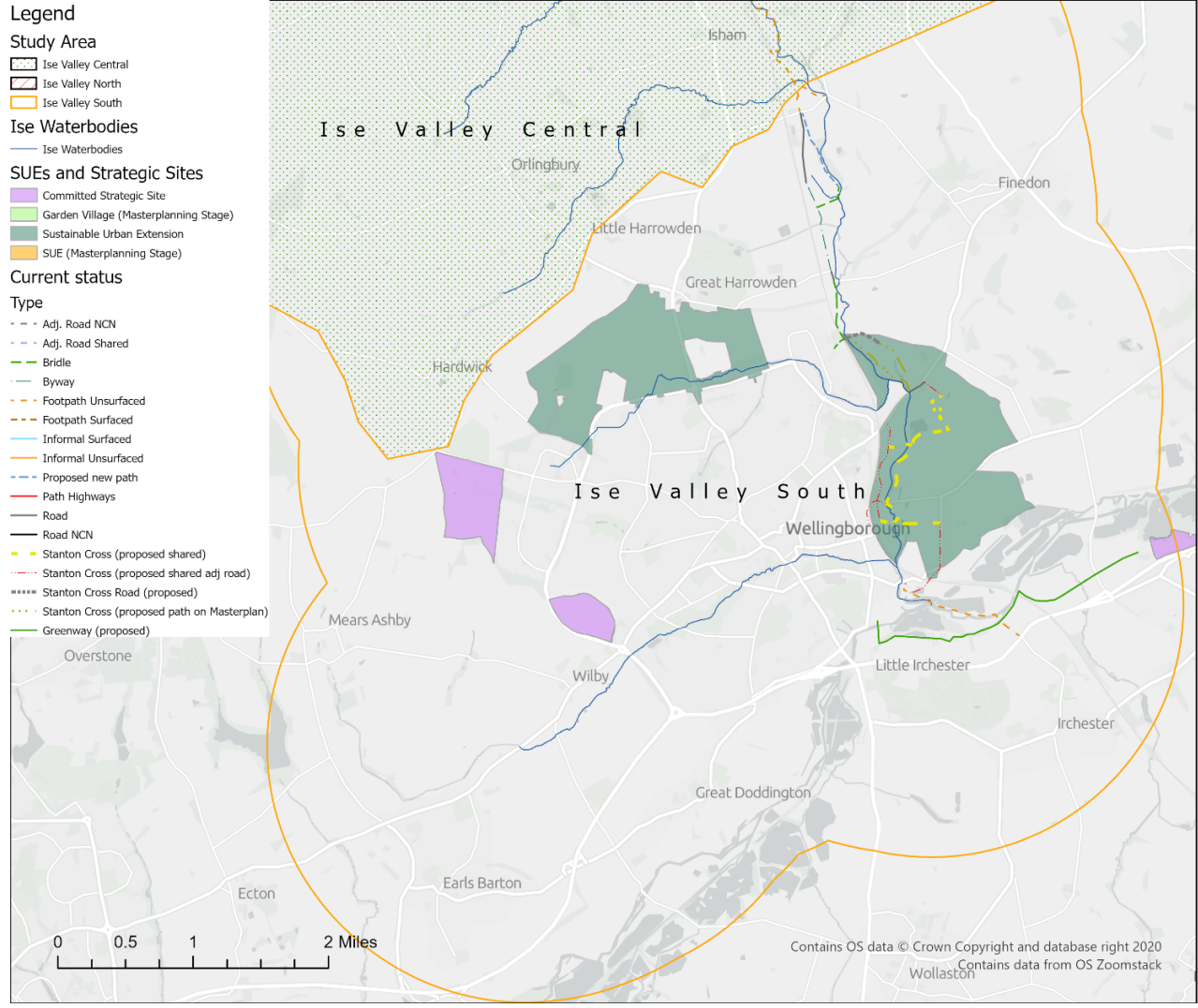
- Crushed stone £244,000

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

Additional costs:

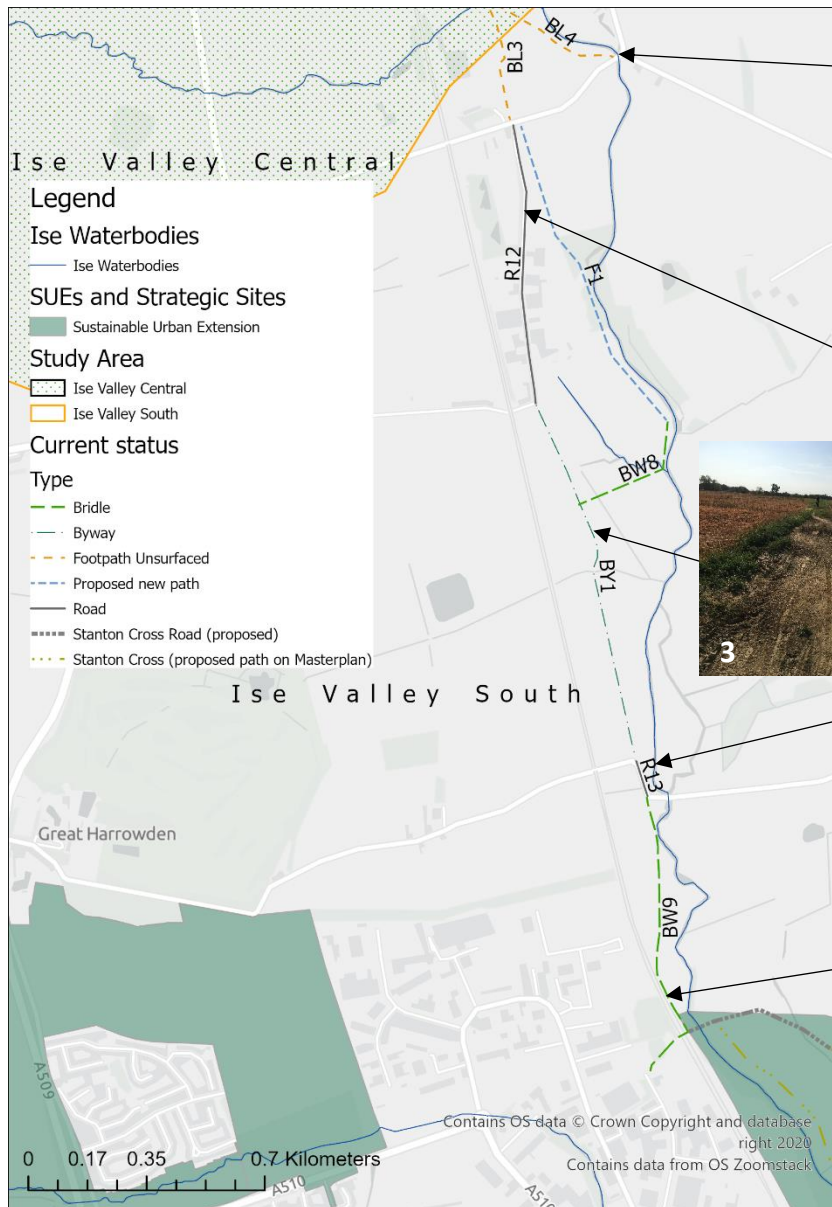
- Cost to developer of surfacing in Stanton Cross
- Signage (£250+ per sign)
- Gates (£500+ each) and bollards (£200+)
- Lighting if needed
- Surfacing of any 'spurs'
- Removal/replacement of vegetation and fencing
- Environmental improvements/offsetting
- Planning consent and other permits where needed

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



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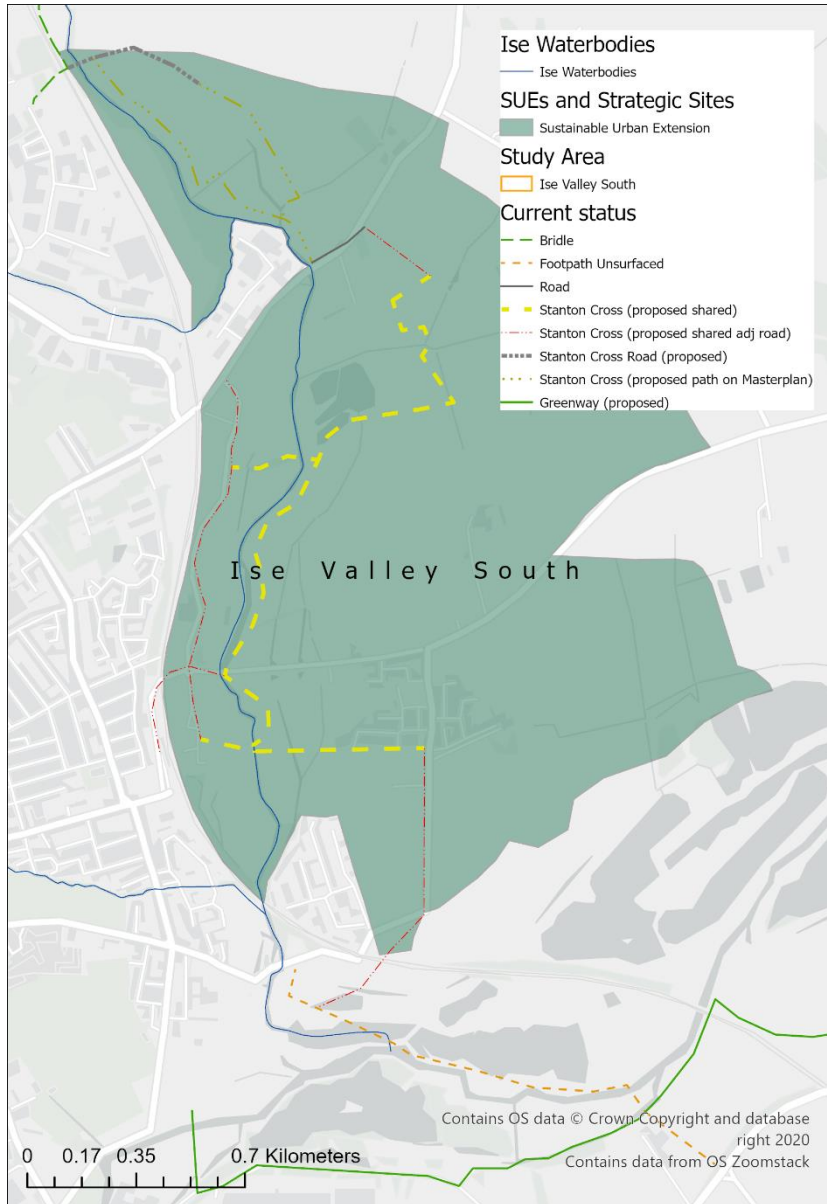
The following two maps and descriptions are from north to south through this zone.



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.

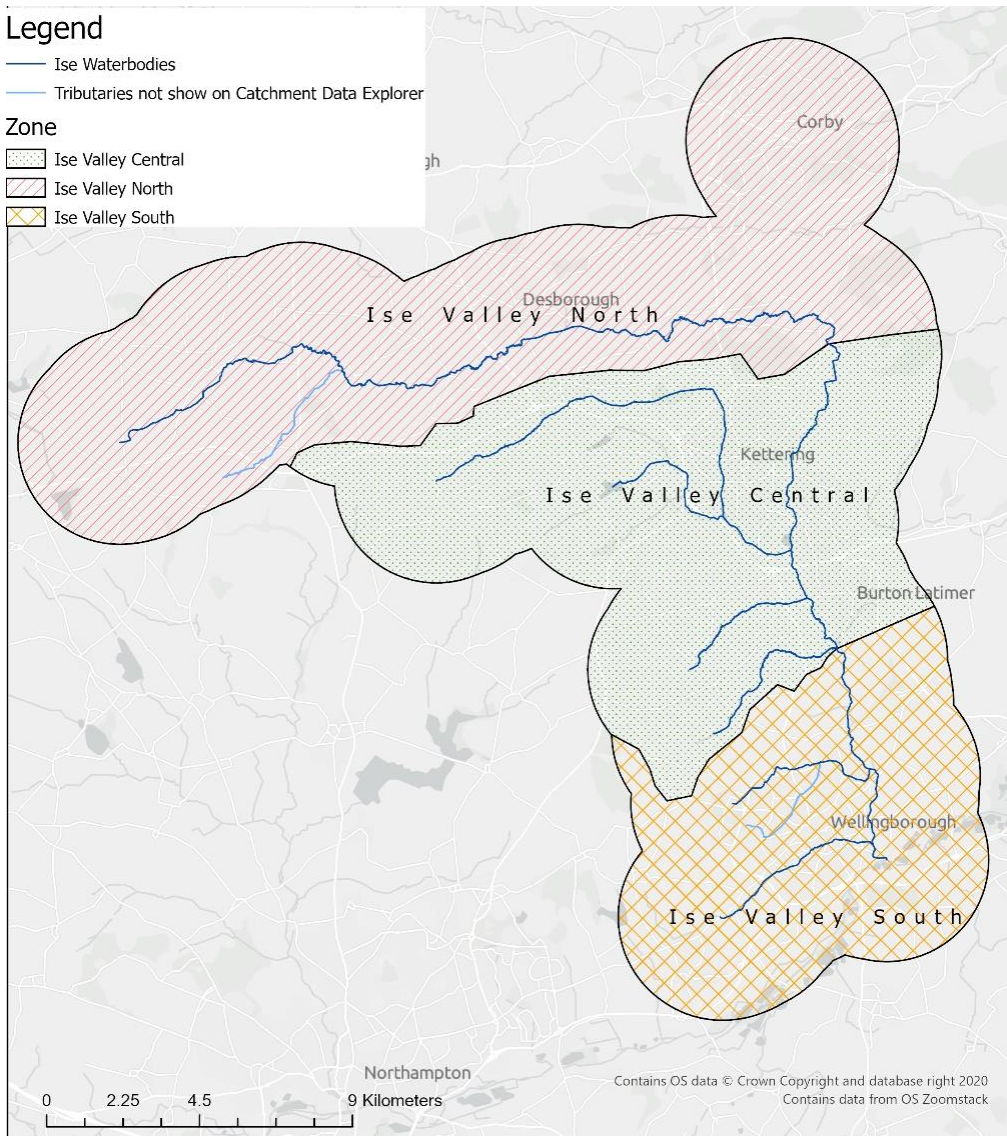
Some of the [North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2014\)](#) and [Kettering Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(2018\)](#) projects have plans with further detail in the respective document.

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
NNGIDP (2014)	Leftover Spaces: Greener Places	Groundwork	Development of community-led greenspaces in major settlements	£216,000	CIL	A, B, C, D, J	All
NNGIDP (2014)	Ise Valley Park	Developer	Creation of park (Stanton Cross) – in progress	£490,000	s.106	A, B, C, D, F, H, J	South
NNGIDP (2014)	Green open spaces	BCW	BCW aspiration (ongoing through NNC projects)	TBD	CIL	A, B, C, D, J	South
NNGIDP (2014)	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
NNGIDP (2014)	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
NNGIDP (2014)	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
NNGIDP (2014)	Desborough Greenspace	DTC, KBC	Provision of >20 ha greenspace in north Desborough	£400,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	North
NNGIDP (2014)	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
NNGIDP (2014)	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

NNGIDP (2014)	Desborough pocket parks	DTC, KBC	Creation of two pocket parks in Desborough	£200,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	North
NNGIDP (2014)	Geddington greenspace	GPC, KBC	Provision of natural or semi-natural greenspace in Geddington	£50,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	North
NNGIDP (2014)	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
NNGIDP (2014)	Pytchley	PPC, KBC	Provision of accessible natural or semi-natural greenspace in Pytchley	£50,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central
NNGIDP (2014)	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?
NNGIDP (2014)	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?
NNGIDP (2014)	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
NNGIDP (2014)	West Kettering	KBC	Greenspace creation in south and northwest Kettering	£400,000	s.106	A, B, C, F, G, J	Central
NNGIDP (2014)	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

NNGIDP (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
KGIDP (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
KGIDP (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
KGIDP (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
KGIDP (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
KGIDP (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
KGIDP (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
KGIDP (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

KGIDP (2018)	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
KGIDP (2018)	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
NNIDP	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
NNIDP	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
NNIDP	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
MOREwoods (Woodland Trust, fund by Lloyds and Bank of Scotland) MoreHedges	<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	https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/morewoods/ https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/morehedges/
Trees for your Farm (Woodland Trust)	<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	https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/
Countryside Stewardship	<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	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-creation-grant-countryside-stewardship

Environmental Land Management Scheme	There are 3 new schemes that will reward environmental land management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Farming Incentive • Local Nature Recovery • Landscape Recovery (Pilots 2021/22, launch 2024)	Various	As above?	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview/environmental-land-management-scheme-overview
Carbon sales	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	https://www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/buy-carbon/woodland-carbon-projects

General environmental funding

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

	One application window/year (deadline 2021 was 1st Feb)			
Landfill tax	Projects within specified distance of a landfill See funding bulletin below	See below	See below	See funding bulletin below
Wind farm funding	Projects within specified distance of a wind farm	<£5000 <£7000 <£10000	Community groups in specified areas	http://www.ncf.uk.com/grants/all-grants
Lottery Heritage Fund	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	https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/
The National Lottery Community Fund	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).	https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Net Gain/106	Funding from offsetting of impacts of development	Various	Local authorities	North/West Northants council
Highways England Designated Funds	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	https://highwaysengland.co.uk/media/lh2ll0ao/designated-funds-plan-2020-2025.pdf
Environmental Land Management Scheme	There are 3 new schemes that will reward environmental land management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Farming Incentive • Local Nature Recovery • Landscape Recovery (Pilots 2021/22, launch 2024)	Various	Land managers	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview/environmental-land-management-scheme-overview
Esme Fairburn Foundation – Our Natural World	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)	https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/our-aims/our-natural-world/
The Steel Charitable Trust	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	https://steelcharitabletrust.org.uk/

	core costs Very few restrictions are imposed on the purpose for which a grant may be used.		Organisations (CIOs)	
The Swire Charitable Trust	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?	https://www.swirecharitabletrust.org.uk/

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

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

Maud Elkington Charitable Trust	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 helen.pole@shma.co.uk
Francis and Masie Prior Charitable Trust	Projects related to archaeology or the environment	<£500	East Midlands and the East of England	http://francisandmaisiepryorct.org.uk

From Northants funding bulletin:

Fund Name	Overview	Grant Value	Who can apply?	For more information see
Mick George Community Fund	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	www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/mick-george-community-fund/
People's Postcode Lottery	The People's Postcode Lottery Postcode Places Trust provides funding under the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving mental wellbeing • Enabling community participation in the arts • Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty • Supporting marginalised groups and promoting equality • Improving biodiversity & green spaces • Enabling participation in physical activity • Responding to the climate emergency 	Grants up to £2,000 for community groups and CICs Grants up to £20,000 for	Community organisations, CICs and charities	https://www.postcodeplacestrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing community access to outdoor space 	registered charities		
Landfill Communities Fund – SUEZ Communities Trust	<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	https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/
Landfill Communities Fund – Biffa	Biffa operates in the same way as SUEZ (above), for projects near Biffa landfill sites.	Grants up to £75,000	Not-for-profit organisations	http://www.biffa-award.org/
Landfill Communities Fund – FCC	FCC operates in the same way as SUEZ (above), for projects near FCC landfill sites.	Up to £100,000	Not-for-profit organisations	https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/
Landfill Communities Fund –Augean	Augean operates in the same way as SUEZ (above), for projects near Augean landfill sites.	Up to £50,000	Not-for-profit organisations	www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/augean-community-fund/
Landfill Communities Fund – Viridor	Viridor operates in the same way as SUEZ (above), for projects near Viridor landfill sites.	Up to £50,000	Not-for-profit organisations	https://www.viridor-credits.co.uk/apply-funding
Morrisons Foundation	The Morrisons Foundation awards grant funding for charity projects which make a positive difference in local communities.	Up to £25,000	Registered Charities	https://www.morrisonsfoundation.com/grant-funding-request/
SEMLEP Community Grants	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	https://www.semlep.com/community-grants/?utm_source=EmailMarketing&utm_medium=Announcement&utm_

				campaign=CommunityGrants5
Tesco Community Grants	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	https://tescobagsofhelp.org.uk/grant-schemes/

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

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Executive Advisory Panel Climate Change Environment and Growth 18th May 2022

Report Title	Community Asset Transfer Policy
Report Author	George Candler, Executive Director, Place and Economy
Lead Member	Councillor Graham Lawman – Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Community Asset Transfer Policy plus appendices

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To introduce the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy and supporting processes for review and comment by the Executive Advisory Panel.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The proposed policy provides a framework for assessing transfer of council land and property to community organisations, including Town & Parish Councils, in a consistent and fair way across North Northamptonshire.
- 2.2 The proposed Policy is developed in consideration of the Corporate Plan and aims to provide direction to the community on the evaluation and determination process for asset transfers.
- 2.3 The Policy is supported with annexes to give the Executive further information on the way each request will be processed to ensure transparency and demonstrate that a consistent approach will be adopted.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive Advisory Panel consider and provide feedback on the content of the proposed Community Asset Transfer Policy at **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 The reasons for the recommendation are:
- The policy supports good governance in relation to the councils' obligations to comply with the legislation that govern land transfers.
 - The policy and process support the evaluation of community asset transfer enquires and provide a guide to community organisations.
 - Adopting the policy provides for a consistent and transparent approach to be administered which reduces the risks associated with asset transfers.
 - Adopting the policy supports the Councils Corporate Plan.
- 3.3 Alternative Options Considered:
- The Council could choose not to adopt the proposed policy and manage each request as it is received, however this could lead to inconsistencies in the approach to community asset transfers.
 - The Council could adopt an approach to not support community asset transfers to avoid the risks detailed in the policy and retain direct control of assets, however this would limit the benefits that can be achieved from community delivery.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Council holds a public estate for a variety of purposes such as:
- Operational space to deliver a required service.
 - Civic Meeting Rooms for the Council for fiduciary purposes where Councillors discharge their role.
 - Property and land held for economic development, to assist in the regeneration of North Northamptonshire
 - Commercial portfolio held to earn an income, the money used to support service delivery
 - Community space, to support social wellbeing.
- 4.2 The recent and increasing government drivers to empower communities has resulted in a recognition that at times community land and property can be more effective in supporting the community if it is in the control of local organisations.
- 4.3 Community assets may become available for asset transfer in one of two ways. Either the council identifies one of its assets and then brings it forward as surplus supported with a recommendation, or the community may review the asset list and identify an asset which may be of interest to them, and they then approach the Council with an expression of interest. Either way it is for the authority to determine whether the asset is surplus.

- 4.4 Transferring community property and land into local control carries risks. The Council needs to assure itself that the social, wellbeing and community use is in line with the Corporate Plan, and that the organisation has the capacity and financial ability to maintain and invest in the asset.
- 4.5 It is important that the Council conducts a due diligence process to understand more about the organisations aims, how the transfer will support their business plan both now and in the future. The council should also satisfy itself that the safeguarding and health and safety arrangements of the community organisation are in place and operating in line with laws and best practice surrounding these matters.
- 4.6 The proposed policy and processes are designed to guide the Council and the organisation through each area of due diligence with the aim of mitigating the risks associated with a transfer.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 Supporting communities' forms part of the Corporate Plan and the Localism Act 2011 which together with subsequent Regulations have created a series of empowerment rights such as right to challenge and rights to nominate local assets of community value.
- 5.2 However, the powers granted to Councils to transfer assets to the community at less than best value are found in the Local Government Act 1972 and the General Disposal Consent 2003.
- 5.3 The General Disposal Consent 2003 in this context provides for a Council to consider a transfer at less than best value where the authority considers the transfer is likely to contribute to the promotion or improvement of social wellbeing. There is a process to determine the undervalue and the Consent confirms that provided the undervalue is less than £2,000,000 the Council may authorise the transaction following a due diligence process.
- 5.4 As the Council holds its estate for the public, a process to consider requests and assess each stage to ensure the risks are mitigated and best value is achieved from any transfer is required. The proposed policy aims to satisfy this need by providing a framework for social value to be measured against the loss of the asset and risk from any transfer.
- 5.5 In order to comply with Best Value duties, any asset transfer will be at the market value, as determined by the proposed community use. In exceptional circumstances a transfer at less than market value, either at a reduced cost or rent free might be considered. The level of subsidy provided by the council will be determined by the social, economic, or environmental benefits generated by the transfer and demonstrated in a robust business case. Further detail on how the council will consider applications is found in section 4 of the policy document.
- 5.6 Any proposed asset transfer will be in accordance with the Council's constitution and prevailing disposal policy, following Executive Member consultation.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 To formally adopt the policy and implement its use, including promoting its availability via the council's website and other communication channels.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resource, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1 Implementation of the policy has no direct financial implications, and the process will be administered within existing team resources.
- 7.1.2 The applications considered as part of the policy will have financial implications either from divestment of responsibility for assets, or potential opportunity cost from rent foregone. Such risks will be managed and evaluated as part of the application.

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 Any disposals will require Legal input in terms of exchanging and completing contracts of sale and ongoing input from Finance in terms of the review of business cases, impact on capital and revenue budgets together with the monitoring and management of capital receipts.
- 7.2.2 The Council has the discretionary power under the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003 and S123 of the Local Government Act to consider disposals of surplus assets at less than best consideration where such disposal is likely to contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the North Northamptonshire area and its residents provided that the value of the asset is less than £2m. Should the value of the asset be more than £2m and it is proposed to transfer or dispose of the asset at an undervalue the approval of the Secretary of State is required.
- 7.2.3 The Council will consider state aid implications in any transfer.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 The adoption of this policy links with the Councils Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority of Connected Communities, by providing a clear process for communities to apply for community asset transfers.

7.4 Risk

- 7.4.1 The policy details the risk associated with community asset transfers at section 4.10. These might include a transferee's ability to manage the financial liabilities of the asset or an inadvertent impact on the community through a perception of loss of access.

7.4.2 The council should also be mindful of the risk of losing strategic oversight of services across North Northamptonshire when considering asset transfers, for example transferring open space may lead to inconsistencies in its management across the area.

7.4.3 The policy proposed provides an evaluation methodology to mitigate and consider such risks.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 The policy builds in consultation to the process as applications are received, including consultation with Ward Members and relevant community groups.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 Any comments from the Executive Advisory Panels to be confirmed at the meeting.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 This paper may be selected for consideration by Scrutiny.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 An Equality Screening Assessment has not identified any adverse impact on individuals with protected characteristics. Equality Implications are a factor considered as part of the evaluation matrix for individual applications.

7.9 Climate Impact

7.9.1 Environment is a factor for consideration within the evaluation matrix, which might include the benefit of investment by a transferee in improving the energy efficiency of a property or improving the natural benefits of a site through rewilding or tree planting. Such benefits need to be weighed against the council losing the ability to directly influence environmental impact on the asset if transferred.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 Community impact is covered in detail within the report and the policy. It is noted that where carefully managed transferring assets to local stakeholders can have considerable benefits to the community.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11 There are no Crime and Disorder issues arising directly from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 The Policy document and appendices refer to external legislation and website available to support applicants.



Community Asset Transfer

Expression of Interest in Community Property and/or Land

Section 1 – Your contact details

Please provide the name of your organisation below:

Please provide contact details for this application below:

Name:

Position in the organisation:

Address

Telephone:

Email:

Web site link:

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Section 2 – Brief information on your organisation

Please provide details of the type of organisation you represent, the charity and or companies house registration number, and a brief summary of the purpose of the organisation. Who does it serve and what the main activities and outputs.



Section 3 – The Council owned property and or land you are interested in

Please identify below the address of the property and or land you are interested in. If located from the council property and land transparency report please include the reference.

Please indicate what type of transfer you are interested in and where a licence or lease, can you indicate the approximate term you are looking for.



Can you provide a brief summary on why you are interested in this asset. What benefits will the transfer bring to your organisation and your customers?

Section 4 – Supporting Information

Please provide any further information below:

Undertaking

I confirm that I and the organisations group has read the Community Asset Transfer Policy and process, and understood the information contained in these documents.

I certify that the information supplied in this application form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorised by the governing body of the organisation to submit this expression of interest on its behalf.

Signed _____



Print Name: _____

Position within the organisation _____

Date: _____

(For Council Use – Property Reference Number: _____)

DRAFT



Community Asset Transfer Policy

May 2022 V1

www.northnorthants.gov.uk

Document Version Control

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Next review date: Annual

Change History

Issue	Date	Comments
1		

Consultees

Internal	External
Community, Legal, Finance	
Executive Member	

Distribution List

Internal	External
e.g. Individual(s) / Group / Section	e.g. Stakeholders / Partners / Organisation(s)

Links to other documents

Document	Link
Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youve-got-the-power-a-quick-and-simple-guide-to-community-rights/youve-got-the-power-a-quick-and-simple-guide-to-community-rights#were-helping-communities-to-take-control
My Community	https://MyCommunity.org.uk

Document	Link
Locality	https://locality.org.uk
Town and Village Greens	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/town-and-village-greens-how-to-register
North Northants Property and Land register	https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/your-council/transparency-and-open-data
The Localism Act 2011	Localism Act 2011: overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
North Northamptonshire Constitution, Financial Procedure Rules	https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s5575/09.%20Part%207%20-%20Financial%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf
The Quirk Review – Making Assets Work	https://libraries.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/sites/default/files/making_assets_work_-_the_quirk_review_of_community_management_and_ownership_of_public_assets.pdf

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1.0 Introduction / foreword

- 1.1 North Northamptonshire Council holds a significant public estate used to support delivery of its strategic objectives and vision to make North Northamptonshire a place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life.
- 1.2 This policy sets out how the Council proposes to work with local stakeholders to enhance and protect local community assets.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This policy provides information on the Council's approach to community asset transfers (CAT).

- 2.2 The Policy outlines key information on CAT and is supported by annexes giving further information including a guide to the application process. These annexes will be updated as the application process is refined.
- 2.3 This Policy and associated annexes are not intended to provide advice to individual organisations about their rights or capabilities for stewardship of Council property. Each organisation should seek their own professional advice when considering whether to make an application. There are some references to further information above under *Links to other documents* section.
- 2.4 The Policy is intended to apply to property and land transfer transactions only and does not include information on community funding or the transfer of Council services. An enquiry to transfer service delivery is regulated under the Localism Act 2011 and is a separate process. However, where the transfer of an asset may include service delivery then further information will be provided about this process on a case-by-case basis.

3.0 Policy outcomes

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan confirms a key commitment to delivering Connected Communities: *We will ensure our communities are connected with one another so they are able to shape their lives and the areas where they live.* The transfer of assets to local community focused organisations, including Town and Parish Councils, can support delivery of this commitment, bringing about wider benefits to the community, council and organisation taking ownership. However, there are risks associated with community asset transfers.
- 3.3 This policy sets out a framework for CAT applications to be considered in a consistent and transparent way, to balance the obligation on the Council to maximise the monetary value from disposal of assets against the added social value of transfer to a community organisation. The policy also outlines in a series of appendices the due diligence process that will be relevant to each transfer.
- 3.3 This policy principally focuses on one type of property transfer, the category of Council owned community assets. Assets not held for community purposes will only be considered under this policy if determined by the Council.
- 3.4 This policy contributes to the council's objectives by providing direction to interested organisations to support them in what is a complex subject and to signpost them to other information which may assist in their decision on whether to apply.

4.0 Community Asset Transfer Policy

- 4.1 A Community Asset Transfer is a transfer of an interest in council owned property and/or land to a community organisation, including Town & Parish Councils, in exchange for securing community benefits. The Council already has many partnerships and agreements with community organisations but will consider new applications where these will bring benefits to our communities and contribute towards the council's aims and objectives.

- 4.2 The Council holds a property portfolio for a variety of purpose including reasons such as:
- Operational Space – to deliver council services, such as care homes and schools, recycling centres, civic meeting rooms and car parks.
 - Regeneration and Economic Development – to provide buildings for job creation and economic growth.
 - Heritage and Cultural Environment – to support the environment and place shaping.
 - Commercial Investment – to provide revenue which is used to support service delivery.
 - Community Estates – to support communities and provide areas for meetings and social wellbeing.
 - Leisure Centres - to promote health and wellbeing, providing areas for sport and leisure activities.
- 4.3 The portfolio is divided into categories, such as the above, following financial policy and the Council has fiduciary duties to ensure these are regularly reviewed and valued according to their category. Property and land therefore have a value to the Council; the value measured according to the category which will be a monetary value and/or a social value, in some instances a mixture of both these things.
- 4.4 The Council is regulated to ensure that assets remain held in their category unless, following review, these are no longer required in the category, in which case there may be an alternative use for the Council and/or they may be determined surplus. Therefore, only certain assets are held by the Council for community purposes, and typically eligible for CAT. Such assets might include Parks and Open Spaces, Community Centres, Museums, Heritage property and Monuments and Allotments.
- 4.5 Local Authorities are increasingly looking at alternative models to provide services to the community. This recognises that communities are all different and can deliver meaningful local outcomes when local organisations take ownership of their environment.
- 4.6 As part of Local Government Reform in Northamptonshire, Town and Parish Councils are increasingly interested in developing their community role, including direct involvement in owning and managing community assets.
- 4.7 Therefore, the Council will support the transfer of local assets where carefully managed transfer of assets to the local community can bring benefits not only to the Council but also to its local statutory, voluntary and community partners.
- 4.8 Such transfers provide the potential to strengthen the role and future sustainability of local community organisations. The community and voluntary sector specialise in their subject and therefore have the expertise and ability to resource and deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits from CAT, including:
- Greater understanding of the needs of the service users and communities.
 - Ability to deliver outcomes that the public sector may not be able to deliver on its own.
 - Innovation in delivering solutions.
 - Ability to focus and contribute on the social wellbeing of the community.
 - Greater financial sustainability for the organisation with strengthened ability to raise external funds.
 - Ability to alter and modify a building (with consent) to better suit its needs.

- 4.9 Along with the above community benefits, CAT can also benefit the Council through:
- Reduced building management responsibility.
 - Restoration of local buildings.
 - Provide a source of income and/or reduce operating costs.
 - Support local regeneration/community plans.
- 4.10 These benefits must be weighed against potential risks of CAT, such as:
- Potential to disadvantage individuals or impact negatively on the local community or community cohesion.
 - Uncertainty around capacity of recipient to manage the asset.
 - Potential for the asset to become a financial liability for the recipient.
 - Capacity of the recipient to deliver promised community outcomes.
 - Transfer contravenes Subsidy Control and/or procurement rules.
 - Potential for ongoing Council liability.
 - Loss of control of assets and their consistent management across North Northants.
 - Lack of value for money.
 - Conflict with other funders.
 - Potential unfair advantage for one group over another.
 - Perception of a loss of the use of a Community facility by certain sectors of the Community.
- 4.11 The Government in response to a review of community management and ownership of public assets and community empowerment (The Quirk Review – Making Assets Work) detailed the three main conclusions from community ownership:
- Any sale or transfer of public assets to community ownership and management needs to realise social or community benefits without risking wider public interest concerns and without community purposes becoming overly burdened by operational considerations.
 - the benefits of community management and ownership of public assets can outweigh the risks and opportunity costs in appropriate circumstances.
 - that there are risks, but they can be minimised and managed.
- 4.12 In order that the above risks are suitably managed, each CAT will be determined on its facts, with reference to a business case supplied by the applicant. Any proposed transfer must support the aims and priorities of the Council.
- 4.13 Applications will be evaluated with reference to the Social, Economic, Environmental benefits of the proposal, and appropriate due diligence considering the Governance arrangements, experience, and financial standing of the applicant, as detailed in the Evaluation Form at appendix D.
- 4.14 This would include a review of the community organisation to ensure that it has the resources to take stewardship of the property and or land, and any transfer agreement would be tailored to suit each organisation, as there is not one type of transfer that suits

all situations. For a new community group it is likely a short-term licence will be considered, but for an established organisation with experience of operating estates a longer term lease arrangement may be appropriate, particularly if the organisation's business model relies on external funding. Freehold transfer will only generally be considered appropriate where the asset is being transferred to a Town or Parish Council.

- 4.15 When determining an application, the Council will consider representative views of council service areas as required by the nature of the application and include consultation with local Ward Councillor's.
- 4.16 In order for the Council to comply with its Best Value duties, any asset transfer will be at the market value, as determined by the proposed community use. In exceptional circumstances a transfer at less than market value, either at a reduced cost or rent free might be considered. The level of subsidy provided by the council will be determined by the social, economic, or environmental benefits generated by the transfer and demonstrated in a robust business case.
- 4.17 Any transfer will restrict the use of the property to the proposed community use and where appropriate be linked to a Service Level Agreement. Restrictions on future sales or sub-leases will also be included to safeguard continued community use, including suitable clauses to ensure the return of the asset to the council if the terms of the service agreement are not met, breach of the lease covenants, or in the case of dissolution, insolvency or corruption.
- 4.18 Any proposed CAT will be in accordance with the Council's constitution and prevailing disposal policy, following Executive Member consultation.
- 4.19 Community organisations that are not for profit will be considered for CAT applications, including:
- Parish and Town Councils.
 - Community Interest Companies.
 - Community benefit Societies.
 - Company limited by guarantee with charitable status.
 - A Constituted Body.

The council will not transfer community assets under this policy to private businesses which distribute profit.

5.0 Community Asset Transfer Process

- 5.1 The Council may identify an asset as a community asset and/or the organisation may review the councils asset register to see whether there is a community asset that may meet their organisations objectives. The applications process provides an opportunity to express an interest in the asset.
- 5.2 Should an asset be confirmed as being available for community asset transfer, a due diligence process will ensure a transparent marketing opportunity, and the type of transfer will depend upon both the Councils and the Community outcomes.
- 5.3 The following process will be followed:

- a) Expression of Interest received as shown in appendix A, initiated by the applicant organisation or by the Council.
- b) Where the building being enquired about is declared surplus, the Council will consider both the merits of an open market sale/lease against the possible reuse of the building by a Community Organisation and may run a market disposal in parallel with determining interest from the community.
- c) Initial interest is referred to the Asset Management team to check eligibility of the property for transfer (e.g. if it is already leased or required for a separate council use).
- d) If the property is eligible for transfer, applicants are invited to complete the application form at appendix B, which sets out details of the applicant organisation, the property and plans for its use. The applicant may be provided with details of premises related costs, and any relevant title or property details to support their application.
- e) The application should be accompanied by a business case. Guidance on the content of the business case is provided in appendix C Community Asset Transfer FAQ.
- f) Once received the application will be considered against the Evaluation form at appendix D by the Asset Management team. This evaluation will include consultation with council service areas and Ward Councillors.
- g) Where the application is recommended, approval from the Executive Member will be sought.
- h) Where approved, Heads of terms will be negotiated with the transferee.
- i) Formal approval by the council sought, as determined by the councils constitution.
- j) Legal completion of the CAT including any service level agreement where applicable.

6.0 Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Community Assets	Land and Buildings determined by the Council as being held primarily for Community Use
Community organisation/third sector organisations (TSO)	A formally constituted not for profit group
Community Asset Transfer	The transfer of an interest in property and or land from the Council to a community group to secure community benefits.
Interest in Land and or Property	A licence, lease and or freehold interest in land and or property
Transparency Report (Property and Land)	The council published list of property holdings

7.0 Appendices

Appendix A: Community Asset Transfer Expression of Interest Form.

Appendix B: Community Asset Transfer Application Form.

Appendix C: Community Asset Transfer FAQ.

Appendix D: Community Asset Transfer Evaluation Form.

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Community Asset Transfer

Application Form

Section 1 – Your contact details

Please provide the name of your organisation below:

Please provide contact details for this application below:

Name:

Position in the organisation:

Address

Telephone:

Email:

Web site link:

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Section 2 – Brief information on your organisation

Please provide details of the type of organisation you represent, the charity and or companies house registration number, and a brief summary of the purpose of the organisation. Who does it serve and what the main activities and outputs.



Section 3 – Council owned property and/or land

Please identify below the address of the property and or land you are interested in. If located from the council property and land transparency report please include the reference.

Please indicate what type of transfer you are interested in and where a licence or lease, can you indicate the approximate term you are looking for.



Section 4 – Supporting Information

Please provide with this application the following information (tick if attached)

Minute of the meeting authorising application	
A business case	
Articles of association or other relevant governance documentation	
Recent annual report	
Organisational Structure	
Three years audited accounts	
Current Insurance Policy	
Please list any other supporting information you are including with your application below:-	

For more information on what to include in the business case please see the Councils Frequently asked questions which can be found on the web site link or a copy obtained by emailing propertyservices@northnorthants.gov.uk

The Council can request further information or references to support the application.

Undertaking

I confirm that I and the organisations group has read the Community Asset Transfer Policy and guidance notes, and understood the information contained in these documents.

I certify that the information supplied in this application form and accompanying documentation is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorised by the governing body of the organisation submit this expression of interest on its behalf.

I understand it is a criminal offence to knowingly make a false statement, to give or offer any gift or consideration whatsoever as an inducement or reward to an Council Officer, Councillor, Partner or Representative, and that any such action will empower the council to cancel this application for the transfer of the asset.

Signed _____

Print Name: _____



Position within the organisation _____

Date: _____

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Community Asset Transfer

Frequently Asked Questions

1 Frequently asked questions

1.1 What Council owned property is available for community use?

Community property and land includes parks, open spaces, play areas, community halls, museums, heritage buildings, monuments and allotments. For a full list of community owned property and a guide to whether it is let please visit the property list found on the council web site link below:-

<https://northnorthants.gov.uk/your-council/transparency-and-open-data>

1.2 What advice is available to help me?

The Council cannot advise you on what is right for you, we would need to consider any application impartially as we hold community property in trust for the local area.

There are helpful web sites reference in the Council policy, the main ones listed below:-

[Understanding Community Asset Transfer guide - for community organisations - Power to Change](#)

[Community asset transfer - Locality](#)

[Understanding Community Asset Transfer - MyCommunity](#)

1.3 Can I apply to the Council to transfer other property on the property list?

Other property and land held by the Council is for various reasons such as operational sites (e.g. refuse sites, offices, civic halls, care homes and schools), regeneration (e.g. development sites) and investment purposes (e.g. shops, industrial units and business units). These are under regular review by the Council and should one become surplus and no longer required then they will follow a disposal process. Until these have determined as surplus they are unlikely to be available for community transfer.

1.4 Will we incur costs for the transfer of the asset to us?

As with all property purchases or lettings there will be a cost to the organisation for professional fees (surveyors, lawyers etc) which your organisation will have to bear as these services will be procured by you to give you advice. The Council will pay their own professional fees.

The transfer will be subject to a valuation and the organisation are expected to pay the market value for the property. However, the market value will be in part



determined by the use, and the Council would restrict the use to community use, and this will have a negative effect on the value. It is a complicated situation regulated by statute and each case will be determined independently but using regulated policy and processes, we would confirm this with you from the outset.

1.5 Will there be any limits on what we can do with the property?

Property and land are subject to planning and listed building controls and you will need to make your own enquiries to determine the Use Class and any listed building status. In terms of the operational use of the building the Council will impose a restriction that community use is retained for the main use of the property or land. Ancillary commercial use to support the main use may be considered.

1.6 I have been asked to submit a full application including a business plan. What should I include in the business plan?

It depends on how long the asset transfer is, the longer the term of a lease or if it is a freehold transfer, the more information you will need to provide. The property services team will advise you further on this. But typically a business plan will include some or all of the following:-

- A statement of the aims and objectives of the organisation and how the benefits to furthering these objectives that a Community Asset Transfer would provide.
- Social impact benefits – description of who the organisation serves, including the number of individuals/groups benefiting from the service, the degree of support and any information on number of people that use the service. Demonstrate how the organisation improves the quality of life of people living in North Northamptonshire.
- Economic impact benefits – include the management structure, number of employees, details of any expansion and jobs created as a result of the asset transfer. Give details of your volunteering policy and numbers of volunteers working for the organisation.
- Governance arrangements – confirm the legal entity that would be the transferee, provide a current written governing document (such as Memorandum and Articles of Association). Provide a governance policy and include your safeguarding policy and process.
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Property and Land information – provide details of current ownership or leasehold interests, information on management arrangements and experience of property responsibilities. This should include the type and headline terms of the transfer requested, and why.
- Health & Safety Policy
- Insurance Policy for public liability and employer liability. We require £5,000,000 public liability insurance.
- Financial Accounts - a viable financial model showing the investment available to the organisation, evidence of the ability to attract funding, three years financial accounts and recent bank statement.



- Marketing – how you will reach out to new customers and how will the asset support this policy.
- Partnership – how will the transfer contribute to a productive partnership between the Council and the organisation
- Environmental Impacts – proposals for energy efficiency, recycling of waste and/or natural benefits such as increased biodiversity or carbon reduction.

The web sites referred to in number 1.2 above may provide further information on the business plan.

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Community Asset Transfer

Application Form Evaluation - Example

Name and Address of Organisation _____

Property and/or land address _____

Property Reference Number _____

Information supplied:-

Minute of the meeting authorising application	Yes/No
A business case	Yes/No
Articles of association or other relevant governance documentation	Yes/No
Recent annual report	Yes/No
Organisational Structure	Yes/No
Three years audited accounts	Yes/No
Current Insurance Policy	Yes/No

The following factors will be considered according to the outcome for the property for example if the main outcome is an environmental one, then this may be weighted more highly than economic or social impact.

The panel can request further information or references to support the application.

Item	Content	Comments
1.	Statement of aims and objectives of the organisation Evidence of a mission statement/vision for the organisation and a business plan	
2.	Strategic Impact Benefits Has the organisation demonstrated how their strategic benefits are being addressed by the transfer and that the use will continue to be enhanced by the transfer	
3.	Social Impact Benefits Evidence that the organisation understands their community and its current needs. Does it monitor the activities and services it delivers and can it produce this information showing an increase in use. Does it seek feedback about its services from its customers. Is there a community profile, consultation documents or other knowledge	



	<p>showing an understanding of the area that benefit from the service and the numbers that use the service? How does it improve the quality of life for people in North Northamptonshire.</p>	
4.	<p>Economic Impact Benefits</p> <p>Has the organisation demonstrated the measurement of economic impact. What additional impact will this transfer bring in terms of jobs both directly employed and indirectly. Is there an apprenticeship scheme.</p>	
5.	<p>Environmental Impact Benefits</p> <p>Environmental policy and procedures, recycling and energy conservation initiatives. EPC rating and ability to maintain and or improve the energy performance of the property. Are there natural benefits such as increased biodiversity or carbon reduction.</p>	
6.	<p>Governance Arrangements</p> <p>Is there a legal entity that will have responsibility for the property. Is there a written governing document (eg memorandum and articles of association) that is current, legal and matches the stated activities. If a charity is it registered with the Charity Commission and a search completed. If a Community Interest Company or other charitable company is it registered with companies house and a search completed. Has the organisation provided a management structure, written policy covering roles and responsibilities of Trustees/Directors Look for AGM document, completion of annual returns, annual report and accounts completed on time. Minutes of AGM. Conflict of interest and data protection policies. How long has the organisation been established.</p>	
7.	<p>Equality, Diversity, Safeguarding</p>	



	<p>Policies to demonstrate an inclusive environment, one that understands the importance of safeguarding and demonstrates active measures taken to protect its customers. Is there a code of conduct and procedure specifying standards of acceptable behaviour including proactive measure to prevent discrimination of all types.</p>	
8.	<p>Asset Management Experience</p> <p>Evidence of experience to manage the property, knowledge of property laws in terms of occupiers liability, duties owed to staff and visitors in terms of property compliance. Is there a property officer and a health and safety policy and practices relating to property. Has the organisation experience of being a tenant and or owner of property.</p>	
9.	<p>Health & Safety Policy</p> <p>Evidence of a health and safety policy and processes for staff and customers health, safety and welfare. Method statements and risk assessments.</p>	
10.	<p>Insurance Policy</p> <p>Current insurance policy for employers liability and public liability</p>	
11.	<p>Finance</p> <p>Is there a viable financial model showing the investment available to the organisation and evidence of the ability to attract funding. Are three years financial accounts and recent bank statement. Does the legal entity have the financial means to purchase and run the asset.</p>	
11.	<p>Marketing</p> <p>Is there a policy for promoting the activity, evidence of a growth strategy and sustainable strategy for increasing market share? Information on customer feedback?</p>	
12.	<p>Council Corporate Plan</p> <p>Does the information received meet the Council objectives in the Corporate Plan, if so which ones. Is this a partnership and or</p>	



	use that the Council supports because it delivers the Councils objectives.	
13.	Ward Councillor Feedback	

Decision Making Panel Names & Role in the Council

Panel Summary & Recommendation

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Date: _____

Recommendation Approved by:

[Empty box for Recommendation Approved by]

Date _____

Signed _____

Executive Advisory Panel Climate Change Environment and Growth 18th May 2022

Report Title	Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) Policy
Report Author	George Candler, Executive Director, Place and Economy
Lead Member	Councillor Graham Lawman – Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) Policy with appendices

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To introduce the Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) policy for review and comment by the Executive Advisory Panel.
- 1.2. The Policy is supported with annexes, to provide the Executive information on the operational process. The information contained within the operational process will be periodically updated in response to any minor administrative changes within the Council without being brought back to the Executive.
- 1.3. The Policy is subject to periodic review to incorporate changes required by statute and or best practice following which it will be returned to Executive for review.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Prior to vesting day each District & Borough authority had its own Community Right to Bid policy and processes for assessing assets of community value. As a Unitary Authority it now falls on North Northamptonshire Council to undertake this function.
- 2.2 The responsibilities under the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2021 require the council to determine whether property and/or land qualifies under the regime as an asset of community value, where an eligible nomination is received.
- 2.3 The policy at **Appendix A** has been developed to provide a consistent approach to how the council will consider such applications.
- 2.4 It is for the nominator to provide sufficient information for the council to determine the application although the council will verify and consult with local community groups and ward Members to verify the information supplied.
- 2.5 The policy and associated annexes have therefore been developed to guide both applicant and owner through the nomination and appeals processes. The Policy aims to strike the balance between keeping the information simple yet providing further links for technical advice to support all parties.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive Advisory Panel consider and provide feedback on the content of the proposed Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) policy.
- 3.2 The reasons for the recommendation are:
 - The Council has a legal responsibility to process and maintain a list of assets of community value, the policy and processes support the council in discharging this obligation.
 - Adopting the policy provides for a consistent and transparent approach to be administered which reduces the risks associated with such decisions.
 - Adopting the policy supports the Councils Corporate Plan.
- 3.3 Alternative Options Considered: The council has a statutory duty to keep a record of assets that have been nominated as community assets and, for the successfully listed assets, provide regulatory oversight to ensure that a moratorium is provided for should the owner decide to sell the asset. Additionally, the considerations for determining if an asset of community value should be listed are defined by legislation. The Council therefore has limited alternative options to deviate from the proposed policy structure.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The provisions relating to Assets of Community Value are set out in Part 5, Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012. This legislation requires North Northamptonshire Council to keep a record of assets that have been nominated as community assets and, for the successfully listed assets, provide regulatory oversight to ensure that a moratorium is provided for should the owner decide to sell the asset.
- 4.2 The assets can be in public or private ownership, provided they fall within the authority's geographical boundary. The authority must administer the process of nominations, must publish the results, and provide information for appeals and compensation.
- 4.3 Assets that have been successfully listed as assets of community value, are subject to a moratorium process, to pause a sale and allow the community time to develop a bid to purchase the asset.
- 4.4 The legislation does not provide the community with a right to buy the asset, nor compel the owner to engage with a community group to sell the asset.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 Supporting communities' forms part of the Corporate Plan and the Localism Act 2011 which together with subsequent Regulations have created a series of empowerment rights such as right to challenge and rights to nominate local assets of community value.
- 5.2 The council is required by statute to administer applications to nominate local assets of community value. The policy at **Appendix A** outlines a process for eligible organisations to nominate community assets, with a transparent method for evaluating such applications against the criteria laid out by statute and incorporating local stakeholders' views.
- 5.3 The policy also details the operation of an appeals process for removing a nominated asset, along with how the moratorium process works if the owner of a nominated asset notifies the Council of an intention to dispose of the asset.
- 5.4 As part of adopting the policy the Council will maintain a list of Assets of Community Value on its website, along with guidance on the policy and process.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 To formally adopt the policy and implement its use, including promoting its availability via the council's website and other communication channels.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

- 7.1 **Resources, Financial and Transformation**

7.1.1 Implementation of the policy has no direct financial implications, and the process will be administered within existing team resources.

7.1.2 The legislation provides for compensation to be paid to an owner of the asset where they have incurred loss or expense in relation to the land which would be likely not to have been incurred if the land had not been listed as an Asset of Community Value. This is a legislative liability and will be managed and mitigated as part of the administration process. There is currently no dedicated budget for such liabilities arising.

7.2 **Legal and Governance**

7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

7.3 **Relevant Policies and Plans**

7.3.1 The adoption of this policy links with the Councils Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority of Connected Communities, by providing a clear process for communities to apply for protection of community assets.

7.4 **Risk**

7.4.1 The policy establishes a clear process for determining nominations to safeguard against the loss of community assets, within the confines of the legislation.

7.4.2 The main risks arising to the council are from administrative error arising from decisions made within the policy, which is mitigating by the appeal process and guidance, and the risk arising from a compensation claim from an owner. This is detailed within section 8 of the policy.

7.5 **Consultation**

7.5.1 The policy builds in consultation to the process as applications are received, including consultation with Ward Members and relevant community groups.

7.6 **Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel**

7.6.1 Any comments from the Executive Advisory Panel Climate Change are to be shared at the meeting.

7.7 **Consideration by Scrutiny**

7.7.1 This paper may be selected for consideration by Scrutiny.

7.8 **Equality Implications**

7.8.1 An Equality Screening Assessment has not identified any adverse impact on individuals with protected characteristics.

7.9 **Climate Impact**

7.9.1 There are no climate impact matters arising directly from this policy.

7.10 **Community Impact**

7.10.1 The policy seeks to provide a nomination process which safeguards community assets, within the parameters of the legislation.

7.11 **Crime and Disorder Impact**

7.11.1 There are no Crime and Disorder issues arising directly from this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 The Policy document and appendices refer to external legislation and website available to support applicants.

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North
Northamptonshire
Council

Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) Policy

May 2022 V1

www.northnorthants.gov.uk

Document Version Control

****Complete this section, making sure to include the following information**:**

Author (Post holder title): Assistant Director of Assets & Environment

Type of document: Policy

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Approval date and by who (CMT / committee):

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Next review date: Annual

Change History

Issue	Date	Comments
1		

Consultees

Internal	External
Legal, Finance	
Executive Member	

Distribution List

Internal	External
e.g. Individual(s) / Group / Section	e.g. Stakeholders / Partners / Organisation(s)

Links to other documents

Document	Link
Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youve-got-the-power-a-quick-and-simple-guide-to-community-rights/youve-got-the-power-a-quick-and-simple-guide-to-community-rights#were-helping-communities-to-take-control
House of Commons Library Briefing Paper, April 2021, Assets of Community Value by Mark Sandford	https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06366/SN06366.pdf

Document	Link
Community Right to Bid Non Statutory Advice for Local Authorities, DCLG October 2021	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/14880/Community Right to Bid - Non-statutory advice note for local authorities.pdf
My Community	MyCommunity.org.uk
Locality	https://locality.org.uk
North Northants Property and Land register	https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/your-council/transparency-and-open-data
The Localism Act 2011	Localism Act 2011: overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2021	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2012/9780111525791/contents

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1.0 Introduction / foreword

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 and subsequent Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 provide for North Northamptonshire Council to keep a list of assets that have been nominated as assets of community value. The asset can be any land or property in North Northamptonshire (subject to specific exclusions e.g., residential property) that is nominated by local community groups or parish councils.
- 1.2 The published list contains assets that have been determined as assets of community value. A second list contains assets that were nominated but were not agreed to be assets of community value.
- 1.3 Should the owner of an asset of community value decide to sell the asset then a moratorium period follows, during which time the asset cannot be sold, and provide time to allow community groups to develop a bid for the asset.
- 1.4 As a unitary authority North Northamptonshire must administer the process for their geographical boundary and this policy outlines how this will be done.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This policy provides information on the Council's administrative function as part of the requirements under the Localism Act 2011 and the Asset of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012. The policy is supported by a series of guides and further information can be found referenced in the "Links to other information" section above.
- 2.3 This Policy and associated annexes are intended to provide advice to community organisations, parish councils and owners about the procedure North Northamptonshire Council follows in discharging its responsibilities under the act and the regulations.
- 2.4 This policy is not intended to provide professional advice to community organisations, parish councils and owners about their legal rights, each party may choose to appoint their own advisors.

3.0 Policy outcomes

- 3.1 The Council must discharge certain functions contained within the Localism Act 2011 and the Asset of Community Value (England) Regulations 2021. A structured and transparent approach supports the Council in relation to their responsibilities and this Policy is produced to guide all parties throughout the various stages.
- 3.2 This Policy contributes to the Corporate Plan and the vision for connected communities.

4.0 Community Right to Bid Policy

- 4.1 The Community Right to Bid was introduced to address concerns that properties currently used, or recently been used, for the benefit of the local community are being developed for other uses and lost to the community.
- 4.2 The legislation provides a procedure to allow for properties to be nominated and, if successful, these are recorded as an asset of community value (ACV). All nominations are published by the Council whether they are successful or not.
- 4.3 There are mechanisms for owners to appeal the listing, and to apply for compensation should they suffer financial loss, and this policy documents the processes for the owner in connection with both of these matters.
- 4.4 Should an owner decide to dispose of an ACV within five years of the listing date, the owner is required to follow a statutory process, essentially a two-stage moratorium period, to allow a time for a community group to arrange a bid for the property and this policy provides detailed information on this process.
- 4.4 It is important to note that the Council's role is assessing whether to nominate an asset as an ACV is based upon the information provided by the nominator, in consultation with the community, Ward Councillors and the owner. It is not for the council to seek new information on the asset, but the council will take reasonable steps to validate the information and use this to inform the decision.

5.0 Nomination

5.1 The first part of the community right to bid is the nomination process. Community groups and Parish Councils may nominate an asset to North Northamptonshire Council. Only certain community groups are eligible to nominate an asset, these are:

- (a) a parish council,
- (b) a voluntary or community body with a local connection.

Further details on nominee criteria can be found in the FAQ guide annexed to this policy.

5.2 North Northamptonshire Council has produced a nomination form to be completed by the nominator. The nominator does not have to use the Council form to submit a nomination, provided all the requirements identified in the Council form are submitted and it is made in writing.

5.3 The nomination must include the following information:

- A description of the land and buildings including the proposed boundary.
- Provide names and addresses of the freehold and leasehold owner and any other occupant information.
- Care should be taken to establish and clearly confirm the status of the nominator.
- Give reasons (with supporting evidence) why the Council should conclude that the asset does qualify as an asset of community value.
- The supporting evidence must be provided by the nominator and not the Council. The Council will use this evidence to consult with other parties.

5.4 Each nomination will be given a reference and this reference number used in all communication with the nominator, consultees, and the owner.

5.5 During the review process, the Council may request further information, may meet with the nominator and/or the owner. There is an eight-week period of review, starting from receipt of the nomination, during which time a decision will be made whether or not to list the asset. The council does not have to wait for the review period to end before deciding.

5.6 Upon receipt of the nomination the Council will notify the owner, the parish council, ward members, any relevant leaseholders and other occupiers to allow representations to be received within the eight-week period.

5.7 In line with the Councils constitution, applications to list ACV will be determined by the Assistant Director Assets & Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets.

5.7 Further information can be found in the FAQ guide and the “Links to other documents” section above.

6.0 Appeal Process

6.1 An owner whose asset has been included on the list of assets of community value has the right to appeal against the listing. There is a two-stage process, the first

stage is an internal review by a senior officer who was not involved in the listing decision.

- 6.2 The owner should write to the Council within eight weeks of receipt of the Council's notification that the asset is to be listed and the Council will confirm the review process to the owner. In some circumstances, by agreement the Council can extend the eight-week period.
- 6.3 The owner may appoint their own representative to act for them and may ask for documentation from the Council as part of the decision making process. The Council will ensure any information passed to the owner complies with the Freedom for Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 2018.
- 6.4 Upon receipt of a request from the owner the Council will confirm the procedure to be followed for the review.
- 6.5 If the decision is that the asset remains an asset of community value then the owner may appeal to the First-Tier Tribunal, there is a time limit of 28 days from the date that the notice of the review decision is sent out by the authority.
- 6.6 Further information of who to contact for the appeals process can be found on the Council's web site.

7.0 Moratorium

- 7.1 If an owner wishes to make a relevant disposal (sale) of an asset of community value they must notify the Council, the date of notification is called the "notification date". The Council will then update the published ACV list to confirm receipt of such notification.
- 7.2 A relevant disposal for the purposes of this Act is:
 - A disposal with vacant possession of the freehold estate.
 - A grant of a lease for a term of twenty-five years or more.
 - The assignment of a leasehold estate when the original term was for twenty-five years or more.
- 7.3 The notification will trigger a six-week moratorium on the disposal. The Council will publish the date of the moratorium on the ACV register, write to the nominator of the ACV and publish details in the local area to notify community interest groups. The published details will include the dates within which a community interest group may make a written request to be treated as a potential bidder.
- 7.4 A written request to be treated as a potential bidder must be submitted by a community interest group. However, it is important to note that an unincorporated body does not qualify as a potential bidder.
- 7.5 If the Council receives a written request from a community interest group it will notify the owner and the moratorium period is extended to be six months from the "notification date". Negotiations to acquire the asset take place between the interest group and the owner and the owner is under no compulsion to sell the asset to the interest group. The Council takes no part in the negotiation.

- 7.6 Once the six-month period has expired, if the owner has not agreed a sale to the community interest group, they are free to dispose of the interest in an unrestricted manner for a protected period of twelve months. If there is a relevant disposal in this period, the asset will be removed from the ACV list.
- 7.7 Further information on the moratorium period can be found on the FAQ guide and in the “Links to other documents” section above.

8.0 Compensation

8.1 The Asset of Community Value (England) Regime 2012 provides for the owner, or former owner, to be paid compensation by the Council of an amount that the Council determines subject to the circumstances that apply in 8.2 below.

8.2 Regulation 14 (2) confirms the circumstances to be

“that the person making the claim has at a time when the person was the owner of the land and the land was listed, incurred loss or expense in relation to the land which would be likely not to have been incurred if the land had not been listed.”

The claim for compensation must:

- Be made in writing to the Council.
 - To be received by the Council before the end of thirteen weeks after the loss or expense was incurred or finished being incurred.
 - State the amount of compensation being claimed for each part of the claim.
 - Be accompanied by supporting evidence.
- 8.3 The Council will review the request and confirm their decision, including reasons for that decision, in writing. Any appeal would be considered by a senior officer and following this, a further appeals process to the First Tier Tribunal.
- 8.4 Further information of who to contact for the appeals process can be found on the Councils web site.

9.0 Glossary of terms

Use this section to give definitions to any words that require explanation – especially if this is a public document. If you can’t avoid jargon or technical terms, this is the place to explain them.

Terms in Reference	Definition
Assets of Community Value	Property and or land that has been determined by the authority as a community asset
Nominator	A qualifying nominator as defined by the ACV Regulations (England) 2012
Moratorium Period	A period of six weeks from the owner's notification of intention to make a relevant disposal, this is extended should a qualifying community group express an interest to bid. In such circumstances the total moratorium being six months from the owner's notification.
Review	A provision for the owner to request a review of a decision made by the authority
Compensation	A provision for the owner to claim for compensation.

10.0 Appendices

Appendix A: Community Right to Bid Nomination Form.

Appendix B: Community Right to Bid Process Guide

Appendix C: Community Right to Bid FAQ – Nomination

Appendix D: Community Right to Bid FAQ - Moratorium

Appendix E: Community Right to Bid Evaluation form



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Nomination form for Assets of Community Value

PART A: ABOUT YOU

Title	
First name	
Surname	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
E-mail address	
Your relationship to the organisation	



North Northamptonshire

Date of nomination:



PART B: ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

Please provide details to help clarify your eligibility as an organisation to nominate the asset.

Please attach evidence of your organisation’s status such as Articles of Association or other where applicable.

If your organisation is an un-constituted community group, please attach a list of names and home addresses of a minimum of 21 eligible members registered to vote within the nomination area.

Organisation name	
<p>Organisation type</p> <p><i>Note 1 - For unincorporated bodies you will need to provide details including names and addresses of a minimum of 21 people who are eligible under the Localism Act to apply for nomination. Eligible people are those listed on the electoral roll for North Northamptonshire Council</i></p> <p><i>Note 2 - For these types of organisations you are required to include registration number</i></p>	<p>Select the following choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Council <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood Forum <input type="checkbox"/> An Unincorporated body (note 1) <input type="checkbox"/> A Registered Charity (note 2) <input type="checkbox"/> A Company Limited by Guarantee (note 2) <input type="checkbox"/> A Community Benefit Society (former Industrial and Provident Society) (note 2) <input type="checkbox"/> A Community Interest Company (note 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Other- Please provide details below



<p>Registration Number / reference <i>(where applicable)</i></p>	
<p>Local connection <i>Please describe the organisation's local connection to nominated asset.</i></p>	



Your Organisation

*Please provide a copy of the following
that is relevant to your organisation*

- Memorandum of Association

- Articles of Association

- Companies house return

- Trust Deed

- Constitution /Terms of Reference

- Standing orders

- Interest Statement for Community Interest
Company

- Any other relevant information - Please list below



Please provide information which helps to clarify the exact location and extent of the asset being nominated. This could include:

- Where the land is registered, the Land Registry Title Information document and map with boundaries clearly marked in red (less than one month old). Provision of Land Registry information is not essential but it may help us to reach a decision on the nomination more quickly.
- A written description with ordinance survey location, and explaining where the boundaries lie, the approximate size and location of any building/s on the land and details of any roads bordering the site.

If the boundary is not clearly defined you may be required to submit further evidence prior to your nomination application being accepted.

A drawing or sketch map with boundaries clearly marked in red will also help.

Useful tools - <http://www.landregistryservices.com> & <http://maps.google.co.uk>

Name of asset	
Address or location of the asset	



Description of the asset and its boundaries

(you may attach photos and/or a plan as supporting evidence)



Any information entered in Part D may be copied and passed onto the owner(s) of the asset you are nominating; the rest of your nomination will not be shared with the owner. #

Please provide information which helps to clarify the use. The definition limits assets that may be listed to those that enhance the social wellbeing and social interests of the community.

Current use basis

If the reason for nomination is based on current use please provide details and evidence that:

- a) The asset is currently being used for the social wellbeing and social interests of the community.
- b) It is realistic to think that there will continue to be a use that furthers the social wellbeing and social interests of the community.

Recent past basis

If the reason for listing is based on recent past use please provide details and evidence that:

- a) The asset has recently been used for the social wellbeing and social interests of the community, when it was so used and the date the use ceased.
- b) It is realistic to think that there will be community use within the next five years that furthers the social wellbeing and social interests of the community.

~~In either case the future use does not have to be exactly the same as present or past use~~



Reasons for nomination: why do you believe the asset is of community value?

(Please provide as much supporting information as you are able to. The council can only consider information received although may ask for more details if required)



<p>Please confirm basis for social interest / wellbeing test</p>	<p><i>Please select one of the following:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Current Use and continuing use</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recent Past and potential Future Use in next five years</p>
<p>Current Use of the asset</p> <p><i>See above notes. The use for social interests and/or wellbeing must not be ancillary to the main use.</i></p>	
<p>Recent Use</p> <p>If current use is not being used as the reason(s) for nomination please provide details and evidence of how it is being used</p>	



PART E: ABOUT THE OWNER / OWNERS OF THE ASSET

All owners who have an interest in the asset will be sent information provided in Part D.

Please provide information which helps to clarify the current ownership of the asset. It will be helpful to include details of both freehold owners and leasehold owners.

If there are also regular licence occupiers using the asset please also provide details of their names, addresses and use.

Names of the current occupants (if known)	
Freehold owner <i>include name and address and details where known</i>	
Leasehold owner(s) <i>include name and address and details where known</i> <i>If the asset is let on a lease and/or licence please include full details of all interested parties who occupy the asset (or any part thereof).#</i>	



Licence occupier(s) using the asset *include name and address and details where known*

If the asset is let on a lease and/or licence please include full details of all interested parties who occupy the asset (or any part thereof).



This part to be completed by NNC staff only

Reference no
.....

Date Nomination Form received
.....

Date of Acknowledgement of Nomination Form
.....

Date Owner of asset informed of Nomination
.....

Date Nomination accepted/rejected
.....

Date of entry on the List
.....

Date of Review (if applicable)
.....

Notes



Appendix B

Guidance notes for voluntary and community groups interested in nominating Assets of Community Value

The Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) is part of **the Localism Act 2011**.

In neighbourhoods across the country there are buildings and amenities that are important to the communities that use them – a village shop, a post office, a pub, a community centre, a recreation ground or a library, for instance. The closure or sale of these places can create lasting damage to communities.

Under the Localism Act, voluntary and community organisations can nominate an asset to be included on a list of 'Assets of Community Value'. North Northamptonshire Council will manage the lists of successful and unsuccessful nominations for the Unitary. Both lists will be published on our website and available on request.

You may nominate assets by completing a nomination form; **this can be posted to you, downloaded from our website or completed electronically**. These guidance notes are designed to help you complete the form.

PART A: ABOUT YOU

In this section, you need to provide basic information about you as the contact person representing the applicant organisation. North Northamptonshire Council will use this information to contact you directly if there are any questions relating to your nomination and to give a decision on whether your nomination is accepted or rejected. Please confirm that you have been nominated to represent this organisation.

PART B: ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION

North Northamptonshire Council will need to understand how your organisation is set up to see if your organisation is eligible to nominate. The criteria for eligibility have been set by the Government and are set out in the **Localism Act and the Regulations**.

Eligibility

Only **voluntary and community organisations** with a **local connection**, in addition to Parish Councils in England (and Community Councils in Wales) will have the right to make community nominations of assets to be included on the list.

A 'local voluntary and community body' is defined as a body, other than a public or local authority, which may be incorporated or unincorporated, must not be run primarily for profit, and must have a primary purpose concerned with the local authority area, or the neighbourhood in which the asset is situated where this is in more than one authority's area. In practical terms, this means your organisation must be one of the following:



North Northamptonshire Council

- a) A body designated as a neighbourhood forum pursuant to section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- b) A Parish Council;
- c) An unincorporated body -



Whose members include at least 21 individuals, and

- Which does not distribute any surplus it makes to its members;
- d) A charity;
- e) A company limited by guarantee which does not distribute any surplus it makes to its members;
- f) An industrial and provident society which does not distribute any surplus it makes to its members (defined as a body registered or deemed to be registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 which meets one of the conditions in section 1 of that Act) ; or
- g) A Community Interest Company.

Local connection

Please provide evidence that your organisation has a connection to the local area. This means:

A body other than a Parish Council has a local connection with land in a local authority's area if –

(a) The body's activities are wholly or partly concerned –

- with the local authority's area or
- with a neighbouring authority's area;

(b) Any surplus it makes is wholly or partly applied –

- For the benefit of the local authority's area, or
- For the benefit of a neighbouring authority's area; and

c) A Parish Council has a local connection with land in another parish council's area if any part of the boundary of the first council's area is also part of the boundary of the other council's area. A Parish Council's area is within the local authority's area, but is not in any Parish Council's area if –

- the Council's area is within the local authority's area or;
- any part of the boundary of the council's area is also part of the boundary of the local authority's area.

You can include further evidence as part of your submission in the attachment section of the form.

North Northamptonshire Council would like to see documentary evidence of your organisation's status. This is particularly important for organisations that are un-constituted community groups, as only groups with 21 or more members are eligible to nominate.

Nominated assets may be owned by anybody, including the Council and the Crown. A building or other land should be considered an asset of community value if:

- Its actual current use furthers the social wellbeing and interests of the local community, or a use in the recent past has done so; and
- That use is not an ancillary one, i.e. of secondary purpose; and
- For land in current community use it is realistic to think that there will continue to be a use which furthers social wellbeing and interests, or for land in community use in the recent past it is realistic to think that there will be community use within the next 5 years (in either case, whether or not that use is exactly the same as the present or past); and
- It does not fall within one of the exemptions e.g. residential premises and land held with them.

What does social interest and social wellbeing mean?

Social interests include:

- (a) cultural interests
- (b) recreational interests
- (c) sporting interests.

Wellbeing is the things that people value in their life that contribute to them reaching their potential (economic, social or environmental).

Full details of the types of assets that are excluded from listing can be found in the **Localism Act and the Regulations**.

Please attach any information e.g. a photo or map which will help to identify the asset if it does not have a street address. Please also include details of the asset's proposed boundaries.

Please note: it is very important that you provide clear and unambiguous details of the asset's boundaries, so that North Northamptonshire Council can correctly identify the exact extent of the land or building that you wish



North Northamptonshire Council

to nominate. Uncertainty over the extent and boundaries of the asset may delay your nomination.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After receiving your application, we will make a decision on whether to accept your nomination within eight weeks, in accordance with the provisions set out in the Localism Act 2011.

North Northamptonshire Council will contact you if we have any questions or queries about your nomination.

We are required to inform the owner of the land, any freeholders or leaseholders and the current occupants of the land of your nomination. They have the right to appeal against the listing.

Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) Process A Quick Guide

1. Nomination Process

Stage.1 – NOMINATION

Nomination to list an asset is recommended using NNC nomination form, but it can be in other written format provided all the required information is submitted.
Refer to the Contact details on the web site.

Stage.2 – CONSIDERATION

Asset owners will be notified of asset nomination.
An initial checking process will be conducted by an Officer Panel based on criteria specified by the Council and representations will be sought from the Parish Council, ward members and the owner of the property.

Stage.3 – DECISION

The Council will write to the nominating organisation and owner of the asset outlining their decision. This is called a 'Decision Notification Letter'

**This process will be completed within
8 weeks of receipt of nominations**



2. Review and Appeals Process

Stage.1 – INTERNAL REVIEW

The asset (i.e. land or building) owner can send a request to lodge a review of the Council's listing decision within 8 weeks of the written notification of listing.

Refer to the Contact details on the web site

Upon receipt of the request for a review the owner will be sent further information on the process for the review.

The outcome of the review will be communicated in writing to the owner and include the reasons for the decision made.

If the Review finds in favour of the asset owner then the asset is removed from the list

If the Review finds in favour of the original listing decision then the Owner has the option to take their appeal to First Tier Tribunal

The Council will complete this review within 6 weeks of receipt of the review request, or a longer period by agreement of both parties



3. Relevant Disposal Process

Interim Moratorium Period

Owners of listed assets will need to contact propertyservices.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk to advise if they intend to market a relevant disposal.

This triggers an Interim Moratorium Period of six weeks. The Council will contact the nominator and publish the owner's intention to dispose of the asset on its website so that relevant community interest groups can consider whether they would like to place a bid for the asset

Full Moratorium Period

If a relevant community interest group wants to place an offer, the moratorium period is extended to six months from the date of the owners notice, enable the group to develop offer to bid purchase offer.

Protected Period

Following the end of the Full Moratorium Period, the owner is free to dispose of their asset without further delay within 12 months. This is called the 'Protected Period'.

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Assets of Community Value - Nomination Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can nominate an asset of community value?

Only certain groups are eligible to nominate an asset, these are:-

- 1 A Parish Council or
- 2 A voluntary or community body with a local connection

The voluntary or community body must have a local connection. The regulations conform a voluntary or community body means:

- (a) A designated neighbourhood forum
- (b) An unincorporated body with at least 21 individual local members which does not distribute any surplus to its members
- (c) A charity
- (d) A company limited by guarantee
- (e) A parish council but no other public or local authority
- (f) An industrial and provident society who meets conditions in section 1 of the 1965 Act and which does not distribute any surplus to its members

The Asset of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 regulation 4 gives further information. Please note that if a nomination is made by an organisation that does not meet the required criteria then the nomination cannot proceed, there is no discretion available to the Council to waive these requirements.

2. Do I have to use the Councils nomination form?

No – but a nomination must be made in writing and should contain the information required by the Councils nomination form.

3. What supporting information should I include with my nomination form?

There is quite a lot of information required but the application form should guide you through each stage.

It is important to include details showing the nominator is qualified to make a community nomination. Include a proposed boundary plan of the property or land and information about current ownership, for instance is it leased out, are there any booking systems for hire.

The form will also ask for details that demonstrate that the nominated asset is or has in the recent past been used to further the social wellbeing or the social interests of the local community. This use must be the primary use of the asset.



Further details are required to demonstrate that it is realistic to think that such a use if current may continue, or if it was in the recent past, may occur at a time in the next five years.

4. What type of evidence should I submit to demonstrate a current main use or recent past main use?

Examples include:

- The type of activity and policies/approach of the organised activity.
- Number of people using the activity and proportion of local community making use of the property.
- Information on any community consultation in relation to the nomination
- Supporting evidence from any consultation including ward members, local stakeholders.
- Equalities impact, accessibility and inclusive information, how does the facility meet these needs
- Are any of the community services referred to in council policy such as the local plan, cultural and community policies, the local plan etc.
- What will the impact be on the local community if the asset closes?

5. What evidence should I submit to demonstrate that this use can continue?

- Tenancy information including leases and licences.
- Community organisations business plans that show the asset as being required as part of their business plan.
- Financial information showing the community use is viable and will continue to be viable with continued use of the asset.
- Future booking information.

6. Is the Council allowed to ask for further information if there is not enough evidence submitted?

Yes, the Council may ask for further information to be provided by the nominator, but it is not for the Council to gather supporting information directly.

7. Who will the Council notify following receipt of a qualifying nomination?

- a. The owner, leaseholder and or any other occupiers/interest in the property
- b. Local Ward Members
- c. Other users of the Property or Land, such as community groups that hire the property



d. Internal departments within the council.

8. Is the council allowed to engage with the nominator and the owner following a nomination being registered?

Yes, further information can be requested from both parties.

9. How does the council make the decision to list an asset?

The initial assessment will be made by a team of officers within the council, led by the Assistant Director of Assets and Environment. We have produced an evaluation guide which the panel will use to check each part of the nomination and a score is applied. A copy of the evaluation form can be found on the Councils web site.

10. If the nomination fails, can I renew the nomination?

Yes, provided there is additional information other than that already submitted to be considered. Repeated nominations where a listing has failed may be considered vexatious.

11. What does the Council do when a decision is reached?

We will notify the nominator, and the owner, and update the list published on the Councils web site.

We will also register a charge on the property with local land charges where the nomination is approved.

The owner will be provided with advice on the appeals process.

12. Can I appeal the decision?

The nominator has no right under the regulations to request a review or appeal of a refusal to list an asset.

The owner may challenge the decision to list an asset, there is a two-stage process, and is detailed on the council website.

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Assets of Community Value - Moratorium

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have been notified that the owner has put the asset of community value up for sale - what happens next?

If the owner wants to sell the freehold of an asset of community value or grant a leasehold over 25 years or assigns a lease where the original terms was 25 years or more then these situations would be relevant disposals for the purposes of the Localism Act.

The owner must notify the Council if one of these situations occur and the notice will trigger a six-week moratorium on the disposal. The Council will update the asset of community register, notify the original nominator for the asset, and publish the details in the local area.

2. What are the next steps for a community interest groups?

The published information will confirm the six-week moratorium period during which a community organisation during which a community interest group may write to the Council and express an interest as a potential bidder.

Only certain community interest groups qualify to submit a written expression of interest. These are the local parish council or a body with a local connection incorporated as: a charity, a company limited by guarantee, an industrial and provident society or a community interest company. Expressions of interest cannot be accepted from an unincorporated body.

If an expression of interest to be treated as a potential bidder is received the moratorium period is extended to six months from the date of the notification notice. During this time the community organisation will be able to discuss the bid with the owner.

The council does not get involved in negotiations directly between the owner and the community organisation.

3. What are the next steps for the owner?

A moratorium of six weeks is put on the disposal, the six weeks commence from the date of notification. If a community interest group contacts the Council and expresses an interest in bidding for the asset, the moratorium is extended to a total of six months from the date of the notification during which time the asset cannot be sold.



4. Must the owner discuss the disposal with the community organisation?

No. The Council's only obligation is to operate the regime, and it cannot oblige an owner to negotiate with the interest group, nor require the owner to dispose of the asset to the community interest group.

5. What happens at the end of the six-month moratorium period?

The owner is free to dispose of the site and there is a twelve-month period preventing any interference with this disposal. Once the protected period has ended should the asset not have been sold then the asset is subject once more to the regime.

In practice sales can include contracts for sale, sales that are condition on a series of events and other mechanisms. It can be complicated but further information would be provided subject to individual circumstances.



Community Right to Bid

**Application to nominate an asset of community value
evaluation form**

Property and/or land address _____

ACV Reference Number _____

Item	Content	Comments
1.	<p>Is the nomination made by a qualifying nominator:-</p> <p>(1) A parish Council (2) A voluntary or community body with a local connection (a body designated as a neighbourhood forum or an unincorporated body with at least 21 individual local members which does not distribute any of its surplus to its members)</p>	
2.	<p>Does the nomination include the required information about the asset?</p> <p>The full address of the property or land and a proposed boundary. Has the nominator provided ownership and leasehold information including names and last known addresses. Are there any other known occupiers? Is the nominated property or land outside one of the categories that cannot be listed as identified in the Act</p>	
3.	<p>Is there sufficient information provided to conclude that the asset's current or recent main use furthers social wellbeing and community interests, and this is primarily use of the facility</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Evidence or community use at the facility, including timetables, period of use, numbers attending.</p>	



	<p>Information on the social use such as particular . Lists of the type of activity and the approaches/policies of the community organisations. Inclusive and accessibility benefits for the community Equalities impact on different groups in the community Supporting evidence such as consultation and stakeholder support Information on the impact to the community should the facility close. Evidence that the facility supports Council policy such as the corporate plan, neighbourhood plans and the local plan</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Consultees</p> <p>Ward Councillors and other community consultees</p> <p>Do the responses support the evidence above or in other way contribute to number 3 above</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Is there sufficient information to determine whether it is realistic to think that the facility can continue to have community use as its main use that will further the social wellbeing and community interests?</p> <p>Is the current use restricted in any way and if so how will this be rectified by the community?</p> <p>For example, if the building is closed provide information about how this will be addressed. If there are any property condition issues can these be identified and how will these issues be rectified, is it possible for the community to address these issues if they are not in control of the property. Is there sufficient funding to pay for the work.</p>	



	<p>Are there other accessibility issues that can be addressed in a reasonable timeframe and with adequate funding? What are the plans to bring the facility back into use?</p> <p>Is the facility subject to any changes in planning policy for example has planning permission been granted for a change of use?</p>	
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Notes:-

The above process to take no more than eight weeks time from receipt of the nomination to determine whether to not to list the asset.

Decision Making Panel Names & Role in the Council

Panel Summary & Recommendation

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Date: _____

Recommendation Approved by:

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Date: _____

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