

**West Northamptonshire Joint
Planning Unit**

**West Northamptonshire
Strategic Plan
Sustainability Appraisal
Scoping Report**

Final report

Prepared by LUC
June 2019

West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

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West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Sustainability Appraisal
June 2019

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Section 1

Introduction

West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (the JPU) commissioned LUC in May 2019 to prepare a Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)) of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.

1.1 The Strategic Plan will replace and in some cases retain the strategic policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1). West Northamptonshire comprises the area covered by three local authorities – Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire Councils (See **Figure 1.1**).

1.2 SA is an assessment process designed to consider and communicate the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies, including their alternatives. SA iteratively informs the plan-making process by helping to refine the contents of such documents, so that they maximise the benefits of sustainable development and avoid or at least minimise the potential for adverse effects.

1.3 The purpose of a Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the SA of the Strategic Plan and to set out the assessment framework for undertaking the later stages of the SA.

1.4 The Scoping Report starts by setting out the policy context for the preparation of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, before describing the current and likely future environmental, social and economic conditions across West Northamptonshire. This contextual information is used to identify the key sustainability issues and opportunities that the Strategic Plan can address. The key sustainability issues and opportunities are then used to develop a framework of SA Objectives used to appraise the likely significant effects of the constituent parts of the Strategic Plan, including strategic policies, site allocations and development management

policies. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on this framework in particular:

1. Whether the scope of the SA is appropriate as set out considering the role of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan to help meet and manage West Northamptonshire's growth needs and development ambition.
2. Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA policy context that should be included.
3. Whether the baseline information provided is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.
4. Whether there are any additional SA issues relevant to the Strategic Plan that should be included.
5. Whether the SA Framework is appropriate and includes a suitable set of SA objectives and site-based assumptions for assessing the effects of the options included within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and reasonable alternatives.

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan

1.5 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) was adopted by the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 15th December 2014. The Joint Core Strategy sets out the planning strategy for the West Northamptonshire area for the plan period up to 2029.

1.6 Strategic policies in the Joint Core Strategy will be reviewed and replaced by a Strategic Plan for West Northamptonshire. In October 2018 a Local Development Scheme (LDS) was published jointly by Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire Councils with support from Northamptonshire County Council and the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. It sets out the programme for the production of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan which it is intended will review and replace the policies that address the strategic priorities of the area in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, December 2014.

1.7 It should be noted that each of the districts that make up West Northamptonshire also have an individual local plan which provides detailed planning policies to manage and guide development across each Council area.

Approach to Scoping

1.8 The following sets out the tasks involved in the scoping stage.

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

1.9 This Scoping Report fulfils the requirements set out above with a view to establishing the likely significant effects of constituent parts of the Strategic Plan in isolation and in combination. In accordance with National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), published on-line by the Government, the Scoping Report is proportionate and relevant to the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, focussing on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects.

Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

1.10 Table 1.1 below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan). This table will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met through the SA process.

Table 1.1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Environmental Report	
<p>Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – implementing the plan or programme; and – reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. <p>(Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2).</p>	<p>The full SA Report produced to accompany consultation on the Strategic Plan will constitute the 'environmental report' as well, and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</p>	<p>Chapters 1 to 10.</p>
<p>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.</p>	
<p>The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</p>	
<p>Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.</p>	
<p>The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.</p>	
<p>The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) biodiversity; (b) population; (c) human health; (d) fauna; (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (i) climatic factors; (j) material assets; (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (l) landscape; and (m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l). 	
<p>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</p>	<p>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</p>
<p>An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Consultation	
<p>When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(5))</p>	<p>This Scoping Report will be published on the Joint Planning Unit's website for a minimum of five weeks and the three statutory bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England) informed of the consultation.</p>
<p>Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with regulation 12 and its accompanying report ("the relevant documents") shall be made available for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation.</p> <p>As soon as reasonable practical after the preparation of the relevant documents, the responsible authority shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – send a copy of those documents to each consultation body; – take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority's opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned, required under the Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Directive ("the public consultees"); – inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be viewed, and the period within which, opinions must be sent. – The period referred to in paragraph (2) (d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents. <p>(Regulation 13 (1), (2), and (3))</p>	<p>Public consultation on the Strategic Plan and accompanying SA Report will take place as the Strategic Plan is developed.</p>
<p>Where a responsible authority, other than the Secretary of State, is of the opinion that a plan or programme for which it is the responsible authority is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State, it shall, as soon as reasonable practicable after forming that opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – notify the Secretary of State of its opinion and of the reasons for it; and – supply the Secretary of State with a copy of the plan or programme concerned, and of the accompanying environmental report. <p>(Regulation 14 (1))</p>	<p>Unlikely to be relevant to the Strategic Plan, as there will be no effects beyond the UK.</p>
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultation into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)	
<p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme for which an environmental assessment has been carried out under these Regulations, the responsible authority shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – make a copy of the plan or programme and its accompanying environmental report available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge. <p>(Regulation 16(1))</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the responsible authority shall inform (i) the consultation bodies; (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of state, the Secretary of State, 	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>

SEA Regulations' Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – that the plan or programme has been adopted, and a statement containing the following particulars: – how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme; – how the environmental report has been taken into account; – how opinions expressed in response to: (i) the invitation in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account; – how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account; – the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and – the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme. 	
Monitoring	
<p>The responsible authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action.</p> <p>(Regulation 17(1))</p>	<p>Requirement will be met after adoption of the new Strategic Plan.</p>

Structure of the Scoping Report

1.11 This section describes the background to the production of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan and the requirement to undertake SA and other assessment processes.

1.12 Section 2 describes the relationship of the Strategic Plan with other plans and programmes, including key international and national policy.

1.13 The remainder of this Scoping Report is structured around a set of SA subject areas designed to draw out the full range of possible sustainability effects generated by the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan, including all the SEA topics listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (2004).

1.14 Each section sets out the policy context and baseline for each SA subject area. The subject area chapters are as follows:

- **Section 3:** Population Growth, Health and Wellbeing.
- **Section 4:** Economy
- **Section 5:** Transport Connections and Travel Habits.
- **Section 6:** Air, Land and Water Quality.
- **Section 7:** Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
- **Section 8:** Biodiversity

- **Section 9:** Historic Environment

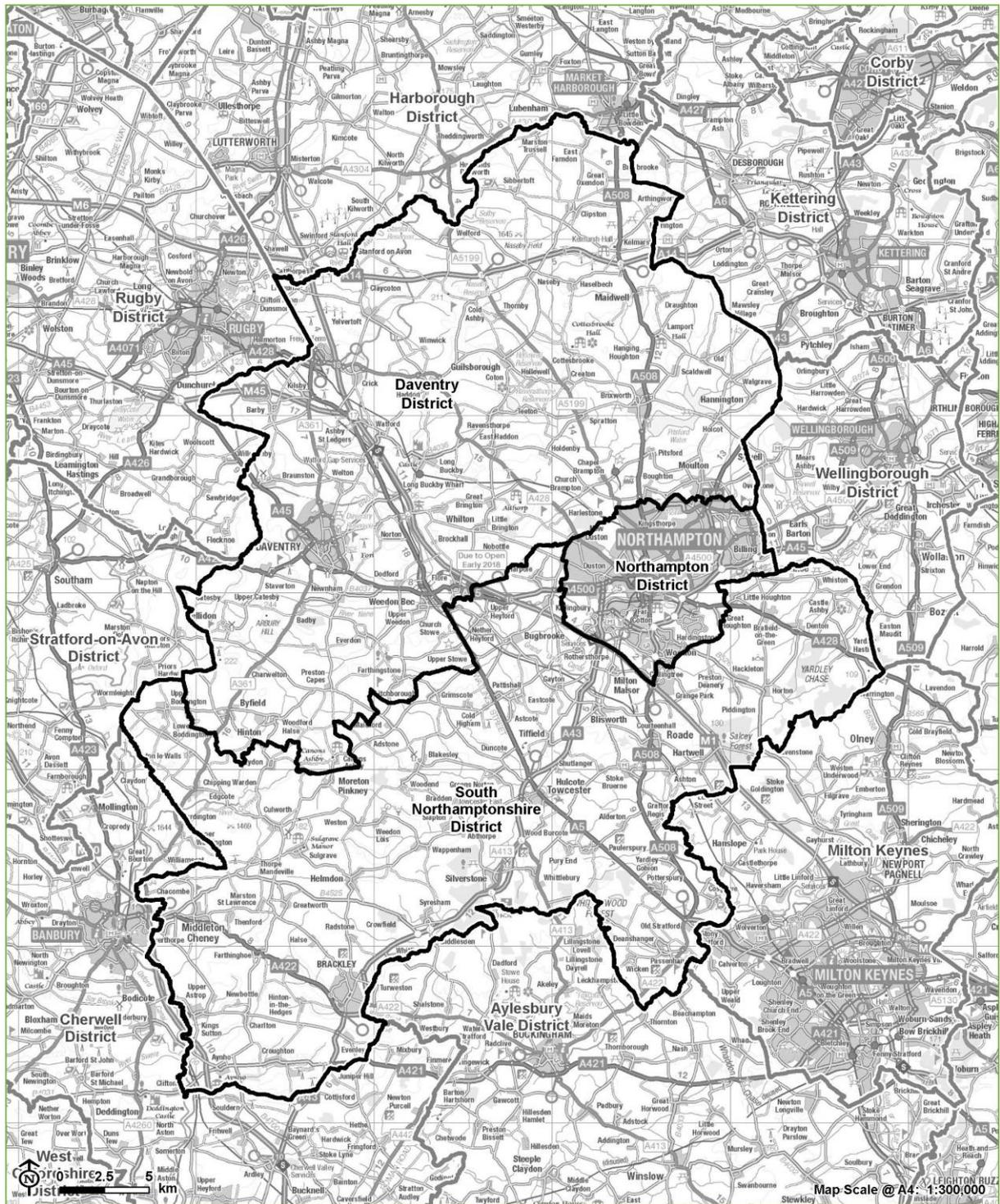
- **Section 10:** Landscape.

1.15 SEA Guidance recognises that data gaps will exist, but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis.

1.16 Relevant baseline information will be updated during the SA process as and when data is published.

1.17 The end of each section highlights the key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire and sets out their likely evolution without the new Strategic Plan. **Section 10** sets out the SA Framework and explains how this has been developed.

Figure 1.1: Location of West Northamptonshire



- West Northamptonshire
- Neighbouring local authority

West Northamptonshire
Strategic Plan Sustainability
Appraisal: Scoping Report



Figure 1.1: Location of West Northamptonshire



Section 2

Relationship with other plans and programmes

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC), as transposed into law in England by the SEA Regulations. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Strategic Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

2.2 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance¹), whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken in West Northamptonshire. From here on, the term ‘SA’ should therefore be taken to mean ‘SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations’.

2.3 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A, as shown below.

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.4 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2010² and again in 2012³ and 2017⁴. The Regulations translate Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) and 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) into UK law. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.

2.5 The HRA will be undertaken separately but the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of potential development locations on biodiversity).

Key International Plans, Policies and Programmes

2.6 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC), as transposed into law in England by the SEA Regulations⁵. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Strategic Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

2.7 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance⁶), whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken in West Northamptonshire. From here on, the term ‘SA’ should therefore be taken to mean ‘SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations’.

National Planning Policy Framework

2.8 The most significant national policy context for the Strategic Plan is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was originally published in 2012 and revised in 2019⁷. The Strategic Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which states:

“Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.”

2.9 The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that plans should:

- *“Be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;*
- *Be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable;*
- *Be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees;*
- *Contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals;*
- *Be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and*
- *Serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area”.*

2.10 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- *“Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;*
- *Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);*
- *Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and*
- *Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”*

2.11 The NPPF also promotes well-designed places and development, and plans should *“at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations.”*

2.12 Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development,

² The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843. From 1 April 2010, these were consolidated and replaced by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI No. 2010/490). Note that no substantive changes to existing policies or procedures have been made in the new version.

³ The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012. Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 1927.

⁴ *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 1012) consolidate the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments.

⁵ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1633)

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

including qualitative aspects such as design of places, landscapes, and development.

2.13 The NPPF also states that:

“Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).”

Other Relevant Plans and Programmes

Local Plans Part 2 for West Northamptonshire Authorities

2.14 The Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) sets the strategic planning policy framework for the three local authorities that make up West Northamptonshire. In addition, each of the three authorities is in the latter stages of preparing their individual Local Plan Parts 2.

Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) for Daventry District 2011-2029

2.15 The Part 2 Settlements and Countryside Local Plan for Daventry District follows on from the adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS) in December 2014. The Part 2 Plan helps to further guide planning decisions in the area and, once adopted, will form part of the Development Plan for the District in line with the WNJCS and neighbourhood development plans. This Part 2 Plan also provides policies for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show-people⁸.

Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

2.16 Northampton Local Plan 2, when adopted, will replace all the remaining saved policies from the previous Northampton Local Plan 1997 and update the policies contained in the Northampton Central Area Action Plan which was adopted in 2013. It too will be in conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and covers the entire Northampton Borough for the period up to 2029. It will include development management policies which will provide policy directions for sustainable development, housing delivery,

retention and expansion of employment opportunities, supporting the growth and changing role of the town centre, providing commercial and leisure enterprises as well as protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment. It will also include site specific allocations for various types of developments and uses that are considered suitable for these sites⁹.

South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan

2.17 The Part 2 Settlements and Countryside Local Plan for South Northamptonshire builds on the policies of the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2014) and covers the whole of the administrative area of South Northamptonshire, including areas identified within the Joint Core Strategy as being required to meet Northampton's needs. The Part 2 Plan aims to further guide planning decisions in the area and, once adopted will form part of the Development Plan for the District with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. The Plan also provides a policy for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People¹⁰.

Northampton Central Area Action Plan

2.18 The Central Area Action Plan provides a vision for Northampton Centre by meeting the needs of communities in the Northampton area and beyond. Northampton is both the principal urban area in Northamptonshire and a regional centre for economic growth, commerce, retail and leisure. The Action Plan aims to safeguard existing retail and employment in and around the town centre and in particular, the redevelopment of major sites which will present an opportunity for developing and improving the provision for employment, retail and other town centre uses¹¹.

Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

2.19 The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is the land use planning strategy for minerals and waste related development in the county. It provides the basis for investment in new minerals and waste development in Northamptonshire, and where and why it should be located within the County. The Plan considers the impact and design of new minerals and waste development, and focuses on how

⁸ Daventry District Council (2018) Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) for Daventry District 2011-2029 [Online] Available at: <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-policy/part-2-local-plan/>

⁹ Northampton Borough Council (2019) Northampton Local Plan Part 2 [Online] Available at: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/10951/01-final-northampton-local-plan-part-2-nbc-2019>

¹⁰ South Northamptonshire District Council (2018) South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/downloads/download/636/part-2-local-plan-submission-draft-regulation-19>

¹¹ Northampton Borough Council (2013) Northampton Central Area Action Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200205/planning-for-the-future/1748/central-area-action-plan-caap>

developments can least impact the surrounding land use and the wider community¹².

Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan

2.20 An overarching strategy document which sets out what the County Council's strategic aims and goals for Transportation in Northamptonshire. The following objectives form the foundation of the Transport plan and reflect the main impacts that transport can have on the wider community and form the basis upon which the policies and programmes contained in this Plan have been developed;

- Create a transport system that supports and encourages growth and plans for the future impacts of growth, whilst successfully providing benefits for the County.
- Help to maintain and create safe, successful, strong, cohesive and sustainable communities where residents are actively involved in shaping the places where they live.
- Ensure the people of Northamptonshire have the information and the options available to them to be able to choose the best form of transport for each journey that they make.
- Create a transport system that supports economic growth, regeneration and a thriving local economy and successfully provides for population and business growth.
- Deliver a transport system that minimises and wherever possible reduces the effect of travel on the built, natural and historic environment.
- Encourage clear priorities for investment and focus on value for money by prioritising where money is spent and how it can be beneficial for the county as a whole¹³.

Neighbourhood Plans

2.21 The Localism Act (2011) sought to move decision-making away from central government and towards local communities. Part of this included the introduction of Neighbourhood Planning.

2.22 Neighbourhood Plans must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF and, once adopted, Neighbourhood Plans form part of the statutory development plan for the district or borough within which they are located. The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of Neighbourhood Plan-making, stating that:

“Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area”

2.23 The NPPF also states that Neighbourhood Plans “can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development”, but they should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies in a Local Plan covering the neighbourhood area or undermine those strategic policies. Within this context, Neighbourhood Plans typically include policies to deliver:

- Site allocations for small and medium-sized housing.
- The provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level.
- Establishing design principles.
- Conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment.

2.24 There are currently 31 designated neighbourhood plan areas and 2 in progress across the area of Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire. The in progress neighbourhood plans include Queens Park and Semilong & Trinity both located in Northampton. Greens Norton, Harpole, Middleton Cheney and Yardley Gobion, all located in South Northamptonshire, were ‘made’ 2012 and Kislingbury in 2014. Ashton in South Northamptonshire and Duston in Northampton were both ‘made’ in 2015. A number of neighbourhood plans were ‘made’ in 2016, including; Spring Borough in Northampton, Blisworth in South Northamptonshire and Barby & Onley, Brixworth, Flore, Kilsby, Spratton and Haddon in Daventry. Growing Together, Braunston, Welford, Hackleton, Nether Heyford, Pattishall, Paulerspury, Roade and Silverstone were ‘made’ in 2017. Lastly, Crick Village, Woodford Cum Membris, Milton Malsor and Welton and Badby Parish were ‘made’ in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Local Plans in adjoining local authorities

2.25 West Northamptonshire is bordered by the following local authority areas for which the following local plan documents are adopted or in preparation:

- Kettering lies North East of West Northamptonshire and makes up part of North Northamptonshire. The emerging Kettering Borough Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan¹⁴ sets out the housing and employment requirements for 10,400 dwellings and aims to safeguard existing employment land at specific sites respectively.
- Wellingborough is located to the East of West Northamptonshire, and is also located with the North Northamptonshire Planning Unit. The Wellingborough

¹² Northamptonshire County Council (2017) Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/Documents/MWLP%20Update.Cabinet%20Report.Adoption.Appendix%202.May%2017.pdf>

¹³ Northamptonshire County Council (2012) Northamptonshire Transportation Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Transportation%20Plan%20-%20Fit%20for%20Purpose.pdf>

¹⁴ Kettering Borough Council (2019) Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (EMERGING) [Online] Available at: http://kettering.limehouse.co.uk/portal/draft_ssp2

Borough Local Plan Part 2¹⁵ was adopted in February 2019 and makes provision for a minimum of 7,000 net dwellings and allocated no employment land.

- To the south east Milton Keynes has adopted the Plan: MK 2016- 2031¹⁶ which makes provision for the development of 26,500 net dwellings and an addition 282.1 ha of land for business uses.
- Aylesbury Vale south of West Northamptonshire, Local Plan proposed submission¹⁷ was submitted to an independent planning inspector in December 2017 and sets out the requirement for 27,000 net homes and
- South west of West Northamptonshire, Cherwell District Council adopted Local Plan 2011- 2031¹⁸ makes provision for a total of 22,840 housing and employment development centred in and around Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington.
- Stratford-On-Avon, west of Northamptonshire, adopted their core strategy 2011-2031¹⁹ in 2016 and sets out the spatial framework for delivering development in the district which includes the delivery of at least 14,600 additional homes and 35 hectares of employment land.
- Rugby is located north west of West Northamptonshire and it's Local Plan is currently undergoing examination with the planning inspector's report published on 7th May 2019. The existing core strategy (2011)²⁰ sets out the requirement for the provision of 67 ha of employment land and a housing trajectory of 12,226 dwellings.
- Harborough north of West Northamptonshire adopted their Local Plan²¹ in 2019 which sets out land for a minimum of 3,975 new homes and a minimum of 59 ha of employment land.

Oxford-Cambridge Arc

2.26 In March 2016, the National Infrastructure Commission was asked by the Government to consider how to maximise the potential of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford

corridor as a single, knowledge-intensive cluster that competes on a global stage, protecting the area's high quality environment, and securing the homes and jobs that the area needs. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc forms a broad arc around the north and west of London's Green Belt, encompassing Northampton, Daventry and Wellingborough to the north, and Luton and Aylesbury to the south.

2.27 The Commission identified opportunities to create well-designed, well-connected new communities and deliver one million new homes and jobs in the area by 2050, while respecting the natural environment and without making changes to existing Green Belt protections. Central to achieving this vision are completion of the new East-West Rail line connecting Oxford and Cambridge by 2030 and accelerating the development and construction of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway²².

2.28 The Government has recently published a paper setting out their ambitions for the Arc (geographical area located between Oxford and Cambridge) together with a joint declaration agreed by local authorities and local enterprise partnerships across the area. The Government wishes to maximise the economic potential of the Arc. To achieve this it will require a substantial increase in the delivery of new homes and substantial investment in new infrastructure and technology. The Government has given a clear commitment that this will not be at the expense of the environment.

2.29 The joint declaration sets out four thematic areas:

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

2.30 Government will be preparing, with local stakeholders, a spatial vision or strategy for the Arc as a whole²³.

¹⁵ Borough Council of Wellingborough (2019) The Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough [Online] Available at: http://wellingborough-consult.timehouse.co.uk/portal/wellingboroughplan/pbw_adopted

¹⁶ Milton Keynes Council (2019) Plan: MK 2016-2031 [Online] Available at: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/plan-mk>

¹⁷ Aylesbury Vale District Council (2017) Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Proposed Submission [Online] Available at: https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/Submission-VALP-%20High-res2.pdf

¹⁸ Cherwell District Council (2015) The Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 [Online] Available at: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/45/adopted-cherwell-local-plan-2011-2031-part-1-incorporating-policy-bicester-13-re-adopted-on-19-december-2016>

¹⁹ Stratford-On-Avon District Council (2016) Core Strategy 2011-2031 [Online] Available at: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/templates/server/document-relay.cfm?doc=173518&name=SDC%20CORE%20STRATEGY%202011%202031%20July%202016.pdf>

²⁰ Rugby Borough Council (2011) Core Strategy [Online] Available at: https://www.rugby.gov.uk/directory_record/934/core_strategy

²¹ Harborough District Council (2019) Local Plan 2011-2031 [Online] Available at: https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/file/5714/harborough_local_plan_2011-2031_-_adopted_april_2019

²² National Infrastructure Commission (Nov 2017) Partnering for Prosperity: a new deal for the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Arc

²³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) The Oxford-Cambridge Arc [Online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799993/OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf

Section 3

Population, Health and Wellbeing

Policy Context

International

3.1 United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the ‘Aarhus Convention’) (1998): Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.

3.2 United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration) (2002): Sets a broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

3.3 European Environmental Noise Directive (2002): Sets out a hierarchy for the avoidance, prevention and reduction in adverse effects associated with environmental noise, including noise generated by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.

National

3.4 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)²⁴ contains the following:

- The NPPF promotes healthy, inclusive and safe places which; promote social integration, are safe and accessible and enable and support healthy lifestyles.
- One of the core planning principles is to *“take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community”*.
- The plan should *“contain policies to optimise the use of land in their area and meet as much of the identified need for housing as possible”*. To determine the

²⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

minimum number of homes needed strategic policies should be informed by the application of the standard method set out in national planning guidance, or a justified alternative approach.

- The framework states that “*access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation is important for the health and well-being of communities*”.
- The NPPF states “*good design is a key aspect of sustainable development*” and requires development supported by planning decisions to function well and add to the overall quality of the area over its lifetime. The importance for planning decisions to result in development which is of a quality which incorporates good architecture and appropriate and effective landscaping as to promote visual attractiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places is emphasised.
- The NPPF promotes the retention and enhancement of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports, cultural venues and places of worship.
- The framework also seeks to ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.
- There is a need set out in the document to take a “*proactive, positive and collaborative approach*” to bring forward development that will “*widen choice in education*”, including sufficient choice of school places.
- Paragraph 72 states that There is a need set out in the document to take a “*proactive, positive and collaborative approach*” to bring forward development that will “*widen choice in education*”, including sufficient choice of school places.
- Paragraph 72 states that “*The supply of large numbers of new homes can often be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns, provided they are well located and designed and supported by the necessary infrastructure and facilities*”. As such the NPPF provides support for the identification of locations which are suitable for this type of development in a manner which would help to meet needs identified in a sustainable way.

3.5 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)²⁵ contains the following:

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

3.6 Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report Ready for Ageing?²⁶ : warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report states “longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises”. The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

3.7 Fair Society, Healthy Lives²⁷ : Investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is “*overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities*”.

3.8 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites²⁸ : Sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, replacing the older version published in March 2012. The Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

3.9 Housing White Paper 2017 (Fixing our broken housing market)²⁹ : Sets out ways to address the shortfall in affordable homes and boost housing supply. The White Paper focuses on the following:

- Planning for the right homes in the right places – Higher densities in appropriate areas, protecting the Green Belt while making more land available for housing by maximising the contribution from brownfield and surplus public land, regenerating estates, releasing more small

²⁵ Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

²⁶ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] Available at:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldselect/ldpublic/140/140.pdf>

²⁷ The Marmot Review (2011) Fair Society, Healthy Lives. [online] Available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report.pdf>

²⁸ Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning policy for traveller sites [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457420/Final_planning_and_travellers_policy.pdf

²⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2017) Fixing our broken housing market [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/590464/Fixing_our_broken_housing_market_-_print_ready_version.pdf

and medium-sized sites, allowing rural communities to grow and making it easier to build new settlements.

- Building homes faster – Improved speed of planning cases, ensuring infrastructure is provided and supporting developers to build out more quickly.
- Diversifying the Market – Backing small and medium-sized house builders, custom-build, institutional investors, new contractors, housing associations.
- Helping people now – supporting home ownership and providing affordable housing for all types of people, including the most vulnerable.

3.10 Laying the foundations: A housing strategy for England³⁰ : Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.

3.11 Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England³¹ : Sets out how the Government's approach to public health challenges will:

- Protect the population from health threats – led by central government, with a strong system to the frontline.
- Empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone's health and wellbeing, and tackle the wider factors that influence it.
- Focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework.
- Reflect the Government's core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier.
- Balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a 'ladder' of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation.

3.12 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment³² : Sets out goals for improving the environment

within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: using and managing land sustainably; and connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Embed an 'environmental net gain' principle for development, including housing and infrastructure.
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing:
 - Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services.
 - Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
 - 'Green' our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.
 - Make 2019 a year of action for the environment, working with Step Up To Serve and other partners to help children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.

Sub-National

3.13 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014)³³ : The Joint Core Strategy sets out a spatial portrait and strategic vision for West Northamptonshire. The strategy sets out long-term objectives for the whole of West Northamptonshire area for the plan period up to 2029, and includes strategic policies to steer and shape development.

3.14 West Northamptonshire Travellers' Accommodation Needs Study (2017)³⁴ : The primary objective of the 2016 West Northamptonshire Travellers' Accommodation Needs Study (GTAA) is to provide a robust assessment of current and future housing need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople in Daventry District, Northampton and South Northamptonshire.

³⁰HM Government (2011) Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7532/2033676.pdf

³¹HM Government (2010) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216096/dh_127424.pdf

³²HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

³³West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

³⁴West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2017) West Northamptonshire Travellers' Accommodation Needs Study [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737904>

3.15 Current housing need is a data gap and West Northamptonshire authorities will be preparing an updated calculation of housing need using the standard methodology issued by MHCLG.

Current Baseline

Population

3.16 West Northamptonshire is located within the southern part of central England, north west of Milton Keynes and is almost equidistant between London and Birmingham. It covers a large geographical area, 137,700 ha, and encompasses the administrative areas of Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire Council in the County of Northamptonshire. The area includes four towns – Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley – and the extensive rural areas within South Northamptonshire and Daventry Districts incorporating over 190 villages³⁵. It is bordered by Kettering and Wellingborough to the east, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury Vale and Cherwell to the south, Stratford-On-Avon and Rugby to the west and Harborough to the north.

3.17 West Northamptonshire has an overall population of 377,900. The land area is predominantly rural although 55% of the population lives within the urban area of Northampton. The majority of residents in Daventry and South Northamptonshire live in rural areas and the suburbs of the market towns of Brackley, Daventry and Towcester³⁶. Northampton, as the county town of Northamptonshire, is the main centre and has a population of over 212,000³⁷. Daventry, Brackley and Towcester which have populations of 25,000, 14,000 and 10,000 respectively³⁸.

3.18 The population of West Northamptonshire has an average age of 39.7, which is below the regional average but slightly above the national average. **Table 3.1** below compares the age structures of the districts within West Northamptonshire with both national and regional averages. The area on the whole has a youthful population and a low elderly population, which is opposite to national trend, although there is an expected overall increase within all ages across the UK within the next 20 years³⁹. Northamptonshire

has a slightly higher than England average proportion of 0-19 year olds and a similar proportion of people aged 65+.

Table 3.1: Average Age comparison between West Northamptonshire and both Regional and National trend

Location	Daventry	Northampton	South Northants	East Midlands	England
Average Age	40.9	37.1	41	39.9	39

3.19 Migration into the area is responsible for approximately 50% of the 1.4% population increase in the area between 2015 and 2016. The majority of migration into the area is international migration which is focussed in the urban area of Northampton. It is expected that the increase in international migration is a result of the increase in number of countries holding EU membership. In Northampton the net long term international migration rate is 10.8 per 1,000, which is considerably higher than Daventry and South Northamptonshire where the rates are 2.8 and 1.4 respectively. Northampton's average net international migration is higher than the County (5.8), regional (4.7) and national (5.6) average. The international migration is on average within the 20-36 age bracket which reflects the working population and is expected that the rates of international in migration contribute to the area's above average population growth⁴⁰. In contrast, Daventry has the highest net internal migration in 2016 and Northampton had a negative net internal migration.

Housing

3.20 The four main towns in West Northamptonshire have all experienced considerable housing growth over the years. Housing stock varies greatly from older, traditional housing to modern, contemporary forms. Some specific neighbourhoods in Northampton and Daventry are in need of housing improvement⁴¹.

3.21 Between 2011/12 (start of the Joint Core Strategy period) and 2017/18 11,466 homes were delivered in West Northamptonshire, against a target of 12,770 homes. This reflects an under-delivery of 1,304 homes against the target for this period which is set out in section 11 of the adopted Joint Core Strategy which is reflective of the housing needs identified through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment⁴².

³⁵ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

³⁶ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

³⁷ UK Census Data (2011) Northampton [Online] Available at: <http://www.ukcensusdata.com/northampton-e07000154#sthash.987Ev5oi.dpbs>

³⁸ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

³⁹ Northamptonshire County Council (2017) JSNA: Demography [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/health-and-wellbeing-board/northamptonshire-jsna/Documents/JSNA%20Demography%202017.pdf>

⁴⁰ Northamptonshire County Council (2017) JSNA: Demography [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/health-and-wellbeing-board/northamptonshire-jsna/Documents/JSNA%20Demography%202017.pdf>

⁴¹ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

⁴² West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Joint Authorities Annual Monitoring Report 17/18 [Online] Available at: file:///C:/Users/field_l/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/KEJMDNG/JAMR_2017_18_Final_Combined.pdf

3.22 The Joint Core Strategy Monitoring Framework includes a trigger for dwelling delivery of +/- 25% difference against the trajectory. For the three year period from 2015/16 to 2017/18 the adopted trajectory anticipated the delivery of 7,760 dwellings. Actual delivery during this period equated to 6,724 dwellings, representing a shortfall of 1,036 dwellings or 13.3%. In 2017/18 net additional dwelling provision increased by 240 units or 10.32 % against the equivalent period for 2016/17. Dwelling delivery has increased for the past five consecutive years and the total of 2,566 dwellings is the highest recorded over the whole 17 year period since 2001/2. However, it still falls short of the required trajectory⁴³.

3.23 The West Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2009 identified that nearly 20,000 households across West Northamptonshire are unsuitably housed, amounting to 13.8% of all households (which is close to the national average). Unsuitably housed households often occur more predominantly in the urban areas.

3.24 The overall proportion of social rented housing in West Northamptonshire is very slightly lower than the East Midlands average and lower than the English average. Northampton has the highest proportion of social housing (mainly in the form of local authority owned properties) and South Northamptonshire has the lowest proportion. Of overall tenure of housing stock in West Northamptonshire, owner occupation forms a majority of the housing stock in the area. 78.7% of all properties across the area are owned outright or are owned with a mortgage. Approximately 12.5% of the stock is socially rented and 8.9% privately rented⁴⁴. Owner occupation in the area is above both the regional (75%) and national (68%) average.

3.25 Whilst there are some areas of high house prices within the West Northamptonshire area, affordability is relatively good in comparison with national house trends. **Table 3.2** below sets out the average house prices within West Northants compared to the regional and national average as presented in February 2019. This demonstrates that the urban area of Northampton is cheaper than the rural districts of Daventry and South Northamptonshire.

Table 3.2: Comparison of average house prices in February 2019

Location	Daventry	Northampton	South Northants	East Midlands	England
Average Property	£259,987	£212,320	£335,627	£192,757	£242,964

⁴³ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Joint Authorities Annual Monitoring Report 17/18 [Online] Available at: file:///C:/Users/field_1/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/NetCache/IE/KEJDMJNG/JAMR_2017_18_Final_Combined.pdf

⁴⁴ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2010) SHMA [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2759856>

3.26 Detached properties comprise around 36% of the housing stock in West Northamptonshire, semi-detached properties around 32%, terraced housing comprises around 26% and flats account for the remaining 6%. Compared with East Midland averages, there is considerably more terraced housing in West Northamptonshire, due to the high proportion of terrace housing linked to industrial housing⁴⁵.

3.27 **Table 3.3** below provides information on the number of affordable dwellings completed in West Northamptonshire. It shows that over the three year period just over 1,400 affordable dwellings have been completed across West Northamptonshire. Approximately half of these homes have been delivered in the Northampton development area, with Daventry District and South Northamptonshire similarly sharing the other half of completions⁴⁶. In all districts the affordable housing delivery is below 35% as set out in Policy H2 of the Joint Core Strategy.

Table 3.3: Gross Affordable Housing Completion 2015-2018 in West Northamptonshire

	Gross Affordable Housing Completions 2015-2018			
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
Daventry	90	186	97	373
Northampton Development Area	124	335	209	668
South Northants	112	68	182	362
West Northants Total	326	589	488	1,403

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People

3.28 The West Northamptonshire Travellers' Accommodation Needs Study (2017) sets out there are no identified Gypsy or Traveller Households in Daventry or Northampton and five in South Northamptonshire. The study identifies that over the Joint Core Strategy period, up until 2031, there is an identified need for 23 unknown households across the region⁴⁷. This study has informed policies for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople which will be included in the Part 2 Local Plans. The Part 2 Local Plan policies will supersede

⁴⁵ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2010) SHMA [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2759856>

⁴⁶ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Joint Authorities Annual Monitoring Report 17/18 [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737648>

⁴⁷ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2017) Travellers' Accommodation Needs Study [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737904>

Policy H6 of the Joint Core Strategy and the residential pitch requirements therein⁴⁸.

Education

3.29 The most up to date records show that in 2017 there were 249,300 residents aged 16 and over in West Northamptonshire. For the period January 2018 to December 2018 7.7% of residents in the area had no qualifications. This is lower than both the East Midlands (8.1%) and national (7.8%) averages⁴⁹. **Table 3.4** below sets out the qualifications of residents across West Northamptonshire in comparison to East Midlands and England

Table 3.4: Percentage of Population with Qualifications

Qualifications	Location				
	Daventry	Northampton	South Northants	East Midlands	England
NVQ4 and above	38.5%	32.6%	43.7%	33.2%	39.3%
NVQ3 and above	62.1%	52.1%	60.7%	54.0%	57.8%
NVQ2 and above	78.8%	70.5%	72.4%	72.0%	74.9%
NVQ1 and above	85.6%	83.0%	87.1%	84.1%	85.4%
No Qualifications	10.0%	6.6%	8.9%	8.1%	7.8%

3.30 Despite Northampton having a lower than national average population of residents with degree level qualifications or above, Northampton has the lowest rate of residents with no qualifications in West Northamptonshire. Furthermore, South Northamptonshire has a higher percentage of residents with degrees than the rest of West Northamptonshire and above the East Midlands regional average.

3.31 Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for the planning, organisation and commissioning of school places in the County. Northampton urban area, as at 1st April 2016, had 50 primary schools, eight secondary schools and three ‘all-through’ schools. Daventry encompassed 34 primary schools, three infant schools, three junior schools, three secondary schools, one ‘all-through’ school. South Northamptonshire is home to 47 primary schools, three infant

schools, three junior schools, five secondary schools, one ‘all-through’ school and a University Technical College⁵⁰.

3.32 The West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and the partner Councils work closely with Northamptonshire County Council to ensure that education provision matches the growth that is anticipated in the Joint Core Strategy. Northamptonshire County Council predicts further secondary school places will be required in Northampton by 2021 to meet the demand from expected housing developments, including two approximately 1,500 capacity secondary schools⁵¹. Furthermore, during 2017/18 the following schemes were completed: 100 additional places at the SEN Free School, Northampton; a two form entry Primary School at the Monksmoor development, Daventry; and another new two form entry Primary School at Brackley North, South Northamptonshire⁵².

Deprivation

3.33 According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2015) 113,862 people (16.1%) in Northamptonshire live in Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that are classed as deprived (2015). Northamptonshire is ranked 106 out of 152 county and unitary authorities (where 1 is the most deprived), with low levels of deprivation overall. However, there are small pockets within West Northamptonshire which are a cause for concern, which fall primarily in Northampton (see **Figure 3.1**). 17 of the area’s LSOAs are amongst the 10% most deprived in England; 16 are in Northampton and one in Daventry and two of the LSOAs in Northampton are amongst the 1% most deprived in England. Notably the deprived localities contain higher proportions of children and non-White British residents⁵³.

3.34 Of the 326 Local Authorities in England, where ‘1’ is the most deprived district in England, South Northamptonshire is rated 323, Daventry 253 and Northampton 127⁵⁴.

3.35 As reported up to March 2019 the Districts have a lower proportion of residents (South Northamptonshire 0.8%, Northampton 2.3% and Daventry 2.1%) who receive Universal

⁴⁸ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Joint Authorities Annual Monitoring Report 17/18 [Online] Available at: file:///C:/Users/field_I/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/NetCache/IE/KEJDMNDG/JAMR_2017_18_Final_Combined.pdf

⁴⁹ NOMIS (2019) Labour Market Profiles [Online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/imp/la/contents.aspx>

⁵⁰ Northamptonshire County Council (2016) School Organisation Plan 2016-2021 [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/information-for-school-staff/school-improvement/Documents/School%20Organisation%20Plan%202016%20to%202021%20-%20Consultation.pdf>

⁵¹ Northamptonshire County Council (2016) School Organisation Plan 2016-2021 [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/information-for-school-staff/school-improvement/Documents/School%20Organisation%20Plan%202016%20to%202021%20-%20Consultation.pdf>

⁵² West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Joint Authorities Annual Monitoring Report 17/18 [Online] Available at: file:///C:/Users/field_I/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/NetCache/IE/KEJDMNDG/JAMR_2017_18_Final_Combined.pdf

⁵³ Northamptonshire county Council (2017) JSNA: Demography [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health-and-wellbeing-board/northamptonshire-jsna/Documents/JSNA%20Demography%202017.pdf>

⁵⁴ LAs Deprivation Summaries [Online] Available at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1x5hE_5UW_VuLOV1h-c0CX1eiAchBPts72FFNzVYQOWw/edit?hl=en&hl=en&qid=0

Credit than at the regional (2.3%) and national level (2.7%). The broader span of claimants covered under this benefit than that covered by Jobseeker's Allowance means that, as this benefit is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the claimant count is likely to rise. This trend is however applicable to Great Britain as a whole not only to West Northamptonshire. While the proportion of young people (aged 18 to 24) in the three districts who currently receive this benefit (South Northamptonshire: 0.9%; Northampton: 2.7%; and Daventry: 3.7%) is higher than the proportion of older people (aged 25 to 49) who receive it, this figure is lower than the figure for the East Midlands (3.1%) and Great Britain (3.6%)⁵⁵.

3.36 Table 3.5 below shows the estimated number of fuel poor households in the West Northamptonshire districts in 2016. These are lower than the figure for the East Midlands, which was 11.7%⁵⁶. These figures are reflective of household income, household energy requirements and fuel prices in a given area.

Table 3.5: Percentage of Fuel Poor Households in 2016 in West Northamptonshire

Daventry	Northampton	South Northamptonshire
9.6%	10.8%	9.0%

Health

3.37 Table 3.6 below sets out the 2011 Census health statistics across the districts making up West Northamptonshire, where the majority of the population in the three districts describes themselves as in good or very good health and their day to day activities are not limited by their health⁵⁷.

Table 3.6: 2011 Census Health Statistics across West Northamptonshire

	Daventry	Northampton	South Northants
Very good or good Health	83.7%	82.9%	85.6%
Fair Health	12.1%	12.5%	11%

⁵⁵ NOMIS (2019) Labour Market Profiles [Online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx>

⁵⁶ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2016) Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2018 [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2018>

⁵⁷ NOMIS (2019) Local Area Reports [Online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E07000154#>

	Daventry	Northampton	South Northants
Bad Health	3.3%	3.6%	2.6%
Very Bad	2.0%	1.0%	0.8%
Receives unpaid care	10.8%	9.3%	10.3%

3.38 Average life expectancy across West Northamptonshire varies. In both Daventry and South Northamptonshire it is slightly above the national average (male: 79.5 years; and female: 83.1 years), and Northampton urban area it is slightly below. Life Expectancy in Daventry is 81.5 years for males and 83.2 years for females. In South Northamptonshire, male life expectancy is 81.2 years and 84.9 years for females. In Northampton it is 78.5 years for males and 82.6 years for females⁵⁸.

3.39 In 2018, Northampton had a slightly lower percentage of adults (63.56%) who consider themselves physically active than Northamptonshire as a whole (63.6%). Daventry (65.5%) is below the national average (66%) and South Northamptonshire (67.5%) has a greater percentage of physically active individuals⁵⁹. In addition, compared to the UK average (61.3%), both Daventry (62.0%) and Northampton (66.0%) have a higher percentage of overweight adults, whereas South Northamptonshire (57.4%) is below the UK average. The latest update of the Sport England Active People Survey interviewed 1,467 people across West Northamptonshire about their weekly physical activity. It was reported from November 2017 to November 2018 figures that of those interviewed in Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire the percentage of those who recorded themselves as active (150 minutes or more of exercise a week) was 64.2%, 58.2% and 62.6% respectively⁶⁰.

Open spaces, sports and recreation

3.40 As the hub of West Northamptonshire, Northampton is home to a range of high quality professional sports clubs (including rugby union, football and county cricket) and cultural facilities (including two theatres, museums and gallery space). Northampton has an extensive network of parks and open spaces which provide an important resource for both residents and visitors. Daventry Country Park, accessible greenspace

⁵⁸ Public Health England (2018) [Online] Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/area-search-results/E12000004?search_type=list-child-areas&place_name=East%20Midlands

⁵⁹ Public Health England (2018) [Online] Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/area-search-results/E12000004?search_type=list-child-areas&place_name=East%20Midlands

⁶⁰ Sport England (2018) Active Lives Adults Survey Results [Online] Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/adultnov1718tables/>

at Borough Hill, and nationally protected Easton Neston Historic Park are significant recreation spaces located in Daventry and South Northamptonshire Districts⁶¹.

3.41 The River Nene flows through West Northamptonshire and close to the southern edge of Northampton town centre. It provides a rich resource for water sports, nature conservation and informal recreation. The area also benefits from the historic Grand Union Canal, a cultural, recreational and wildlife asset. The countryside around the West Northamptonshire towns is itself a wider recreational resource.

3.42 There are six sports halls and 13 health and fitness leisure centres for community use in Daventry District. Full community access on a pay and play basis is available only at Daventry Leisure Centre and Moulton Sports Complex as the majority of centres are commercial and accessed by paid membership. In Northampton, there are 14 sports halls and 23 health and fitness centres in the Borough and South Northampton is home to nine sports halls and 12 health and fitness gyms. The majority of residents within each district are within a 20 minute catchment of a sports centre or gym⁶². This catchment is categorised by a 20 minute walk in urban areas or 20 minute drive in rural areas.

3.43 Based on assessment by Nortofo for the Planning for the future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire, current levels of sports hall provision in West Northamptonshire are only adequate to meet demand on the premise that school and other private facilities are fully opened for access by the community. Current levels of provision for health and fitness vary across West Northamptonshire, where residents within Daventry without access to a car have limited access to a sports hall facility and South Northamptonshire's sports halls are running above levels considered 'busy' and Northampton Borough's facilities are considered 'full'⁶³. These levels of activity are broadly in line with local and regional averages and form a realistic standard for future provision.

3.44 Future provision levels across West Northamptonshire assume that all existing sports halls, including school facilities, must be brought into more intensive community use including pay and play schemes. With the addition of;

- A new sports hall in Daventry Town Centre by 2026,
- 5 court hall at Northampton International Academy in the Northampton Related Development Area, and

- A new leisure centre facility in Kings Heath SUE, including a swimming pool⁶⁴.

Crime

3.45 Crime rates in West Northamptonshire vary across the area. Both Daventry and South Northamptonshire have relatively low crime rates, where violent crimes make up the highest proportions of recorded crimes in the year April 2018 to March 2019. In this period, 1,900 violent crimes were recorded in Daventry and 1,257 in South Northamptonshire. Northampton had a relatively higher crime rate, where antisocial behaviour and violent crimes are the most recorded crimes, with 7,148 and 8,201 recorded respectively⁶⁵.

3.46 Nationally, average crime rates are lower in rural areas than urban areas. For example, in 2016/17, the rate of violence was 14.1 per 1,000 population in predominantly rural areas compared to 22.2 per 1,000 population in predominantly urban areas. This would suggest that the rural areas of West Northamptonshire, such as Daventry and South Northamptonshire would similarly have a lower rate of violence than the more built up areas⁶⁶.

3.47 The number of fatal casualties in road accidents, where it has resulted in death or serious injuries, has decreased nationally, where there has been a 39% decrease from 2007 to 2017⁶⁷. Northamptonshire is similar to national trend where the number of reported KSI (Killed or seriously injured) casualties has almost halved from 2007 to 2017. In 2017, there were 279 KSI road accident casualties were recorded in the County. Of those recorded eighteen were children, 19% were pedestrians, 33% cyclists or motorcyclists and 43% were car occupants⁶⁸.

Air and noise pollution

3.48 Air and noise pollution are issues for the health of residents and workers in West Northamptonshire, particularly in Northampton Town and Towcester where nine areas in the area have been identified as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Section 6 addresses air pollution in West Northamptonshire in more detail.

⁶¹ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737424>

⁶² West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2009) Sports Facilities Strategy for West Northamptonshire [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2760240>

⁶³ Nortofo Partnership Ltd (2017) Planning for the Future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire, Part 2: Sports Facilities [Online] Available at: https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/_resources/assets/attachment/full/0/47303.pdf

⁶⁴ Nortofo Partnership Ltd (2017) Planning for the Future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire, Part 2: Sports Facilities [Online] Available at: https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/_resources/assets/attachment/full/0/47303.pdf

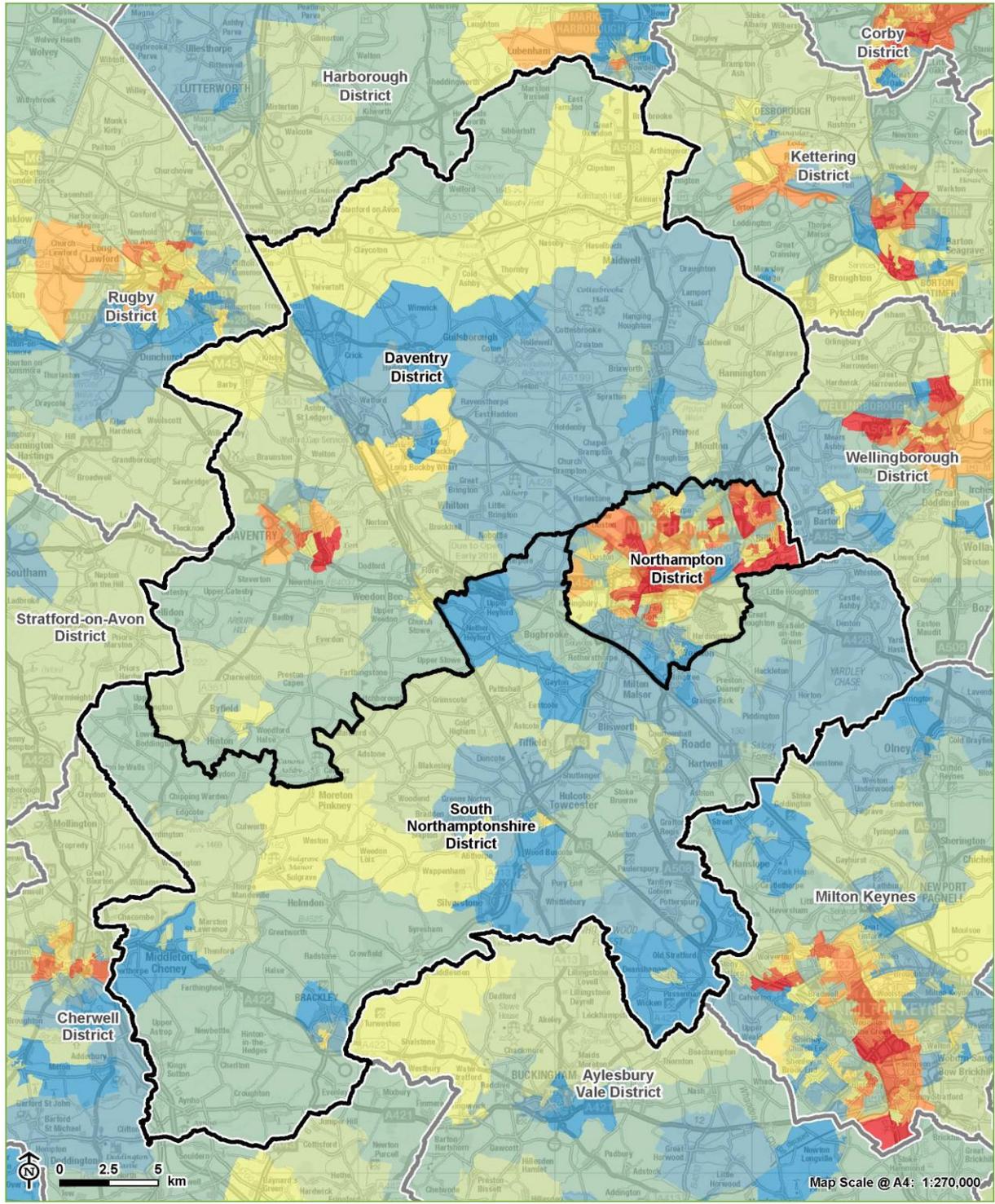
⁶⁵ UK Crime Statistics (2019) [Online] Available at: <https://ukcrimestats.com/>

⁶⁶ Crime, January 2018 [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/676118/Crime_Jan_2018.pdf

⁶⁷ Department for Transport (2018) Reported Road Casualties GB: 2017 Annual Report [Online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/755698/rccgb-2017.pdf

⁶⁸ Travel Independent (2018) Northamptonshire Reported Road Casualties [Online] Available at: http://www.travelindependent.org.uk/area_34.html

Figure 3.1: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) in West Northamptonshire



West Northamptonshire	30 - 40%
Neighbouring local authority	40 - 50%
IMD	50 - 60%
0 - 10% (most deprived)	60 - 70%
10 - 20%	70 - 80%
20 - 30%	80 - 90%
	90 - 100% (least deprived)

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report

Figure 3.1: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

Source: DCLG

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Table 3.7: Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire and likely evolution without the Strategic Plan

Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
The population structure of West Northamptonshire reflects a relatively youthful population but there is potential for an increasing ageing population. This could result in pressures on capacities at local services such as healthcare as well as affordable housing.	Without the Strategic Plan it is likely that services and facilities will still be delivered. Population growth and demographic change is accounted for through many policies within the Joint Core Strategy, including Policy RC2 which supports the creation of inclusive and adaptable communities and the provision of new or improved community facilities or services. However, it is less likely that provision supported through these policies will be in appropriate locations, or of sufficient quality and quantity to keep pace with demands of particular groups without a review of the Joint Core Strategy. The Strategic Plan offers an opportunity to deliver the required services and facilities in a coherent, sustainable manner alongside new development.	SA objective 2
There has been an under-delivery of housing in West Northamptonshire against Joint Core Strategy targets including the delivery of affordable housing and housing suitable for the Gypsy and Traveller community. In addition, house prices in West Northamptonshire are high comparable to the regional average and Daventry and South Northamptonshire are considerably higher than the national average.	Without the Strategic Plan it is likely that housing delivery would fall below the 25% trigger for dwelling delivery as set out in the Joint Core Strategy Monitoring Framework. In addition, house prices would continue to be an issue. Policies H1, H2 and H5 of the Joint Core Strategy seek to address the delivery of new homes in West Northamptonshire, including affordable units. Furthermore, without the Strategic Plan it is likely that delivery of Gypsy and Traveller sites will remain below the requirement set out in Policy H6 of the Joint Core Strategy. However, the Strategic Plan offers the opportunity to facilitate and expedite the delivery of housing including affordable units, private market accommodation and Gypsy Traveller sites.	SA objective 1
There are disparities between the least and the most deprived areas in West Northamptonshire. There are 17 wards in the area which classify as being in the 10% most deprived in the UK, with 16 being located in Northampton and one in Daventry.	Without the Strategic Plan there is potential for issues of disparity within West Northamptonshire to become more apparent. Policies H1 and H2 in the Joint Core Strategy seek to address the issue of access to housing within the area, while Policies RC2 and E6 seek to support the provision of services and facilities which are likely to help address improving living standards in West Northamptonshire. These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Strategic Plan. The review process presents the opportunity to build on the thrust of these policies to ensure that indicators of disparity such as access to housing, income deprivation, health deprivation, employment deprivation, living environment deprivation and education skills deprivation are appropriately addressed.	SA objective 3
Health in West Northamptonshire is generally recorded as being at a reasonably good level or higher. However, life expectancy and levels of obesity and excess weight differ across Daventry, South Northamptonshire and Northampton which displays disparities between the most and least deprived districts.	Health and wellbeing is engrained in the Joint Core Strategy including Policies C1 and RC2 of the Joint Core Strategy seek to encourage active modes of transport, create socially inclusive and adaptable environments and provide new or improved community facilities or services. However, without the review of the Joint Core Strategy policies will be less suitable to help prevent any continued rise in levels of obesity in West Northamptonshire, although national campaigns may work to reduce this. The Strategic Plan could further contribute to tackling obesity through policies that appropriately seek to encourage uptake of active modes of transport and access to green space and other recreation opportunities. The Strategic Plan also presents an opportunity to address health deprivation in the District by supporting the provision of healthcare	SA objective 5

Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
	facilities and other relevant improvements in areas of most need.	
<p>West Northamptonshire provides access to areas of open space and green infrastructure as well as sports and leisure facilities. A deficiency in recreational or open space provision has been identified in a number of specific areas including provision for sports and leisure. There is also potential for new development to result in loss of access to open spaces and elements of green infrastructure as well as impacts upon their quality.</p>	<p>Policies RC1, RC2 and BN1 of the Joint Core Strategy seek to support the appropriate maintenance and provision of new green infrastructure, open spaces and services and facilities for residents. However, without the Strategic Plan there is potential that the quality of open spaces will deteriorate and access to these types of provisions in certain areas will remain limited. The Strategic Plan offers the opportunity to better address the changing circumstances in the plan area by ensuring the protection and enhancement of access to and quality of open space and services and facilities. The review process will also allow for new local green spaces to be planned and incorporated alongside new development.</p>	SA objective 5
<p>Crimes rates across West Northamptonshire vary across the area. Northampton has a considerably higher rate of violent crimes and antisocial behaviour as it is the urban hub of the area with the majority of the population.</p>	<p>Policy N11 of the Joint Core Strategy sets out design principles for new development in West Northamptonshire and these include the incorporation of measures to reduce crime opportunities. The Strategic Plan however presents an opportunity to build on the requirement of this policy to encourage aims to make the local environment and streets safer, for example through relevant approaches to 'design out' crime. Any new policy would make a contribution to achieving this aim alongside other local and national measures.</p>	SA objective 4

Section 4

Economy

Policy Context

International

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

National

4.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁶⁹ contains the following:

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

⁶⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

local policies for economic development and regeneration.”

4.3 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)⁷⁰: Reiterates the importance for Local Plans to include a positive strategy for town centres to enable sustainable economic growth and provide a wide range of social and environmental benefits.

4.4 The Local Growth White Paper (2010)⁷¹: Highlights the importance of economic policy that focusses on the delivery of strong, sustainable and balanced growth of income and employment over the long-term, growth which is broad-based industrially and geographically to provide equality of access and opportunity and build businesses that are competitive internationally.

4.5 Rural White Paper 2000 (Our Countryside: the future – A fair deal for rural England)⁷²: Sets out the Government’s Rural Policy Objectives:

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

4.6 LEP Network Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017)⁷³: The aim of the document is to ensure that all relevant local action and investment is used in a way that maximises the impact it has across the Government’s strategy. Consultation responses set out how the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships will work with Government using existing and additional resources to develop and implement a long term Industrial Strategy. :

⁷⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

⁷¹ Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (2010) Local Growth: Realising Every Place’s Potential. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-growth-realising-every-places-potential-hc-7961>

⁷² HM Government (2000) Rural White Paper (Our Countryside: the future – A fair deal for rural England) [online] Available at: <http://www.tourisminsights.info/ONLINEPUB/DEFRA/DEFRA%20PDFS/RURAL%20WHITE%20PAPER%20-%20FULL%20REPORT.pdf>

⁷³ LEP Network (2017) Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation [Online] Available at: <https://www.lepnetwork.net/media/1470/lep-network-industrial-strategy-response-april-2017-final.pdf>

Sub-National

4.7 England’s Economic Heartland Planning for Growth (2016)⁷⁴: An economic growth plan for the corridor from Cambridge through Milton Keynes and Northampton to Oxford to improve infrastructure and connectivity, particularly improving the rail and road links from east to west. The plan sets out the following objectives:

- Add value through the sharing of knowledge, skills and resources.
- Deliver schemes faster and at less cost.
- Improve the operation and resilience of strategic and local road networks.
- Provide the focus for a single conversation on strategic transport and infrastructure related activities.

4.8 The Oxford-Cambridge Arc Government Ambition (2019)⁷⁵: A report on the long-term Government ambition for the geographical area located between Oxford and Cambridge. This ambition includes both economic aims and housing delivery targets for the region.

Current Baseline

4.9 West Northamptonshire is generally an affluent one, with a broad and diverse economic base. Historically the economy of the area was agriculturally based with manufacturing concentrated predominantly at the towns, particularly Northampton. Whilst farming still accounts for much of the land use it represents a very small percentage of the employed population, where today jobs are largely in the office, technology, warehousing and service industries. Furthermore, rural diversification is significant in supporting the economy of the rural communities, with small industrial units often containing high occupancy rates. The visitor and tourism economy is also a strong source of employment, particularly in South Northamptonshire District, where Silverstone Circuit is based as motor sport and engineering has broadly influenced the economy of the area.

4.10 Northampton accounts for nearly 70% of jobs in West Northamptonshire, whilst Daventry District makes up a further 18% of jobs and 12% is generated from South Northamptonshire. There has been an increase in jobs in West Northamptonshire over the last 10 years, which has largely been associated with Northampton Borough. Between 2008 and 2017 Northampton Borough has accommodated 11,000 more jobs, South Northamptonshire 5,500 jobs and

⁷⁴ England Economic Heartland (2016) Planning for Growth [Online] Available at: <http://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/Documents/Planning%20for%20Growth.pdf>

⁷⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) The Oxford-Cambridge Arc [Online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799993/OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf

Daventry District 2,500 new jobs. The overall growth in jobs across the area has been 19,000 between 2008 and 2017⁷⁶.

4.11 As a result of West Northamptonshire's central position in the country and advanced north-south rail and road network there is a strong presence of the warehouse and logistics sectors. In particular Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT) serves as a strategic location for storage and distribution.

4.12 West Northamptonshire forms part of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) area, which is committed to growing the economy of the area and creating job opportunities. The area has a population of 2 million and covers Northamptonshire, Aylesbury Vale, Bedfordshire, Cherwell Valley and Milton Keynes. The South East Midlands is one of the fastest growing economies in the country with a Gross Value Added (GVA) of approximately £50 billion and 85,000 VAT registered businesses. Over the five years between 2010 and 2015, there were 700 business start-ups and a growth in 5,000 existing businesses. Over the same time period, there was an 8% increase in jobs and 25% growth in employment in tertiary sectors and a goods export value of £6bn. The area is home to seven universities and nine further education/ sixth form colleges and in 2012 provided 16,850 apprenticeships⁷⁷.

4.13 The initial priorities in the SEMLEP focus on projects that have been prioritised by LEPs and local authorities in the England's Economic Heartland area. The following are located within West Northamptonshire:

- Northampton Northern Orbital Route: The completion of the northern ring road, connecting the Northampton North West Relief Road (subject to a separate Growth Deal bid) and A5199 between Kingsthorpe and Chapel Brampton with the A43 Northampton, including a connection to the major Moulton Park industrial estate.
- A43 Northampton to Kettering: Phase 3 consisting of the on-line dualling of the existing single carriageway and enlargement of Holcot Lane roundabout. The scheme provides a strategic route between Northampton and Kettering and supports West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and assists future development of Northampton and Corby.

4.14 West Northamptonshire is located in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, the area between Oxford and Cambridge which the Government recognises as a globally significant location home to 3.7 million people and contributing £111

billion GVA to the UK economy. The Arc Region is strategically located as it is connected to major hubs such as London, Birmingham, the M1 and M4 Corridors and Heathrow Airport. The Government sees The Arc as a key economic priority, and has an ambition to transform it into a world-leading economic area especially in science, technology and high value manufacturing innovation. In addition, there will need to be significantly more homes delivered in the Arc, of the right quality and in the right places to meet its needs and make improvements to its connectivity including the Strategic Road Network and the East West Rail⁷⁸. A proportion of the delivery plan for the Arc will be delivered within West Northamptonshire.

4.15 In Northampton Borough, since 2010 there was an overall net loss of 1,199m² of shopping (A1 use class) floorspace in Northampton Town Centre. In Daventry Town Centre, between the period of 2010/11 and 2014/15 there was a 347m² reduction of shopping (A1 use class) floorspace. In the three years up until 2017/18, no increase in floorspace was recorded. However, in March 2018, Daventry District Council granted planning permission for a mixed use regeneration scheme on a 5.31 hectare site adjoining the town centre, including permission for the provision of 4,320m² of comparison retail floorspace and 2,600m² of convenience floorspace. **Table 4.1** below sets out the delivery of additional employment floorspace in West Northamptonshire over the 2010/11 and 2015/16 period.

Table 4.1: Delivery of Additional Employment Floorspace by Use Class in West Northamptonshire 2010/11 to 2015/16

		B1	B2	B8
2010/11 – 2015/16	Daventry	19,065m ²	38,530m ²	212,462m ²
	Northampton	-13,814m ²	83,571m ²	67,122m ²
	South Northants	-3,197m ²	-35,248m ²	7,137m ²
Total		2,054m ²	86,853m ²	286,721m ²
Demand		108,623m ²		
Difference		-106,569m ²		

⁷⁶ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Joint Authorities Monitoring Report [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshireipu.org/connect/ti/website/view?objectId=47227461#47227461>

⁷⁷ South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (2019) South East Midlands [Online] Available at: <https://www.semlep.com/south-east-midlands/>

⁷⁸ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) The Oxford-Cambridge Arc [Online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799993/OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf

Table 4.2: Occupations across West Northamptonshire

	Daventry	Northampton	South Northants
Managers, Directors and senior officials	14.4%	9.7%	15.0%
Professional Occupations	16.7%	14.7%	17.6%
Associate professional and technical occupations	12.6%	11.7%	13.7%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	11.7%	12.5%	12.3%
Skilled trades occupation	11.6%	10.3%	12.5%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.2%	9.6%	7.8%
Sales and customer service occupations	5.9%	8.7%	6.3%
Process plant and machine operatives	7.0%	7.9%	5.9%
Elementary occupations	11.9%	14.9%	8.9%

4.16 The decline of British High Streets is reported to be “*getting faster*” however this is a trend which is being experienced across the UK. The growth of e-commerce and changes in consumer habits, have greatly influenced this trend.

4.17 Daventry (£29,016), Northampton (£27,898) and South Northamptonshire (£29,447) all have a higher average wage than that recorded for the East Midlands region (£27,554), yet are all below the national average (£29,697)⁷⁹. **Table 4.2** above sets out the percentage breakdown of occupations across the districts in West Northamptonshire.

4.18 In Daventry, the higher proportion of the population work in the wholesale, retail and repair trade industry (17.9%) and the second biggest industry in the District is manufacturing (12.4%). Similarly, the industry where the highest percentage of the population work in Northampton is also wholesale, retail and repair trade (18.9%) followed by Human health and social work activities (12.9%). In addition, the higher proportion of the population of South Northamptonshire work in the

wholesale, retail and repair trade industry (16.9%) followed by both Education (10.7%) and Manufacturing (10.7%)⁸⁰.

4.19 In Northampton, 80% of residents both live and work within the Borough, with the majority of trips being less than 5km. In Daventry District 48% of residents live and work within the District, with many residents commuting to Northampton for work. Almost 90% of trips generated from Daventry and Northampton are contained within the County of Northamptonshire, whereas 32% of South Northamptonshire's residents commute out of the County for either employment or other services and facilities⁸¹.

4.20 The visitor economy in West Northamptonshire is generating around £500 million into the area's economy every year. In Northampton town centre, the tourism and leisure attractions are centred upon museums, theatres, arts and cultural quarters and a mixed use waterside development along the Grand Union Canal in Daventry aims to increase visitor numbers. In South Northamptonshire, the tourism industry is a key sector employing 14% of its workforce. This

⁷⁹ NOMIS (2019) Local Area Reports [Online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E07000155>

⁸⁰ NOMIS (2019) Local Area Reports [Online] Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E07000155>

⁸¹ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

is predominantly focussed around the Silverstone Circuit and Towcester Racecourse⁸².

4.21 The UK is due to leave the European Union. It is uncertain what effect this will have on the economy of West Northamptonshire.

⁸² West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshireipu.org/connect.tj/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

Table 4.3: Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire and likely evolution without the Strategic Plan

Key Sustainability Issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>West Northamptonshire in terms of the East Midlands is a relatively economically affluent area with higher wages than the regional average yet below the national average. It forms part of the South East Midlands LEP, which allows for links to important economies in the surrounding area. The rural character of Daventry and South Northamptonshire District sees a significant net outflow of commuters with majority working in Northampton town or nearby Milton Keynes.</p>	<p>It is uncertain how the job market will change without the implementation of the Strategic Plan and some degree of change is inevitable, particularly given the uncertainties posed by Brexit. Policies E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7 and E8 in the Joint Core Strategy all seek to ensure the growth of new economic and employment opportunities including those for tourism and rural employment and also to protect existing Key Employment Areas such as DIRFT and Silverstone Circuit.</p>	<p>SA objective 16 SA objective 17</p>
<p>West Northamptonshire has a net loss of employment floor space. Where all three districts have undelivered on their Phase 1 targets as set out in the Joint Core Strategy. This is likely due to pressures in terms of outside retail offers of the surrounding areas and the continued importance of e-retailing and provision of services online</p>	<p>The Joint Core Strategy through sections 12-16 in particular, sets out the hierarchy for the District's town and village centres as well as provision for employment land and jobs to reinforce their vitality, viability and character. The Strategic Plan presents the opportunity to incorporate updated policy to protect the evolving role of the town centres in the District. The Local Plan policy position may be updated to better reflect the current strengths and opportunities at the centres in the District with consideration for existing weaknesses and emerging pressures to protect these locations in terms of their importance for economic growth and job provision.</p>	<p>SA objective 16</p>
<p>West Northamptonshire is located in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc where Government prioritises the area as key economic priority for the country. This includes the delivery of high numbers of new housing including new communities, as well as investment in technology and infrastructure across the Arc.</p>	<p>The Joint Core Strategy does not currently factor the Oxford-Cambridge Arc requirements into the growth plans and supporting infrastructure for West Northamptonshire. It is expected that the Strategic Plan will give opportunity to address the Government requirements for West Northamptonshire in the Arc geographical area.</p>	<p>SA objective 16</p>

Section 5

Transport Connections and Travel Habits

Policy Context

International

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

National

5.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁸³: Encourages local planning authorities to consider transport issues from the earliest stages of plan making so that: opportunities to promote sustainable transport are identified and pursued; the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified and assessed; and opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure and changing transport technology and usage are realised. The framework also states that the planning system should actively manage growth patterns in support of these objectives.

5.3 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)⁸⁴ : Reiterates the requirement for local planning authorities to undertake an assessment of the transport implications of reviewing their Local Plan.

5.4 Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018)⁸⁵: Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

⁸³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

⁸⁴ Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

⁸⁵ Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739460/road-to-zero.pdf

Sub-national

5.5 Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (2012)⁸⁶: An overarching strategy document that sets out what the County Council's strategic aims and goals are for transport and transport infrastructure in Northamptonshire.

5.6 Northamptonshire Walking Strategy (2013)⁸⁷: This strategy sets out the county's aspirations and approaches to make walking a more attractive option for short journeys in Northamptonshire. The strategy sets out the policies that will help to encourage more people to choose to walk and guide future walking action plans.

5.7 Network Rail West Midlands and Chilterns Area Route Study (2017)⁸⁸: Sets out the strategic vision for the future of this part of the rail network over the next 30 years. The study builds on the recommendation in the Shaw Review that the railway is planned based on customer, passenger and freight needs. The Route Study seeks to identify capacity requirements in the medium and long term to allow the railway to play its part in delivering economic growth, in addition to improving the connections between people and jobs and businesses and markets. It identifies some potential sources of capacity to meet needs into the early 2020s but uncertainty remains beyond that.

Current Baseline

5.8 West Northamptonshire has excellent connections to the rest of the country and mainland Europe. Key strategic transport infrastructure passes through the areas including linkages to the M1, M40, M6, the Haven Ports and the West Coast Mainline, Chiltern and Midland Mainline railways. The area is often described as being at the crossroads of the M1 north-south route and the A14/ M6 east-west route (see **Figure 5.1**). The strategic road network results in unreliable journey times and is likely to be further exacerbated by increases in road traffic. Congestion and increases in road traffic have the potential to result in increased noise and emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases with resulting health and environmental issues.

5.9 Rail services pass through the District connecting London to Birmingham and the North. The area is strategically located an hour's journey from both Birmingham and London. There are 56 services to London per weekday from

Northampton, demonstrating the connectivity to the capital. Railway stations in West Northamptonshire are currently accessible at Northampton, Kings Sutton and Long Buckby, yet due the area's proximity to both Banbury and Milton Keynes, where faster routes into London are on offer, many commuters travel to these stations. **Table 5.1** below sets out the increasing station usage at stations in and around West Northamptonshire over the period 2002 to 2011 (stations within West Northamptonshire are in bold type)⁸⁹.

5.10 The Network Rail West Midlands and Chilterns Area Route Study, which covers West Northamptonshire, also highlights capacity issues on railways, particularly routes into Central Birmingham and London during peak periods. Rail demand in the UK has increased by 69.5% to 1.65 billion journeys since 2002/03. In the West Midlands and Chilterns Study Area, rail use has increased by 4.3% a year from 2013/14, to 48.5 million journeys. This rate of growth is faster than the national average and is also reflected by commuters into London Marylebone where between 2011 and 2015 the number of passengers travelling in and out of Marylebone at peak times increased by 20%⁹⁰. These figures are expected to increase substantially such that, by 2043, it is forecast that there will be 114% growth in commuter services into Birmingham and 76% growth of services into London.

⁸⁶ Northamptonshire County Council (2012) Northamptonshire Transportation Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Transportation%20Plan%20-%20Fit%20for%20Purpose.pdf>

⁸⁷ Northampton County Council (2013) Northamptonshire Walking Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Walking%20Strategy.pdf>

⁸⁸ Network Rail (2017) West Midlands and Chilterns Route Study Area [Online] Available at: <https://cdn.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/West-Midlands-and-Chilterns-Route-Study-Final.pdf>

⁸⁹ Northamptonshire County Council (2013) Northamptonshire Rail Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Rail%20Strategy.pdf>

⁹⁰ Network Rail (2017) West Midlands and Chilterns Route Study Area [Online] Available at: <https://cdn.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/West-Midlands-and-Chilterns-Route-Study-Final.pdf>

Table 5.1: Station Usage in and around West Northamptonshire (2002-2011)

	2002/03	2004/05	2006/07	2008/09	2010/11	Growth
Banbury	920,602	1,137,434	1,289,983	1,579,510	1,857,004	102%
Milton Keynes Central	3,925,098	3,815,435	4,557,209	4,551,538	5,202,824	33%
Bicester North	596,326	702,998	801,822	984,806	1,227,590	106%
Northampton	1,723,579	1,854,579	2,144,857	2,223,872	2,496,018	45%
Long Buckby	140,009	138,777	144,748	157,154	202,964	45%
Kettering	853,990	933,270	1,012,009	1,112,390	989,418	16%
Kings Sutton	39,745	40,321	39,090	44,388	44,806	13%

5.11 Bus services are generally good around the urban areas of West Northamptonshire particularly routes passing through Northampton Town Centre. A number of routes serve the three districts and provide daily or weekday access of varying frequencies to nearby settlements including Banbury, Milton Keynes, Rugby and Leicester. There are bus routes serving the university, DIRFT large scale employment site and Silverstone on event days. Furthermore, the three districts are served by 'County Connect' which is an on demand bus service which is run by Northampton County Council, where residents can phone up to a week in advance to make a booking⁹¹. Many outlying rural communities are offered limited bus services that do not provide a convenient travel options and many people rely on the private car to access employment and services. This includes services which operate less frequently than twice a day at least five days a week⁹².

5.12 In Northamptonshire, it is estimated that added congestion from increasing growth will mean that on average it will take 25% longer to make some journeys by 2021, concentrated in and around the main towns. The additional congestion will be particularly focused in areas where development is planned such as in and around Northampton, routes connecting Daventry and Northampton and around Towcester⁹³. The A43 and A45 in particular, suffer from some level of existing congestion during peak periods. Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared by both

Northampton Borough Council and South Northamptonshire District Council in nine areas in the area, where air quality already exacerbates government safe expectations. It is likely that increased congestion in the area could worsen existing air quality and lead to the further management areas.

5.13 In terms of mode of travel to work, of the 246,028 residents aged 16 to 74 across the districts in West Northamptonshire in the 2011 Census, 44.3% use a private vehicle to get to work, (19,489 persons in Daventry, 72,236 in Northampton and 17,242 in South Northamptonshire). **Table 5.2** below sets out the method of travel to work in the three districts. The more rural districts of Daventry and South Northamptonshire have a higher proportion of residents working from home as distances from work⁹⁴.

5.14 At present Route 6 of the National Cycle Network passes through West Northamptonshire. This runs from London to Keswick and is 390 miles long⁹⁵.

⁹¹ Daventry District Council (2019) Transport

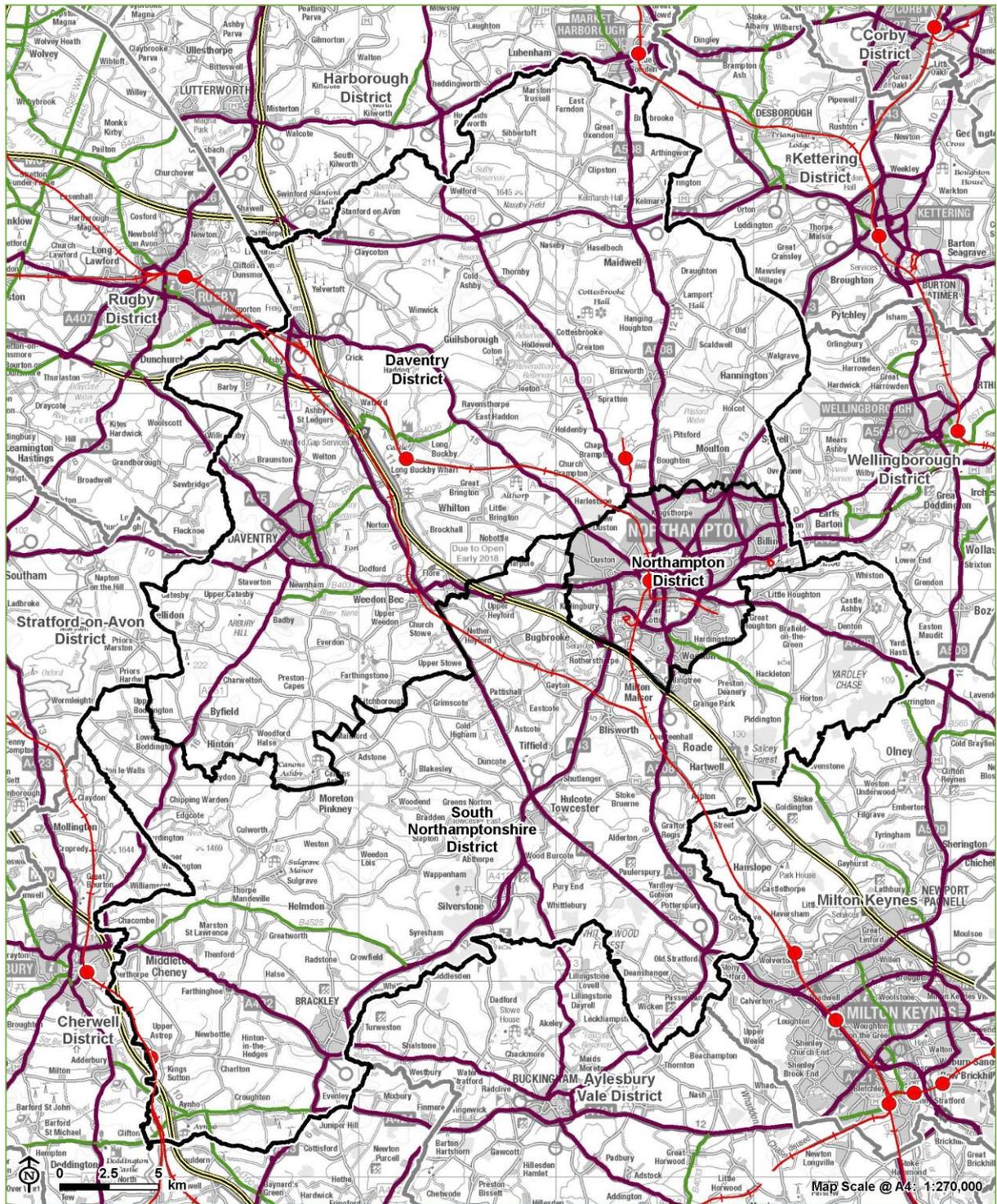
⁹² Northamptonshire County Council (2019) Operator Services [Online] Available at: https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/buses/Documents/Operator%20Services%20list%2003_05_19.pdf

⁹³ Northamptonshire County Council (2012) Northamptonshire Transportation Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Transportation%20Plan%20-%20Fit%20for%20Purpose.pdf>

⁹⁴ Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics (2011) Method of Travel to Work [Online] Accessed at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/QS701EW/view/1946157156?rows=rural_urban&ols=cell

⁹⁵ Sustrans (Accessed 2019) National Cycle Network Route 6 [Online] Accessed at: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/route-6>

Figure 5.1: Transport Links in West Northamptonshire



- West Northamptonshire
- Neighbouring local authority
- Railway station
- + Railway
- Motorway
- A road/ primary road
- B road

West Northamptonshire
 Strategic Plan Sustainability
 Appraisal: Scoping Report



Figure 5.1: Transport Links

Table 5.2: Mode of Transport to Work in West Northamptonshire

Method of travel to work	Daventry	Northampton	South Northamptonshire
Work mainly at home	9.3%	4.6%	11.4%
Underground, metro, light rail or tram	0.01%	0.1%	0.05%
Train	0.12%	0.3%	0.2%
Bus, minibus or coach	1.6%	4.8%	1.2%
Taxi	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Driving a car or van	41.9%	46.3%	39.4%
Passenger in a car or van	4.6%	5.7%	4.1%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%
Bicycle	1.2%	1.8%	1.3%
On foot	7.2%	6.5%	6.4%
Other method	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Not currently working	32.7%	28.6%	35.1%

Table 5.3: Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire and likely evolution without the Strategic Plan

Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
Parts of the highway network in West Northamptonshire experiences high levels of congestion and delays. Rail capacity is also currently stretched and capacity pressures on both Birmingham and London services are expected to increase. Population growth has the potential to exacerbate these problems.	Policy C1 of the Joint Core Strategy addresses a behavioural change to achieve a modal shift towards sustainable modes of transport. Furthermore, Policies C3 and C4 support the aim to achieve better connected urban areas and an improved strategic road network to reduce congestion. However, without the Strategic Plan there is potential for congestion to continue to be an issue in West Northamptonshire, particularly given that the growing population is likely to exacerbate current trends. The Strategic Plan presents the opportunity to address this by providing clarity for infrastructure providers and also to strengthen policy to promote the use of alternative modes of transport. It also has the potential to direct new development to the most sustainable locations to minimise the need to travel by private vehicle.	SA objective 13
Given the rural character of much of West Northamptonshire a large proportion of residents drive to work and some have limited access to bus services and other public transport links.	Policies C1, C2 and C4 of the Joint Core Strategy support the aim to achieve an integrated region connected by a sustainable transport system. However the Strategic Plan presents the opportunity to further address the issue of car dependency in the area. This can be achieved by promoting sustainable and active transport, sustainable development locations, and integrating new and more sustainable technologies.	SA objective 13

Section 6

Air, Land and Water Quality

Policy Context

International

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

National

6.9 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁹⁶ contains the following:

6.10 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)⁹⁷: Requires local planning authorities to demonstrate every effort has been made to prioritise the use of poorer quality agricultural land for development where it has been demonstrated that significant development is required on agricultural land.

6.11 Waste management plan for England⁹⁸: Provides an analysis on the current waste management situation in England, and evaluates how it will support implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised Water Framework Directive.

6.12 National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW)⁹⁹: Key planning objectives are identified within the NPPW, requiring planning authorities to:

- Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy.
- Ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns
- Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste
- Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment.
- Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.

6.13 Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England¹⁰⁰: Sets out how England's soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention in tackling degradation threats, including: better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil

protection during construction and; dealing with contaminated land.

6.14 Water White Paper¹⁰¹: Sets out the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It states outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystem, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

6.15 Water for Life White Paper¹⁰²: Sets out how to build resilience in the water sector. Objectives of the White Paper are to:

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

6.16 The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland¹⁰³: Sets out a way forward for

⁹⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

⁹⁷ Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

⁹⁸ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2013) Waste management plan for England [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265810/pb1410-0-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf

⁹⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2014) National Planning Policy for Waste [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364759/141015_National_Planning_Policy_for_Waste.pdf

¹⁰⁰ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69261/pb13297-soil-strategy-090910.pdf

¹⁰¹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2012) The Water White Paper [online] Available at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmenvfru/374/374.pdf>

¹⁰² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011) Water for life [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228861/8230_pdf

work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles, and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

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

6.17 Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England¹⁰⁴. Sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, providing an outline of steps which need to be taken to get there. These steps include: improving the supply of water; agreeing on important new infrastructure such as reservoirs; proposals to time limit abstraction licences; and reducing leakage. The document also states that pollution to rivers will be tackled, whilst discharge from sewers will be reduced.

6.18 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment¹⁰⁵. Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: using and managing land sustainably; recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; and increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste. Actions that will be taken as part of these three key areas are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Embed a 'net environmental gain' principle for development, including natural capital benefits to improved and water quality.
 - Protect best agricultural land.
 - Improve soil health, and restore and protect peatlands.

- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:
 - Respect nature by using our water more sustainably.
- Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste:
 - Reduce pollution by tackling air pollution in our Clean Air Strategy and reduce the impact of chemicals.

6.19 UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations¹⁰⁶. Sets out the Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help local authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.

6.20 Draft Clean Air Strategy (2018)¹⁰⁷. This draft strategy sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet these goals. This will be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. These will support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution, backed up with clear enforcement mechanisms. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.

6.21 Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018)¹⁰⁸. Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

¹⁰³ Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69336/pb12654-air-quality-strategy-vol1-070712.pdf

¹⁰⁴ HM Government (2008) Future Water: The Government's water strategy for England [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69346/pb13562-future-water-080204.pdf

¹⁰⁵ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

¹⁰⁶ Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and Department for Transport (2017) UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633269/air-quality-plan-overview.pdf

¹⁰⁷ DEFRA, Clean Air Strategy 2018 [online] Available at: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/clean-air-strategy-consultation/user_uploads/clean-air-strategy-2018-consultation.pdf

¹⁰⁸ Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739460/road-to-zero.pdf

Sub-national

6.22 Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017)¹⁰⁹: Sets out a land use planning strategy for minerals and waste related development in the County. It provides the basis for investment in new minerals and waste development in Northamptonshire. The Plan identifies what minerals and waste related development should go where, why it should go there, and how by doing so, it can make other land use and infrastructure systems function better. It considers the impact and design of new minerals and waste development, and focuses on how this development can best relate to the surrounding land use and link with the wider community.

6.23 West Northamptonshire JCS Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2018)¹¹⁰: The plan sets out what infrastructure is required to support new growth across the West Northamptonshire area. The primary purpose is to identify the infrastructure schemes considered necessary to support the development proposed in the Joint Core Strategy and to outline how and when these will be delivered.

6.24 River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan (2014)¹¹¹: The River Nene's Catchment covers the majority of Northamptonshire. This Management Plan seeks to provide a clear framework for effective partnership working, to bring together background information on the catchment and identify range of projects that contribute to the achievement of key objectives. The management plan aims for the River Nene to:

- Be cleaner and healthier.
- Support more fish, birds, and other wildlife.
- Meet the needs of drinking water suppliers and business.
- Provide a more attractive amenity for people to enjoy.
- Be sensitively managed by everyone whose activities affect it.
- Protect its irreplaceable heritage assets.
- Continue to provide drainage and manage flood risk.

6.25 Northampton Low Emissions Strategy 2017-2025¹¹²: The Strategy sets out specific aims and objectives to be

achieved over the five year plan period. With the following aims to improve air quality and health outcomes across Northampton by reducing vehicle emissions through the accelerated uptake of cleaner fuels and technologies and embed an innovative approach to vehicle emission reduction through integrated policy development and implementation.

6.26 Towcester Air Quality Action Plan¹¹³: The Towcester Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), located in South Northamptonshire District, has been in place since 2008, where Watling Street in the town centre exceeds air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide. The plan reviews all the possible reduction measures and assesses them in terms of pollution reduction, acceptability, cost effectiveness and feasibility.

6.27 Northamptonshire Highway Air Quality Strategy¹¹⁴: The Highway Air Quality Strategy supports the Northamptonshire Transportation Strategy by tackling air quality issues in the County to improve the environment for all. The main objectives of the strategy are to ensure that air quality issues in the County by accommodating future growth, supporting local communities, improving transport choice, tackling congestion and funding schemes to improve air quality.

6.28 Consultation on Proposed Changes to Air Quality Management Areas in Northampton¹¹⁵: Under the Environment Act 1995 Northampton Borough Council have reviewed and assessed the air quality in their area in line with guidance issued by DEFRA. The option proposed for consultation included the consolidation of existing town centre AQMAs to form a single AQMA covering the whole area including the addition of new areas.

Current Baseline

Air Quality

6.29 West Northamptonshire is varied in character, Daventry and South Northamptonshire are primarily agricultural and Northampton is an urban hub for the area. Air pollution sources within the plan area are primarily from road traffic emissions on major roads and within the town centres. These include the M1 corridor, the A45 and both Northampton and Towcester town centres. In line with national trends, sustainable modes of transport such as walking has

¹⁰⁹ Northamptonshire County Council (2017) Minerals and Waste Local Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/PublishingImages/Pages/update-of-the-adopted-minerals-and-waste-local-plan/MWLP%20for%20adoption%20final%20REDUCED%20wCOVER.pdf>

¹¹⁰ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Infrastructure Delivery Plan [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2759792>

¹¹¹ River Nene Country Park Community Interest Company (2014) River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www.riverneneresionalpark.org/publications/management-plans/ncp-management-plans/ncp-management-plan-iune-2014.pdf>

¹¹² Northampton Borough Council (2017) Low Emissions Strategy 2017-2025 [Online] Available at: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200075/pollution/1083/air-quality-management>

¹¹³ South Northamptonshire Council (2008) Towcester Air Quality Action Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/downloads/download/509/air-quality-action-plan>

¹¹⁴ Northamptonshire County Council (2013) Northamptonshire Highway Air Quality Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Highway%20Air%20Quality%20Strategy.pdf>

¹¹⁵ Northampton Borough Council (2019) Consultation to Propose Changes to AQMAs in Northampton [Online] Accessed at: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/download/3593/aqma-consultation-document>

decreased in the area and many residents rely on the private car for the majority of journeys. There is potential that further development within West Northamptonshire will contribute to adverse impacts on the air quality and AQMAs.

6.30 There are eight locations within West Northamptonshire, where levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) exceed the UK and EU air quality standards. Northampton Borough Council has identified seven areas, where NO₂ levels exceed the annual mean air quality objective. One is located on the M1 corridor south of Northampton town, between junctions 15 and 16, and the other six are located within the town centre. In addition, South Northamptonshire District Council has identified one AQMA in Towcester town centre, where Watling Street is the main cut through the town. At high concentrations NO₂ can act as an irritant causing inflammation of the airways and, by affecting the immune cells in the lungs, can increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. Air Quality Action Plans have been developed for both AQMAs. The above AQMAs are located along the busy strategic road network which accommodates high volumes of traffic¹¹⁶.

6.31 In September 2018 Northampton Borough Council considered a single town centre AQMA to cover the inner ring road. It would encompass existing AQMAs and other exceedance areas and the main arterial routes in to the town centre. This would be achieved by extending one existing AQMA and revoking four to form a single AQMA. These proposals are subject to public consultation.

6.32 AQMAs are also identified in the surrounding districts, such as Milton Keynes, Cherwell and Harborough, where development within West Northamptonshire has the potential to exacerbate existing air quality issues at these locations, considering the likely cross-boundary traffic flows along the M1, A5 and A45 (see **Figure 6.1**).

6.33 Equalities issues are often found to correlate strongly with air pollution and associated health quality problems as areas with poor air quality are also often found to be those that are less affluent areas. The annual cost of particulate matter alone in the UK is thought to be around £16 billion in terms of health.

6.34 The Joint Core Strategy aims to reduce the number of residential properties in West Northamptonshire located within AQMAs. Where since 2011 there has been a 5% decrease of properties located within the plan's area primarily because four AQMAs within the plan area have been revoked. However, the extent of other AQMAs has remained

unchanged. For example, 74 residential properties continue to be located in the Towcester AQMA¹¹⁷.

Geology and Minerals

6.35 The underlying geology of West Northamptonshire consists of a number of distinct rock types that define the landform and character of the area. The Tove Catchment undulating claylands makes up the majority of South Northamptonshire District with bands of Whittlewood Plateau, Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase to the south of the District and undulating Jurassic landscape to the south west. Daventry District is predominantly made up of lower Jurassic geology landscapes, where the undulating hills of Bugbrooke and Daventry, Long Buckby and Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth make up the majority of the District's geology. There are small areas of Clay Plateau, Ironstone Hills and Ironstone Uplands which characterise the north west of the District¹¹⁸.

6.36 Both Sand and Gravel and Limestone are abundant minerals in Northamptonshire, and are both Safeguarded Minerals. The majority of Daventry and small areas of South Northamptonshire District lie within a Sand and Gravel Minerals Safeguarding Area, where the Minerals Local Plan aims to limit development in safeguarding areas where sterilisation may potentially occur (see **Figures 6.2 and 6.3**)¹¹⁹. Geological mapping is indicative of the existence of a mineral resource. It is possible that the mineral has already been extracted and/or that some areas may not contain any of the mineral resource being safeguarded. Nevertheless, the onus is on promoters of non-mineral development to demonstrate satisfactorily at the time that the development is promoted that the indicated mineral resource does not actually exist in the location being promoted, or extraction would not be viable or practicable under the particular circumstances.

6.37 There are areas across West Northamptonshire which are prone to ground instability issues due to their underlying geological and geomorphological makeup¹²⁰. Northampton Sand is loose and occasionally overlays Upper Lias Clay. The combination of the Northampton Sand overlying Upper Lias Clay can cause the formation of landslides particularly where slopes have angles greater than seven degrees. Many of the landslides were encountered a long time ago and are

¹¹⁷ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Joint Authorities Monitoring Report [Online] Available at:

<http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737648>

¹¹⁸ River Nene Regional Park Inspired Space (2010) Northamptonshire Current Landscape Character Assessment [Online] Available at: <https://www.rivemeneregionalpark.org/publications/brochures-downloads/northamptonshire-environmental-chapter/northamptonshire-current-landscape-character-assessment-wall-map.pdf>

¹¹⁹ Northamptonshire County Council (2017) Minerals and Waste Local Plan [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/PublishingImages/Pages/update-of-the-adopted-minerals-and-waste-local-plan/MWLP%20for%20adoption%20final%20REDUCED%20wCOVER.pdf>

¹²⁰ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2011) West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Ground Instability Technical Paper

¹¹⁶ DEFRA (2019) AQMAs by Local Authority [Online] Available at: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/list>

generally considered to be in a state or near to a state of equilibrium. However, if these slopes are disturbed, by human activities or the ingression of water, these features could be reactivated. In addition, a number of slopes in Northamptonshire are also affected by a mass movement process known as 'cambering' which results in 'hinging' or 'slumping' of hilltops. As a result, 'cambering' can then also lead to landslides.

Figure 6.1: Air Quality Management Areas

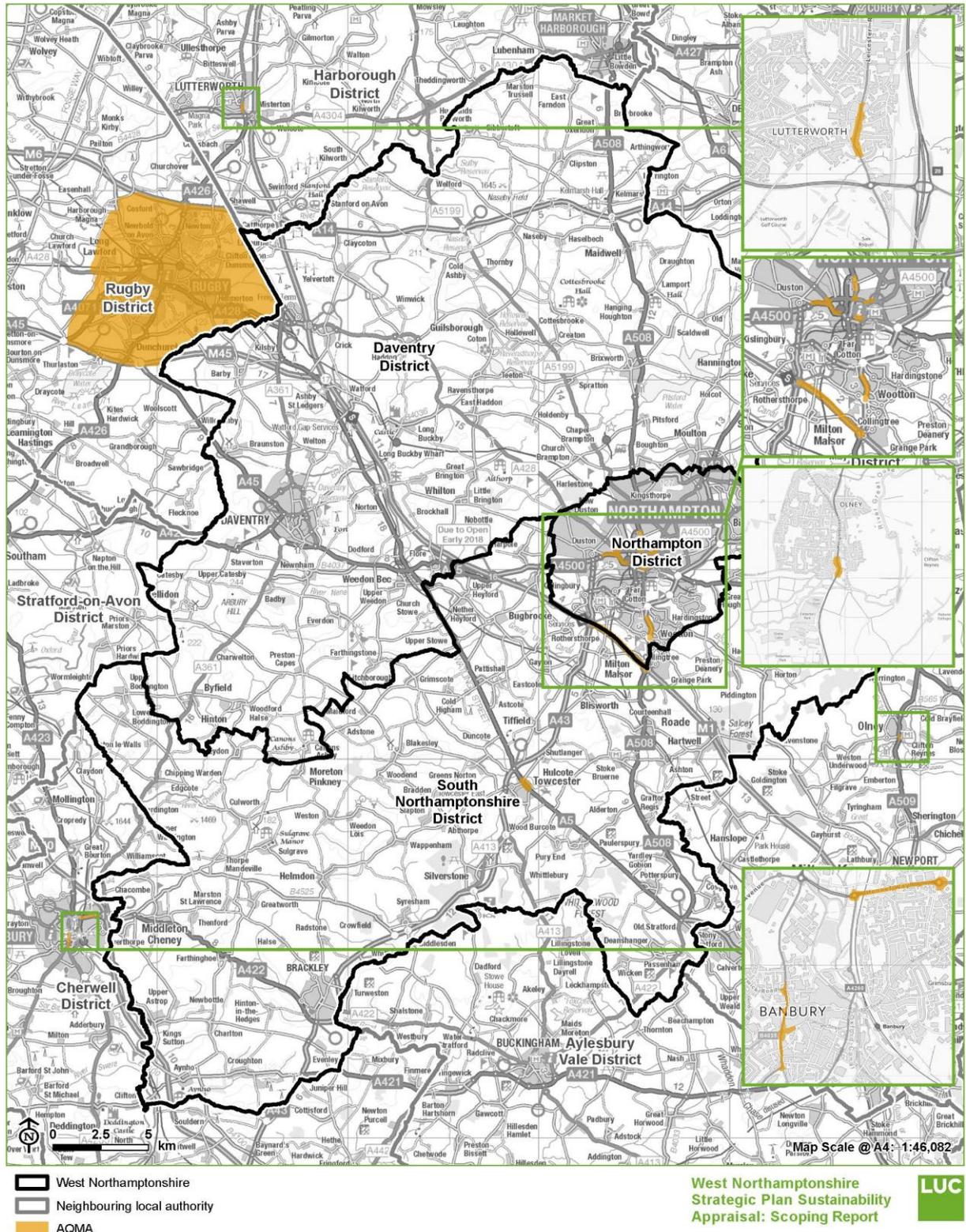
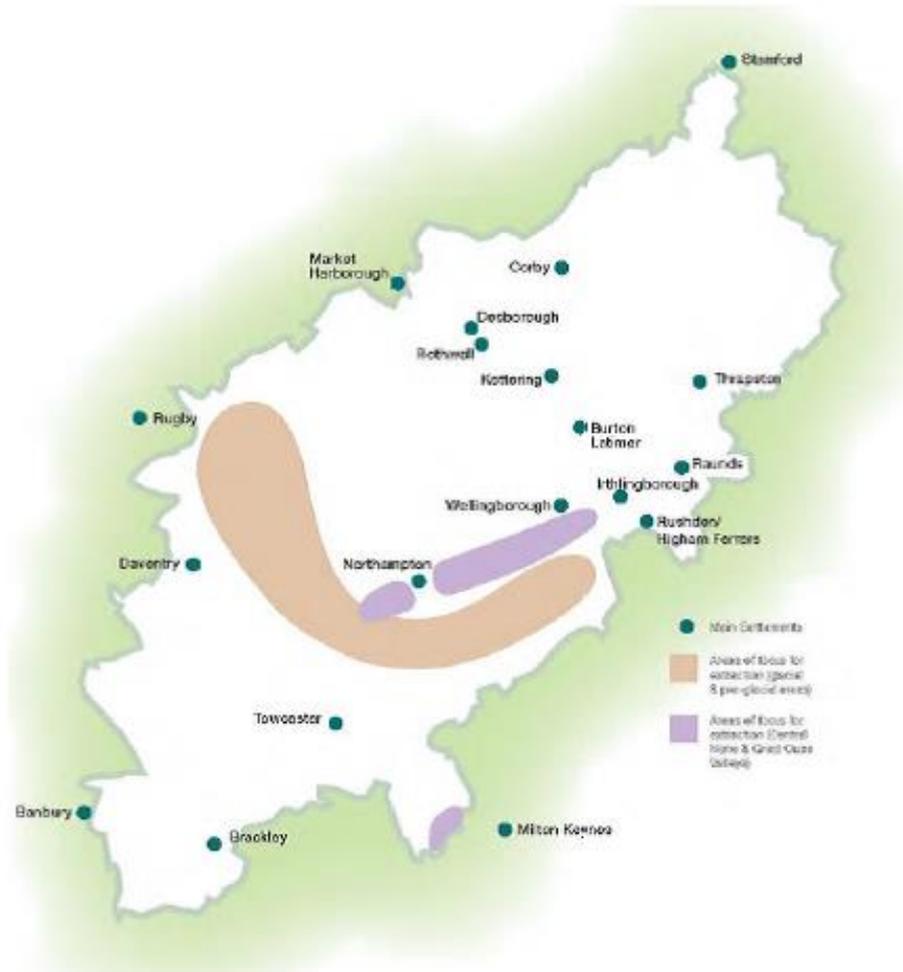


Figure 6.1: Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)

Figure 6.2: Spatial Strategy for Mineral Extraction



Source: Northamptonshire County Council (2017) Northamptonshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan

Soils

6.38 West Northamptonshire has a wide variety of soils reflecting the underlying geology which have had an influence on the land use of the area. The majority of the area is characterised by Boulder Clay and Lower Jurassic Landscapes with undulating Claylands and valleys. The soilscape which covers the majority of West Northamptonshire is classified as 'Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acidic soil with base-rich loamy and clay' of moderate fertility and impeded drainage. There are also pockets of highly fertile lime rich soils used for arable land¹²¹.

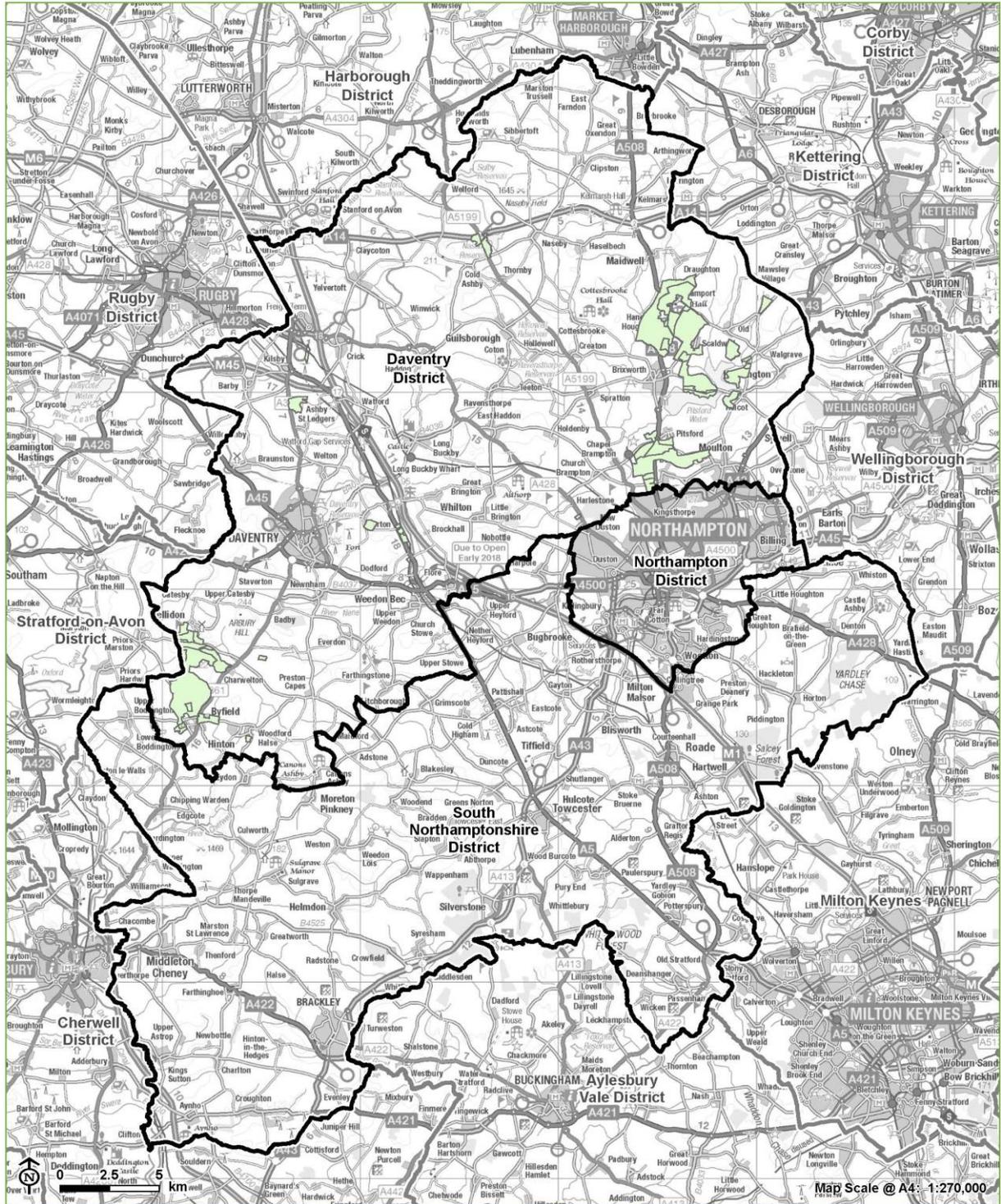
6.39 The underlying soils give rise to a mix of classified agricultural land, the majority being of Grade 3, with small areas of Grade 2 and Grade 4. Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land represent the best and most versatile land for

farming, along with Grade 3a agricultural land (the national maps of agricultural land classification do not distinguish between Grade 3a and Grade 3b agricultural land). Beyond the significant area which comprises Grade 3 agricultural land, notable areas within the District are the Grade 2 land located around Kings Sutton, Middleton Cheney and south of Northampton. In addition, areas of land around the M1 and the A361 in Daventry District are also Grade 2 classified. There are significant areas of Grade 4 land located in the District, including a strip south of Northampton, an area east of Daventry and notable clusters along the southern and western borders of South Northamptonshire¹²² (see **Figure 6.4**).

¹²¹ Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute (2019) Soilscape Map [Online] Available at: <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscape/index.cfm>

¹²² Natural England (2010) Agricultural Land Classification Map East Midlands Region [Online] Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/143027?category=5954148537204736>

Figure 6.3: Mineral Safeguarding Areas in West Northamptonshire



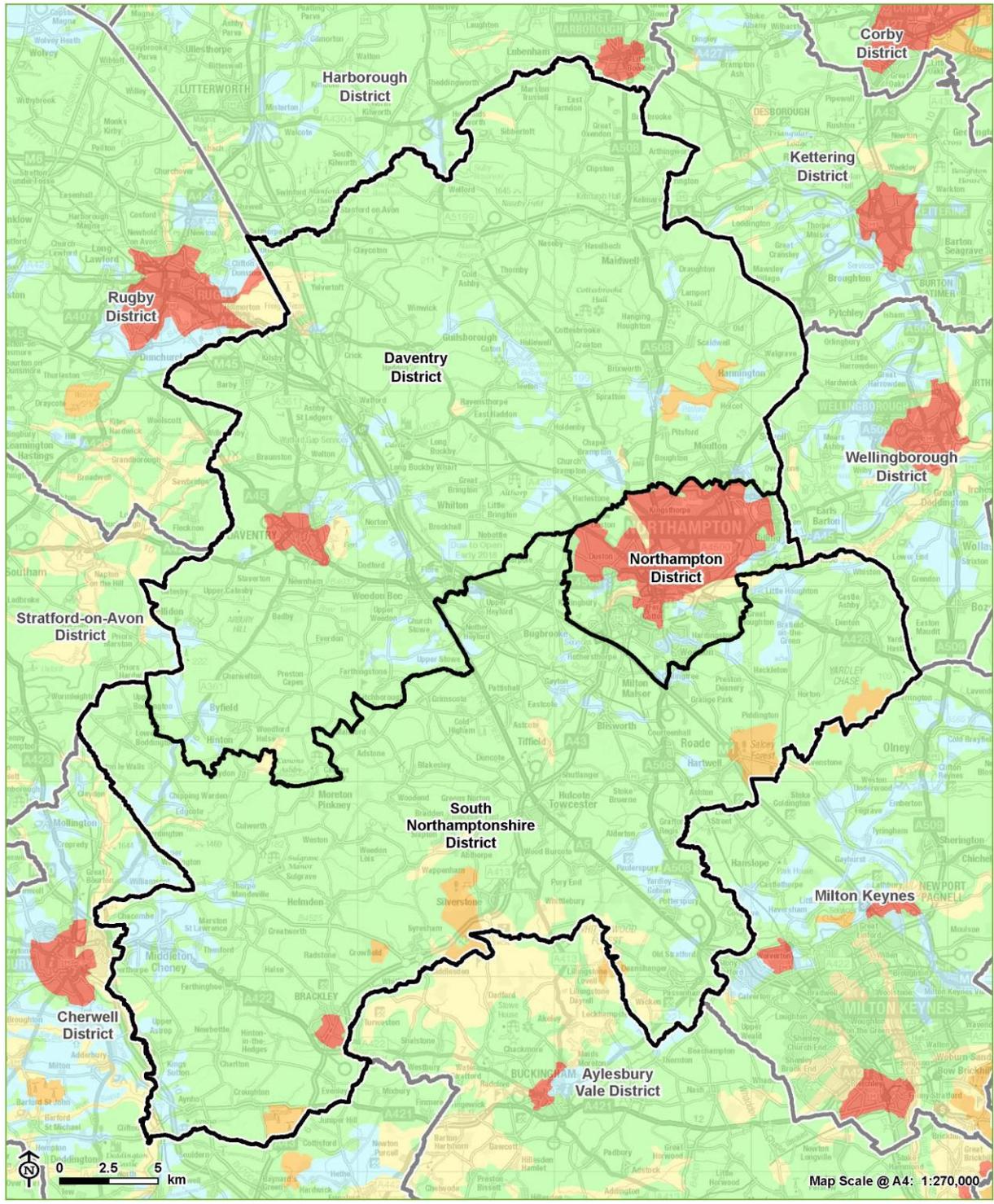
- West Northamptonshire
- Neighbouring local authority

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Figure 6.3: Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSA)

Figure 6.4: Agricultural Landscape Classifications in West Northamptonshire



- West Northamptonshire
- Neighbouring local authority
- ALC**
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Non agricultural
- Urban

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Figure 6.4: Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

Contaminated Land

6.40 All three districts which make up West Northamptonshire keep a Contaminated Land Register to keep a record of contaminated land and ensure it is remediated to reduce or remove risks to people or the environment. Both Daventry and South Northamptonshire currently have no entries on the register.

6.41 Due to the industrial history and existing uses of Northampton there are a number of sites on the polluted land register. These include nine dry cleaners, 18 petrol stations, five cement works, 10 coating and painting works and a number of combustion sites including waste fuel, wood and a crematorium¹²³.

Water

6.42 A number of rivers and their smaller tributaries flow through West Northamptonshire. The Rivers Tove, Great Ouse, Avon and Nene all have their sources in the southern and western upland areas of the county. The River Welland forms part of Northamptonshire's northern boundary and flows north-west to the Wash. The Tove and Great Ouse flow east towards Bedfordshire, the Avon flows west into Warwickshire and the Nene flows northeast from its source near Daventry across Northamptonshire and into Peterborough. Major tributaries that drain into the Nene are the Brampton Nene, River Ise, Harper's Brook and Willow Brook. In addition, The Grand Union and the Oxford Canals cross the area and Boddington Reservoir lies on the boundary of Daventry and South Northamptonshire¹²⁴.

6.43 The District is covered by the River Basin Management Plans mainly for the Anglian River Basin District but the south west tip of the sub region is covered by the Thames River Basin District. Land within the plan area falls across the Nene River catchment. Priority issues to tackle in the Nene catchment area include water quality, habitat quality, and hydromorphology¹²⁵. Some of the water bodies in these catchments have been identified by the Environment Agency as having 'bad' or 'poor' ecological status, but none have been identified as having a 'fail' chemical status¹²⁶. A further breakdown of the number of water courses in the catchment which have achieved various ecological and chemical classifications is provided in **Table 6.1** below.

6.44 Mains water in West Northamptonshire is provided by Anglian Water, Severn Trent Water and Thames Water. In Daventry, around 120 known private water supplies within the District serve around 150 single dwellings, and approximately 60 properties in South Northamptonshire are served by private water supplies via wells, springs and boreholes. In addition, Daventry and Northampton are comprised mainly of minor aquifers which don't produce large quantities of water for abstraction as the River Nene Catchment is absent of major aquifer yet there is a major aquifer located at Blisworth in South Northamptonshire. However, the Nene River Catchment is an important water source for both the Pitsford and Rutland Water reservoirs, which are both important water sources for public supply. Anglian Water, which covers the West Northamptonshire area, is at a 'serious level of water stress' where the water sources in the region are over-abstracted resulting in serious damage to the environment. This suggests that water supplies in West Northamptonshire are likely to struggle with future demand and increased capacity¹²⁷.

¹²³ Northampton Borough Council (2000) Contaminated Land Strategy [Online] Available at: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/971/nbc-statutory-contaminated-land-strategy-framework-document>

¹²⁴ Northamptonshire Biodiversity Plan (2015) Rivers [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/archaeology-biodiversity-and-landscape/documents/PDF%20Documents/rivers.pdf>

¹²⁵ Environment Agency (2015) Water for lives and livelihoods - Part 1: Anglian river basin district management plan [Online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718327/Anglian_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf

¹²⁶ Environment Agency (accessed 2019) Nene - Summary [Online] Available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/ManagementCatchment/3059/Summary>

¹²⁷ Halcrow Group Limited (2011) West Northamptonshire Water Cycle Study [Online] Available at: https://www.northampton.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4899/003_7_water_cycle_study_phase_2_2011.pdf

Table 6.1: Ecological and Chemical Classification for Surface Waters in Nene Catchment 2016 Cycle 2

Number of water bodies	Ecological Status or Potential					Chemical Status	
	Bad	Poor	Moderate	Good	High	Fail	Good
63	1	26	32	4	0	0	63

6.45 The entirety of West Northamptonshire is located within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone, where the catchment area has an influence on the water quality of the Drinking Water Protected Area. An area east of Northampton is classified as a Drinking Water Protected Area, where water quality in the area needs to be protected to ensure drinking water is not polluted. In addition, a small area south of the town centre in Northampton and east of Ravensthorpe in Daventry District are identified as Source Protection Zones¹²⁸ (see **Figure 6.5**).

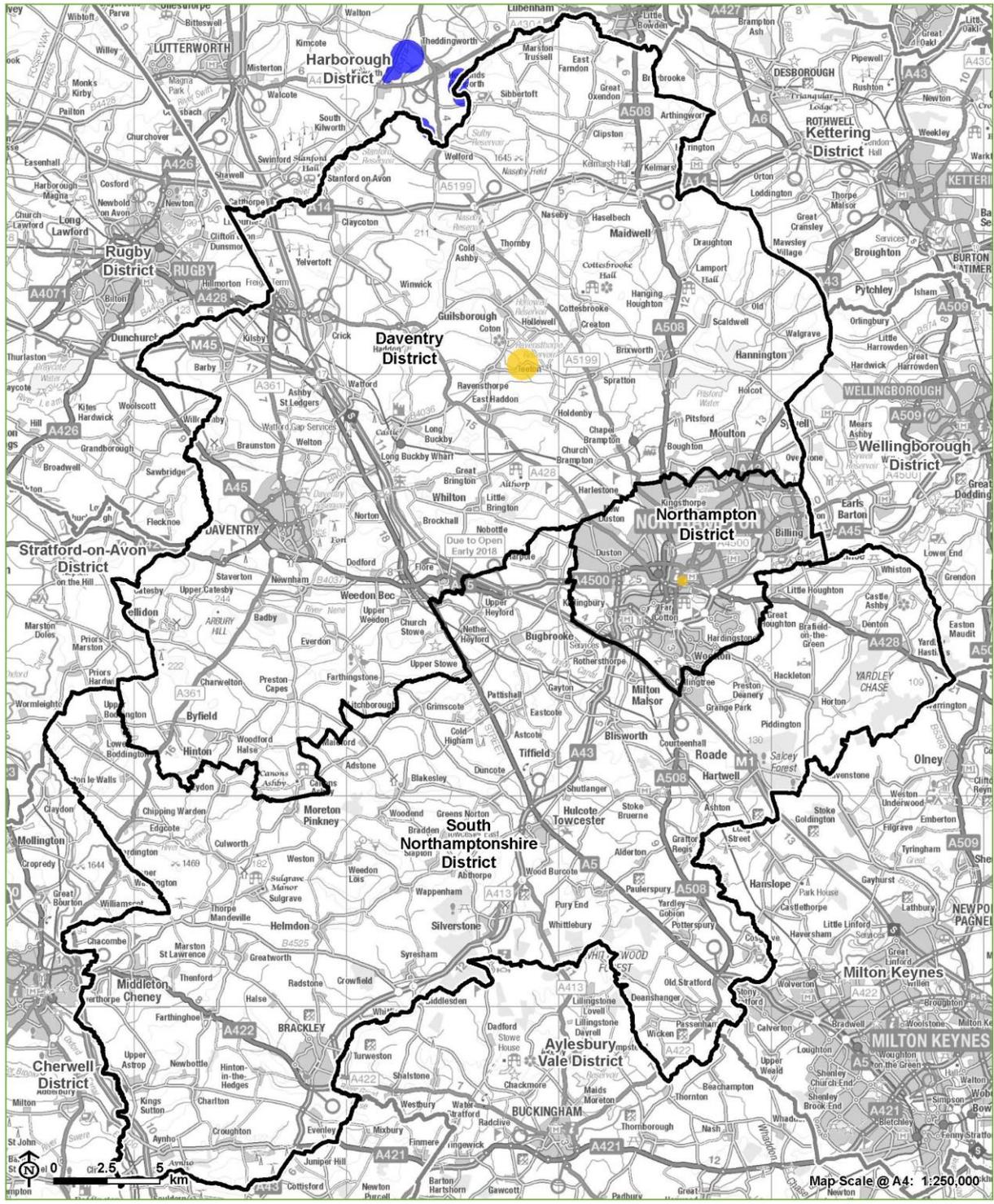
Waster

6.46 Waste

Northamptonshire is performing well in terms of achieving a high rate of waste which is sent to be recycled. A total of 50.1% of 354,524 of household waste was recycled or composted during the 2016/17 reporting period, higher than the national figure of 45% for England.

¹²⁸ DEFRA (2019) Magic Map [Online] Available at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Figure 6.5: Water Quality in West Northamptonshire



- West Northamptonshire
- Neighbouring local authority
- Source protection zone**
- Zone 1
- Zone 1c
- Zone 2
- Zone 2c
- Zone 3

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Figure 6.5: Water Quality

Source: Environment Agency

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Table 6.2: Key Sustainability Issues for West Northamptonshire and Likely Evolution without the Strategic Plan

Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
West Northamptonshire has eight identified AQMAs at Northampton and Towcester. In addition to potential for exacerbated air quality issues at AQMAs within the area, development within West Northamptonshire could have impacts on AQMAs in neighbouring authorities. Similarly there is potential for a cumulative impact of development in neighbouring authorities alongside development in West Northamptonshire in terms of air quality at AQMAs in the plan area.	How air quality will change in the absence of a Strategic Plan is in part unknown, given that West Northamptonshire accommodates a high volume of through traffic, particularly using the M1. Policies C1, C3 and BN9 in the Joint Core Strategy seek to minimise air pollution and protect air quality as well as promoting sustainable transport in the plan area and improved connectivity by sustainable transport. Without the Strategic Plan, development may be located in less sustainable locations that increase reliance on car use, which is likely to increase air pollution. Recent national policies and the emergence of new technologies are likely to improve air pollution, for example, through cleaner fuels/energy sources. Nonetheless, the Strategic Plan provides an opportunity to contribute to improved air quality in the area through the sustainable locations of development and the promotion of alternative travel modes, in line with national policy aspirations.	SA objective 14
West Northamptonshire contains a mix of classified agricultural land, the majority being Grade 3, with small areas of Grade 2 and Grade 4. New development should, where possible, avoid the loss of higher grades of agricultural land.	The Joint Core Strategy seeks to promote the development of previously developed land which is not of high environmental value through Policy S1, where the Joint Core Strategy sets out the target for 30% of all additional dwellings in west Northamptonshire to be on previously developed land or conversions. The Strategic Plan provides an opportunity to ensure development does not lead to a loss or compromise of any natural assets, including agricultural land. This may involve the prioritisation of use of previously developed sites and lower quality agricultural land for development.	SA objective 9
Parts of West Northamptonshire are prone to ground instability. The combination of the Northampton Sand overlying Upper Lias Clay can cause the formation of landslides particularly where slopes have angles greater than seven degrees.	The identification of land for development in the Joint Core Strategy took into account ground instability. The Strategic Plan can ensure that continues to be a factor when considering new development locations.	SA objective 9
The sub-region contains Sand and Gravel safeguarded mineral resources which, where possible, should not be lost or compromised by future growth.	Without the Strategic Plan it is possible that development could result in unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources which would mean they are not available for future generations to use. Policy 28 of the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan addresses Proposals for non-mineral development within the Minerals Safeguarded Areas.	SA objective 10
Some of the water bodies which flow through the District have been identified by the Environment Agency as having 'bad' or 'poor' ecological status. There are also areas in West Northamptonshire which are covered by a Source Protection Zone and a potential for capacity and supply issues in the future.	Without the Strategic Plan it is possible that un-planned development could be located in areas that will exacerbate existing water quality issues, although existing safeguards, such as the EU Water Framework Directive, would provide some protection. Development which occurs within Source Protection Zones presents the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. Policies BN7A and BN8 of the Joint Core Strategy require that new developments support the delivery of appropriate water supply and adequate waste water infrastructure, including encouraging the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). The Strategic Plan will provide the opportunity to ensure that development is located and designed to take into account the sensitivity of the water environment.	SA objective 11

Section 7

Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation

Policy Context

International

7.1 European Floods Directive (2007): A framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

7.2 European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010): Aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units. Requires the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.

7.3 United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015): International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

National

7.4 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹²⁹: Contains the following:

- One of the core planning principles is to “support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure”.
- Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.
- Local planning authorities should adopt a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures.

¹²⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

7.5 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹³⁰:

Supports the content of the NPPF by promoting low carbon and renewable energy generation, including decentralised energy, the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings and sustainable transport.

7.6 Climate Change Act 2008¹³¹: Sets targets for UK greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 80% by 2050 and CO₂ emission reductions of at least 26% by 2015, against a 1990 baseline.

7.7 Flood and Water Management Act (2010)¹³²: Sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes: incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

7.8 The UK Renewable Energy Strategy¹³³: Sets out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO₂ emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.

7.9 The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK¹³⁴: Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

7.10 The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate¹³⁵: Sets out visions for the following sectors:

- People and the Built Environment – “to promote the development of a healthy, equitable and resilient population, well placed to reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change...buildings and places (including built heritage) and the people who live and

work in them are resilient and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and make the most of the opportunities of a changing climate.”

- Infrastructure – “an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”.
- Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides.”
- Business and Industry – “UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change.”
- Local Government – “Local government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.”

7.11 Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England¹³⁶: This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Manage the risk to people and their property.
- Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national.
- Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

7.12 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment¹³⁷: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: using and managing land sustainably; and protecting and improving our global

¹³⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

¹³¹ HM Government (2008) Climate Change Act 2008 [online] Available at:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/pdfs/ukpga_20080027_en.pdf

¹³² HM Government (2010) Flood and Water Management Act 2010 [online] Available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga_20100029_en.pdf

¹³³ HM Government (2009) The UK Renewable Energy Strategy [online] Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228866/7686.p](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228866/7686.pdf)

¹³⁴ Department of Energy & Climate Change (2012) The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The

Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK [online] Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65602/6927-](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65602/6927-energy-efficiency-strategy--the-energy-efficiency.pdf)

[energy-efficiency-strategy--the-energy-efficiency.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65602/6927-energy-efficiency-strategy--the-energy-efficiency.pdf)

¹³⁵ HM Government (2018) The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for

Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate [online]

Available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_dat](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf)

[a/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf)

¹³⁶ HM Government (2011) Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building

resilience: The national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England

[online] Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228898/978010](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228898/9780108510366.pdf)

[8510366.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228898/9780108510366.pdf)

¹³⁷ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 23 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

[online] Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

[year-environment-plan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

Sub-national

7.13 Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2017-2020¹³⁸: A partnership approach providing a mechanism through which local and national climate change policy has been reviewed and assessed in the context of Northamptonshire. The Strategy also highlighted the activities which take place to support climate change mitigation and the provisions in place to adapt to future climate change. The overall objectives of the strategy are as follows:

- Raise awareness of the issues of climate change.
- Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Current Baseline

7.14 The Met Office has released the UK Climate Projections 2018 study (UKCP18) that provides up to date information on how the climate of the UK is expected to change in the period up to the end of the 21st Century. In the highest emissions scenario, which may result based on current emissions reduction trends, summer temperatures in the UK could be 5.4C warmer by 2070 than the average summer between 1981 and 2000. Average summer rainfall would fall by 47% in this scenario. Winters could be up to 4.2C warmer, with up to 35% more rainfall by 2070¹³⁹.

7.15 Changes to the climate will bring new challenges to West Northamptonshire's built and natural environments. Hotter, drier summers may have adverse health impacts and may exacerbate the adverse environmental effects of air and water pollution. A changing climate may place pressure on some native species and create conditions suitable for new species, including invasive non-native species.

7.16 Flood risk is a significant concern for West Northamptonshire (see **Figure 7.1**). The Rivers Nene, Tove and Ouse and their tributaries as well as the canal network and reservoirs are prominent features of the landscape and important to the wider biodiversity network. Yet due to these water bodies and historic patterns of development there are a number of areas which are at risk of flooding¹⁴⁰. In addition to fluvial flooding there is also an increased risk of surface water flooding following periods of heavy rainfall, more intense storms and/ or where wastewater drainage is ineffective.

7.17 Climate change could exacerbate the risk of flooding in the future and increase the land area at risk due to increased intensity of rainfall from wetter winters¹⁴¹. The Environment Agency has produced peak river flow allowances by river basin district which account for variation due to climate change. **Table 7.1** shows the potential change identified for the given time periods for the Anglian River Basin district within which the vast majority of West Northamptonshire is located. A small area to the south west of West Northamptonshire is located in the Thames river basin district, where **Table 7.2** demonstrates potential changes to the river flows.

Table 7.1: Peak river flow allowances for Anglian River Basin District (1961-1990 baseline)

Allowance Category	Total Potential Change Anticipated		
	2015-2039	2040-2069	2017-2115
Upper End	25%	35%	65%
Higher Central	15%	20%	35%
Central	10%	15%	25%

Table 7.2: Peak river flow allowances for Thames river basin district (1961 to 1990 baseline)

Allowance Category	Total Potential Change Anticipated		
	2015-2039	2040-2069	2017-2115
Upper End	25%	35%	65%
Higher Central	15%	20%	35%

¹³⁸ Northamptonshire County Council (2017) Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2017-2020 [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/climate-change/Pages/climate-change-strategy.aspx>

¹³⁹ Met Office (2018) UKCP18 Factsheet: Derived projections [Online] Available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18-fact-sheet-derived-projections.pdf>

¹⁴⁰ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

Allowance Category	Total Potential Change Anticipated		
	2015-2039	2040-2069	2017-2115
Central	10%	15%	25%

Climate Change Mitigation

7.18 Northamptonshire is committed to a target of reducing the County's emission from the 2011/12 baseline by 80% by 2050, in line with national targets. It aims for a reduction in emissions in the Borough of Northampton, with a focus on improving air quality and reducing vehicle emissions.

7.19 For the year 2005, Daventry had an average rate of 14.1 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per capita, whereas Northampton was 7.2 per capita and South Northamptonshire had an average rate of 12.0 tonnes of CO₂ emission per capita. However, in 2016 the rates had decreased to 10.4 tonnes per capita for Daventry, 4.1 for Northampton and 9.4 for South Northamptonshire. **Table 7.3** shows CO₂ (kilotonne) emissions for the three districts which make up West Northamptonshire for 2005 and 2016 across industrial, domestic and transport sectors. As shown there has been a reduction between 2005 and 2016 across all sectors, where the transport industry accounts for the largest amount of CO₂ emissions in both Daventry and South Northamptonshire. However, in 2005 the industrial and commercial sector accounted for the greatest CO₂ emissions in Northampton Borough but domestic emissions accounted for the majority of emissions in 2016¹⁴². This is likely to be a result of de-industrialisation in the UK, where much industry, particularly clothing and footwear, which was prominent in Northampton, has been relocated to other areas in the world as a result of cost.

7.20 The three districts which make up West Northamptonshire have considerably higher total CO₂ emissions compared to the other districts in Northamptonshire. There are as follows: Corby 458.5 kt; East Northamptonshire 490.7 kt; Kettering 624.1 kt; and Wellingborough 417.8 kt.

7.21 In the context of planned growth in the area additional low carbon and appropriate renewable energy infrastructure, as well as an increase in uptake of energy efficiency initiatives will be needed to ensure Northamptonshire meets its targets and benefits from the opportunities for innovation in these sectors. In addition to reducing carbon emissions from existing sources, efforts to reduce the overall energy consumption and carbon emissions are being made through

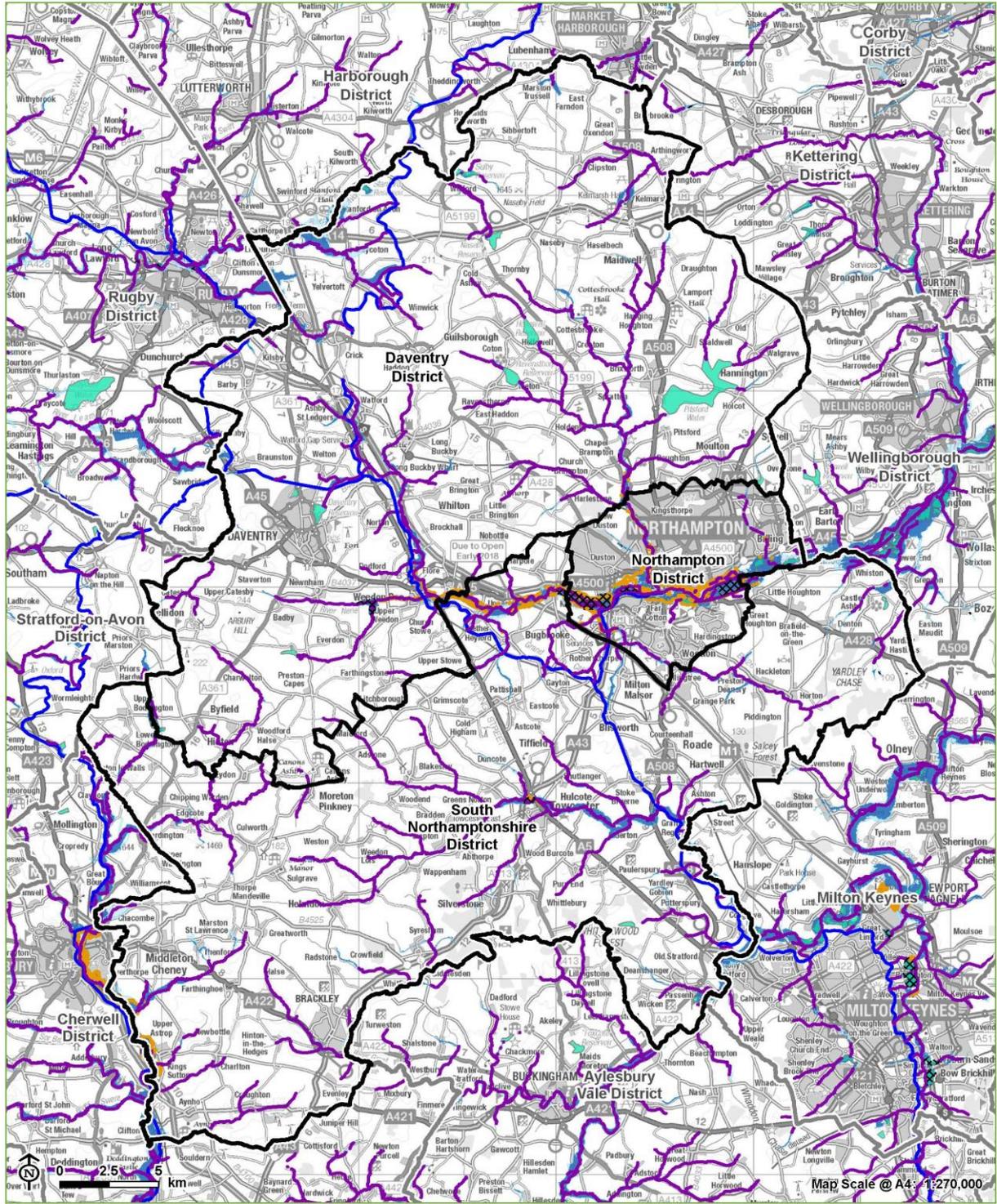
the Joint Core Strategy and 'Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document'.

Table 7.3: CO₂ emissions across West Northamptonshire (shown as kt)

District	Year	Industrial and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Total
Daventry	2005	268.5	205.2	537.4	1,065.3
	2016	174.5	138.2	537.4	840.8
Northampton	2005	585.1	488.8	334.7	1,408.4
	2016	289.6	320.1	303.8	911.8
South Northamptonshire	2005	205.5	225.5	598.7	1,017.8
	2016	140.7	154.2	572.5	842.2

¹⁴² UK Local Authority and Regional Carbon Dioxide Emissions National Statistics: 2005-2016 Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>

Figure 7.1: Flood Risk in West Northamptonshire



- West Northamptonshire
- Neighbouring local authority
- Canal
- River
- Lake
- Flood storage area
- Areas benefiting from flood defences
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3

West Northamptonshire
Strategic Plan Sustainability
Appraisal: Scoping Report



Figure 7.1: Flood Risk

Table 7.4: Key Sustainability Issues for West Northamptonshire and likely evolution without the Strategic Plan

Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>The effects of climate change in West Northamptonshire is likely to result in extreme weather events (e.g. intense rainfall, prolonged high temperatures and drought) becoming more common and more intense.</p>	<p>Policy S10 of the Joint Core Strategy is supportive of design and construction measures which provide resilience to climate change. Whilst the Strategic Plan will not influence extreme weather events, it can build upon the approach of current planning policy to ensure adaptation through design and better respond to current circumstances. This is likely to include building orientation, shading including tree planting, and protection against extreme weather events in the public realm including public transport facilities, the use of SuDS and green infrastructure as well as promotion of water conservation and recycling.</p>	<p>SA objective 12 SA objective 15</p>
<p>Flood risk in West Northamptonshire is dominated by fluvial flooding which is the source of most risk. The expected magnitude and probability of significant fluvial, tidal, ground and surface water flooding could increase in the area as a result of climate change.</p>	<p>The Strategic Plan is not expected to reduce the likelihood of fluvial flooding. Policy BN7 of the Joint Core Strategy currently seeks to reduce the potential for increases in flood risk as a result of the location of new development and requires the use of SuDS. The Strategic Plan presents the opportunity, alongside national measures, to mitigate the effects of potential future flooding and locate development in sustainable locations that would not be significantly impacted by flooding and ensure it is designed to be flood resilient where appropriate.</p>	<p>SA objective 12</p>
<p>While average energy consumption among residents in West Northamptonshire has fallen in recent years the three districts still have the highest carbon dioxide emissions in the County. The Council has an obligation to contribute to the national carbon reduction targets through the generation of low carbon and renewable energy, including decentralised energy networks, and encouraging energy efficiency measures in new and existing buildings.</p>	<p>Climate change is likely to be on-going effects of the Strategic Plan, considering the scale of the challenge this issue poses. The Joint Core Strategy already includes policies seeking to address this issue, including Policy S10, which supports development which makes a clear contribution to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The obligation of the Council to reduce carbon emissions will also remain with or without the Strategic Plan due to Government targets. The Strategic Plan provides an opportunity to strengthen policies which seek to act positively in terms of climate change contributions. An important part of this overall approach will be to help limit the need to travel in West Northamptonshire through the appropriate siting of new development and sustainable transport links.</p>	<p>SA objective 14 SA objective 15</p>

Section 8

Biodiversity

Policy Context

International

8.1 International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) (1976): International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.

8.2 European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) (1979): Aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).

8.3 International Convention on Biological Diversity (1992): International commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.

8.4 European Habitats Directive (1992): Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive sets the standard for nature conservation across the EU and enables all 27 Member States to work together within the same strong legislative framework in order to protect the most vulnerable species and habitat types across their entire natural range within the EU. It also established the Natura 2000 network.

8.5 European Birds Directive (2009): Requires the maintenance of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements.

8.6 United Nations Declaration on Forests (New York Declaration) (2014): international commitment to cut natural forest loss by 2020 and end loss by 2030.

National

8.7 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹⁴³: Encourages plans to “*identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological*

¹⁴³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation". Plans should also promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and species, ecological networks and measurable net gains for biodiversity.

8.8 The framework states that a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure is also to be supported through planning policies and that there should also be support for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

8.9 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹⁴⁴: Supports the NPPF by requiring Local Plans to include strategic policies that conserve and enhance the natural environment through sustainable development.

8.10 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006¹⁴⁵: Places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity.

8.11 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services¹⁴⁶: Guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks. The Strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors: Agriculture, Forestry, Planning & Development, Water Management, Marine Management, Fisheries, Air Pollution and Invasive Non-Native Species.

8.12 Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper¹⁴⁷: Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses. The Green Paper sets out a framework for offsetting.

8.13 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment¹⁴⁸: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six

key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these three key areas are as follows:

- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:
 - Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
- Securing clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans:
 - Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive, and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
 - Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.

Sub-national

8.14 Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020¹⁴⁹: The document provides an evidence base and framework for wildlife conservation priorities across Northamptonshire for 2015–2020. This includes the conservation and protection of habitats of international importance that support many species.

8.15 Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework- Development and Implementation Principles Supplementary Planning Document (2011)¹⁵⁰: A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which sets out guidance on site restoration, after-care and after-use including on habitats and biodiversity.

8.16 Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (2015)¹⁵¹: This SPD explains how biodiversity shall be

¹⁴⁴ Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

¹⁴⁵ HM Government (2006) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 [online] Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/pdfs/ukpga_20060016_en.pdf

¹⁴⁶ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

¹⁴⁷ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2013) Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper [online] Available at: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/biodiversity/offsetting/supporting_documents/201309_03Biodiversity%20offsetting%20green%20paper.pdf

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

¹⁴⁹ Northamptonshire County Council (2015) Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/archaeology-biodiversity-and-landscape/documents/PDF%20Documents/Northamptonshire%20BAP%202015-2020.pdf>

¹⁵⁰ Northamptonshire County Council (2011) Minerals and Waste DF- Development and Implementation Principles SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/Documents/PDF%20Documents/110317%20D%20Final%20draft%20SPD%20new%20covers.pdf>

¹⁵¹ Northamptonshire County Council (2015) Biodiversity SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/biodiversity-supplementary-planning-document-2015.pdf>

integrated into the development process to ensure that legislation and policy requirements are met and best practice standards are achieved. It offers a standardised approach which all applicants should follow. The SPD expands on the main principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and relevant local planning policies, and should be used together with expert ecological assessment of the details of each specific case.

8.17 Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document¹⁵²: This SPD has been produced to help Local Planning Authorities, developers and others ensure that development has no significant effect on the SPA, in accordance with the legal requirements of the Habitats Regulations. The SPD outlines a consistent approach to both consulting Natural England and identifying potential significant effects on the SPA's qualifying features.

Current Baseline

8.18 West Northamptonshire has diverse wildlife with a range of important habitats supporting species and sites of international importance (see **Figure 8.1**). Priority habitats and species in West Northamptonshire include:

- Gravel pits and wet grassland supporting lapwing and curlew in the Nene Valley.
- Limestone grasslands of the north, with their orchids and grizzled skipper butterflies.
- Acid grasslands in the west, which support common lizard.
- Throughout the county, meadows supporting brown hare and many wildflower species.

8.19 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, east of Northampton, is the plan area's only European protected site. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has been designated as a SPA due to its international importance as a wetland habitat for non-breeding water birds. The SPA is important for its populations of Bittern, Gadwall and Golden Plover and is also used regularly by over 20,000 water birds each year, including key populations of Wigeon, Gadwall, Mallard, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Great-Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Mute Swan, Bittern, Golden Plover, Lapwing and Coot¹⁵³.

8.20 Buckingham Thick Copse is a National Nature Reserve, located in South Northamptonshire, which is a 45 hectare woodland habitat currently closed to the public¹⁵⁴. There are also a number of SSSIs in West Northamptonshire, including 14 in Daventry, 47 in South Northamptonshire and 9 in Northampton. The SSSIs in West Northamptonshire are of a varying condition, however, none of the SSSI sites are in a declining or destroyed condition¹⁵⁵. **Table 8.1** below sets out the condition of SSSIs in West Northamptonshire.

Table 8.1: Condition of SSSIs in West Northamptonshire

	Favourable	Unfavourable – Recovering	Unfavourable – No Change
Daventry	6	6	2
Northampton	4	5	0
South Northamptonshire	14	31	2

8.21 The total land area designated as Local Wildlife Sites across West Northamptonshire in 2017/18 has decreased by just over 4 hectares compared to 2015/16. There has been a net gain within Northampton Borough of 7.41 ha, but this is offset by net losses of 11.18 ha in Daventry District and 0.53 ha in South Northamptonshire. The total net loss across West Northamptonshire of 4.3 ha equates to approximately a 0.1% reduction in the total area of biodiversity importance¹⁵⁶. **Table 8.2** demonstrates the changes in Local Wildlife sites in West Northamptonshire.

8.22 Ancient Woodlands, (as designated by Natural England) are areas that have been continuously wooded since the 1600s and support a range of plant and animal species that cannot be replaced in new woodlands. The following ancient woodlands are all located within South Northamptonshire: Salcey; Whittlewood; and Yardley Chase. Daventry District also contains some remnant ancient woodland. The conservation of these woodlands applies regardless of ownership and the Joint Core Strategy states that proposals for development that may distort the value of these sites will be resisted¹⁵⁷.

¹⁵² Northamptonshire County Council (2015) Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA SPD [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/policy/archaeology-biodiversity-and-landscape/documents/PDF%20Documents/biodiversity%20SPD.pdf>

¹⁵³ Northamptonshire County Council (2015) Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/policy/archaeology-biodiversity-and-landscape/documents/PDF%20Documents/Northamptonshire%20BAP%202015-2020.pdf>

¹⁵⁴ Natural England (2014) Northamptonshire's National Nature Reserve [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northamptonshires-national-nature-reserves/northamptonshires-national-nature-reserves>

¹⁵⁵ Natural England (accessed 2019) Condition of SSSI Units in Northamptonshire [Online] Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?countyCode=31&SiteType=ALL&ReportTitle=NORTHAMPTONSHIRE>

¹⁵⁶ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2018) Annual Monitoring Report 17/18 [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2737648>

¹⁵⁷ West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) Joint Core Strategy [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=5130832#5130832>

Table 8.2: Changes in Areas of Local Wildlife Sites in West Northamptonshire

	Number of Sites 2017/18	Total Area of LWS 15/16 (ha)	Total Area of LWS 16/17 (ha)	Total Area of LWS 17/18 (ha)	Change in Area since 15/16 (ha)
Daventry	181	1606.71	1600.41	1595.53	-11.18
Northampton	46	403.93	408.77	411.34	+7.41
South Northamptonshire	163	2418.57	2418.57	2418.04	-0.53

8.23 Other non-statutory habitats in West Northamptonshire are also valuable in supporting biodiversity and key environmental services, such as flood attenuation, climate control, attenuating pollution and providing space for food production. The Biodiversity Action Plan identifies a number of key areas of exiting importance for biodiversity and other environmental interest. Protected Wildflower Verges are roadside verges rich in wildlife which are protected and managed by the County Council to retain their wildflower interest as Protected Wildflower Verges (PWV). There are 32 PWV in Northamptonshire, stretching 26km and covering over 17 hectares. In addition, Pocket Parks are natural areas of countryside which are owned, looked after and cherished by the local community and accessible to all for leisure, recreation and wildlife conservation. There are currently 46 Pocket Parks in West Northamptonshire, including Crick Millennium Wood, Hollowell and Spratton¹⁵⁸.

¹⁵⁸ Northamptonshire County Council (2015) Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 [Online] Available at: <https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/archaeology-biodiversity-and-landscape/documents/PDF%20Documents/Northamptonshire%20BAP%202015-2020.pdf>

Figure 8.1: Biodiversity Designations in West Northamptonshire

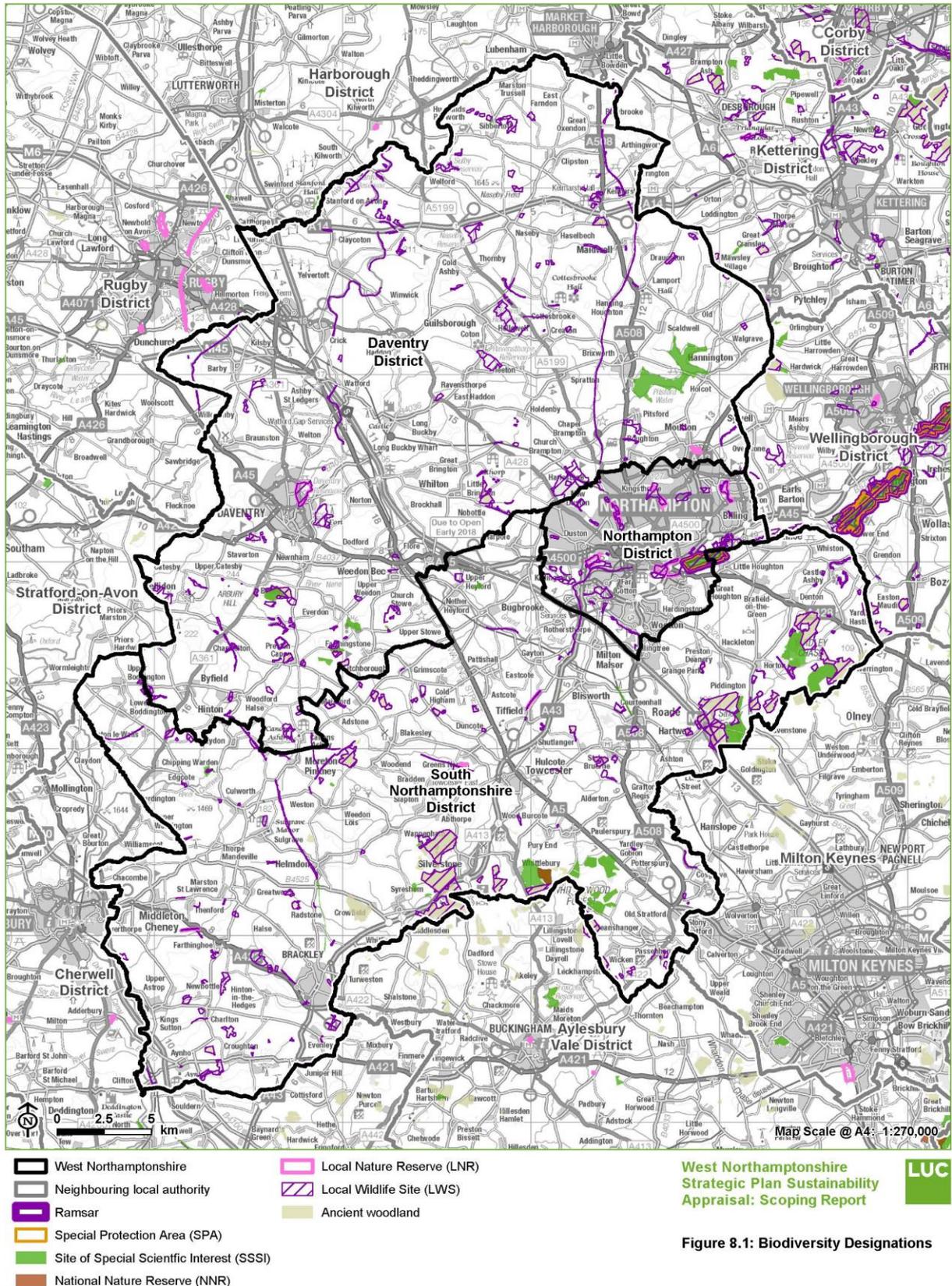


Table 8.3: Key Sustainability Issues for West Northamptonshire and likely evolution without the Strategic Plan

Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>West Northamptonshire contains a variety of both designated and non-designated natural habitats and biodiversity. This includes those designated for their local, national and international importance. There has been a net loss of locally important biodiversity sites in the area.</p>	<p>Pressures on the natural environment in West Northamptonshire are likely to continue regardless of the Strategic Plan particularly given the requirement for development to meet growth projections. The Joint Core Strategy includes a number of policies seeking to address these pressures, including Policies BN1, BN2 and BN4 which provide for the support of the network of green infrastructure as well as sites and habitats identified for their specific importance. The Strategic Plan presents the opportunity for new development to come forward at the most appropriate locations as to limit detrimental impacts on biodiversity assets. The review process also offers the opportunity to update planning policy in relation to the protection of areas which are of importance in terms of their biodiversity and geodiversity value with consideration for the future evolution of development in the District.</p>	<p>SA objective 6</p>
<p>Although designated sites represent the most valued habitats in West Northamptonshire, the overall ecological network is important for biodiversity as a whole, helps to support the health designated sites, and allows species to migrate in response to climate change. Fragmentation and erosion of habitats and the wider ecological network is an ongoing threat to biodiversity.</p>	<p>Erosion and fragmentation of habitats and ecological networks could take place through poorly located and designed development. The NPPF requires Local Plans to include policies to safeguard, restore and create ecological networks at a landscape scale, and to deliver net biodiversity gains. In addition, Policy BN2 of the Joint Core Strategy requires development proposals to contribute to the enhancement of existing biodiversity, and ideally lead to a net gain in Biodiversity. The Strategic Plan provides the opportunity to ensure that the policy is working as planned and is up-to-date with current thinking and evidence.</p>	<p>SA objective 6 SA objective 15</p>

Section 9

Historic Environment

Policy Context

International

9.1 European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985): Defines ‘architectural heritage’ and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.

9.2 Valletta Treaty (1992) formerly the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revisited)¹⁵⁹: Aims to protect the European archaeological heritage “as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study”.

National

9.3 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹⁶⁰: *Plans should “set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:*

- *a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- *b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;*
- *c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- *d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.”*

9.4 National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹⁶¹: Supports the NPPF by requiring that Local Plans include

¹⁵⁹ Council of Europe (1992) Valletta Treaty [online] Available at: <https://m.coe.int/168007bd25>

¹⁶⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

¹⁶¹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2016) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, including a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. It also states that local planning authorities should identify specific opportunities for conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.

9.5 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010¹⁶²: Sets out the Government's vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. Includes reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.

9.6 The Heritage Statement 2017¹⁶³: Sets out how the Government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for our heritage and historic environment, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.

9.7 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, Historic England Advice Note 8¹⁶⁴: Sets out Historic England's guidance and expectations for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

Sub-national

9.8 South Northamptonshire Design Guide (2017)¹⁶⁵: This design guide is for use when creating new development (of any type or scale) within South Northamptonshire. This document aims to:

- Establish a benchmark for high quality design standards for new development.
- Improve understanding of the specific character and context of South Northamptonshire.
- Bring greater certainty to the design element of the planning process to help speed up delivery and maintain a high quality of development within the District.

9.9 Upton Design Guide (2002)¹⁶⁶: Upton forms part of the South West District of Northampton, a key area of strategic urban extension west of the existing built up area. This Design Guide provides a Design Code and guidance to inform major house builders of the delivery of new homes in Upton, in line with the project's aim to create an urban extension that promotes best practice in sustainable urban growth.

9.10 Residential Extensions and Alterations Design Guide (2011)¹⁶⁷: This Design Guide provides planning advice to homeowners in the context of extending or altering their home. It also aims to assist architects and other professional agents involved in submitting applications for domestic extensions and alterations.

9.11 Daventry Design Codes (2005)¹⁶⁸: This document has been produced to assist developers, local residents and businesses in order to create places of character, which have respect to their context, and which are sustainable, secure and accessible to all. This Design Code has been adopted as a SPD, which supports the policies in the Local Development Framework, and complements other supplementary planning documents/guidance.

Current Baseline

9.12 The historic environment of West Northamptonshire is an important element of the overall landscape and environment of the area (see **Figure 9.1**). There are a variety of different landscapes which have been shaped by a range of influences in West Northamptonshire, for example:

- The Grand Union Canal.
- The current and past railway and road networks.
- The historical relationship with agricultural and leather related industries.
- The area's position at the heart of the country.

9.13 These varying influences mean that settlements across the area are very different. For example, the growth of the villages and towns on the railway lines compared to those more isolated hamlets. The area's rich history has resulted in excess of 3,900 designated heritage assets spread across the rural and urban landscapes of West Northamptonshire as well as more non-designated assets of potentially national importance or local interest.

¹⁶² HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010 [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-statement-on-the-historic-environment-for-england>

¹⁶³ Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (2017) Heritage Statement 2017 [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664657/Heritage_Statement_2017_final_-_web_version_.pdf

¹⁶⁴ Historic England (2016) Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 [online] Available at: <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/hea036-sustainability-appraisal-strategic-environmental-assessment.pdf/>

¹⁶⁵ South Northamptonshire District Council (2017) Design Guide [Online] Available at: <https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/downloads/download/489/design-guide>

¹⁶⁶ Northampton Borough Council (2005) Upton Design Guide [Online] Available at: https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/3804/upton_design_codes

¹⁶⁷ Northampton Borough Council (2011) Residential Extensions and Alterations Design Guide [Online] Available at: https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/3743/residential_extensions_and_alterations_design_guide_spd#

¹⁶⁸ Daventry District Council (2005) Daventry Design Codes [Online] Available at: <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-policy/other-publications/daventry-design-codes/?Daventry%20Design%20Codes>

9.14 The historic environment is one of the plan area's most valued assets. This includes buildings and structures, parks and gardens, and archaeological remains that are an important aspect of the area's past. There is statutory protection of designated heritage assets, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas.

9.15 Northampton has a range of heritage assets, including over 500 listed buildings (such as Delapre Abbey, the Guildhall, County Hall and All Saints Church), 21 conservation areas and seven scheduled monuments. There are four conservation areas within the town centre; these include All Saints, the old centre to the town, Boot and Shoe Quarter the old industrial centre in town and residential areas including Barrack Road and Kingsley. In addition, there is also a Registered Battlefield located partly within the grounds of the Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve and Delapre Abbey Park¹⁶⁹.

9.16 There are 24 conservation areas in Daventry District which cover the District's historic villages and settlements as well as Daventry Town and Daventry Reservoir. Naseby Battlefield is located in Daventry District and is one of only 46 registered battlefields on Historic England's Register. There are more than 50 scheduled monuments and over 1,500 listed buildings in the District¹⁷⁰.

9.17 South Northamptonshire also boasts a range of heritage assets including 39 Scheduled Monuments and eight Historic Parks and Gardens. The Battlefield of the Battle of Edgcote 1469 is located south east of Chipping Warden. 62 conservation areas are also found in South Northamptonshire. These include areas in both Brackley and Towcester, many of the District's villages, the Grand Union and Oxford Canals and the Easton Neston Estate. There are over 1,800 listed building entries for South Northamptonshire including a range of buildings and structures dating from the 10th century to the 1960s¹⁷¹.

- A small number of heritage assets in West Northamptonshire have been placed on the national 'Heritage at Risk' Register compiled by Historic England. These include;
- Daventry District: 14 including four Grade I listed places of worship, three scheduled monuments and a number of Grade II* listed canal walls and bridges.
- Northampton Borough: 5 including St Crispin Hospital Conservation Area, Multivallate Hillfort Scheduled

Monument, one Grade I and two Grade II* listed buildings.

- South Northamptonshire: 19 Including Old Stratford Conservation Area, seven scheduled monuments, four Grade I and seven Grade II* listed buildings¹⁷².

9.18 However, often the historic assets most at risk are those that are 'non-designated'. Although assets may be of national importance action to protect these assets is often taken locally.

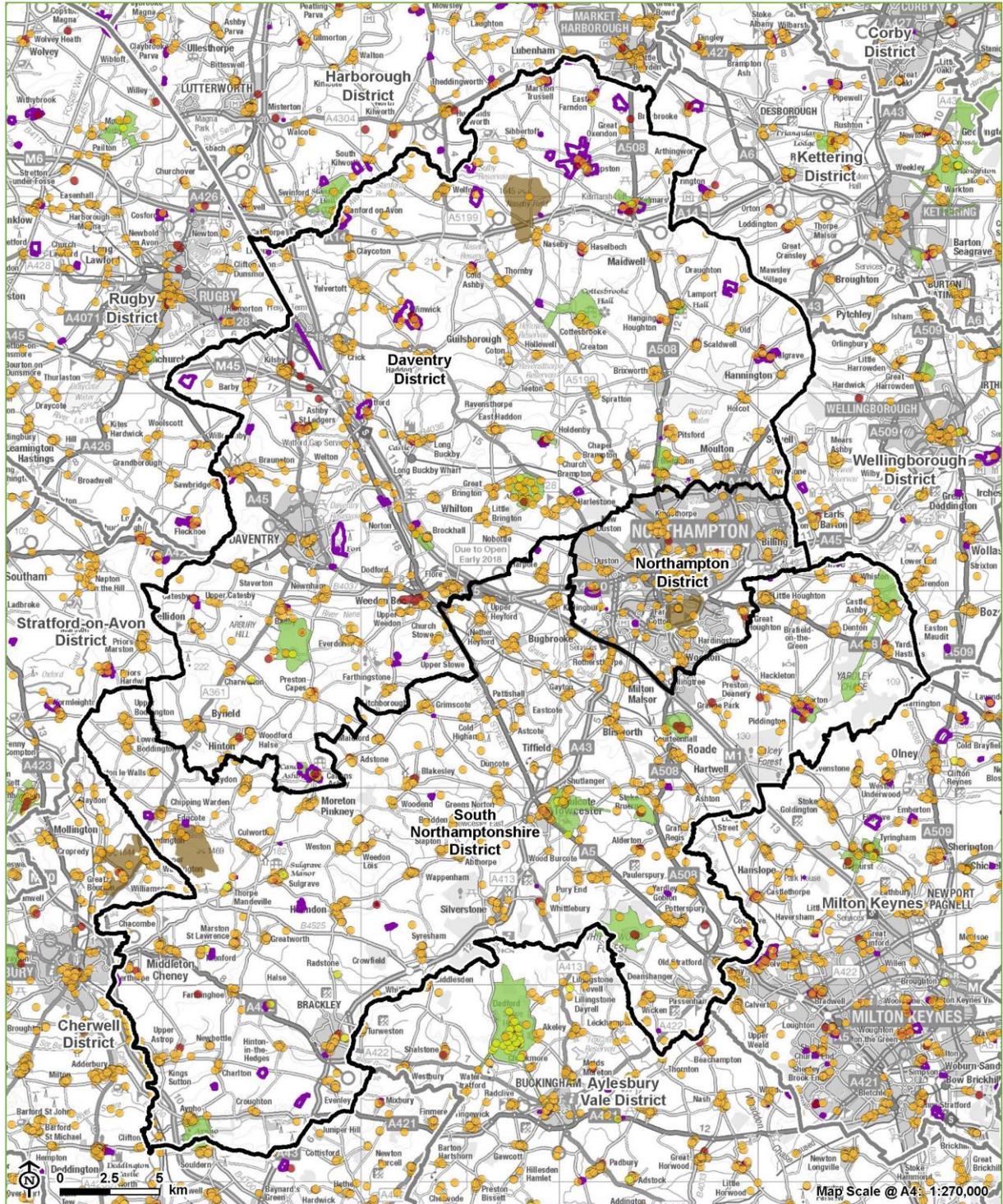
¹⁶⁹ Northampton Borough Council (2019) Northampton Local Plan Part 2 Submission Draft [Online] Available at: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/10951/01-final-northampton-local-plan-part-2-nbc-2019>

¹⁷⁰ Daventry District Council (2019) Daventry Local Plan Part 2 Submission Draft [Online] Available at: <https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/planning-policy/part-2-local-plan/>

¹⁷¹ South Northamptonshire District Council (2019) South Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 Submission Draft [Online] Available at: <https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/downloads/download/636/part-2-local-plan-submission-draft-regulation-19>

¹⁷² Historic England (accessed 2019) Heritage At Risk Register [Online] Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/>

Figure 9.1: West Northamptonshire's Historic Environment



- West Northamptonshire
- Neighbouring local authority
- Registered Battlefield
- Registered Park and Garden
- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building
- Scheduled monument

West Northamptonshire
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Figure 9.1: Historic Environment

Table 9.1: Key Sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire and likely evolution without the Strategic Plan

Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>There are many sites, features and areas of historical and cultural interest in West Northamptonshire, some of which are at risk and identified on the Heritage at Risk Register. These assets may be particularly vulnerable to development which is poorly located or designed.</p>	<p>The Joint Core Strategy includes policies seeking to protect and enhance the historic environment, including Policy BN5, which requires the positive management of development affecting heritage assets. The Strategic Plan presents the opportunity to guide new development to locations which are likely to have less of an impact on heritage assets (with consideration for other sustainability issues).</p>	<p>SA objective 8</p>

Section 10

Landscape

Policy Context

International

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

National

10.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹⁷³: Planning principles include:

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

10.3 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment¹⁷⁴: Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes. Actions that will be taken as part of this key area are as follows:

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

¹⁷³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

¹⁷⁴ HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

Sub-national

10.4 Studies relevant to the landscape of West Northamptonshire were prepared to inform the preparation of the Joint Core Strategy. Although these are now dated, they provide useful information and guidance on landscape issues in the area.

10.5 Northampton Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study (2009)¹⁷⁵: The overall scope of this report is:

- To provide a review of the sensitivity of the landscape and landscape character, biodiversity, cultural heritage, flood zones and minerals resources surrounding Northampton.
- To contribute to the identification of an optimal green infrastructure strategy for Northampton as it's grows to include 40,000 new homes.
- To assist the public sector agencies involved in growth decisions in their understanding of the relative sensitivity of the areas surrounding the town to proposals for growth.
- To progress the understanding of sensitivity in relation to green infrastructure, and to use this to guide an optimal green infrastructure network linked to Northampton's growth.
- To identify a schedule for proposed green infrastructure investment associated with growth proposals for the town.

10.6 Towcester and Brackley Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study (2009)¹⁷⁶: The function of the report is to:

- Provide a broad overview of baseline environmental resources.
- Identify and assess key landscape elements, biodiversity, watercourses, flood zones, cultural heritage and landscape character.
- Identify opportunities for the development of a green infrastructure system that provides recreational and wildlife elements to serve the local community and allow interconnectivity with adjacent areas.

Current Baseline

10.7 Landform within West Northamptonshire closely reflects the underlying geological and geomorphological structure of the landscape, with features and variations often indicating the properties of the underlying solid geology, patterns of glacial and post glacial erosion, and the effects of glacial and post glacial deposition. Across much of the area, the variations in the landscape are subtle reflecting predominantly gentle undulating landscapes, flatter areas on upland plateaux or floodplain meadows.

10.8 Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts have a rural character and a settlement pattern of mainly small to medium sized towns and villages, and dispersed hamlets/farmsteads with traditional building materials. Numerous picturesque villages and market towns contribute significantly to the character of the districts' immediate surroundings and wider setting. Distinctive church spires are of significant importance in the landscape as they are often visible for many miles around. Northampton is the prominent urban hub and a major transport corridor in West Northamptonshire.

10.9 The Nene Valley forms a well-defined topographic feature in West Northamptonshire, with its source located in Badby, Daventry. As the Nene progresses downstream, the valley broadens out significantly from about 3km wide at Northampton Borough to approximately 5km wide around Warmington. Its main tributaries, the River Ise, Harpers Brook and Willow Brook, are all located in Daventry District, and form small steep-sided valleys.

10.10A broad band of undulating high ground extends across the west of the area. The highest point, situated at approximately 220m above sea level, lies at Arbury Hill in the parish of Badby, Daventry. The undulating landscape forms the watershed for the Rivers Avon, Nene, Welland and Cherwell and forms the principal watershed in Central England. At the western end of the area, the landform constitutes as an elevated flat limestone plateau, where panoramic views of the open landscape are possible.

10.11 The Northamptonshire Uplands National Character Area (NCA) covers the western band of West Northamptonshire and is an area of gently rolling, limestone hills and valleys topped by ironstone-bearing sandstone and clay Lias, with many long, low ridgelines. There are strong unifying landscape features across the Northamptonshire Uplands, most notably the extensive areas of open field systems and a strong enclosure pattern of high, wide, A-shaped hedgerow boundaries¹⁷⁷.

¹⁷⁵ Northampton Borough Council (2009) Northampton Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2739440&expa=exp&expf=2739440&expl=4>

¹⁷⁶ Quartet Design on behalf of West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2009) Towcester and Brackley Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study [Online] Available at: <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=2739344&expa=exp&expf=2739344&expl=4>

¹⁷⁷ Natural England (2014) Northamptonshire Uplands [Online] Available at: publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5082097102356480

10.12 The landscape assessment of the region¹⁷⁸ shows the distribution of 15 Landscape Character Types (see **Figure 10.1**) and the areas they are prevalent in West Northamptonshire is summarised below:

- Ironstone Uplands (Guilsborough and Spratton and Creaton).
- Ironstone Hills (Eydon and Staverton).
- Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes (Harleston Heath and the Bramptons).
- Clay Plateau (Naseby).
- Undulating Claylands (The Tove Catchment and Hackleton).
- Low Wooded Clay Ridge (Whittlewood Plateau and Salcey Forest and Yardely Chase).
- Limestone Plateau (Croughton, Aynho and Farthinghoe).
- Limestone Valley Slope (Wollaston to Irchester).
- Undulating Hills and Valleys (Middleton Cheyney and Woodford Halse, Long Buckby, Bugbrooke and Daventry and Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth).
- Rolling Agricultural Lowlands (Newbold Grounds).
- Farmed Scarp Slopes (Holthorpe Hills to Great Oxendon).
- Low Pastoral Hills (Boddington Hills).
- River Valley Floodplain (River Cherwell Floodplain, River Tove Floodplain and Brampton Valley Floodplain).
- Broad River Valley Floodplain (The Nene- Long Buckby to Weedon Bec Broad River Valley Floodplain, The Nene- Weedon Bec to Duston Mill Broad River Valley Floodplain and The Nene- Duston Mill to Billing Wharf Broad River Valley Floodplain).
- Broad Unwooded Vale (Boddington Vale Farmland, Vale of Rugby and Welland Broad Vale).

10.13 There are no nationally designated landscapes, such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, within West Northamptonshire.

¹⁷⁸ River Nene Regional Park (accessed 2019) Northamptonshire Current Landscape Character Assessment [Online] Available at: <http://www.mrpenvironmentalcharacter.org.uk/data/4.1%20CLCA.pdf>

Figure 10.1: Landscape Character Types in West Northamptonshire

To be inserted when data received.

Table 10.1: Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire and likely evolution without the Strategic Plan

Key sustainability issues for West Northamptonshire	Likely evolution without the Strategic Plan	Relevant SA objective
<p>West Northamptonshire contains a number of distinct landscape character types that could be harmed by inappropriate development. West Northamptonshire has a predominantly rural character.</p>	<p>The Joint Core Strategy includes policies to protect and enhance the landscape, including Policies BN1 and BN3, which seek to conserve and enhance the natural environment and landscape character, including Green Infrastructure and Woodland Enhancement. The Strategic Plan offers the opportunity to update the current policy position in order to consider more in the protection and enhancement of the landscape.</p>	<p>SA objective 7 SA objective 9</p>

Section 11

The SA Framework

11.1 The development of a set of SA objectives (known as the SA Framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared.

11.2 The proposed SA Framework for the Strategic Plan is presented in Table 11.1, and has been developed from the analysis of international, national and local policy objectives, the baseline information, and the sustainability issues identified for West Northamptonshire. It comprises a series of SA objectives, each accompanied by a set of questions that will be used to appraise the performance of the Strategic Plan against the SA objectives, including alternative overall spatial strategies for growth being considered by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit for inclusion in the Strategic Plan.

11.3 The SA Framework is supported by a set of draft site assessment criteria and assumptions which will be used to establish the potential effects generated by development in site options and allocations identified for consideration by the Joint Planning Unit. The performance of sites against the site assessment criteria and assumptions will be used, alongside other technical assessment, to inform the Planning Unit's selection of individual site allocations. More detail on the criteria and assumptions used is provided in **Appendix 1**.

11.4 It should be noted that the criteria and assumptions are subject to refinement as the SA progresses. This is because it is likely that strategic scale development proposed may include a range of infrastructure, services and facilities, as well as potentially employment land, that currently do not exist. Therefore, in carrying out the SA, consideration will need to be given to how well strategic development options not only relate to existing settlements, infrastructure, jobs, services and facilities, but also offer the opportunity to deliver new infrastructure, jobs, services and facilities as well as housing.

11.5 In addition, the SA objectives and accompanying questions set out in the SA Framework and the site assessment criteria and assumptions are subject to change following feedback collated during consultation on this SA Scoping Report with the three statutory consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) under Regulation 12(5) of the SEA Regulations.

Table 11.1: SA Framework

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Relevant SEA Topics
SA 1: To provide affordable, sustainable and decent housing in West Northamptonshire to meet local needs.	SA 1.1: Does the Strategic Plan provide for the local housing need of West Northamptonshire? SA 1.2: Does the Strategic Plan deliver the range of types, tenures and affordable homes needed in West Northamptonshire over the Plan Period, including accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community? SA 1.3: Does the Strategic Plan increase the supply of affordable homes in both urban and rural areas? SA 1.4: Does the Strategic Plan provide for the housing needs of an ageing population?	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA 2: To maintain and improve access to community services and facilities including health care and education.	SA 2.1: Does the Strategic Plan support the existing towns and village centres in West Northamptonshire? SA 2.2: Does the Strategic Plan provide for additional services and facilities centres that are sufficient to support new and growing communities? SA 2.3: Does the Strategic Plan provide for development within proximity to existing or new education facilities that are accessible for all?	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA 3: To encourage social inclusion, strengthen community cohesion and a respect for diversity.	SA 3.1: Does the Strategic Plan facilitate the integration of new neighbourhoods with existing neighbourhoods? SA 3.2: Does the Strategic Plan promote developments that benefit and are used by existing and new residents, particularly for West Northamptonshire's most deprived areas? SA 3.3: Does the Strategic Plan meet the needs of specific groups in West Northamptonshire, including the needs of an ageing population? SA 3.4: Does the Strategic Plan protect the vitality and viability of West Northamptonshire's town and village centres? SA3.5: If new settlements are being considered, does the Strategic Plan require them to be of a scale and form that provides for the full range of needs of communities, including jobs, health, education, shops, community meeting places, open space, leisure and sport?	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA 4: To support the creation of safe communities in which levels of crime, anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime and crime disparities across West Northamptonshire are reduced.	SA 4.1: Does the Strategic Plan promote principles of good urban design to limit the potential for crime in West Northamptonshire? SA 4.2: Does the Strategic Plan contribute to a reduction in the fear of crime? SA 4.3: Does the Strategic Plan help to promote road safety in West Northamptonshire?	Population and Human Health
SA 5: To improve public health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities across West	SA 5.1: Does the Strategic Plan promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy lifestyles by maintaining,	Population and Human Health

Section 11

The SA Framework

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Sustainability Appraisal

June 2019

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Relevant SEA Topics
Northamptonshire.	<p>connecting, creating and enhancing multifunctional open spaces, green infrastructure, and recreation and sports facilities?</p> <p>SA 5.2 Does the Strategic Plan promote healthy lifestyle choices by encouraging and facilitating walking and cycling?</p> <p>SA 5.3 Does the Strategic Plan provide access to recreational opportunities in the countryside in West Northamptonshire?</p> <p>SA 5.4 Does the Strategic Plan improve access to health care facilities?</p>	
SA 6: To conserve, enhance, restore and connect wildlife, habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest across West Northamptonshire.	<p>SA 6.1: Does the Strategic Plan avoid adverse effects on internationally and nationally designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets within and adjacent to West Northamptonshire?</p> <p>SA 6.2: Does the Strategic Plan avoid adverse effects on locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets within and around West Northamptonshire, including ancient woodland?</p> <p>SA 6.3: Does the Strategic Plan seek to protect and enhance ecological networks, promoting the achievement of net biodiversity gain where possible, whilst taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>SA 6.4: Does the Strategic Plan provide and manage opportunities for people to come into contact with wildlife whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of biodiversity?</p>	Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Human Health
SA 7: To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of West Northamptonshire's landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	<p>SA 7.1: Does the Strategic Plan conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of West Northamptonshire's landscapes and settlements?</p> <p>SA 7.2: Does the Strategic Plan protect and enhance West Northamptonshire's natural environment assets (including parks and green spaces, common land, woodland and forest reserves) and public realm?</p>	Landscape, Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Cultural Heritage
SA 8: To conserve and/or enhance the quality and accessibility of the Historic Environment in West Northamptonshire.	<p>SA 8.1: Does the Strategic Plan conserve and enhance West Northamptonshire's designated heritage assets, including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness?</p> <p>SA 8.2: Does the Strategic Plan conserve and enhance West Northamptonshire's non-designated heritage assets, including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness?</p> <p>SA 8.3: Does the Strategic Plan provide opportunities for improvements to the conservation, management and enhancement of West Northamptonshire's heritage assets, particularly heritage at risk?</p> <p>SA 8.4: Does the Strategic Plan promote access to, as well as enjoyment and understanding of, the local historic environment for West Northamptonshire's residents and visitors?</p>	Cultural Heritage, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage
SA 9: To make efficient use of the West Northamptonshire's land resources through the re-use of previously developed land and conserve	SA 9.1: Does the Strategic Plan maximise the provision of housing and employment development on previously developed land?	Soil and Material Assets

Section 11

The SA Framework

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Sustainability Appraisal
June 2019

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Relevant SEA Topics
its soils.	<p>SA 9.2: Does the Strategic Plan seek to deliver an appropriate density of housing development as to make efficient use of land?</p> <p>SA 9.3: Does the Strategic Plan ensure contaminated land is remediated where appropriate?</p> <p>SA 9.4: Does the Strategic Plan minimise the loss of high grade agricultural land to development?</p> <p>SA 9.5: Does the Strategic Plan avoid development in areas of ground instability?</p>	
SA 10: To conserve mineral resources in West Northamptonshire.	SA 10.1 Does the Strategic plan ensure that unnecessary or unjustified sterilisation of mineral resources is prevented?	Material Assets
SA 11: To achieve sustainable water resource management and promote the quality of West Northamptonshire's waters.	<p>SA 11.1: Does the Strategic Plan seek to improve the water quality of West Northamptonshire's rivers and inland water?</p> <p>SA 11.2: Does the Strategic Plan minimise inappropriate development in Source Protection Zones?</p> <p>SA 11.3: Does the Strategic Plan ensure there is sufficient waste water treatment capacity to accommodate the new development?</p> <p>SA 11.4: Does the Strategic Plan promote development which would avoid water pollution due to contaminated runoff from development?</p> <p>SA 11.5: Does the Strategic Plan ensure that there is sufficient water resource available to support new development?</p> <p>SA 11.6: Does the Strategic Plan support efficient use of water in new developments, including the recycling of water resources where appropriate?</p>	Water, Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora
SA 12: To manage and reduce the risk of flooding in West Northamptonshire.	<p>SA 12.1: Does the Strategic Plan minimise inappropriate development in areas prone to flood risk and areas prone to increasing flood risk elsewhere, taking into account the impacts of climate change?</p> <p>SA12.2: Does the Strategic Plan promote the use of Natural Flood Management schemes, SuDS and flood resilient design?</p>	Water, Material Assets, Climatic Factors and Human Health
SA 13: To reduce congestion and the need to travel by private vehicle in and around West Northamptonshire.	<p>SA 13.1: Does the Strategic Plan support access to public transport provision?</p> <p>SA 13 .2: Does the Strategic Plan maintain and enhance networks for active travel, including walking and cycling?</p> <p>SA 13.3: Does the Strategic Plan support development which is in close proximity to local centres, services and facilities, key employment areas and/or public transport nodes.</p>	Air, Human health and Climatic factors

Section 11

The SA Framework

West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Sustainability Appraisal
June 2019

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Relevant SEA Topics
SA 14: To limit air pollution in West Northamptonshire and ensure lasting improvements in air quality.	SA 14.1: Does the Strategic Plan avoid, minimise and mitigate the effects of poor air quality? SA 14.2: Does the Strategic Plan promote more sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel? SA 14.3: Does the Strategic Plan contain measures which will help to reduce congestion? SA 14.4: Does the Strategic Plan minimise traffic increase in Air Quality Management Areas? SA 14.5: Does the Strategic Plan facilitate the take up of low / zero emission vehicles?	Air and Human Health
SA 15: To minimise West Northamptonshire's contribution to climate change and be adaptable to unavoidable climate change.	SA 15.1: Does the Strategic Plan promote energy efficient design? SA 15.2: Does the Strategic Plan encourage the provision of energy from renewable sources where possible? SA 15.3: Does the Strategic Plan minimise greenhouse gas emissions from transport? SA 15.4: Does the Strategic Plan promote the use of locally and sustainably sourced materials, and recycling of materials in construction and renovation?	Climatic Factors and Air
SA 16: To facilitate a sustainable and growing economy in West Northamptonshire.	SA 16.1: Does the Strategic Plan allow for an adequate supply of employment land and the delivery of infrastructure to meet West Northamptonshire's economic and employment needs? SA 16.2: Does the Strategic Plan seek to promote business development and enhance productivity? SA 16.3: Does the Strategic Plan promote the image as an area for investment and support opportunities for the expansion and diversification of businesses? SA 16.4: Does the Strategic Plan provide for start-up businesses and flexible working practices? SA 16.5: Does the Strategic Plan support the prosperity and diversification of West Northamptonshire's rural economy? SA 16.6: Does the Strategic Plan support stronger links to the wider economy of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and the aims of the South East Midlands LEP?	Population and Material Assets
SA 17: To deliver, maintain and enhance access to diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs of West Northamptonshire.	SA 17.1: Does the Strategic Plan provide for accessible employment opportunities? SA 17.2: Does the Strategic Plan support equality of opportunities for young people and job seekers and opportunity for the expansion and diversification of business in West Northamptonshire?	Population and Material Assets

Use of the SA Framework

11.6 The SA will be undertaken in close collaboration with West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit officers responsible for drafting the Strategic Plan in order to fully integrate the SA process with the production of the Strategic Plan.

11.7 The findings of the SA will be presented as a colour coded symbol showing a score for the option against each of the SA objectives along with a concise justification for the score given, where appropriate. It may be possible to group the appraisal of strategic and development management policies by theme.

11.8 The use of colour coding in the matrices will allow for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in **Table 11.2** below.

Table 11.2: SA Matrix Guide

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

11.9 The dividing line between sustainability scores is often quite small. Where significant effects are distinguished from more minor effects this is because, using the appraisal questions and criteria and applying professional judgement, the effect of the option on the SA objective will be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect compared with other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

11.10 In determining the significance of the effects of the options for potential inclusion in the Strategic Plan it will be important to bear in mind the Strategic Plan's relationship with the other documents in the planning system such as the NPPF and other national policy approaches, and regulatory

requirements, as these may provide additional safeguards or mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. It will also take into account those matters that are more appropriately addressed through the individual authorities' Part 2 Local Plans.

Reasonable alternatives

11.11 The SA must appraise not only the preferred options for inclusion in the Strategic Plan but 'reasonable alternatives' to these options. This implies that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Part (b) of Regulation 12(2) notes that reasonable alternatives will take into account the objectives of the plan, as well as its geographical scope. Therefore, alternatives that do not meet the objectives of national policy, or are outside the plan area are unlikely to be reasonable.

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

Assumptions

11.13 SA inevitably relies on an element of subjective judgement. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the site options, for each of the SA objectives in the SA Framework, a clear set of decision-making criteria and assumptions for determining significance of the effects are set out. These assumptions set out clear parameters within which certain SA scores would be given, based on factors such as the distance of site options from features such as biodiversity designations, public transport links and areas of high landscape sensitivity. The assumptions, many of which are applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data, are presented in **Appendix 1**.

11.14 As noted above, the decision-making criteria and assumptions may need to be adjusted for strategic scale development that offer the opportunity to deliver new infrastructure, jobs, services and facilities as components of a comprehensive and integrated approach to development.

Section 12

Consultation and Next Steps

12.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the views of the three statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA Report.

12.2 This SA Scoping Report is being published for consultation for a period between 5th August and 11th October 2019.

12.3 As outlined in the introduction, the consultees are in particular requested to consider:

- Whether the scope of the SA is appropriate as set out considering the role of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan to help meet and manage West Northamptonshire's growth needs and development ambition.
- Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA policy context that should be included.
- Whether the baseline information provided is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.
- Whether there are any additional SA issues relevant to the Strategic Plan that should be included.
- Whether the SA Framework (**Chapter 11**) is appropriate and includes a suitable set of SA objectives and is supported by suitable site-based assumptions (**Appendix 1**) for assessing the effects of the strategic development options that will be considered for inclusion within the Strategic Plan.

12.4 Responses from consultees will be reviewed and appropriate amendments made to the detail contained in the Scoping Report, including the baseline, policy context and SA Framework where necessary. Any updates to this detail will be presented in the SA Report for the Strategic Plan.

12.5 As the Strategic Plan is drafted, it will be subject to SA using the SA Framework presented in Chapter 11. A full SA report (incorporating the later stages of the SA process) will then be produced and made available to other stakeholders and the general public for wider consultation alongside the emerging Strategic Plan

LUC (June 2019)

Appendix A

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

Assumptions regarding distances

A.1 Reference is made to 'easy walking distance' in the appraisal assumptions. There are a number of pieces of research that give a variety of recommended guidance distances for walking. For example, the Institute of Highways and Transportation found that the average length of a walk journey is one kilometre. The Institute of Highways and Transportation categorises distances depending upon location and purpose of the trip, and 'desirable', 'acceptable', and 'preferred maximum':

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

A.2 For the purposes of the appraisal, distances will be measured as the straight line distance from the edge of the site option to existing services and facilities, and therefore actual walking distances are likely to be greater (e.g. depending on the house location within a larger site and the availability of a direct route). It is considered that this is a reasonable approach, and professional judgement will be used when applying these distances to each site option and the range of services and facilities considered by the appraisal (e.g. where there are significant barriers to straight-line movement, such as railway lines). The distances used in the appraisal will vary depending upon the type of destination being accessed and the mode of transport:

- 500m straight-line walking distance for primary schools on the basis that parents with young children are unlikely to want long distances with young children.
- 1,000m straight-line walking distance for secondary schools.
- 800m straight-line walking distance for town and local centres.

- 500m straight-line to a bus stop, as many people are unlikely to want to walk much further and then catch a bus to their destination.
- 2,000m straight line walking distance to a train station.
- In terms of access to cycle route, a straight-line distance of 500m will be used in the appraisal on the assumption that links to cycle routes are likely to use road carriageways.

A.3 The SA assumptions include analysis of the proximity of residential areas to key employment areas. Although there is no guarantee that people will find jobs at the employment areas closest to them, it is considered that provision of homes close to major sources of employment would support people in making shorter journeys to work. The following walking assumption has been applied:

- 2,000m straight-line walking distance to employment areas.

Table A.1: Criteria and assumptions to be applied during the SA of site options for the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
<p>1. To provide affordable, sustainable and decent housing in West Northamptonshire to meet local needs.</p>	<p>All of the strategic site options are expected to have positive effects (+) on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. The significance of the positive effect will be determined with reference to the likely range of housing type and tenure, including the deliverability of affordable and social housing. Where 10% or more of West Northamptonshire's housing needs and requirements are met through a strategic site option, then this will be considered to be a significant positive (++) effect.</p>
<p>2. To maintain and improve access to community services and facilities including health care and education.</p>	<p>Strategic scale development could potentially incorporate the provision of new services. The location of all types of development sites could affect this objective by influencing people's ability to access existing services and facilities (both for local residents and employees during breaks and after work).</p> <p>Policy S2 of the Joint Core Strategy sets out a hierarchy of centres for West Northamptonshire, which will act as a useful starting point for the Strategic Plan and the SA. The Regional Town Centre (Northampton), Sub Regional Town Centre (Daventry), and the Rural Service Town Centres (Towcester, and Brackley), provide access to a higher number of services and facilities. In addition, the District Centres (Weston Favell and Kingsthorpe, both in Northampton), the Local Centres (St James End, Far Cotton, Wellingborough Road (Abington), Kettering Road (Kingsley), all in Northampton, and the Local Centres to be delivered in the Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) in the Joint Core Strategy, provide a more limited range of services and facilities.</p> <p>The location of proximity to these areas can therefore be used to establish the potential accessibility to a wider number of services and facilities in West Northamptonshire. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 800m of a Regional Town Centre, Sub Regional Town Centre or Rural Service Town Centre will have a significant positive (++) effect. ■ Sites that are within 800m of a District Centre or Local Centre (whether existing or proposed) will have a minor positive (+) effect. ■ Sites that are not located within 800m of a defined town centre or village centre will have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect. <p>For sites which support residential use it will be necessary to consider access to education facilities. It is recognised that educational facilities are often not necessarily located within the town and village centres and are instead provided to meet the needs of specific catchment areas. New residential development could stimulate the provision of new schools/school places, particularly larger sites, but this cannot be assumed at this stage. Therefore, in addition to the assumptions set out above, the following also applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 1km of a secondary school and within 500m of a primary school will have an uncertain significant positive (++) effect. ■ Sites that are within 1km of a secondary school or within 500m of a primary school (but not both) will have an uncertain minor positive (+?) effect. ■ Sites that more than 1km of a secondary school and 500m of a primary school will have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect.
<p>3. To encourage social inclusion, strengthen community cohesion and a respect for diversity.</p>	<p>The proximity of development to services and facilities may help to address issues of social inclusion. These issues (including access to facilities such as education and healthcare) are considered under SA objective 2 and SA objective 5 in the SA Framework.</p> <p>The Hierarchy of Centres help to support community networks in West Northamptonshire. Development which contains appropriate uses (such as retail and/or community uses) and is to occur within the defined Hierarchy of Centres could help to maintain the vitality and viability of these locations. As such, where site options are to be delivered within the defined Hierarchy of Centres and contain a use of this type, a minor positive (+) effect is expected.</p>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<p>Strategic scale development that delivers a new Local Centre, or higher order Centre, will also be considered to have a minor positive (+) effect. Where strategic scale development also includes a strong combination of primary school education, employment land, health facilities, community meeting places such as halls and places of worship, open space, sport and leisure facilities, a significant positive effect (++) will be expected.</p> <p>The location of new developments will also affect social deprivation and economic inclusion by influencing how easily people are able to access job opportunities and access to decent housing in a given area. Areas which are identified as most deprived in West Northamptonshire are often also those which could benefit most from the achievement of regeneration. The delivery of housing or employment sites within 800m of the most deprived areas¹⁷⁹ in West Northamptonshire, including LSOAs, will therefore have a minor positive (+) effect.</p>
<p>4. To support the creation of safe communities in which levels of crime, anti-social behaviour, fear of crime and crime disparities across West Northamptonshire are reduced.</p>	<p>The effects of new development on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of open space within development sites which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site). Therefore, the effects of all of the site options on this SA objective will be negligible (0).</p>
<p>5. To improve public health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities across West Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>Strategic scale sites that are within walking distance (800m) of existing healthcare facilities (i.e. GP surgeries or hospitals) and areas/features which promote physical activities (open spaces, or sports facilities) among residents will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare services and opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 800m of a healthcare facility and an area of open space/sports facility will have a significant positive (++) effect. ■ Sites that are within 800m of either healthcare facility or an area of open space/ sports facility (but not both) will have a minor positive (+) effect. ■ Sites that are not within 800m of either a healthcare facility or an area of open space/ sports facility will have a minor negative (-) effect. <p>If sites come forward within an area of open space or a site which currently accommodates an outdoor sports facility it is recognised that development may lead to a loss of open/ recreational space. As such, for these site options, a significant negative (--) effect is recorded. This will mean some sites may be recorded as having an overall mixed (++) or (+/-) effect.</p> <p>If a number of sites are allocated within close proximity of one another, this could lead to existing healthcare facilities becoming overloaded. If at any point information becomes available regarding the capacity of existing healthcare facilities, this will be taken into account in the SA as relevant.</p> <p>If development at a site is likely to incorporate new healthcare facilities, open space/sports facilities, it will be scored in accordance with the assumptions listed above.</p>
<p>6. To conserve, enhance, restore and connect wildlife, habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest across</p>	<p>Development sites that are within close proximity of an international, national or local designated conservation site have the potential to affect their biodiversity or geodiversity, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure etc. Equally, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the</p>

¹⁷⁹ According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
West Northamptonshire.	<p>potential for an adverse effect, uncertainty still exists as appropriate mitigation measures may avoid adverse effects and could result in beneficial effects. The potential impacts on undesignated habitats and species adjacent to the potential development sites cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment, therefore a level of uncertainty will be expected for each site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within Natural England's Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites may have an uncertain significant negative (--?) effect. ■ Sites that are within 400m of a locally biodiversity or geodiversity designated site or area of ancient woodland may have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect. ■ Sites that not within of an IRZ of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites, and are over 400m from a locally designated site could have a negligible (0?) effect.
7. To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of West Northamptonshire's landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	<p>There are no designated landscapes in West Northamptonshire. Potential effects on landscape features and character will be assessed through the sensitivity score given for each landscape area assessed in the 2009 Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Studies for each town (or updated evidence if available) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within areas that are assessed as being of low sensitivity are likely to have a negligible (0) effect on landscape character and features. ■ Sites that are within areas that are assessed as being of medium sensitivity could have a minor negative (-?) effect on landscape character and features. ■ Sites that are within areas that are assessed as being of high sensitivity could have a significant negative (--?) effect on landscape character and features. <p>In all cases, potential negative effects will be uncertain as the exact impacts on the landscape will depend on factors relating to the specific design and layout of the new development.</p>
8. To conserve and/or enhance the quality and accessibility of the Historic Environment in West Northamptonshire.	<p>The NPPF states that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset "<i>great weight should be given to the asset's conservation ... irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance</i>". However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveals the significance of the asset).</p> <p>In all cases, effects will be uncertain at this stage as the potential for negative or positive effects on historic and heritage assets will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities which may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features.</p> <p>As an indication of potential effects on historic and heritage assets from development of any of the site options, the following assumptions and evidence will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Where a site option is more than 500m from the nearest designated heritage asset, a negligible effect is considered likely although this is uncertain (0?) as there is still some potential for impacts on non-designated heritage features and effects on designated heritage assets may extend beyond 500m in some cases. <p>Where a site option is within 500m of a designated heritage asset, professional judgement and evidence (such as Conservation Area Appraisals, heritage assessment work undertaken to support the preparation of the Strategic Plan and input from conservation specialists) will be used to inform judgements. Where</p>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<p>there are potential impacts on multiple heritage assets this will also be taken into account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites which have potential for heritage assets to be enhanced and their significance to be better revealed could have a minor positive (+?) or significant positive effect (++) on this objective. ■ Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets could have a negligible (0?) effect on this objective. ■ Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets, but can be mitigated, could have a minor negative (-?) effect on this objective. ■ Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets where it is unlikely that these can be adequately mitigated could have a significant negative (--?) effect on this objective.
<p>9. To make efficient use of the West Northamptonshire's land resources through the re-use of previously developed land and conserve its soils.</p>	<p>The effects of new development on soils will depend on its location in relation to the areas of highest quality agricultural land in the District, and whether developments will make use of previously developed land. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3a agricultural quality would have a significant negative (--) effect. ■ Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 3 agricultural quality (but where it is not known if it is Grade 3a or 3b land) could have a significant negative effect although this is uncertain (--?). ■ Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land that is classed as Grade 3b, Grade 4, Grade 5, non-agricultural or urban land would have a minor negative (-) effect. ■ Sites that are mainly or entirely on brownfield land would have a minor positive (+) effect. ■ Sites that would result in the remediation of contaminated land would have a significant positive (++) effect. <p>The Technical Paper on Ground Instability prepared for the Joint Core Strategy states that there are areas across Northamptonshire that are prone to ground instability issues due to their underlying geological and geomorphological makeup. The combination of the Northampton Sand overlying Upper Lias Clay can cause the formation of landslides particularly where slopes have angles greater than seven degrees.</p> <p>Maps were prepared by the Joint Planning Unit which identify five categories of instability, categories A and B include areas where slope instability problems are either not thought to occur or not likely to occur. Category C includes areas where slope instability problems may be present or anticipated, and it is recommended that site investigation at the planning application stage should consider specifically the slope stability of the site. Category D includes areas where slope instability problems are likely to be present of have occurred in the past, and Category E covers areas where slope instability problems are almost certainly present and may be active. This category is considered to be a significant constraint on land use.</p> <p>Therefore, sites in the higher categories could have a negative effect on preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from land instability, and the following assumptions have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that include areas of Categories D and E Ground Instability could have a significant negative (--) effect. ■ Sites that include areas of Category C Ground Instability could have to have a minor negative (-) effect.

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are in Categories A and B are likely to have a negligible (0) effect. <p>There is uncertainty attached to the negative effects however, as more detailed ground instability investigation would need to be undertaken at the planning application stage.</p>
<p>10. To conserve mineral resources in West Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>The effects of new development on mineral resources will depend on its location in relation to areas which have been identified for their importance for mineral reserves in the area. The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2017) identifies Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and development within or in close proximity to these areas can result in sterilisation of mineral resources. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are located directly within a MSA would have a significant negative effect on mineral resources although this is uncertain (--?) dependent upon whether extraction could be achieved prior to any development. ■ Sites that are located within 250m of a MSA would have a minor negative effect on mineral resources although this is uncertain (-?) dependent upon whether extraction could be achieved prior to any development. ■ Sites located more than 250m from a MSAs are expected to have a negligible (0) effect.
<p>11. To achieve sustainable water resource management and promote the quality of West Northamptonshire's waters.</p>	<p>The effects of new development in terms of promoting more sustainable use of water resources will depend largely on people's behaviour as well as the design of new developments. However, where development takes place within Source Protection Zones (SPZs), there may be the potential risk of contaminating water resources. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within a SPZ could have a minor negative (-) effect. ■ Sites that are not within a SPZ could have a negligible (0) effect. <p>Any issues regarding supply of water resources, and waste water treatment capacity, are more appropriately appraised at the Local Plan scale, rather than through as assessment of each individual site.</p>
<p>12. To manage and reduce the risk of flooding in West Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>The effects of new development on this SA objective will depend to some extent on its design, for example whether it incorporates SuDS, which cannot be assessed at this stage. Where site options are located in areas of high flood risk, it could increase the risk of flooding in those areas (particularly if the sites are not previously developed) and would increase the number of people and assets at risk from flooding. As such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that comprise >=20% flood zone 3a or flood zone 3b and/or flood storage area are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. ■ Sites that comprise <20% flood zone 3a or flood zone 3b and/or flood storage area, or >=20% flood zone 2 are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect. ■ All other sites are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.
<p>13. To reduce congestion and the need to travel by private vehicle in and around West Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>The inclusion of, and proximity to, public transport links within strategic development sites will affect the extent to which residents are able to make use of public transport to access services and facilities as well as job opportunities, although the actual use of sustainable transport modes will depend on people's behaviour. It is possible that new transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths may be provided as part of larger-scale housing developments or employment development but</p>

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
	<p>this cannot be assumed.</p> <p>It is assumed that people would generally be willing to travel further to access a railway station than a bus stop. It is also recognised that many cyclists will travel on roads as well as dedicated cycle routes, and that the extent to which people choose to do so will depend on factors such as the availability of cycle storage facilities at their end destination, which are not determined by the location of sites. How safe or appealing particular roads are for cyclists cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. However, the proximity of site options to existing cycle routes can be taken as an indicator of how likely people are to cycle to or from a development site. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 2km of a railway station are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. ■ Sites that are more than 2km from a railway station but within 500m of a bus stop and/or cycle route are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. ■ Sites that are more than 2km from a railway station and 500m from a bus stop and cycle route could have a minor negative (-) effect.
<p>14. To limit air pollution in West Northamptonshire and ensure lasting improvements in air quality.</p>	<p>Development sites that are within, or directly connected via road, to one of the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the area, or in AQMAs in surrounding Districts, could increase levels of air pollution in those areas as a result of increased vehicle traffic. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within or directly connected via road to an AQMA are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. ■ All sites that are not within or directly connected via road to an AQMA are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect on air quality.
<p>15. To minimise West Northamptonshire's contribution to climate change and be adaptable to unavoidable climate change.</p>	<p>The effects of new development in terms of climate change and how development will respond to this issue will depend to some extent on its design, for example whether it incorporates renewable energy generation on site or includes SuDS.</p> <p>However, the proximity of development sites to sustainable transport links will affect the extent to which people are able to make use of non-car based modes of transport to access services, facilities and job opportunities, although the actual use of sustainable transport modes will depend on people's behaviour. It is possible that new transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths may be provided as part of new developments, particularly at larger sites, but this cannot be assumed. Therefore, it is assumed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 2km of a railway station and within 500m of a bus stop and/or cycle route are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. ■ Sites that are more than 2km from a railway station but within 500m of a bus stop and/or cycle route are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. ■ Sites that are more than 2km from a railway station and 500m from a bus stop and cycle route could have a significant negative (--) effect.
<p>16. To facilitate a sustainable and growing economy in West Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>Strategic scale sites will provide opportunities for the creation of more new jobs and so would have significant positive effects. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that contribute 10% or more of employment land needs will have a significant positive (++) effect. ■ Sites that contribute up to 10% of employment land needs will have a minor positive (+) effect. ■ Sites that do not include employment land will have a negligible (0) effect.

SA Objectives	Criteria and assumptions
<p>17. To deliver, maintain and enhance access to diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs of West Northamptonshire.</p>	<p>The location of strategic sites will influence the achievement of this objective by determining how easily residents would be able to access job opportunities... Northampton is the urban hub where approximately 70% of West Northamptonshire's residents work. The Sub Regional Town Centre (Daventry), and the Rural Service Town Centres (Towcester, and Brackley) also offer employment opportunities, as do designated employment sites, and major employers like Northampton General Hospital. The proximity of site options to Northampton Town, Daventry, Towcester, Brackley and key employment areas will serve as an indicator of the level of employment opportunities which are likely to be accessible. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 2km of a key employment area/site and that are within 800m of Northampton would have a significant positive (++) effect. ■ Sites that are within 2km of a key employment area/site and/or are within 800m of Northampton, Daventry, Towcester or Brackley would have a minor positive (+) effect. ■ Sites that are more than 2km from a key employment area/site and more than 800m from Northampton would have a minor negative (-) effect. ■ Sites that are more than 2km from a key employment area/site, and/or more than 800m from Northampton, Daventry, Towcester or Brackley would have a significant negative (--) effect. <p>In addition, if a site option would result in the loss of an existing employment site, a negative effect would occur in relation to the protection of existing employment sites.</p> <p>Therefore (which could result in mixed effects overall):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are currently in employment use would have a significant negative (--) effect.