

Executive Summary Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA) for the Local Plan Part 2 must be undertaken in accordance with the [2017 Habitat Regulations](#) (Part 6). The Regulations would require, in respect of this Local Plan, that an “appropriate assessment” be undertaken in conjunction with Natural England and the Wildlife Trust, to assess the implications of the Local Plan policies or proposals for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA)/ Ramsar site.

The area covered by the Local Plan Part 2 contains some of the Upper Nene Valley SPA/ Ramsar site lying along the Nene Valley between the Wellingborough Borough boundary (Irthlingborough/ Ditchford) and Thorpe Waterville, within the District of East Northamptonshire.

A Habitats Regulations Screening opinion was subsequently undertaken and indicated that an appropriate assessment (i.e. full Habitats Regulations Assessment) was necessary to form part of the evidence base for submission of the Local Plan.

The completed **HRA** is published as a submission document to accompany the Local Plan and relevant policies have been reviewed (and in some cases amended) in accordance with the findings of the HRA.