

East Northamptonshire Council

**Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston
Plan: Submission Document**

Appropriate Assessment Screening

April 2008

ATKINS



East Northamptonshire Council

Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan: Submission Document

Appropriate Assessment Screening

Record of Assessment of Likely Significant Effect on a European Site
Required by Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.)
Regulations 1994

April 2008

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1. Introduction and Background

Background to the Assessment

This screening assessment has been carried out by Atkins on behalf of East Northamptonshire Council for the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (referred to as the Plan for the purpose of this report). The boundary covered by the Plan is illustrated in Appendix 1. The plan is a strategic level document containing a number of planning policies for East Northamptonshire District.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required by Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) (the Regulations) for all plans and projects which may have adverse effects on European sites. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). AA is also required, as a matter of UK Government policy for potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and listed Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) for the purposes of considering plans and projects, which may affect them (Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, ODPM, August 2005). Hereafter all of the above designated nature conservation sites are referred to as 'international sites'.

Local development plans which include general policies often do not relate to specific development proposals but provide an overall strategy for development which is desirable within the boundary of the Plan (such as the county, district or borough boundary). If the policies do not relate to a specific development proposal then it can be difficult to assess the effects on an international site from the policies. For instance a policy may state that wind farms within the Plan boundary will be considered in order to meet national and regional renewable energy targets but may not include specific development proposals. It is not possible to conclude whether a wind farm will have a likely significant effect on an international site without knowledge of design and location of the wind farm. Unless the policy itself includes some details of location, size and design of the wind farm(s) it cannot be concluded that the policy will or will not have a likely significant effect on an international site.

However, the local development plan can be written in such a way that international sites are considered. For instance, the Plan can state that any proposed developments under the Plan must have regard to and consider any adverse effects upon international sites. When a local authority considers a development proposal they must have regard to the whole plan including the introductory text and supporting text to the policies. Therefore the Plan may include text which states that consideration of international sites must be given in the development control process. This should ensure that developments are not permitted which could have significant adverse impacts on international sites.

There are no policies contained within the Plan which would obviously lead to direct impacts on international sites. However, some impacts such as recreational pressure and disturbance are difficult to assess at the plan stage, as are impacts from proposals where no definite location is

known. The policies themselves will not have any likely significant impacts on the integrity of the two internationally important sites. However, further information will be required at the more detailed planning stage (e.g. preparation of Area Action Plans or other Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents) and the development control stage for certain projects / proposals to allow the competent authority (in this case East Northamptonshire Council) to assess whether they are likely to have a significant impact on the international sites, and thus, determine whether a full Appropriate Assessment is needed

Spatial Scope of the Screening Assessment

An initial review of the Plan in light of the Regulations has been undertaken by Atkins as part of the AA screening process. This initial review looked at the geographic extent or zone of influence which any impacts from the Plan could have and therefore which international sites should be included within the assessment.

The policies within the Plan are mainly of a localised nature and focus on regeneration of local services in the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston area with an increase in housing, tourism and employment in East Northamptonshire. Adverse effects from the Plan are considered very unlikely to extend far beyond the Plan boundary. There are unlikely to be significant emissions to air or water which could be generated through developments such as large scale power stations, and quarry operations as these types of development are not included in the Plan.

The Designated Sites

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar is the only internationally designated site within East Northamptonshire and has therefore been included within the assessment.

It is recognised that indirect effects such as recreational pressures may lead to effects outside of the Plan boundary and there are some international sites which may have features that are sensitive to disturbance. There is also a policy relating to wind farms within the Plan. Wind farms can lead to impacts on migratory bird populations. For these reasons Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, situated approximately 5.5km from the East Northamptonshire boundary, has also been included in the assessment.

Orton Pits SAC and Barnack Hills and Holes SAC are situated approximately 5 km from the district boundary. These sites have been eliminated from the Appropriate Assessment process because the nature of the policies and the nature of the designated features are such that it is extremely unlikely that there will be any adverse effects on the integrity of these sites given the distance from the Plan boundary. Orton Pits SAC has been designated for its great crested newt population, while Barnack Hills and Holes SAC has been designated for its calcareous grassland. Neither of these international sites are considered to be particularly vulnerable to recreational or disturbance pressures from policies within the Plan.

This screening report is a record of the assessment of 'likely significant effects' from the Plan on the integrity of two internationally important sites for nature conservation:

- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar; and,
- Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.

Further details of the each of the sites and the conservation objectives of the two sites are provided in Sections 5 and Section 6.

Initial Review of the Policies

An initial review of the policies contained within the Plan was undertaken using a green, amber and red system (see Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix 2):

- A 'green' policy means that there is thought to be enough information available at present to conclude that there is no likely significant effect from the policy on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site or their favourable conservation objectives;
- An 'amber' policy is one where the Plan has been amended so that the competent authority must consider the identified international sites through the planning control process;
- A 'red' policy is one that can be identified as having a significant effect on the integrity of the international sites based on current information. None of the policies contained within the Plan were assessed as falling within this category.

Details of the 'amber' policies are summarised in Appendix 2.

In order to avoid likely significant adverse effects on the integrity of any international sites from development occurring as a result of the Plan, the Plan has been amended and text has been added to Section 1 of the document. This text states that any proposed development which could have an adverse effect on the identified internationally important sites will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. The Plan therefore ensures that the competent authority (in this case East Northamptonshire Council) will give consideration to international sites in order to inform development control decisions. The text states that where it cannot be demonstrated that a development proposal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a site of international importance to nature conservation, such development is not supported by the Plan and will not be permitted. Text has also been added to the supporting text of Policy 6 – Green Infrastructure. This text states that a number of Green Infrastructure routes run adjacent to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site (particularly routes that radiate from Thrapston to the south of the Plan area) and that to prevent adverse impacts on the European site these routes will be designed in consultation with Natural England. The text also states that if mitigation measures are required to prevent impacts on the pSPA/pRamsar site these may include one or more of the following:

- The design of vegetation and landscaping schemes to ensure adequate screening and buffering to the pSPA/pRamsar site;

- If necessary, fencing and/or controlled access to the most sensitive areas of the pSPA/pRamsar site; and
- The use of interpretation / information boards if appropriate.

This screening assessment has been undertaken on the Plan with all the amendments discussed above incorporated into the document.

As the Plan is a strategic level document, the Appropriate Assessment screening has also been carried out at a strategic level. Any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the regional plan and will need to satisfy East Northamptonshire Council in consultation with Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar, and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated.

It is the competent authority, through the planning control process, who should undertake an Appropriate Assessment. However, developers who propose developments under the Plan need to provide sufficient information to the competent authority in order for a decision to be made on whether the proposals will have a likely significant effect upon an international site.

The approach to this screening assessment has been discussed and agreed in principle with Rachel Gorman (Natural England Conservation Officer, Eastern Area Team, December 2007).

2. Plan Details

Proposed Plan

The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (the Plan) is a site specific proposal document, based on the framework set by the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy.

None of the proposals within the Plan are directly connected with, or necessary to the nature conservation management of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site or Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.

Brief Description of Plan

The Plan conforms to the policies and proposals contained within national planning policy and guidance and the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East Midlands. It forms part of the statutory Development Plan for the area, which is made up of the RSS and the North Northamptonshire Local Development Framework (LDF).

The Plan includes identification of sites for housing, employment, recreation, transport and contains policies relating to specific areas where individual development, conservation or design considerations apply.

There are 51 policies within the Plan. These policies seek to address the key needs of East Northamptonshire in a way which takes into account of local circumstances and the character of the District. The policies identify the town centres of Thrapston and Oundle Rural Service centres as being the key locations for major change but also recognise that there will be the opportunity to regenerate other selected areas, such as King's Cliffe as a Local Service Centre; and the sustainable development of communities in the north of east Northamptonshire.

The Plan conforms to other policies and strategies already in place, such as the RSS, the Core Spatial Strategy for North Northamptonshire and the East Northamptonshire Community Strategy.

All 51 policies have been through the initial screening process as described in Section 1 (Tables 1 and 2, Appendix 2). The 'green' policies that are not likely to have a significant effect on international sites have been screened and are listed in Appendix 2.

Provisions within the Plan (and supporting documents) that protect the International Sites

When planning applications are determined all of the relevant policies and supporting text in the Plan are taken into account and used as the basis for decision-making.

Text is present within Section 1 of the Plan stating that any proposed development that may have an adverse effect on internationally important sites will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) by the competent authority. The Plan therefore ensures that the competent authority (in this

case East Northamptonshire Council in consultation with Natural England) will give consideration to international sites in order to inform development control decisions. The text states that where it cannot be demonstrated that a development proposal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a site of European or International importance to nature conservation, such development is not supported by the Plan and will not be permitted. Therefore, any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Submission Plan and will need to satisfy East Northamptonshire Council and Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated.

Text present within the supporting text of Policy 6 – Green Infrastructure also gives protection to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site. This text states that where Green Infrastructure routes run adjacent to the European site these routes will be designed in consultation with Natural England. Where adverse impacts to the pSPA/pRamsar site may occur, this text also identifies appropriate mitigation measures that may need to be put in place to protect the site.

In addition to this there are a variety of policies within the Plan that, indirectly, will lead to the protection of the internationally important sites. Within the Environmental Policies section of the Plan there are policies that seek to protect and enhance the natural environment: Biodiversity and the Natural Environment and Local Impact of Construction. In addition, within the Biodiversity and the Natural Environment section planning policies are referred to relating to biodiversity within the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy 8 (RSS8).

Within the Environmental Policies section of the Plan, sub-heading *Hierarchy of wildlife designations and biodiversity* it states that PPS9 provides policy guidance for the statutory designated sites with respect to development proposals. Each of the international and national statutory biodiversity sites which have been identified on the proposals map are subject to national and regional planning policies.

Within Policy 14 of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy it states that development should not cause risk to the quality of the underlying ground water or surface water. In addition, the RSS8 has reference to two policies that seek to protect and enhance the natural environment; Policy 33 refers to development plans, future local development frameworks and policies of the Environment Agency and other agencies that should be co-ordinated to: take water related issues into account at an early stage in the process of identifying land for development, protect and improve water quality and reduce risk of pollution. Also, with the Regional Priorities for Biodiversity section of RSS8 it states that, where development would be likely to affect nature conservation interests, account should be taken of the advice in PPG9 (and PPS9).

3. The Plan and its Likely Significant Effects on the Cited Interest Features (and therefore upon the Integrity) of the European/Ramsar Sites

Sections 5 and 6 assess the likely significant effects of the policies within the Plan on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site. The integrity of such a site is defined as ‘...the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.’ (Part I, Section B, Paragraph 20 of ODPM Circular 06/2005 accompanying Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation). As such, areas that have been identified as being used by species that the site has been designated for, but are situated outside of the SPA/Ramsar and pSPA/pRamsar sites, will also be taken into account with respect to each of the policies listed in the Plan. For example certain bird species for which pSPA/pRamsar and SPA/Ramsar sites have been classified may require areas outside the designated site for feeding to maintain their populations at a favourable conservation status.

The assessment of integrity is largely based on the conservation objectives of the site. For instance the conservation objective for the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site is to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of migratory bird species of European importance (gadwall and shoveler) with particular reference to open water and surrounding marginal habitats (Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar Conservation Objectives, Appendix 3). If any plan or project causes the cited interest features of a site to fall into unfavourable condition they can be considered to have had a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of the site.

Favourable Conditions Tables produced by Natural England, detail the targets and objectives relating to the conservation of species populations and the maintenance of the habitats within Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site (Appendix 4). This information has been taken into consideration and has been used to form the basis of the assessment of potential effects upon the two international sites. Due to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits being a proposed SPA and proposed Ramsar site, the information provided by Natural England includes proposed objectives and the pSPA citation (Appendix 3).

Plans or projects can adversely affect the integrity of a site by:

- Causing delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Interrupting progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site;
- Disrupting those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site; and
- Interfering with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.

Additionally, the assessment took into account possible impacts on the international sites which could occur as a result of the policies within the Plan through the factors given in Inset 1.

Inset 1: Factors that could lead to possible impacts on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar sites.

Physical Damage

- Siltation (e.g. outfalls);
- Changes in surface and groundwater flows (e.g. changes to flow, water table, water temperature and quality); and
- Abrasion (e.g. recreational activity, vehicles).

Non-physical disturbance

- Noise (e.g. land/water-based recreation); and
- Visual presence (e.g. land/water based recreation).

Toxic contamination

- Introduction of synthetic compounds (e.g. TBT, PCBs); and
- Introduction of non-synthetic compounds (e.g. effluent outfalls);

Non-toxic contamination

- Changes in nutrient loading (e.g. agricultural run-off, effluent outfalls);
- Changes in organic loading (e.g. effluent outfalls); and
- Changes in turbidity (e.g. effluent outfalls, dredging, depositing dredged spoil).

Biological disturbance

- Introduction of microbial pathogens (e.g. effluent outfalls); and
- Introduction of non-native species.

4. Details of Other Plans or Projects which may have a Likely Significant Effect upon the Integrity of the International Sites

The following organisations have been contacted for details on other plans and projects which have the potential for adverse effects upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.

Organisation	Contact Name	Title (if known)
East Northamptonshire Council	Michael Burton	Planning Officer
Corby Borough Council	Rebecca Yee	Head of Planning
Wellingborough Borough Council	Sue Bateman	Planning Officer
Peterborough City Council		Planning Officer
Rutland County Council	Penny Burford	Policy Planner
Huntingdon District Council	Lisa Palmer	Planning Officer
Stamford and Grantham District Council	Rachael Armstrong	Policy Planner
Natural England	Rachel Gorman	Planning and Biodiversity officer
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Colin Wilkinson	Conservation Officer
Local Bird Recorder	Gary Pullan	Volunteer
Environment Agency	Nikki Loveday	Technical Officer (FRB)

There are currently no other plans or projects, which have been identified as having the potential to cause a likely significant effect on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar or Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar.

However, there are proposed plans and projects that are likely to require an Appropriate Assessment screening:

- Wellingborough Borough Council, WEAST extension of 3000+ houses;
- Wellingborough Borough Council, Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document;

- Rutland County Council, Core Strategy; and
- Huntingdon County Council, Core Strategy.

As these assessments have not been completed it is not possible to assess whether they could affect the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar or Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar.

The North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy provides details of policies relating to further settlements, employment, retail development, transportation within the surrounding districts of East Northamptonshire. However, there are no details of specific location and extent of development, therefore it is not possible to assess whether they could affect the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar or Rutland Water SPA/ Ramsar.

5. Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRamsar Site

Information about the International Nature Conservation Site

Site Designation Status	Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA) and proposed Ramsar site (pRamsar).
Location of International Site	<p>Within the East Northamptonshire boundary, Northamptonshire. The site is 35 km long located along the along the River Nene from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton), downstream to Thorpe Waterville (north of Thrapston).</p> <p>The boundaries of the SPA and Ramsar site are consistent with one another.</p>
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>The site consists of a chain of both active and exhausted sand and gravel pits extending approximately 35 kilometres along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain from Clifford Hill (downstream to Thorpe Waterville).</p> <p>The gravel pits form an extensive series of shallow and deep open waters which occur in association with a wide range of marginal features, such as sparsely vegetated islands, gravel bars and shorelines, and habitats including reed-swamp, marsh, wet ditches, rush pastures, rough grassland and scattered scrub. This range of habitat and the varied topography of the lagoons, grassland and scattered scrub provide valuable resting and feeding conditions for major concentrations of wintering water-birds.</p> <p>The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits has been recommended for classification as a SPA because of its European ornithological importance, particularly as wintering habitat for wildfowl and wading birds. The site is used regularly by bittern and golden plover (with 2% and 2.3% of the Great Britain population of these species respectively wintering at the site). In addition, approximately 2% of the Great Britain population of gadwell use the site. The site is also used regularly by over 20,000 water-birds (water-birds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season.</p> <p>The pRamsar site is a Wetland of International Importance because the site qualifies under Criterion 5 of the Ramsar Convention because it regularly supports 23,821 individual water-birds (5 year peak mean 1999/2000-2—3/04). The site also qualifies under Criterion 6 of the Ramsar Convention because it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in the populations of the mute swan and gadwell species or subspecies of water-birds in any season.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	The Conservation Objectives are currently being developed, but the proposed objectives, as discussed with Natural England, are as follows.

- Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification; and
- Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season.

Screening Assessment Criteria

<p>Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site</p>	<p>See the list of policies in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The existing provisions within the Plan (text present in Section 1, the supporting text of Policy 6 and various other Environmental Policies), in addition to documents supporting this Plan (including the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy 8) will lead to the protection of international site. These existing provisions are discussed in detail in Section 2 of this report.</p> <p>The Plan ensures that the competent authority (in this case East Northamptonshire Council) will give consideration to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRamsar site in order to inform development control decisions. Every project considered under the Plan must have consideration of Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site, such that there will be no likely significant adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This must be carried out to the satisfaction of East Northamptonshire Council and Natural England.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and scale; • Land take; • Resource requirements (i.e. water extraction etc); • Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); • Excavation requirements; • Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.; and • Other. 	<p>There are no likely significant effects of the Plan on this site. Every project considered under the Plan must have consideration of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRamsar site, such that there will be no developments permitted that will lead to significant adverse effects on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>However, the policies described below identify where further information would be needed at the more detailed planning stage (e.g. production of Area Action Plans or other, Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents) and the development control stage. The reasons for this requirement for more information are also described.</p> <p>The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan provides details of development and redevelopment projects proposed in the East Northamptonshire area (Policies 1, 2, 19, 21, 27, 28, 29, OUN2, OUN3, THR3, THR4, THR5, KCF1, KCF2, NAS1, WAR1 and BC1). The Plan refers to housing, employment allocation and industrial development within green belt throughout the District. As such, these may have potential impacts on the pSPA/pRamsar site or sites that are used as feeding areas by species that the site has been designated for.</p> <p>The exact location of housing, employment allocation and development is</p>

	<p>specifically proposed within existing developed areas and around the existing urbanised areas and town centres. The regeneration schemes proposed will make the District more attractive to live in, simultaneously increasing the amount of jobs in East Northamptonshire. The most likely indirect or secondary impacts to the pSPA/pRamsar site are likely to include increase in recreation pressure on the site.</p> <p>The policies relating to the development of land within and surrounding Thrapston includes regeneration of the town centre, increasing and re-locating businesses around the Thrapston area and increased housing (Policies THR3, THR4 and THR5). Thrapston is situated approximately 150 m south of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site. These indirect impacts could cause disturbance to the internationally important populations of birds using the site and degrade that habitat within the pSPA and pRamsar site.</p> <p>In addition, associated green infrastructure and transport policies (Policies 6, 7, 29, and BC1) could contribute to an increase in disturbance as a result of increased noise, increased traffic and an increase in pollution (through increased recreational usage, through emissions to air from increased traffic and/or industrial uses and/or run-off of pollutants into the site, light spill into the site). With respect to green infrastructure the existing provisions within the Plan (text present in the supporting text of Policy 6) will lead to the protection of the international site.</p> <p>Policy 16 proposes that wind farms are situated within East Northamptonshire. There are currently no location or design details for any wind farms. However, there is a risk from wind farms of adverse effects upon important bird populations (such as those associated with the pSPA/pRamsar site) from disturbance and increased mortality if the wind farm is located on migration or flight paths.</p> <p>Finally, water related facilities along the River Nene included in Policies 27 and 28 propose to increase development associated with tourism, including accommodation, retail facilities and increasing water based leisure activities. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site is situated downstream of the proposed developments. An increase in visitor pressure, along with increase in water based leisure activities have the potential to cause indirect effects to Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar including disturbance to the birds for which the site has been designated for (including light spill into the site) and an increase in pollutants from water based activities.</p>
<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area; 	<p>An evaluation of potential impacts of the policies outlined above is shown in Table 1 (see Appendix 2). However, every project considered under the Plan must have consideration of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site, such that there will be no developments permitted that</p>

- Disturbance to key species;
- Habitat or species fragmentation;
- Reduction in species density;
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and
- Climate change

will lead to significant adverse effects on the integrity of the site.

6. Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site

Information about the International Nature Conservation Site

Site Designation Status	Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site
Location of International Site	<p>Rutland Water is located in Rutland County, near Oakham and Normanton, in the East Midlands Region.</p> <p>Outside of the boundary of East Northamptonshire, situated 5.5 km approximately from the East Northamptonshire boundary.</p> <p>The boundaries of the SPA and Ramsar site are consistent with one another.</p>
Brief Description of the International Site	<p>Rutland Water is a man-made pump storage reservoir created by the damming of the Gwash Valley in 1975 and is the largest reservoir in the United Kingdom. In general the reservoir is drawn down in the summer months and filled up during the autumn and winter months when levels in the Nene River and Welland River are high. The main habitats are open water and a mosaic of lagoon, reed swamp, marsh, old meadow, scrub and woodland.</p> <p>Rutland Water is designated as a SPA and a Ramsar site because of its European ornithological importance. This is particularly due to the wintering habitat the site provides for wildfowl and wading birds. The site regularly supports internationally important numbers of gadwall and shoveler and nationally important numbers of ten other species of wildfowl.</p> <p>The Ramsar site is a Wetland of International Importance because the site qualifies under Criteria 5 of the Ramsar Convention, regularly supporting over 20,000 over-wintering waterfowl (5 year mean peak 01/04/1998): In addition to shoveler and gadwall, the over-wintering waterfowl population is made up of nationally important populations of wigeon, coot, great crested grebe, cormorant, mute swan, wigeon, teal, pochard, tufted duck and goldeneye.</p>
Conservation Objectives of the International Site	<p>The conservation objective for the European site is to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring migratory bird species (see bullet points below), with particular reference to open water and surrounding marginal habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wintering population of gadwall; • Wintering population of shoveler; and • Over 20,000 over-wintering waterfowl: In addition to shoveler and

gadwall, the over-wintering waterfowl population is made up of nationally important populations of wigeon, coot, great crested grebe, cormorant, mute swan, wigeon, teal, pochard, tufted duck and goldeneye.

Screening Assessment Criteria

<p>Describe the individual elements of the Plan likely to give rise to impacts on the International Site</p>	<p>See the list of policies in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The existing provisions within the Plan (text present in Section 1 and various Environmental Policies), in addition to documents supporting this Plan (including the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy 8) will lead to the protection of the internationally important site. These existing provisions are discussed in detail in Section 2 of this report.</p> <p>The Plan ensures that the competent authority (in this case East Northamptonshire Council) will give consideration to the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site in order to inform development control decisions. Every project considered under the Plan must have consideration of Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, such that there will be no likely significant adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This must be carried out to the satisfaction of East Northamptonshire Council and Natural England.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the Plan on the International Site by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and scale; • Land take; • Resource requirements (i.e. water extraction etc); • Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); • Excavation requirements; • Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc.; and • Other. 	<p>There are no likely significant effects of the Plan on this site. Every project considered under the Plan must have consideration of Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, such that there will be no developments permitted that will lead to significant adverse effects on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>However, the policies described below identify where further information would be needed at the more detailed planning stage (e.g. production of Area Action Plans or other Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents) and the development control stage. The reasons for this requirement for more information are also described.</p> <p>The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan provides details of development and re-development projects proposed in the East Northamptonshire area (Policies 1, 2, 19, 21, 24, KCF1, KCF2 and NAS1). The Plan refers to housing, employment allocation and industrial development within green belt throughout the District. As such, these may have potential impacts on the SPA/Ramsar site or sites that are used as feeding areas by species that the site has been designated for.</p> <p>The exact location of housing, employment allocation and development is specifically proposed within existing developed areas and around the existing urbanised areas and town centres. The regeneration schemes proposed will make the District more attractive to live in, simultaneously</p>

	<p>increasing the amount of jobs in East Northamptonshire. The most likely indirect or secondary impacts to the internationally designated site are likely to include increase in recreation pressure on the site.</p> <p>Policy 16 proposes that wind farms are situated within East Northamptonshire. There are currently no location or design details for any wind farms. However, there is a risk from wind farms of adverse effects upon important bird populations (such as those associated with the SPA/Ramsar site) from disturbance and increased mortality if the wind farm is located on migration or flight paths.</p>
<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area; • Disturbance to key species; • Habitat or species fragmentation; • Reduction in species density; • Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and • Climate change 	<p>An evaluation of potential impacts of the policies outlined above is shown in Table 2 (see Appendix 2). However, every project considered under the Plan must have consideration of the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, such that there will be no developments permitted that will lead to significant adverse effects on the integrity of the site.</p>

7. Conclusions

Is the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Submission Plan Document likely to have a significant effect ‘alone or in combination’ on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRamsar site and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site?

There is no likely significant effect of the Plan ‘alone’ on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRamsar or Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.

Text present in Section 1 of the Plan states that any proposed development likely to have significant effect on these internationally important sites will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA). The Plan therefore ensures that the competent authority (in this case East Northamptonshire Council) will give consideration to Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site and Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRamsar site in order to inform more detailed planning documents and development control decisions. The text states that where it cannot be demonstrated that a development proposal will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a site of European or international importance to nature conservation, such development is not supported by the Plan and will not be permitted. Therefore, any specific development proposals will need to be in line with the Plan and will need to satisfy East Northamptonshire Council and Natural England that there will either be no likely significant effects from the development on the two internationally important sites or that any significant adverse effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated.

Other existing provisions within the Plan include the various Environmental Policies within the Plan (including the supporting text of Policy 6 – Green Infrastructure). Supporting documents (and associated policies/sections of importance) that lead, indirectly, to the protection of the internationally important sites include Policy 14 of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy, Policy 33 of Regional Spatial Strategy 8 (RSS8) and the Regional Priorities for Biodiversity Section of RSS8.

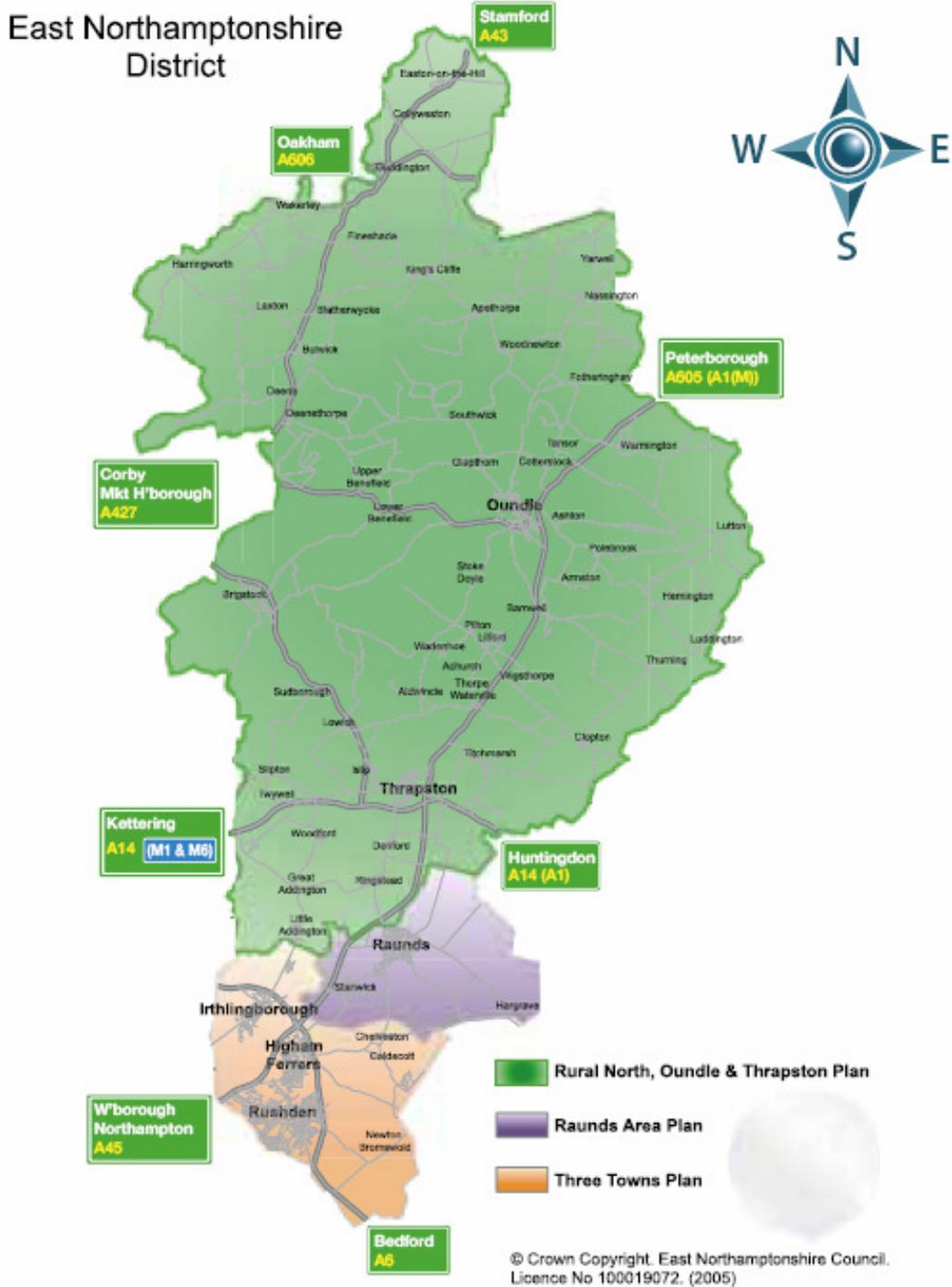
Although the policies themselves will not have any likely significant impacts on the integrity of the two internationally important sites the effects of certain policies within the Plan may only become clear as they are translated into more specific local policies and development projects. Further information is required at the detailed planning stage (e.g. preparation of Area Action Plans or other Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents) and the development control stage to allow the competent authority (in this case, East Northamptonshire Council) to enable them to assess whether there is likely to be a significant impact on the international sites, and thus, determine whether a full Appropriate Assessment is needed at that stage.

There is currently no potential for in-combination effects as no other current plans or projects are at a stage where they can be assessed as likely to lead to significant effects on Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site or on Rutland Water pSPA/pRamsar.

In conclusion, there is no significant effect from the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan, either alone or in-combination on Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.

Name of assessor/originator:	Catherine Warner, Ecologist, Atkins	Date: 16/04/08
Name of checker:	John Box, Associate, Atkins	Date: 17/04/08
Natural England comment on assessment:	<p>We consider this to be a sound assessment and support the conclusion that there will be no likely significant effect on any European sites as a result of this plan.</p> 	
Name of Natural England Officer:	Rachel Gorman	Date: 21/04/08

APPENDIX 1: East Northamptonshire District Boundary



APPENDIX 2: Initial Screening Assessment Information

Tables 1 and 2 below shows the initial assessment of each of the policies using the green, amber and red system:

- A 'green' policy means that there is thought to be enough information available at present to conclude that there is no likely significant effect from the policy on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site or their favourable conservation objectives;
- An 'amber' policy is one that has been amended so that the competent authority must consider the identified international sites through the planning control process;
- A 'red' policy is one that can be identified as having a significant effect on the integrity of the international sites based on current information. None of the policies contained within the plan were assessed as falling within this category.

Where possible, policies that have been found to have no likely significant effect on a European site have been categorised into four different types:

- Policy Type 1: Policies that will not themselves lead to development (e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy);
- Policy Type 2: Policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity;
- Policy Type 3: Policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site; and
- Policy Type 4: Policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.

This has been based on The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and sub-Regional Strategies (Draft Guidance) produced by Natural England in March 2007.

Table 1: Policies and their likely significant effects on the integrity of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site

		Possible detrimental effects on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site	
		Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification	Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season
<i>The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan Policies (notes on the policies that have any likely significant effects to Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site are located in further detail within the Screening Assessment Criteria section below)</i>			
Policy 1 – Settlement Roles	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development. Policies that specify allocations include policies OUN1 to OUN6, THR1 to THR5, KCF1 to KCF2, NAS 1, WAR1, BC1 and DA1 (please see below for assessments of these policies).</p> <p>The policy also relates to windfall development, the location of which is not specified. However if windfall development is required the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>		
Policy 2 – Windfall development in Settlements	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to development in existing settlements (although the location of any future development is not specified). This policy specifically relates to the design (and other qualitative criteria) for development.</p> <p>However, if windfall development is required the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>		
Policy 3 – Phasing in Oundle	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development		
Policy 4 – Phasing in Thrapston	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development		
Policy 5 – Comprehensive development	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development		
Policy 6 – Green infrastructure	<p>This policy relates to the provision of green infrastructure within the Plan area to ensure development will contribute and link into the wider green infrastructure network. This will include the development of new green infrastructure links (principally using former railway lines), quiet roads and upgrading rights of way. None of the proposed green infrastructure routes are present within the pSPA/pRamsar site. However a number of the green infrastructure routes run adjacent to the site. These routes consist of currently used roads and public rights of way (including public rights of way along disused railway lines).</p> <p>Text present in the supporting text of Policy 6 – Green Infrastructure states that a number of Green Infrastructure routes run adjacent to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site (particularly routes that radiate from Thrapston to the south of the Plan area) and</p>		

Possible detrimental effects on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site	
	Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification
	Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season
	<p>that to prevent adverse impacts on the European site these routes will be designed in consultation with Natural England. The text also states that if mitigation measures are required to prevent impacts on the pSPA/pRamsar site these may include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design of vegetation and landscaping schemes to ensure adequate screening and buffering to the pSPA/pRamsar site; • If necessary, fencing and/or controlled access to the most sensitive areas of the pSPA/pRamsar site; and • The use of interpretation / information boards if appropriate. <p>This seeks to protect the pSPA/pRamsar site and as such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of European site.</p>
Policy 7 – Transport network	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to improving the bus and community transport network. The policy also states that new developments over ten dwellings in size will need to incorporate direct walking and cycling routes linking to the existing and planned network (this may lead to potential impacts on birds with the pSPA/pRamsar site through increased recreational disturbance). However the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.
Policy 8 – Residential parking standards	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development
Policy 9 – Flood risk	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development (in relation to SUDS and flood protection) and will not lead directly to development.
Policy 10 – Housing density	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy 11 – Housing mix	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy 12 – Important open land within towns and villages	POLICY TYPE 3: This policy intends to conserve the existing form and character of a town or village.
Policy 13 – Buildings of local architectural or historical interest	POLICY TYPE 3: This policy intends to conserve buildings of local architectural or historic interest (or their settings).
Policy 14 – Protection of local nature reserves and local sites of conservation interest	POLICY TYPE 2: This policy is intended to protect the natural environment (specifically Local Nature Reserves or other local sites of conservation interest).
Policy 15 – Enhancing biodiversity and designations of new local nature reserves	POLICY TYPE 3: This policy is intended to conserve and/or enhance the natural environment (specifically Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats).
Policy 16 – Wind farms	POLICY TYPE 2: The policy relates to proposals for wind farms although no specific site allocations are identified in the Plan. This policy

Possible detrimental effects on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site	
	Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season
	<p>Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification</p>
	<p>states that wind farms will only be acceptable where it can be proven that there will be no major loss of biodiversity. Therefore the policy seeks to protect the natural environment.</p> <p>Furthermore the text included in Section 1 of the Plan means that any future planning application relating to this policy would have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy 17 – Parish plans and village design statements	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development
Policy 18 – Considerate constructions	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development
Policy 19 – Affordable housing targets	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development. However this policy details the target for the provision of a minimum of 500 new dwellings by 2021 (with 304 dwellings to be built on allocated sites in Oundle and Thrapston and 196 to be built on other sites within the District). The actual allocations policies for these areas include policies OUN3, TH5, KCF2, NAS1 and WAR1 (please see below for assessments of these policies).</p> <p>Furthermore the text included in Section 1 of the Plan means that any future planning application relating to this policy would have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy 20 – Affordable housing requirements	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy 21 – Rural exceptions housing	<p>This policy relates to the provision of affordable housing in rural areas. No specific locations for affordable housing are noted within the policy or supporting text. If affordable housing was required in a village the text included in Section 1 of the Plan means that any future planning application relating to this policy would have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy 22 – Open space, sport and recreational facilities	POLICY TYPE 4: The policy details the need to protect and enhance open space and sport and recreational facilities. It also states that new developments on all new housing developments must provide new open space, sport and recreation facilities (or existing areas must be improved). This policy will positively steer people away from the pSPA/pRamsar site through the provision of recreational facilities outside the boundary of the European site.
Policy 23 – Protected employment areas	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development.
Policy 24 – Employment sites occupied by single businesses	<p>This policy relates to the potential re-development of under-utilised land at Islip Furnace and West Hay Farm employment sites if they are vacated by their current owner. The policy states re-development would be undertaken to increase size of the business facilities at these</p>

Possible detrimental effects on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site	
	Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season
	<p>Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification sites.</p> <p>Islip Furnace is located approximately 1.6 km south-west of the pSPA/Ramsar site and West Hay Farm is approximately 19 km north of the pSPA/pRamsar site. Given these distances and the sites remaining as employment sites it is considered that this policy will have no likely significant effect on the European site.</p>
Policy 25 – Town centres	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy 26 – Water related facilities along the River Nene	POLICY TYPE 2: This policy relates to the development of facilities for hiring and maintaining boats along the course of the River Nene. This may have direct impacts on the bird species using the pSPA/pRamsar. However, the policy states that an AA will be undertaken where required. The policy therefore takes the European site into consideration (with an aim to protect it) and any likely significant effects would be identified during the AA process. This policy is therefore considered to have no likely significant impacts on the European site.
Policy 27 – Riverside hotel, Elmington	<p>This policy relates to the re-use of the Riverside Hotel as a restaurant, public house or hotel. The policy also states that projects to improve and enhance accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians to Oundle and green infrastructure along the River Nene will be supported. This site is located approximately 7.5 km north of the pSPA/pRamsar site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p> <p>However the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy 28 – Oundle marina	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development. The policy states that if the Oundle Marina becomes vacant the site should be redeveloped with a tourism and water based leisure focus. This may lead to increased recreational pressure and increased disturbance to the bird species within the pSPA/pRamsar site.</p> <p>However the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy 29 – Lilford Park	<p>This policy relates to the restoration proposals for Lilford Hall. As part of the works improved public access will be sought for riverside access and a new footpath links (between Lilford, Lilford Hall and Lilford Lodge Hall. Increased access along the River Nene may lead to an increase in public use of the pSPA/pRamsar site. Lilford Park is located (at its closest) approximately 2.5 km north of the pSPA/pRamsar site. Given this distance it is considered that the level of any additional recreational pressure will not be great enough to cause any likely significant effects on the pSPA/pRamsar site.</p> <p>However the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on</p>

Possible detrimental effects on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site	
	Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season
	Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification
	the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.
Policy 30 – Rural buildings – General approach	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy 31 – Replacement dwellings in open countryside	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy 32 – Farm diversification	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy 33 – Lorry Park	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
OUNDLE – STRATEGY AND ALLOCATIONS	
Policy OUN1 – Infrastructure	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy OUN2 – East Road, Oundle	<p>This policy relates to the re-development of land at East Road, Oundle to provide high quality business uses. The pSPA/pRamsar site is located approximately 5 km south of this allocation site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p> <p>Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy OUN3 – Housing allocation in Oundle	<p>This policy relates to the provision of up to 270 new houses (145 at Ashton Road/Herne Road and 125 at Creed Road) within Oundle over the lifetime of the Plan. The pSPA/pRamsar site is located approximately 5 km south of these housing allocations. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p> <p>Furthermore However the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy OUN4 – Prince William school	This policy relates to the expansion of Prince William School within the existing school site. The pSPA/pRamsar site is located approximately 5.5 km south of this site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely

Possible detrimental effects on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site	
	Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification
	Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season
	that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. Therefore this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.
Policy OUN5 – Milton road school site	This policy relates to the re-use of the Milton Road School site (when vacated) for public and community uses, business uses or for the provision of additional public car parking. The SPA is located approximately 5.5 km south of this site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality). Therefore this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.
Policy OUN6 – Fletton House, Glapthorn Road	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Thrapston – Strategy and Allocations	
Policy THR1 – Infrastructure	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy THR2 – Regeneration of Thrapston town centre	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.
Policy THR3 – Thrapston regeneration sites	<p>This policy identifies four sites to facilitate the regeneration of Thrapston Town Centre. The policy suggests potential land uses but does not allocate specific developments. It is possible that this policy may lead to an increase in people visiting Thrapston and the surrounding area (with potential impacts on the pSPA/pRamsar site).</p> <p>However the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy THR4 – Relocating existing business around Thrapston	<p>This policy relates to the potential proposals for relocating existing businesses in Thrapston and facilitating their expansion and how they will be directed to land within three business areas (Halden’s Parkway, Top Close or Islip Furnace), or if this is not possible, suitable sites should be located adjacent to existing built up areas and be suitable for HGV access and manoeuvring. The policy does not specify the exact nature of any future businesses. However it is possible that this policy may lead to an increase in working in Thrapston and living in the surrounding area (with potential impacts on the pSPA/pRamsar site).</p> <p>The text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy TH5 – Thrapston South	This policy deals with the development of a new neighbourhood to the south of Thrapston and would include housing (up to 685 houses), a

Possible detrimental effects on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site

Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification	Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season
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medical centre, open space and high quality commercial development. This site is located over 1 km from the pSPA/pRamsar site and is separated from this site by existing development (Thrapston town centre). Furthermore there are large areas of green space located to the south and east of the proposed development site.

Given the size of the potential development and its location (situated over 1 km from the pSPA/pRamsar site, separated by an existing development and availability of large amounts of green space to any residents of the development directly south and east of the site) it is considered unlikely that this development would lead to a significant increase in recreational pressure on the European site. As such this site is unlikely to lead to an adverse effect on the pSPA/pRamsar site (confirmed with Rachel Gorman, Natural England).

Furthermore, the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.

Rural Areas – Strategy and Allocations

Policy KCF1 – Kingsmead small and medium enterprises site, King’s Cliffe	<p>This policy relates to the development of the remaining 2.14ha of land at Kingsmead Industrial Estate with small and medium enterprises. The pSPA/pRamsar site is located approximately 15.5 km south of this industrial site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds the industrial park it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p> <p>Furthermore, the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
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Policy KCF2 – Willow lane/ Willow Road	<p>This policy allocates up to 150 dwellings to a site in King’s Cliffe. The pSPA/pRamsar site is located approximately 15.5 km south of this proposed housing allocation site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds King’s Cliffe it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p> <p>Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
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Policy NAS1 – Church street, Nassington	<p>This policy allocates an area of land to the north of 65 North Street for the development of a minimum of 11 dwellings. The pSPA/pRamsar site is located approximately 15.5 km south of this proposed housing allocation site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Nassington it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p>
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Possible detrimental effects on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site	
	Maintain populations of key wintering water-bird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification
	Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 water-birds in any season
	Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.
Policy WAR1 – Eaglethorpe Barn, Warmington	This policy allocates an area of land to the south and east of Eaglethorpe Barns, Warmington for mixed use development (including the provision of a minimum of 12 dwellings). The pSPA/pRamsar site is located approximately 11.2 km south of this proposed housing allocation site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Warmington it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.
Policy BC1 – Brigstock Camp	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: The policy will not lead directly to development. This policy states that if the consent granted for the medium secure hospital facility at the Brigstock Camp site is not implemented, the site will be developed into offices. This site is located approximately 6.4 km from the pSPA/pRamsar site. Given this distance and the and the existing green space that surrounds Brigstock it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the pSPA/pRamsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p> <p>Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on pSPA/pRamsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of pSPA/pRamsar site.</p>
Policy DA1 – Deenethorpe Airfield	<p>POLICY TYPE 2: The policy seeks to protect the natural environment.</p>
Policy AP1 – Addington Park industrial estate, Little Addington	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development but will not lead to directly to development.</p>

Table 2: Policies and their likely significant effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site

<i>Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site</i>									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
<i>The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan Policies (notes on the policies that have any likely significant effects to Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site are located in further detail within the Screening Assessment Criteria section below)</i>									
Policy 1 – Settlement Roles	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development. Policies that specify allocations include policies OUN1 to OUN6, THR1 to THR5, KCF1 to KCF2, NAS 1, WAR1, BC1 and DA1 (please see below for assessments of these policies).</p> <p>The policy also relates to windfall development, the location of which is not specified. However if windfall development is required the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on SPA/Ramsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of SPA/Ramsar site.</p>								
Policy 2 – Windfall development in Settlements	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to development in existing settlements. However it specifically relates to the design (and other qualitative criteria) for development. However, if windfall development is required the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on SPA/Ramsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of SPA/Ramsar site.</p>								
Policy 3 – Phasing in Oundle	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development								
Policy 4 – Phasing in Thrapston	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development								
Policy 5 – Comprehensive	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development								

Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
development									
Policy 6 – Green infrastructure	This policy relates to the provision of Green Infrastructure within the East Northamptonshire District only. At closest the SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 5 km from the District boundary. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.								
Policy 7 – Transport network	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to improving the bus and community transport network within the East Northamptonshire District. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.								
Policy 8 – residential parking standards	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development								
Policy 9 – Flood risk	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development (in relation to SUDS and flood protection) and will not lead directly to development.								
Policy 10 – Housing density	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
Policy 11 – Housing mix	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
Policy 12 – Important open land within towns and villages	POLICY TYPE 3: This policy intends to conserve the existing form and character of a town or village.								
Policy 13 – Buildings of local architectural or historical interest	POLICY TYPE 3: This policy intends to conserve buildings of local architectural or historic interest (or their settings).								
Policy 14 – Protection of local nature reserves and local sites of conservation interest	POLICY TYPE 2: This policy is intended to protect the natural environment (specifically Local Nature Reserves or other local sites of conservation interest).								
Policy 15 – Enhancing	POLICY TYPE 3: This policy is intended to conserve and/or enhance the natural environment (specifically Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats).								

Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
biodiversity and designations of new local nature reserves									
Policy 16 – Wind farms	<p>POLICY TYPE 2: The policy relates to proposals for wind farms. This policy states that wind farms will only be acceptable where it can be proven that there will be no major loss of biodiversity. Therefore the policy seeks to protect the natural environment.</p> <p>Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the SPA//Ramsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.</p>								
Policy 17 – Parish plans and village design statements	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development</p>								
Policy 18 – Considerate constructions	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development</p>								
Policy 19 – Affordable housing targets	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development. However this policy details the target for the provision of a minimum of 500 new dwellings by 2021 (with 304 dwellings to be built on allocated sites in Oundle and Thrapston and 196 to be built on other sites within the District). The actual allocations policies for these areas include policies OUN3, TH5, KCF2, NAS1 and WAR1 (please see below for assessments of these policies).</p> <p>Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on the SPA//Ramsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.</p>								
Policy 20 – Affordable housing	<p>POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.</p>								

Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
requirements									
Policy 21 – Rural exceptions housing	This policy relates to the provision of affordable housing in rural areas. No specific locations for affordable housing are noted within the policy or supporting text. If affordable housing was required in a village the text included in Section 1 of the Plan means that any future planning application relating to this policy would have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on SPA/Ramsar site. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of SPA/Ramsar site.								
Policy 22 – Open space, sport and recreational facilities	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development. The policy details the need to protect and enhance open space and sport and recreational facilities within the District. This may lead to a decrease in visitors from East Northamptonshire visiting the SPA/Ramsar site. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.								
Policy 23 – Protected employment areas	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development.								
Policy 24 – Employment sites occupied by single businesses	This policy relates to the potential re-development of under-utilised land at Islip Furnace and West Hay Farm employment sites if they are vacated by their current owner. The policy states re-development would be undertaken to increase size of the business facilities at these sites. Islip Furnace is located approximately 37.5 km south-west of the SPA/Ramsar site and West Hay Farm is approximately 9.5 km south of the SPA/Ramsar site. Given these distances and the sites remaining as employment sites it is considered that this policy will have no likely significant effect on the European site.								
Policy 25 – Town centres	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
Policy 26 – Water related facilities along the River Nene	POLICY TYPE 2: This policy relates to the development of facilities for hiring and maintaining boats along the course of the River Nene. The River Nene is not connected to the SPA/Ramsar site and as such this policy is considered to have no likely significant impacts on the European site.								
Policy 27 – Riverside hotel, Elmington	This policy relates to the re-use of the Riverside Hotel in Elmington (near Oundle) as a restaurant, public house or hotel. This site is located approximately 20 km from the SPA/Ramsar site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely								

Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site.									
Policy 28 – Oundle Marina	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development. The policy states that if the Oundle Marina becomes vacant the site should be re-developed with a tourism and water based leisure focus. This site is located approximately 20 km from the SPA/Ramsar site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site.								
Policy 29 – Lilford Park	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy will not lead directly to development. The policy states that improved public access will be south as part of the restoration proposals for Lilford Hall. This site is located approximately 20 km from the SPA/Ramsar site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site.								
Policy 30 – Rural buildings – General approach	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
Policy 31 – Replacement dwellings in open countryside	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
Policy 32 – Farm diversification	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
Policy 33 – Lorry Park	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
OUNDLE – STRATEGY AND ALLOCATIONS									
Policy OUN1 – Infrastructure	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								

Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
Policy OUN2 – East Road, Oundle	This policy relates to the re-development of land at East Road, Oundle to provide high quality business uses. This site is located approximately 20 km from the SPA/Ramsar site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site.								
Policy OUN3 – Housing allocation in Oundle	This policy relates to the provision of up to 270 new houses (145 at Ashton Road/Herne Road and 125 at Creed Road) within Oundle over the lifetime of the Plan. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 20 km from these housing allocations. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Oundle it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site.								
Policy OUN4 – Prince William school	This policy relates to the expansion of Prince William School (in Oundle) within the existing school site. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 20 km from this site. Due to this distance it is considered that this policy will have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.								
Policy OUN5 – Milton road school site	This policy relates to the re-use of the Milton Road School site (when vacated) for public and community uses, business uses or for the provision of additional public car parking. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 20 km from this site. Due to this distance it is considered that this policy will have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.								
Policy OUN6 – Fletton House, Glapthorn Road	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
Thrapston – Strategy and Allocations									
Policy THR1 – Infrastructure	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								
Policy THR2 – Regeneration of Thrapston town centre	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development and will not lead directly to development.								

Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
Policy THR3 – Thrapston regeneration sites	This policy identifies four sites to facilitate the regeneration of Thrapston Town Centre. The policy suggests potential land uses but does not allocate specific developments. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 28 km north of Thrapston. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Thrapston it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site.								
Policy THR4 – Relocating existing business around Thrapston	This policy relates to the potential proposals for relocating existing businesses in Thrapston and facilitating their expansion and how they will be directed to land within three business areas (Halden’s Parkway, Top Close or Islip Furnace), or if this is not possible, suitable sites should be located adjacent to existing built up areas and be suitable for HGV access and manoeuvring. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 28 km north of Thrapston. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Thrapston it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site.								
Policy TH5 – Thrapston South	This policy deals with the development of a new neighbourhood to the south of Thrapston and would include housing (up to 685 houses), a medical centre, open space and high quality commercial development. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 28 km north of Thrapston. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Thrapston it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site.								
Rural Areas – Strategy and Allocations									
Policy KCF1 – Kingsmead small and medium enterprises site, King’s Cliffe	This policy relates to the development of the remaining 2.14ha of land at Kingsmead Industrial Estate with small and medium enterprises. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 11 km north-west of this industrial site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds the industrial park it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the								

Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on SPA/Ramsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of SPA/Ramsar site.									
Policy KCF2 – Willow lane/ Willow Road	<p>This policy allocates up to 150 dwellings to a site in King’s Cliffe. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 11 km north-west of this industrial site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds the industrial park it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p> <p>Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on SPA/Ramsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of SPA/Ramsar site.</p>								
Policy NAS1 – Church street, Nassington	<p>This policy allocates an area of land to the north of 65 North Street for the development of a minimum of 11 dwellings. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 16.5 km north-west of this proposed housing allocation site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Nassington it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site.</p> <p>Furthermore the text in Section 1 of the Plan ensures that a development will not be permitted unless there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of European site. Therefore, any planning application relating to this policy would also have to take into account the possibility of likely significant effects on SPA/Ramsar site resulting from the proposed works. The need for an Appropriate Assessment would be identified as a result. As such, this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of SPA/Ramsar site.</p>								
Policy WAR1 – Eaglethorpe Barn, Warmington	<p>This policy allocates an area of land to the south and east of Eaglethorpe Barns, Warmington for mixed use development (including the provision of a minimum of 12 dwellings). The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 20 km north-west of this proposed housing allocation site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Warmington it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational</p>								

Possible detrimental effects on Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site									
No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	No significant reduction in view-lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem
pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.									
Policy BC1 – Brigstock Camp	POLICY TYPE 1: The policy will not lead directly to development. This policy states that if the consent granted for the medium secure hospital facility at the Brigstock Camp site is not implemented, the site will be developed into offices. The SPA/Ramsar site is located approximately 20 km north of this site. Due to this distance and the existing green space that surrounds Brigstock it is considered unlikely that there would be an increase in recreational pressure on the SPA/Ramsar site or that there would be any other indirect effects (such as changes in water quality) on the European site. As such this policy is considered to have no likely significant effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site.								
Policy DA1 – Deenethorpe Airfield	POLICY TYPE 2: The policy seeks to protect the natural environment.								
Policy AP1 – Addington Park industrial estate, Little Addington	POLICY TYPE 1: This policy relates to design and other qualitative criteria for development but will not lead to directly to development.								

Details of ‘amber’ Policies Identified that could lead to Likely Significant Effects on the Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site

Policy 1 – Settlement Roles: This policy identifies specific housing targets for individual towns and the wider rural areas. The individual text refers to development opportunities on previously developed land and Greenfield sites.

Policy 2 – Windfall Development in Settlements: This policy refers to housing that have not been specifically identified, including conversion of buildings, redevelopment of brownfield sites, and new development on village boundaries.

Policy 19 – Affordable Housing Targets: This policy details the target for the provision of a minimum of 500 new dwellings by 2021 (with 304 dwellings to be built on allocated sites in Oundle and Thrapston and 196 to be built on other sites within the District).

Policy 21 – Rural Exceptions Housing: In the rural area planning permission will be granted for affordable housing to meet the genuine local needs where a set of criteria can be satisfied (e.g. the site is located within or well-related to a village and the scale and nature of the development is appropriate to its surroundings).

Policy KCF1 – Kingsmead Small and Medium Enterprises Site, King’s Cliffe: This policy proposes development for the remaining 2.14 ha of the vacant land on the Council’s Kingsmead industrial estate.

Policy KCF2 – Willow Lane/ Wood Road: This policy allocates land off Willow Lane/ Wood Road, King’s Cliffe for development of between 145 and 150 dwellings and associated infrastructure.

Policy NAS1 – Church Street, Nassington: This policy allocates land to the north of 65 Church Street, Nassington for development of a minimum of 11 dwellings and associated infrastructure.

Details of ‘amber’ Policies Identified that could lead to Likely Significant Effects on the Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRamsar site only

Policy 6 – Green Infrastructure: This policy relates to the provision of green infrastructure within the Plan area to ensure development will contribute and link into the wider green infrastructure network. This will include the development of new green infrastructure links (principally using former railway lines), quiet roads and upgrading rights of way.

Policy 7 – Transport Networks: This policy proposes a number of improvements to bus services and physical improvements to the highways infrastructure within the plan area. This will be particularly concentrated on rural areas to services in the centre of the plan area, and an increase in frequency of the local services in the King’s Cliffe and Nassington area. In addition, new developments have been suggested as needing walking and cycle routes, connecting into the existing and planned network.

Policy 16 – Wind Farms: This policy makes proposals for wind farms in order to supplement the national (PPS22: Renewable Energy), along with companion guide, regional (RSS8, policy 41) and Core Strategy (policy 14) policies. The locations of which have not been decided, but will ensure that the key features and values of the East Northamptonshire landscape are protected.

Policy 27 – Riverside Hotel, Elmington: This policy has identified the re-use of the Riverside Hotel, Elmington (Oundle), reinstating it as a restaurant, public house or hotel, providing tourist accommodation. Alongside this there are projects to improve and enhance access for pedestrians and cyclists to the town and green Infrastructure along the River Nene.

Alternatives to the reinstatement of the Riverside Hotel should the above option not be viable includes using the hotel as a training facility, or conversion to a Class B offices.

Policy 28 – Oundle Marina: This policy proposes the use of existing facilities within Oundle Marina, where there are opportunities to enhance tourist related development. Redevelopment of Oundle Marina, should the site be vacated by its current occupier, includes enhancing tourism and water based leisure focus and consist of mixed use buildings including Class B1 uses, Class A3 or A4 uses, Class d1 uses, tourism accommodation or ancillary retail uses.

Policy 29 – Lilford Park: This policy proposes improved public access; including Riverside access, between Lilford Bridge and the Hall, and a new footpath link between Lilford Hall and public footpath NG1 at Lilford Lodge Farm.

Policy OUN2 – East Road, Oundle: This policy relates to the re-development of land at East Road, Oundle to provide high quality business uses to provide increased job opportunities and reduce out-commuting.

Policy OUN3 – Housing Allocation in Oundle: This policy focuses on new housing development within a mixture of small brownfield sites and large areas of Greenfield land. Ashton Road/Herne Road, situated to the south east of the town centre will accommodate a maximum number of 145 dwellings. While, land to the north west of the town, which is a Greenfield urban extension to Creed Road, could accommodate 125 dwellings.

Policy THR3 – Thrapston Regeneration sites: This policy proposes new development areas to regenerate Thrapston town centre. It includes developing both land that is currently developed and areas of green field.

Policy THR4 – Relocating Existing Businesses around Thrapston: This policy focuses on employment and proposals for relocating and expanding existing businesses in Thrapston (directed to land within Halden's Parkway, Top Close or Islip Furnace business areas). If these sites are not available relocation to sites adjacent to the existing built up area will be proposed. In addition, further concentration of employment in the area will require a re-design of the existing A605 roundabout junction.

Policy THR5 – Thrapston South: This policy proposes a new neighbourhood development on land to the south of Thrapston, between Huntingdon Road/ Market Road, the A14/A605 and Midland Road. Mixed use will include housing, a medical centre, open space and commercial development.

Policy WAR1 – Eaglethorpe Barn, Warmington: This policy allocates land to the south and east of Eaglethorpe Barns, Warmington for mix use development and associated infrastructure, for a minimum of 12 dwellings and 0.38 ha of Class B1 use.

Policy BC1 – Brigstock Camp: This policy relates proposals scheme for the Brigstock Camp site, and considers sustainable transport measures and the construction of a footpath/cycle link to Corby.

APPENDIX 3: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA Citation

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)

Name: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits

Unitary Authority/County: Northamptonshire

Consultation proposal: Part of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has been recommended as a potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) because of its European ornithological importance, particularly as wintering habitat for wildfowl and wading birds. See pSPA map for detail of boundary.

Site description: This chain of both active and exhausted sand and gravel pits extends for approximately 35 kilometres along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville, north of Thrapston. They form an extensive series of shallow and deep open waters which occur in association with a wide range of marginal features, such as sparsely-vegetated islands, gravel bars and shorelines, and habitats including reedswamp, marsh, wet ditches, rush pasture, rough grassland and scattered scrub. This range of habitat and the varied topography of the lagoons provide valuable resting and feeding conditions for major concentrations of wintering waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. Species such as golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* also spend time feeding and roosting on surrounding agricultural land outside the pSPA.

Size of pSPA: The pSPA covers an area of 1,369.88 ha.

Qualifying species:

The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex 1 species	Count and season	Period	% of GB population
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	2 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04	2.0%
Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	5,790 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04	2.3%

The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I) in any season:

Migratory species	Count and season	Period	% of subspecies/population
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	773 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04	2.0% <i>strepera</i> , NW Europe (breeding)

Assemblage qualification:

The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds (waterbirds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season:

In the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 23,821 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04), including wigeon *Anas penelope*, gadwall *Anas strepera*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, shoveler *Anas clypeata*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and coot *Fulica atra*.

Bird counts from: Denton Wood Associates. 2005. *Wintering waterbirds in the Upper Nene Valley – supplementary data analysis in relation to possible SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site designation*. Unpublished report to English Nature.

Interests that do not currently meet the SPA selection guidelines: The pSPA is used by breeding common tern *Sterna hirundo* and kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (both species listed in Annex I to the EC Birds Directive) in numbers of less than European importance

Conservation Objectives for Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA

The formal conservation objectives for European Sites under the Habitats Regulations are in accordance with paragraph 17 of *ODPM Circular 06/2005 (DEFRA Circular 01/2005)*, the reasons for which the European Site was classified or designated. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits has been recommended for classification as a SPA because of its European ornithological importance, particularly as wintering habitat for wildfowl and wading birds:

The site is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of **Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*) and **Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis apricaria*) listed in Annex I in any season and 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the regularly occurring migratory species **Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*) in any season. The site is also used regularly by over 20000 waterbirds (waterbirds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season.

Objectives:

- Maintain populations of key wintering waterbird species at, or above, 5 year average populations present at notification
- Maintain assemblages of over 20,000 waterbirds in any season

APPENDIX 4: Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar Favourable Conditions Table

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SPA: Rutland Water
Component SSSI: Rutland Water

Conservation objective for the European Interest on the SSSI

The conservation objective for the European interest on the SSSI is:

to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring migratory bird species⁺, with particular reference to open water and surrounding marginal habitats.

⁺Wintering population of Gadwall

Wintering population of Shoveler

Over 20000 wildfowl over-wintering waterfowl. (In addition to Shoveler and Gadwall, the internationally important population is made up of nationally important populations of Wigeon, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Mute Swan, Wigeon, Teal, Pochard, Tufted Duck, and Goldeneye)

* maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

The Conservation Objectives for Rutland Water SPA are, in accordance with para C 10 of PPG 9, the reasons for which the SPA was classified. The entry of 30 January 1996 on the Register of European Sites gives those reasons for which the SPA was classified.

Annex:

Favourable Condition Table.

Favourable Condition Table

The Favourable Condition Table will be used by English Nature and other relevant authorities to determine if a site is in favourable condition. Favourable condition is achieved when the targets given below are met.

The favourable condition table should inform the scope and nature of any ‘appropriate assessment’ under the Habitats Regulations, but an appropriate assessment will also require consideration of issues specific to the individual plan or project. The favourable condition table does not by itself provide a comprehensive basis on which to assess plans and projects as required under Regulations 20-21, 24, 48-50 and 54 - 85. The scope and content of an appropriate assessment will depend upon

the location, size and significance of the proposed project. English Nature will advise on a case by case basis.

Following an appropriate assessment, competent authorities are required to ascertain the effect on the integrity of the site. The integrity of the site is defined in para C10 of PPG9 as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified. The determination of favourable condition is separate from the judgement of effect upon integrity. For example, there may be a time-lag between a plan or project being initiated and a consequent adverse effect upon integrity becoming manifest in the condition assessment. In such cases, a plan or project may have an adverse effect upon integrity even though the site remains in favourable condition.

Annual counts for qualifying bird species will be used by English Nature, in the context of five year peak means, together with available information on UK population and distribution trends, to assess whether the SPA is continuing to make an appropriate contribution to the Favourable Conservation Status of the species across Europe.

Operational feature	Criteria feature	Attribute	Measure	Target	Comments
B21 Unimproved neutral grassland, E3 Reedbed, G1 Open water, A111 Broadleaved woodland.	Internationally /Nationally important migratory species	Disturbance	Reduction or displacement of birds	No significant reduction in numbers or displacement of wintering birds from reference level, subject to natural change.	All qualifying species Reference level to be determined
	Internationally /Nationally important migratory species	Extent and distribution of habitat	Area (ha)	No decrease in extent from reference level, subject to natural change.	All qualifying species Reference level to be determined
B21 Unimproved neutral grassland, G1 Open water.	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Food availability	Presence and abundance of soft-leaved, aquatic, terrestrial, and seed bearing plants. Measured periodically (frequency to be determined)	Presence and abundance of food species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change. <i>Measured periodically (frequency to be determined)</i>	Methodology for assessing target to be determined. Reference level to be determined. <i>Glyceria fluitans, Agrostis stolonifera Chara, Potamogeton, and Ceratophyllum</i> spp. are an important food source for gadwall. <i>Lolium, Glyceria fluitans, Rorippa</i> spp., <i>Alopecurus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> are an important food source for wigeon and mute swan. <i>Potamogeton, Callitriche, Chara</i> spp., <i>Nitella</i> spp., <i>Scirpus, Eleocharis, Carex</i> and <i>Glyceria</i> are an important food source for tufted duck and shoveler. <i>Polygonum, Eleocharis, Rumex</i> and <i>Ranunculus</i> are an important food source for Teal. <i>Chara, Cladophora, Potamogeton, Ruppia, Ranunculus</i> and <i>Elodea</i> are an

					important food source for Coot.
B21 Unimproved neutral grassland	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Landscape	Open terrain relatively free of obstructions	No significant reduction in view- lines in feeding areas in relation to reference level.	Methodology for assessing target to be determined. Reference level to be determined Wigeon require open feeding areas for predator avoidance. Areas with unrestricted views over >c500m with an effective field size >5ha.
	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Connectivity	Pastures very close to open water	Feeding pastures adjacent to or no more than 50m from open water, subject to natural change.	Wigeon require open pasture for feeding and open water for roosting.
	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Vegetation characteristics	Predominantl y short grassland swards	Height of sward <5cm throughout areas used for feeding.	Required by feeding wigeon.
G1 Open water	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Food availability	Presence and abundance of aquatic, benthic and surface invertebrates. Measured periodically (frequency to be determined)	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change.	Methodology for assessing target to be determined. Reference level to be determined. <i>Hydrobia</i> , flies, caddisfly, beetles, bugs <i>Hydrobia</i> , crustaceans, caddisflies, diptera, <i>beetles</i> are important prey for teal and shoveler. Chironomid larvae <i>Dreissena</i> ,, <i>Gammarus</i> , <i>Hydrobia Trichoptera</i> , and <i>Asellus</i> are important prey for tufted duck, goldeneye and goosander. <i>Mytilus</i> , <i>Dreissena</i> <i>polymorpha</i> and caddis-fly larvae are important prey for Coot.
	Internationally / Nationally	Water area	Small to large open areas of	Current water area should not deviate significantly from reference	Reference level to be determined. Waterfowl require a minimum water area for

	important migratory species		water	level, subject to natural change.	feeding and roosting, up to >20ha for cormorant (feeding, roosting).
	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Water depth	Range of water depths from shallow to deep.	Current water depths should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change.	Reference level to be determined. Feeding waterfowl require a range of water depths from <25cm for dabbling ducks, 2-5m for diving ducks and up to 10m for cormorant.
	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Fish populations	Fish populations	Fish populations must be maintained at levels that support birds and sustain a macrophyte dominated ecosystem	Fish populations can have a significant effect on the ecological stability of the reservoir impacting on macrophyte populations through their impact on zoo plankton. Fish populations must be maintained at level that does not cause changes in macrophyte composition Fish are prey for cormorant (10-25cm) and great crested grebe (3-21cm) and goosander. Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from reference level, subject to natural change. Methodology for assessing target to be determined. Reference level to be determined.
	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Water Chemistry	Phosphate level	The total level of phosphate in the water column must not exceed 0.2 mg/l.	High levels of phosphate in the water can create the conditions for algal blooms. These may have the effect of shading out macrophytes that are food for wildfowl.
	Internationally / Nationally important	Hydrology/ flow	Rate of change of water level	Water level to change at less than 1 meter per month and at no time in any single year to drop more than	In order to provide food for the herbivorous species and habitat for the invertebrates fed upon by other species

	migratory species			80% of the photic zone as measured in mid- May of each year	
A111 Broadleaved woodland	Internationally / Nationally important migratory species	Vegetation characteristics	High frequency of mature trees, over or close to open water	No net reduction in the number of trees, <10m from open water, subject to natural change.	Required by roosting cormorants.

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