



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Local Plan Part 2 (site specific policies) Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion



East Northamptonshire Local Plan

January 2017

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Introduction

The area that is being covered by the East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 (The ENC Plan) contains some of the Upper Nene Valley Special Protection Area (the SPA)/ Ramsar site, as such screening is required to assess what affects may arise from the direction of The Plan.

The SPA/ Ramsar site (hereafter referred to as the SPA) lies along the Nene Valley, between the East Northamptonshire District/ Wellingborough Borough boundary (Irthlingborough/ Ditchford) and Thorpe Waterville.

Background

The Local Plan Part 1 – The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) – was adopted in 2016 and sets out the spatial framework for the area, it also sets out the housing numbers for the authorities and the main towns, these are the housing requirements that are being used for the Part 2 Plan. A Habitats Regulation Assessment^{1 2} was undertaken for the JCS and concluded that avoidance and mitigation measures would need to be provided to cover potential impacts of **all** future residential developments (resulting in a net increase to dwelling/ household numbers) in close proximity to the SPA.

Following those recommendations a Special Protection Area Mitigation Strategy was prepared and subsequently adopted by East Northamptonshire Council on the 21st November 2016, as an addendum to the SPA Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This places a mitigation charge for any new dwelling within a 3km of the SPA boundary to address possible significant effects of additional residential development (households) upon the SPA. Alternatively individual developments may undertake a bespoke project level Appropriate Assessment and undertake the identified mitigation in agreement with Natural England.

Recommendation

The ENC Plan is being written within the parameters set by the JCS; the housing development and distribution stated in that document. Due to the fact that the mitigation strategy is in place means that specific mitigation and delivery mechanisms have already been set out, and therefore any significant effects arising from development proposals within the Local Plan Part 2 are already being mitigated.

Other recommendations in the JCS HRA will be reviewed and incorporated into the drafting of the next stages of The ENC Plan preparation.

Consultation

Consultation on this HRA screening will take place from Friday 27th January through to Monday 13th March 2017.

¹ <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/publications/docdetail.asp?docid=1474>

² <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/publications/docdetail.asp?docid=1503>