West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy SA Addendum

Scoping Report

Prepared by LUC
July 2013
**Project Title:** West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy SA Addendum – Scoping Report

**Client:** West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version Details</th>
<th>Prepared by</th>
<th>Checked by</th>
<th>Approved by Principal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.7.13</td>
<td>Draft report for client comment</td>
<td>Taran Livingston</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Josh Allen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>23.7.13</td>
<td>Draft final report for client comment</td>
<td>Taran Livingston</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Josh Allen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>24.7.13</td>
<td>Final report</td>
<td>Taran Livingston</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Josh Allen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy SA Addendum

Scoping Report

Prepared by LUC
July 2013
Contents

1 Introduction 1
   Purpose of this Scoping Report 1
   Additional SA work to be undertaken 1

2 Relevant Policy Context 10
   Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes 10
   Updated policy context and relevant sustainability objectives 12

3 Characteristics of areas likely to be affected 16
   Northampton 16
   Daventry 19
   Brackley and Towcester 21

4 Method to be used for SA Addendum work 25
   Approach to the Assessment 25
   Consultation on the SA Report Addendum 31
   Proposed structure of the SA Report Addendum 31
   Monitoring 31

5 Conclusion and Next Steps 33

Appendix 1 34
   Maps of environmental and heritage assets for Northampton, Daventry, Brackley and Towcester 34
1 Introduction

1.1 The West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (WNJPU) commissioned LUC in June 2013 to carry out the additional Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) work required for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

1.2 During the Examination hearing sessions for the Joint Core Strategy in April 2013, the Inspector requested that the Joint Planning Unit undertake a fresh assessment of objectively assessed housing needs for the Plan area, and that it also prepares a SA/SEA Addendum Report to address shortcomings in the SA work that has been undertaken to date, particularly in relation to the selection of Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) sites in relation to the reassessed housing needs.

Purpose of this Scoping Report

1.3 The scoping stage of SA/SEA involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes, considering the current state of the environment in the plan area, identifying any key environmental issues or problems which may be affected by the plan and setting out the ‘SA framework’ which comprises specific objectives against which the likely effects of plan policies and site allocations can be assessed.

1.4 An SA Scoping Report and appended topic papers were published in 2006 as part of the SA of the Joint Core Strategy. This comprised a main Scoping Report and 15 supporting topic papers (combined 260 pages). The information in the 2006 SA Scoping Report was updated in the subsequent SA Reports (most recent is 2011), and much of it is still relevant to the SA work for the Joint Core Strategy as a whole. The current additional SA/SEA work is focusing on particular elements of the Joint Core Strategy, and in light of what the SEA Regulations state is required at the scoping stage, a full update of the SA Scoping Report is not necessary.

1.5 The purpose of the consultation on the scope of the SA is to give the consultation bodies (and other organisations and the public, if so desired) an opportunity to comment on the scope of the work to be undertaken and the level of detail of the appraisal work. Although the final SA Report is required to report on a range of matters relating to the current state of the environment, it is not necessarily required of the Scoping Report.

1.6 Therefore, this Scoping Report focuses on the work that will be required in preparing the Addendum to the full SA Report, and rather than being a full update of the 2006 Scoping Report, it provides the context for, and determines the scope of, the additional SA/SEA work required for the Joint Core Strategy.

Additional SA work to be undertaken

1.7 There are four components of work that the SA Addendum will cover:

1. Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the quantum of housing and jobs.
2. Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the spatial distribution of development, which concerns the overall distribution of development within the plan area.
3. Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the spatial distribution of development at the town level, which concerns how much development should be directed to each town and where, including consideration of the alternative spatial distribution proposed by Northamptonshire County Council, and consideration of one or more locations for a new settlement.
4 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for strategic site allocations (as a more detailed variation of component 3).

1.8 The alternatives to be considered under 1, 3 and 4 above are still being finalised by the WNJPU.

1. Quantum of housing and jobs

1.9 Three options for the quantum of housing and jobs have been identified by the WNJPU as a starting point, as set out in the draft Scope of Works:

- Option A (Housing) – 49,325 dwellings 2001-2026 (ONS 2011 + 3%), and (Jobs) - 21,635 jobs 2008-2026.
- Option B (Housing) – 53,120 dwellings 2001-2026 (Short term migration), and (Jobs) – 24,506 jobs 2008-2026.
- Option C (Housing) – 57,245 dwellings 2001-2026 (Toolkit 2008 + 3%), and (Jobs) – 27,627 jobs 2008-2026.

1.10 However, external consultants have also been commissioned to carry out an objective assessment of housing and employment need rolling forward to 2029 and 2031, and the results of those two studies will be used to finalise the options that will be appraised.

1.11 The purpose of this work is to assess the reasonable alternatives for the quantum of housing and jobs against the SA Framework and to record this assessment in a clear and transparent way. Reasons will be given for the selection of the options and choice of option.

2. Overall spatial distribution of development

1.12 This component of work will focus on three options:

- Option A – distributing growth widely around the edges of the urban areas in many locations where development is found to be feasible.
- Option B – focusing growth in a small number of larger development areas.
- Option C – new settlements in sustainable locations including brownfield land in the countryside.

1.13 Options A and B were already assessed in 2009 against the SA Framework, which was developed as part of the 2006 SA Scoping Report. This assessment was recorded in the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report of the EJCS [GLD07] as Option 1 and Option 2, and does not need to be updated.

1.14 Therefore, the additional sustainability appraisal work will consider Option C and whether the reasons for choosing Option B remain valid in the light of the selected quantum option.

3. Spatial distribution around the four main towns

1.15 The purpose of this component is to identify alternatives for the distribution of development at each of the towns of Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley and consider whether they are ‘reasonable’ alternatives (i.e. taking into account the objectives and Policy S1 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, as set out in the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy and amended by the Proposed Changes [SUB04], as well as deliverability within the Plan period), and to document this decision-making. Each reasonable alternative will be appraised against the SA Framework drawing on the earlier SA work where appropriate but potentially including alternatives that have not been appraised to date where they meet the ‘reasonable’ test.

1.16 As part of this component, an alternative spatial distribution proposed by Northamptonshire County Council will also be appraised:

- Northamptonshire County Council proposes within the same total amount of development identified in the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy for the Northampton Related Development Area:

---

- Deletion of the Northampton West Sustainable Urban Extension (Policy N4);
- Deletion of the Northampton South Sustainable Urban Extension (Policy N5); and
- Enlargement of the Northampton North Sustainable Urban Extension (Policy N3).

4. Strategic site allocations/SUEs

1.17 The purpose of this work is to identify alternative strategic sites/SUEs, consider whether they are reasonable alternatives, and to document this decision-making. This work involves identifying the list of reasonable alternative SUEs to appraise. The starting point will be the 14 sites put forward during the Examination, as well as the SUEs allocated in the Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy as amended by the Proposed Changes [SUB04].

Links between the four components

1.18 The four component pieces of work are closely linked, and therefore it is anticipated that there will be an element of iteration between the higher level ‘top-down’ components (i.e. components 1 and 2) and the more detailed ‘bottom-up’ components (i.e. components 3 and 4), with the various appraisals informing one another in order to generate more robust results.

Reasonableness criteria

1.19 Regulation 12(2) of the SEA Regulations requires that:

“The (environmental or SA) report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—

(a) implementing the plan or programme; and

(b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme”

1.20 Therefore, any alternatives to options, policies or site allocations included in the plan need to be “reasonable”. This implies that alternatives that are “not reasonable” do not need to be subject to appraisal. In addition, the SEA Regulations do not require all reasonable alternatives to be subject to appraisal, just “reasonable alternatives”. Part (b) of Regulation 12(2) above notes that reasonable alternatives will take into account the objectives of the plan, as well as its geographical scope. Therefore, alternatives that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy, or are outside the plan area are unlikely to be reasonable.

1.21 In order to identify ‘reasonable’ alternatives for components 3 and 4 (i.e. spatial distribution around the towns and strategic site allocations) to be assessed as part of this additional work for the Joint Core Strategy, a set of draft ‘reasonableness’ criteria has been developed. The draft reasonableness criteria were defined by considering how the constraints and opportunities for development contained in the NPPF and the strategic objectives of the Joint Core Strategy would influence whether an alternative is reasonable. The draft reasonableness criteria are shown in bold text in the second column in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Draft reasonableness criteria for identifying reasonable alternatives to be covered in the SA Addendum work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy or objective in NPPF and Joint Core Strategy</th>
<th>Draft reasonableness criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPPF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flood Risk</strong></td>
<td><strong>Avoid Flood Zones 2 and 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 100 in the NPPF and the Technical Guidance on Flood Risk require Local Plans to apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change.</td>
<td>(as these are areas of higher risk of flooding).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National landscape designations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not applicable</strong> to West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Policy or objective in NPPF and Joint Core Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy or objective in NPPF and Joint Core Strategy</th>
<th>Draft reasonableness criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 115 in the NPPF states that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.</td>
<td>Northamptonshire as it does not contain any National Parks or AONBs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International and national biodiversity designations</strong></td>
<td>Avoid international and national biodiversity designations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraphs 118-119 of the NPPF discourage development that would adversely affect international and national biodiversity designations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heritage assets</strong></td>
<td>Avoid scheduled monuments, battlefields, Grade I and II* listed buildings, Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 132 in the NPPF states that substantial harm to or loss of these designated heritage assets of the highest significance should be wholly exceptional:</td>
<td>World Heritage Sites are not applicable to West Northamptonshire as it does not contain any.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled monuments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battlefields</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade I and II* listed buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Heritage Sites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minerals Safeguarding Areas</strong></td>
<td>Avoid Minerals Safeguarding and Consultation Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph 143 of the NPPF states that in preparing Local Plans, local planning authorities should define Minerals Safeguarding Areas and adopt appropriate policies in order that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development, whilst not creating a presumption that resource s defined will be worked; and define Minerals Consultation Areas based on these Minerals Safeguarding Areas.</td>
<td>identified in the Northamptonshire Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan for consultation (January 2013), but recognising that they are not an absolute constraint to development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

### Objective 1 - Climate Change: To minimise demand for resources and mitigate and adapt to climate change, by:

- Promoting sustainable design and construction in all new development;
- Ensuring strategic development allocations are located and designed so as to be resilient to future climate change and risk of flooding;
- Encouraging renewable energy production in appropriate locations; and
- Ensuring new development promotes the use of sustainable travel modes.

### Objective 2 - Infrastructure and Development: To protect and enhance existing local services and to ensure social, physical and green infrastructure is adequately provided to meet the needs of people and business in a timely and sustainable manner in response to regeneration and new development in West Northamptonshire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 2 - Infrastructure and Development</th>
<th>The availability of infrastructure in a timely and sustainable manner is not considered to be a primary constraint, but rather something to be considered as part of comparison between site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avoid Flood Zones 2 and 3 (also accords with NPPF).</td>
<td>Proximity to sustainable transport options is not considered to be a primary constraint, but rather something to be considered as part of comparison between site options, therefore not a reasonableness criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy or objective in NPPF and Joint Core Strategy</td>
<td>Draft reasonableness criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 3 - Connections:</strong> To reduce the need to travel, shorten travel distances and make sustainable travel a priority across West Northamptonshire by maximising the use of alternative travel modes. In so doing, combat congestion in our main towns and town centres, reduce carbon emissions and address social exclusion for those in both rural and urban areas who do not have access to a private car.</td>
<td>Proximity to sustainable transport options is not considered to be a primary constraint, but rather something to be considered as part of comparison between site options, therefore not a reasonableness criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 4 - Protecting and Building Urban Connections:</strong> To ensure new development in urban areas effectively supports and links new and existing communities physically and socially, to achieve social cohesion and address the areas of deprivation identified in parts of Northampton and Daventry.</td>
<td>Locations should be adjoining existing urban edge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 5 - Supporting Northampton Town Centre:</strong> To support the regeneration of Northampton’s town centre by making it the focus of high quality retail, employment, leisure and cultural development at the heart of Northamptonshire and to support the delivery of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.</td>
<td>Proximity to Northampton town centre is not considered to be a primary constraint, but rather something to be considered as part of comparison between site options, therefore not a reasonableness criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 6 - Supporting Daventry Town Centre:</strong> To support the regeneration of Daventry town centre through planned growth and infrastructure delivery.</td>
<td>Proximity to Daventry town centre is not considered to be a primary constraint, but rather something to be considered as part of comparison between site options, therefore not a reasonableness criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 7: Supporting Towcester and Brackley's Town Centres:</strong> To support Towcester and Brackley in their rural service centre roles to ensure their communities are self-sufficient sustainable places and the towns are the focus of services and facilities for surrounding villages.</td>
<td>Proximity to Towcester or Brackley town centre is not considered to be a primary constraint, but rather something to be considered as part of comparison between site options, therefore not a reasonableness criterion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 8 - Economic Advantage:</strong> To strengthen and diversify West Northamptonshire’s economy by taking advantage of our internationally well-placed location, strategic transport network and proximity to London and Birmingham.</td>
<td>Not a reasonableness criterion as this objective does not affect location of additional housing development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 9 - Specialist Business Development:</strong> To support and develop opportunities for specialist employment clusters and business development focused on a low carbon economy.</td>
<td>Not a reasonableness criterion as this objective does not affect location of additional housing development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 10 - Educational Attainment:</strong> To raise educational achievement and the skills base of our communities through supporting the development of West</td>
<td>Not a reasonableness criterion as this objective does not affect location of additional housing development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy or objective in NPPF and Joint Core Strategy | Draft reasonableness criteria
---|---
Northamptonshire's learning infrastructure and strengthening the link between local businesses and local schools, Moulton and Northampton Colleges, the University of Northampton and Daventry and Silverstone University Technology Colleges. | development.

**Objective 11 - Housing**: To provide a range of housing in sustainable locations to ensure all residents have access to a home that they can afford and that meets their needs. Housing development will be focused at the most sustainable location of Northampton, supported by Daventry and Towcester and Brackley in their roles as rural service centres with limited development in the rural areas to provide for local needs and support local services. | Alternative locations that are not adjoining the four main towns are not reasonable alternatives.

**Objective 12 - Protecting and Supporting Rural Communities**: To protect and support rural communities to ensure they thrive and remain vital. | Not a reasonableness criterion as this objective does not affect location of additional housing development.

**Objective 13 - Rural Diversification and Employment**: To support rural diversification and rural employment opportunities, in particular those related to agriculture, horticulture and forestry. | Not a reasonableness criterion as this objective does not affect location of additional housing development.

**Objective 14 - Green Infrastructure**: To protect natural species present in West Northamptonshire and enhance the existing strategic green infrastructure network, including biodiversity corridors, by incorporating and designing these into Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) at Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley. | Not a reasonableness criterion as this objective does not affect location of additional housing development.

**Objective 15 - High Quality Design**: To achieve high quality design in both rural and urban areas that takes account of local character and heritage and provides a safe, healthy and attractive place for residents, visitors and businesses. | Not a reasonableness criterion as this objective does not affect location of additional housing development.

**Objective 16 - Heritage**: To conserve and where possible enhance, through carefully managed change, the important heritage assets and their settings of Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley, and to recognise the role of rural heritage assets and their settings to support a sense of place and local distinctiveness. | Avoid heritage assets (and their settings) (also accords with NPPF).

### Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.22 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Local Plans. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC). Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Joint Core Strategy to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

1.23 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process. Government guidance provides information to assist users in

---

complying with the requirements of the SEA Directive through a single integrated SA process –
this is the process that is being undertaken for West Northamptonshire. In addition, the guidance
widens the SEA Directive’s approach to include social and economic as well as environment
issues. From here on, the term ‘SA’ should therefore be taken to mean ‘SA incorporating the
requirements of the SEA Directive’.

1.24 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown in Figure
1.1 below:

Figure 1.1: Main stages of Sustainability Appraisal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Developing and refining options and assessing effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Consulting on the preferred options of the Plan and SA report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.25 Figure 1.2 below sets out the tasks involved in the Scoping stage.

Figure 1.2: Stages in SA scoping (Stage A)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Collecting baseline information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Identifying sustainability issues and problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>Developing the SA framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Consulting on the scope of the SA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

1.26 This Scoping Report Addendum includes some of the required elements of the final ‘Environmental
Report’ (the output required by the SEA Directive). Table 1.1 below signposts the relevant
sections of the Scoping Report Addendum that are considered to meet the SEA Directive
requirements (the remainder are either met through the existing SA Scoping Report (2006) and
the 2011 SA Report for the Pre-submission Joint Core Strategy, or in the SA Report Addendum
that will be prepared as part of this additional SA/SEA work). An updated version of this table will
be included in the SA Report Addendum to show how the SEA Directive requirements have been
met through the SA process.

Table 2.1 Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Directive Requirements</th>
<th>Covered in this Scoping Report?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):</td>
<td>The SA Report Addendum plus the full 2011 SA Report for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy will constitute the ‘environmental report’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;</td>
<td>Chapter 1 describes the focus of the Addendum, and Chapter 2 the JCS’s relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;</td>
<td>Chapter 3 describes the current state of the environment, focusing on the areas most likely to be affected by the options being appraised through the Addendum (i.e. the four main towns and their fringes).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA Directive Requirements</td>
<td>Covered in this Scoping Report?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;</td>
<td>Chapter 3 as above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;</td>
<td>Chapter 3 as above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;</td>
<td>Chapter 2 summarises the environmental and sustainability objectives contained in international, European and national plans or programmes published since the 2011 SA Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent, positive and negative effects);</td>
<td>Requirement will be met in the SA Report Addendum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;</td>
<td>Requirement will be met in the SA Report Addendum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;</td>
<td>Requirement will be met in the SA Report Addendum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;</td>
<td>Requirement will be met in the SA Report Addendum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</td>
<td>Requirement will be met in the SA Report Addendum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)</td>
<td>This Scoping Report and the Environmental Report will adhere to this requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation:</td>
<td>Consultation with the relevant statutory environmental bodies is being undertaken in relation to this Scoping Report Addendum from Thursday 25th July – Friday 30th August (5 weeks and 1 extra day to compensate for the August Bank Holiday).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4)</td>
<td>Public consultation on the SA Report Addendum is currently proposed for 6 weeks in October and November 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2)</td>
<td>Not relevant as there will be no effects beyond the UK from the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of information on the decision:</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• the plan or programme as adopted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SEA Directive Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>with; and</th>
<th>Covered in this Scoping Report?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan’s or programme’s implementation (Art. 10)</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.27 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans, including Local Plans, are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The HRA process for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy has been undertaken separately but the findings will be taken into account in the additional SA work where relevant.

### Structure of the Scoping Report

1.28 This chapter (Chapter 1) has described the background to the additional Joint Core Strategy work and the requirement to undertake additional SA work. It also describes the reasonable alternatives that will be subject to appraisal. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2** describes the updated policy context for the Joint Core Strategy, as well as the relationship between the additional Joint Core Strategy work and other relevant plans or programmes, and the current environmental, social and economic policy objectives set at the international, European and national level.

- **Chapter 3** presents an update of the key environmental, social and economic characteristics and factors pertaining to the plan area, focusing on the areas likely to be affected, insofar as they are relevant to the appraisal work to be undertaken.

- **Chapter 4** presents the method that will be used to undertake the appraisal, including the SA framework, approach to predicting effects, monitoring, and the proposed structure of the SA Report Addendum.

- **Chapter 5** describes the next steps and timetable for the appraisal work to be undertaken and consultation on SA Report Addendum.
2 Relevant Policy Context

2.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA Addendum work it is necessary to develop an understanding of the policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the Joint Core Strategy.

The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2 require:

(a) "an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and

(e) "the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"

2.2 This chapter sets out the relationship between the additional Joint Core Strategy work and other relevant plans or programmes, the updated policy context for the Joint Core Strategy (since preparation of the 2011 SA Report), including the current environmental, social and economic policy objectives set at the international, European and national level.

Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes

**West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Part 1)**

2.3 The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy provides a planning framework for the West Northamptonshire area up to 2026. It sets out the long term vision and objectives for the whole of the area and includes strategic policies for steering and shaping development. It identifies locations for strategic new housing and employment and details the infrastructure (such as transport improvements, schools, open space and community facilities) required to support this development. It also defines where development will be limited.

2.4 The Localism Act 2011 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 introduced a range of changes to the planning system, and the Joint Core Strategy will now be a Part 1 Local Plan alongside a range of Part 2 Local Plans covering different locations or topics that will contribute to guiding development and use of land in West Northamptonshire for the Plan period up to 2026. Together the Part 1 and Part 2 plans comprise the development plan for West Northamptonshire.

2.5 The West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a public statement identifying which spatial planning documents will be produced, when and by whom. It notes that the Joint Core Strategy will enable Supplementary Planning Documents to be prepared and both Master Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents will then be available to guide the development of the strategic allocations within the Joint Core Strategy (including Sustainable Urban Extensions).

**Master Plans**

2.6 In the absence of an up to date development plan Daventry and South Northamptonshire Councils have produced Master Plans for key sites and areas to assist them in managing current pressures for development. These Master Plans form part of the evidence base for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. These Master Plans relate to:

- Daventry Town;
- Brackley;
- Towcester; and,
- Roade Village.
### Part 2 Local Plans

#### 2.7 The West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme lists the following Part 2 Local Plans:

- **West Northamptonshire Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People Allocations Local Plan** - which will allocate sites for occupation by Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Show People in the West Northamptonshire area.

- **Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA) Allocations and Development Management Local Plan** - which will include site-specific allocations (excluding the Sustainable Urban Extensions) and accompanying policies. Allocations will be included covering all land uses, together with policies that will help in the determination of planning applications on specific sites and in the delivery of regeneration, growth and conservation objectives.

- **Northampton Central Area Action Plan** - This Plan was adopted in 2013. The Plan reinforces the strategic approach taken to the Northampton Central Area in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy by developing policy for the transformation of the centre of Northampton and its key role in the sub region.

- **South Northamptonshire Council Settlements and Countryside Local Plan** - which will build on the Joint Core Strategy and will include a wide variety of detailed policies to guide the decision making process for future Planning Applications across South Northamptonshire (excluding those parts within the Northampton Related Development Area). It will establish a Rural Settlement Hierarchy for settlements within the District and consider amendments to the existing town and village confines and the identification of areas of important local space within those settlements as well as addressing development needs in those settlements.

- **Daventry District Settlements and Countryside Local Plan** - which will build on the Joint Core Strategy and will include a detailed and wide variety of policies to guide the decision making process for future Planning Applications across Daventry District (excluding those parts within the Northampton Related Development Area). It will provide policies for Daventry town, and will establish a Rural Settlement Hierarchy for settlements within the District. It will set out how important areas will be protected within those settlements as well as addressing development needs in those settlements.

#### Neighbourhood Plans

#### 2.8 Neighbourhood Plans give communities an opportunity to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood. Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the policies of the Local Plan (Parts 1 and 2). A number of Neighbourhood Plans are currently being prepared in the West Northamptonshire area.

#### Sustainable Community Strategies

#### 2.9 The Joint Core Strategy has had regard to the elements and land use implications arising from the Sustainable Community Strategies and Community Plans that have been prepared for Daventry District, South Northamptonshire District, Northampton Borough and Northamptonshire County. These have been produced by, respectively, the Local Strategic Partnerships for Daventry, Northampton, South Northamptonshire and the Northamptonshire Partnership Support Unit.

#### Other strategies prepared by Daventry District, Northampton Borough, South Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire County Councils

#### 2.10 Each Council in the West Northamptonshire area has a number of other strategies that address specific and service delivery matters in the area. These relate to Housing, Economic Development, Air Quality and Waste Management as well as Health, Social Care, Leisure and Cultural Strategies.

#### Transport, Minerals and Waste Plans

#### 2.11 The Joint Core Strategy and the other Part 2 Local Plans referred to above will have particularly close links with the plans produced by the County Council, namely the Northamptonshire
Transportation Plan and the Minerals and Waste Development Local Plan as well as plans for Education and Social Services.

**Local Enterprise Partnerships and the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership**

2.12 The Joint Core Strategy and the other Part 2 Local Plans referred to above will also have regard to the work of the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) that cover West Northamptonshire (the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership and the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership) and the work of the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership.

**Updated policy context and relevant sustainability objectives**

2.13 The most significant developments for the policy context of the emerging Joint Core Strategy have been the Coalition Government’s abolition of the regional spatial strategies, such as the East Midlands Plan, and the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework that replaced Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs). Other relevant national strategies, policies and White Papers have also been published since 2011 relating to the natural environment and biodiversity, sustainable development, sustainable transport, and travellers’ sites, and their objectives are also summarised below.

**National Planning Policy Framework (2012)**

2.14 The Joint Core Strategy must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:

“Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development.”

2.15 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be ‘aspirational but realistic’. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.

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

- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

2.17 In addition, Local Plans should:

- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework;
- be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
- be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
- indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;

- identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;

- identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and

- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

2.18 The NPPF maintains the existing environmental protections – Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest – whilst attempting to streamline and simplify existing national planning policy. The importance of protecting heritage assets and the built environment is also stated, as is an emphasis on the importance of the sustainable design of the built environment.

2.19 The protections to prevent the building of inappropriate development in flood risk areas are retained in the context of the Climate Change Act’s 2008 adaptation framework and national carbon reduction and renewable energy targets.

Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

2.20 The revocation of the Regional Strategy for the East Midlands in 2013 gives the responsibility for strategic planning to local authorities to enable a locally-led planning system comprising local and neighbourhood plans. In support of this approach to strategic planning the Government introduced a statutory duty to co-operate (in section 110 of the Localism Act 2011) for local authorities in planning for cross-boundary strategic priorities constructively, actively and on an on-going basis.

2.21 The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy found that both significant positive effects and the significant negative effects of revocation would be similar to retaining the East Midlands Plan for the majority of policies (i.e. there would be little difference in effects). However, the SEA found that there were likely to some short term uncertainties regarding effects until Local Plans are in place.

Natural Environment White Paper 2011

2.22 This document sets out the Government’s latest plans to protect and improve England’s natural environment. The key recommendations in the White Paper, include:

- Reconnecting with Nature:
  - New Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs);
  - Biodiversity offsetting;
  - New Local Nature Partnerships; and
  - Phasing out peat use.

- Connecting people and nature for better quality of life
  - Green Areas Designations;
  - Support for parks, gardens, and tree planting which benefit people and nature alike in the urban environment;
  - Promoting more children experiencing nature;
  - Strengthening local public health activities which connect people with nature; and

---

A new environmental volunteering initiative ("Muck in 4 Life") to improve places in towns and countryside.

- Capturing and improving the value of nature
  - New Natural Capital Committee;
  - An annual statement of green accounts for UK plc; and
  - A business-led Task Force to expand the UK business opportunities from new products and services which are good for the economy and nature alike.

**Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy – ‘Securing the Future’ 2011**

2.23 The strategy published by Defra aims to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations. The strategy publicises four shared priorities:

- Sustainable consumption and production.
- Climate change and energy.
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement.
- Sustainable communities.

2.24 The strategy also sets out indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas in the UK. They include 20 of the UK Framework indicators and a further 48 indicators related to the priority areas.

**Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s Wildlife and Ecosystem Services 2011**

2.25 The aim of this Defra Strategy is to guide conservation efforts in England up to 2020. Moving further on from 2020, the ambition is to move from a net biodiversity loss to gain. The strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors:

- Agriculture.
- Forestry.
- Planning and Development.
- Water Management.
- Marine Management.
- Fisheries.
- Air Pollution.
- Invasive Non-Native Species.

**Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012**

2.26 This document sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, replacing ODPM Circular 01/2006: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/2007: Planning for Travelling Showpeople. It sets out the Government’s aims in respect of traveller’s sites, including:

- To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.
- To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale.
- That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development.
- For local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies.
- To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.
• To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan making and planning decisions.
• To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.
• For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.

Door-to-Door Strategy for Sustainable Transport Integration 2013

2.27 The strategy published by the Department for Transport focuses on four core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport:

• Accurate, accessible and reliable information about different transport options.
• Convenient and affordable tickets.
• Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport.
• Safe and comfortable transport facilities.

The strategy also includes details on how the Government is using behaviour change methods to reduce or remove barriers to the use of sustainable transport, and working closely with stakeholders to deliver a better-connected transport system.
### 3 Characteristics of areas likely to be affected

3.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.

3.2 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:

- (a) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;
- (b) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
- (c) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the ‘Birds Directive’] and 92/43/EEC [the ‘Habitats Directive’].

3.3 The SA Report\(^4\) that accompanied the Pre-Submission Core Strategy described the broad environmental, economic and social character of the Core Strategy area, the sustainability issues arising and their likely evolution without the Core Strategy. This Scoping Report focuses on the characteristics of the areas most likely to be affected by the reasonable alternatives under consideration for the SA Addendum, being the urban fringe areas of the towns of:

- Northampton
- Daventry
- Brackley
- Towcester

3.4 The settlement pattern of West Northamptonshire is dominated by Northampton, serving as a very large County Town of Regional importance. Daventry, Brackley and Towcester provide a network of smaller towns located along the main A45 and A43 access routes. Daventry is considered a Market Town of Sub-Regional importance, while Brackley and Towcester serve as Rural Service Centres\(^5\).

3.5 Existing information collected by the Councils and other organisations has been utilised where possible. The West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit also provided LUC with digital data for a number of geographical features (e.g. urban areas, flood risk zones, nature conservation and cultural heritage designations etc.), which are presented on a series of maps for each of the four towns, see Figures A1 to A16 in Appendix 1. The information summarised and data sources referred to in this chapter as well as the spatial data will be used to inform the appraisal work undertaken as part of the SA Addendum.

### Northampton

3.6 Northampton is the County town and main centre for employment, housing, retail, leisure and services in Northamptonshire. Its population of over 210,000 is predicted to increase by over 50,000 people between 2006 and 2026\(^6\), based on 2008 ONS projections.

3.7 Around 60% of Northampton residents work within 5km of their home, showing the high proportion of people who both live and work within the Borough\(^7\). Movement in and surrounding

---

\(^5\) Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 31.)
\(^7\) Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 48.)
Northampton is predominately undertaken by car. The decentralisation of key destinations, such as retail, employment and leisure has resulted in fewer trips to the town centre.

3.8 A number of large multi-national companies and the University of Northampton are major employers. Northampton General Hospital provides specialist healthcare for Northamptonshire, north Buckinghamshire and north Bedfordshire.

3.9 Northampton saw a 1.05% reduction in employment between 2008 and 2011. Job losses in manufacturing in the town have been compensated by an increase in office and service jobs, where growth has mainly been in the financial services, public administration, education and health sectors.

3.10 Northampton has consistently shown above average numbers of people with no qualifications and below average numbers with qualifications at NVQ Level 2 and above. In recent years, however, there has been an increase in those holding NVQ Level 4 qualifications which may reflect the increased profile of the University benefitting the economy and labour force.

3.11 Compared to the rest of the County, Northampton continues to record above average levels of crime in the key offences, such as burglary, car crime and anti-social behaviour, suggesting pockets of deprivation.

3.12 Northampton has a higher proportion of terraced houses and flats, a higher proportion of social rented housing and more single person households than other towns within West Northamptonshire. There is a higher proportion of young residents but also a higher incidence of social inequality.

3.13 Northampton has a rich variety of natural and built environmental assets: parkland and open spaces of recreational and biodiversity value, such as the valley of the River Nene; important areas of woodland; rural landscapes; and sites of historical importance. Designated environmental assets are shown in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 below.

**Table 3.1 Northampton District’s Designated Natural Environment Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Area (hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Protection Areas / Ramsar Sites</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Nature Reserves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites of Special Scientific Interest</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Nature Reserves</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Wildlife Sites</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regionally Important Geological Sites</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3.2 Northampton District’s Designated Heritage Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Areas</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listed Buildings</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

8 Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 36.)
9 Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 41.)
10 Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 49.)
11 Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 56.)
12 Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 56.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Parks and Gardens</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Battlefields</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.14 There are a number of potential constraints to development around Northampton in parts of the south east, south, south west, north west and east as shown in Figures A1 to A4 in Appendix 1. Northampton is surrounded by large tracts of high quality (Grade 2 and 3) agricultural land to the west, south east and north of Northampton and large areas of land identified in the Northamptonshire Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan (January 2013) as Minerals Safeguarding Areas for sand and gravel extraction, particularly along the floodplain of the River Nene.

3.15 The flood risk areas (Flood Zones 2 and 3) are associated with the River Nene, which flows through the centre of the town, and its tributaries. The River Nene is also subject to international, national and local nature designations, including Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites. In combination, these natural assets have the potential to constrain development to the south east towards Little Houghton and Great Houghton. The land around Little Houghton and Great Houghton, particularly to the south, is less restricted by environmental and heritage designations.

3.16 In addition to the nature conservation interests and potential flood risk zones within the River Nene corridor, both the River Nene corridor and areas around Hardingstone, Great Houghton and Little Houghton are classified as being of high combined sensitivity (i.e. a combination of landscape, biodiversity, and heritage) in the Northampton Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study. This study identifies landscapes and designated sites in and around Northampton and ascribed them a level of sensitivity (high, medium or low) to large scale residential/ mixed use development. The sensitivity review included four topics: biodiversity sensitivity; cultural heritage sensitivity, landscape and visual sensitivity and flood zones & minerals sensitivity. The tributaries of the Nene extend south of Wootton, running parallel with the motorway (M1) with the area between the tributary and the motorway being classified in the Northampton Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study as being of low combined sensitivity. Land to the south of the motorway, towards Milton Malsor and Rothersthorpe, is rural in character and classified as being of medium combined sensitivity.

3.17 Beyond the existing urban boundary for Northampton to the east and north east, there are a number of clusters of listed buildings in the villages of Ecton, Earls Barton and Overstone. These settlements are very close to merging with Northampton. However, the presence of Ecton Brook linear park prevents ribbon development along the A4500 and further north a golf course, scheduled ancient monument and a large expanse of woodland present constraints to development near Overstone.

3.18 The land immediately north of Moulton, along the A43 and south of Pitsford Water SSSI has good access routes and is largely free from cultural and nature designations, as is the land between Boughton and Moulton, with most being classified as being of medium combined sensitivity in the Northampton Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study. Boughton Park, which is a Registered Park and Garden and Conservation Area, may constrain development to the north and west of Boughton.

3.19 The raised land between New Duston to the west of Northampton and Kings Heath and Kingsthorpe within the urban boundary is largely unconstrained by environmental and cultural designations but does have constraints around the outside. Dallington Heath, a large Local Wildlife Site, lies to the north of Duston, while the due west of Kingsthorpe is the railway line and floodplain (Flood Zones 3 and 2) of a tributary of the River Nene, some of which is protected as Kingsthorpe Local Nature Reserve. Upton is designated as a Conservation Area.

---

13 Northampton Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study, prepared by Living Landscapes Consultancy Ltd, on behalf of the River Nene Regional Park CIC, Feb 2009.
3.20 There are more Local Nature Reserves and Wildlife Sites scattered throughout the northern half of Northampton. Situated within the urban environment, they are valuable open spaces and act as green corridors to the River Nene in the south. The River Nene and its tributaries are also associated with safeguarded sand and gravel reserves, with further reserves found elsewhere around Northampton, particularly north of Moulton and to the west, south and east of Wootton, acting as a potential constraint to development.

3.21 Northampton has seven Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) as a result of traffic related pollution, six within the urban area and one between junctions 15 and 15a of the M1.

Daventry

3.22 Daventry was a small market town until the 1960s when it was identified as a location for overspill development from Birmingham. In the last 60 years its population has grown from about 4,000 in 1950 to around 25,000. The population of the District of Daventry is projected to rise by some 11,000 people between 2010 and 2026, based on 2008-based ONS projections. There are long term aspirations to grow the town to a population of 40,000.

3.23 Daventry’s secondary and tertiary education facilities are not sufficient to meet its needs so students are transported elsewhere. The District has a high percentage of people with no qualifications (18%), 8% higher than the National average, and is below the National average in attaining 5+ GCSEs at A-G Grade. Despite a 9% increase in crime in Daventry between 2010 and 2012, Daventry remains below the England and Wales average for offences per 1,000 people.

3.24 Daventry’s planned expansion in the 1960s and 1970s has given rise to a relatively compact town with a relatively high capacity road network for cars and public transport. Although, public transport usage is very low resulting in unsustainable travel habits.

3.25 The regeneration and revitalisation of Daventry is the principal goal of the town’s masterplan. Abbey Retail Park (located off South Way) was completed in 2009 as the first phase of regeneration plans for the town centre. The redevelopment of a site north of High Street will provide a replacement library, shops, offices, hotel, bars, restaurants, health and fitness gym and residential space. Daventry’s Waterspace proposals present an ambitious mixed use project including residential, office and leisure uses. High quality public spaces and buildings will be set around water basins which will be used for short and long term canal boat moorings and connected to the Grand Union Canal to the north.

3.26 The urban area surrounding the town is largely of modern mid-20th century housing development. The residential estate of Southbrook immediately to the west of Borough Hill has been identified by Northamptonshire County Council for neighbourhood regeneration.

3.27 Currently, there is little office floorspace in the town centre. Daventry saw a 9.61% reduction employment levels between 2008 and 2010. Daventry town’s employment space is dominated by industrial and warehouse floorspace in a small number of large industrial/ commercial estates to the north-west and south-east of the town in need of investment and renewal.

3.28 There are a number of potential constraints to development around the edge of Daventry as illustrated in Figures A5 to A8 in Appendix 1. Table 3.3 and Table 3.4 also list the number of designated environmental assets for the District as a whole.

---

15 Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 41.)
16 Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 49.)
17 Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 37.)
### Table 3.3 Daventry District’s Designated Natural Environment Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Area (hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sites of Special Scientific Interest</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Nature Reserves</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Wildlife Sites</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>1567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regionally Important Geological Sites</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3.4 Daventry District’s Designated Heritage Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Areas</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listed Buildings</td>
<td>1,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Parks and Gardens</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Battlefields</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.29 Topographically, Daventry is generally contained within a natural landscape ‘bowl’ with land rising to the south-east, south, west and north of the town. The main strategic green spaces are Daventry County Park to the east of the urban area and the Northern Valley Park to the north. Daventry town retains its historic core, which benefits from Conservation Area designation and includes many listed buildings. There are also important historical and archaeological sites all around Daventry including historic outlying villages. At the eastern edge of Daventry’s urban area lie Borough Hill Scheduled Ancient Monument, and Burnt Walls Scheduled Ancient Monument, which offer additional areas of accessible green space and contribute positively to the town’s identity.

3.30 Daventry is surrounded by Grade 3 agricultural land with pockets of Grade 2 agricultural land. There are large areas of land designated as Mineral Safeguarding Areas for sand and gravel extraction to the west and south east, although these do not abut the town. To the east, Borough Hill, a Scheduled Ancient Monument stands as an impermeable physical barrier to further development. Much of the Hill is also a Local Wildlife Site and surrounded by a large ribbon of Grade 2 agricultural land.

3.31 Due south, a combination of inaccessible gradients, archaeological assets and publicly accessible greenspace present constraints to development. To the south west of the town is a cluster of Local Wildlife Sites which constrain development between Daventry and the village of Staverton. With the exception of a number of inaccessible gradients North of Staverton, there are relatively few constraints to further development due west of Daventry with the exception of landscape sensitivity.

3.32 Further development to the north may be difficult due to the location of the Country Park, the Grand Union Canal and a number of inaccessible gradients. There are fewer constraints along the A45, which leads north west out of the town and provides good access to the centre.

3.33 The Green Infrastructure and Landscape Technical Report\(^ {18}\) found that there are no areas of low sensitivity around Daventry, with all areas classified as being either high or medium sensitivity. High sensitivity areas were identified as being:

\(^{18}\) Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 56.)

\(^{19}\) Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg 56.)
To the north-west, the Grand Union Canal, the slopes towards the Leam Valley, and the small valley to the south east of Braunston.

To the north east, areas associated with Daventry Reservoir and Daventry Country Park, and the corridor of the Grand Union Canal, plus the rising slopes on the north western side of Borough Hill.

To the south east, areas around Borough Hill including its setting, the historic core of Newnham and the villages of Dodford and Norton and their settings, and the protected minerals site of Dodford.

To the south west and the west, the broadleaved woodlands that extend across Big Hill, the Conservation Areas of Staverton and Newnham, the slopes that fall towards the Leam Valley and between Big Hill, to Fix Hill and Newnham Hill.

Brackley and Towcester

3.34 Much of the contextual and baseline data useful for describing both Brackley and Towcester are expressed at the District level (i.e. for the whole of South Northamptonshire rather than each town). South Northamptonshire’s population is expected to grow by some 19,400 between 2008 and 2026, based on 2008 ONS projections.\(^{21}\)

3.35 The south of the County saw a 3.25% reduction in employment between 2008 and 2011.\(^{22}\) South Northamptonshire performs very well in terms of qualification attainment against the National average, which provides a potential advantage in attracting and retaining highly skilled employment opportunities in the future. Crime in the area remains well below the England and Wales average for offences per 1,000 people, making it one of the safest places in the Country.

3.36 The designated environmental assets for South Northamptonshire are summarised in Table 3.5 and Table 3.6.

**Table 3.5 South Northamptonshire District’s Designated Natural Environment Assets**\(^{23}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Area (hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Nature Reserves</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites of Special Scientific Interest</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Nature Reserves</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Wildlife Sites</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>2,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regionally Important Geological Sites</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3.6: South Northamptonshire District’s Designated Heritage Assets**\(^{24}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Areas</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listed Buildings</td>
<td>1828</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{20}\) Daventry Infrastructure Studies, Green Infrastructure and Landscape Technical Report, URS and LDA Design, January 2009


\(^{22}\) Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg. 36.)

\(^{23}\) Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg. 56.)

\(^{24}\) Annual Monitoring Report 2011-2012, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2012 (Pg. 56.)
### Brackley

3.37 The historic market town of Brackley is located at the southern tip of Northamptonshire. It is a Rural Service Centre for its 13,000 population and wider rural catchment of 10,000. The environmental and heritage constraints on the development of the town are illustrated in Figures A9 to A12 in Appendix 1.

3.38 Brackley has an old core surrounded by successive layers of growth including significant peripheral greenfield development. Much of the building in the town centre is constructed in stone and is typically two and three storey. There was no extensive Victorian or early 20th Century development, therefore there is little outdated building stock appropriate for redevelopment. Significant development over the last 20 years has resulted in large areas of housing to the north and north-west of the town centre, where the strategic road layout has not constrained expansion of the town. Whilst this development has added to the range of housing choice, some neighbourhoods are disconnected from the town centre and have failed to reflect the character and quality of Brackley’s historic built environment.

3.39 Housing growth has not been matched by employment growth, which, coupled with the town’s excellent road links (A43, A5, M1 and M40) and nearby railway stations to the urban centres of Northampton, Banbury, Bicester, Oxford and Milton Keynes, has strengthened its reputation as a commuter town with 70% out-commuting.

3.40 The limited range and quality of retailing in the town centre and large number of vacant shops is inhibiting its ability to function as a Rural Service Centre. Brackley offers a range of employment facilities ranging from smaller town centre sites in Burgess Square to the larger industrial estates located around the town. It is home to leading motorsport companies such as Mercedes GP Petronas. The industrial estate on Buckingham Road accommodates a series of larger businesses; however, many of the premises are outdated and would benefit from remodelling and improvement.

3.41 Brackley contains almost 100 listed buildings and structures including four Grade II* listed buildings, including the town hall, and one Grade I Listed building, the Church of St Peter. Many of these listed buildings are grouped around Market Place, High Street and the Old Town. The majority of this area is designated as a Conservation Area.

3.42 Development may be constrained towards the southern, western and eastern boundaries of Brackley, due to the presence of the river channel and flood plain (Flood Zones 2 and 3) of the River Great Ouse and the main road (A422) that run into the town. The river runs into the town from the west where its banks are designated as a number of small Local Wildlife Sites and some ancient woodland. Brackley Motte and Bailey Castle sits on the banks of the river on the southern boundary of the town and overlooks the settlements of Evenley to the south and Hinton-in-the-Hedges to the west, which contain a number of listed buildings. The castle is registered as a scheduled ancient monument.

3.43 The area towards the north west of the town is largely unconstrained by designations. However, access to the north west of the town is comparatively poor when compared to the south and east. The north includes Minerals Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel and a disused railway designated as a SSSI. All the land around Brackley is classified as Grade 3 agricultural land.

3.44 The Brackley Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study states that the core area is considered to be of high/medium-high sensitivity although there are some areas outside Brackley

---

25 Brackley and Towcester Urban Potential Study (2005) (Section 9.1)
26 Brackley Masterplan, 2011 (Section 307)
27 Brackley Masterplan, 2011 (Section 318)
28 Brackley Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study, Quartet Design, June 2009
which are of medium and low sensitivity, such as Brackley Fields to the north. The landscape setting of the town is important and includes the following areas of high landscape sensitivity, which are also noted in the Brackley Masterplan:

- The Old Glebe to the north.
- The Great Ouse area to the east.
- The historic parkland landscapes at Evenley and Steane Park.

**Towcester**

3.45 Towcester is a small historic market town with Roman origins. Its population of 8,000 has experienced significant growth over the last 30 years with housing being delivered to the west and south of the town centre. Despite significant development, the centre retains its market town character with small independently owned specialist shops, together with the larger retail foodstores, many of which are covered by conservation area and listed building designations.

3.46 Towcester is a Rural Service Centre for a rural catchment of a further 10,000 people and as such is a focus for housing and employment growth for South Northamptonshire. 45% of properties in the area are detached houses. Flats account for the lowest percentage of the housing stock, at only 5.4%. Socially rented accommodation represents 11% of the total rented accommodation.

3.47 Towcester has a highly educated population, with nearly 24% of residents educated to degree level compared to 16% for the county. The town has a young population with an average age of 39; however, there is a general trend of aging. Towcester residents have better health than residents elsewhere, despite obesity being a significant health issue in the town.

3.48 The Towcester Masterplan states that continued growth will increase strain on health services and facilities, increasing the need for better links to the larger hospitals in Northampton, Kettering and Milton Keynes. Similarly, the town’s sewage treatment, waste and recycling capacity will need to be expanded, or an additional facility constructed to accommodate population growth.

3.49 The environmental assets and potential constraints on the development of the town are illustrated in Figures A13 to A16 in Appendix 1. The town centre contains many attractive listed buildings and is almost entirely located within a conservation area. Towcester Racecourse lies within the registered Historic Parkland to the south east of Towcester and is an important site for recreation and tourism. The town has good accessibility and connectivity via the A5 and A43 which at times can be congested, creating a poor environment. Watling Street is an Air Quality Management Area.

3.50 Over the last 30 years, the town has experienced significant housing growth to the north-east, west and south of the centre. Its shape reflects constraints such as the floodplain and boundaries of the Historic Park and Garden at Easton Neston, which have caused development to the east of the A5 to be limited. Consequently, the centre is close to the town’s eastern edge.

3.51 There are large Minerals Safeguarding Areas for sand and gravel to the north, south and west of the town. All the land around Towcester is designated as Grade 3 agricultural land. The land directly south of the town and towards the south east is largely agricultural land with few environmental and heritage constraints and has good access routes from the A43 and A5.

3.52 Development to the north east of Towcester may be constrained by the Conservation Areas at Hulcote, Easton Neston and Towcester town centre, and Registered Park and Garden of Easton Neston, which retains a lot of the historic landscape components of the original estate, including significant pockets of woodland and registered ridge and furrow land. The flood plain of the River Tove and the close proximity of Towcester Racecourse further restrict development in this area.

3.53 The northern boundary of the town sits within the floodplain of the River Tove, which is designated as Flood Zones 2 and 3. The River Tove floodplain extends to the west of Towcester (south of Greens Norton) and east of Towcester (between Easton Neston and Towcester.

---

29 Towcester Masterplan, 2011 (Section 8)
30 Towcester Masterplan, 2011 (Section 13.02)
31 Towcester Masterplan, 2011 (Section 7)
32 Towcester Masterplan, 2011 (Section 2.06)
Racecourse). South of Greens Norton there are a couple of wildlife sites along part of the disused Stratford-on-Avon and Midland Junction Railway. The remainder of the area between Greens Norton and Towcester is largely undesignated land with good access to the centre of Towcester via the A43.

3.54 The Towcester Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study\textsuperscript{33} identifies the following areas as being of high or medium-high sensitivity:

- The landscape and cultural heritage of the area around Easton Neston.
- The landscape and biodiversity of the Caldecote area.

3.55 Other areas, such as Porterswood, Swinneyford, and Greens Norton are identified as being of low or medium sensitivity in the Towcester Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study.

\textsuperscript{33} Towcester Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study. Quartet Design, June 2009
4 Method to be used for SA Addendum work

4.1 As described in Chapter 1, the SA Addendum work will incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The approach to carrying out the SA Addendum for the Joint Core Strategy will be based on current best practice and the following guidance:


4.2 The SA will be undertaken in close collaboration with those involved in considering the alternatives for the Joint Core Strategy in order to fully integrate the SA/SEA process with the production of the Plan.

| Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12(5) states that: when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies. |

4.3 The 'detail' as referenced above includes the policy, plan and programme review, the environmental baseline and sustainability issues (including their likely evolution without the Plan) as set out in earlier sections of this Scoping Report, and the information that will be included in the SA report.

4.4 The 'scope' includes the range of SA objectives that will be used to assess the effects of the alternatives for the Joint Core Strategy and the approach to that will be taken to the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' (see below). This information is being consulted on as part of the consultation on this Scoping Report.

Approach to the Assessment

4.5 The SEA Regulations set out the material to be included within the SEA Environmental Report.

| Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12(2) require that: The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of: (a) Implementing the plan or programme; and (b) Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan or Programme. |

4.6 As described in Chapter 1, the specific alternatives for three of the elements of Addendum work are still being defined and will be assessed against the reasonableness criteria.

4.7 The SA will clearly set out how the reasonable alternatives perform in comparative terms, and will describe the reasons for selecting the preferred options, and why other reasonable alternatives have been discounted.

| The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(6) require the Environmental Report to consider: The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as (a) biodiversity, (b) population, (c) human health, (d) fauna, (e) flora, (f) soil, (g) water, (h) air, (i) climatic factors, (j) material assets, (k) cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, (l) landscape and (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) – (l). |
SA Framework

4.8 The SA will take an ‘objectives-led’ approach to the assessment that will address the sustainability issues identified while ensuring all the SEA topics (a) to (l) in the box above are covered. It is proposed to use the same SA Framework as was developed originally for the SA of the Joint Core Strategy, and presented in the 2006 SA Scoping Report, which included a set of SA objectives covering all of the SEA topics. Following the original scoping consultation, the SA Framework was updated to reflect statutory consultee comments in the 2007 SA Report (Table 3), and the same updated SA Framework continued to be used in the 2009 SA Report (Table 6.1) and 2011 SA Report (Table 6.1). Using the same SA Framework for this SA Addendum work will ensure that alternatives are assessed in a comparable way to the options previously considered as part of developing the Joint Core Strategy. The SA Framework is re-presented below in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: SA Framework for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy SA Addendum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objective</th>
<th>Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air quality and noise</strong></td>
<td>• An increase in motor vehicle trips and increased dependence on car use?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sensitive location of new development in areas of high noise levels or poor air quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support for the objectives of local air quality action plans?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improvements in existing local public transport infrastructure or access to public transport?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exacerbating existing traffic congestion hotspots or improvements to the current situation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The inclusion of policies to enhance air quality where new development may deliver a means of doing so?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Archaeology and cultural heritage</strong></td>
<td>• Development that affects listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, and registered battlefields (or their settings)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development being steered to where it can be accommodated in less sensitive areas?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Distinctive development that is well related to the natural environment and characteristic scale, form materials and detailing of the settlement and contributes to a sense of place?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Promotes the enhancement of the archaeological resource and other aspects of heritage, such as, parks and open spaces, and areas with a particular historical or cultural association?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Will the plan proposals provide opportunities for the enhancement of historic assets, townscapes and landscapes?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</strong></td>
<td>• Avoidance of net loss, damage to, or fragmentation and positive enhancement of designated wildlife sites protected species and priority species / habitats within the Northamptonshire BAP?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Opportunities for people to come into contact with robust wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA Objective</strong></td>
<td><strong>Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Enhance and protect greenspace networks and habitat connectivity, including river and stream corridors, to assist in species migration and dispersal. Increase the land area of UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats within the area. Maintain and improve the conservation status of selected non-designated nature conservation sites. | places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of these sites?  
- Development which includes the integration of ecological conditions and contributes to improvement in ecological connectivity in rural and urban areas? |

**Crime and community safety**

| To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime. | • Changes in crime levels and fear of crime through improvements to the environment, layouts of streets and public space, passive surveillance, lighting etc.  
• Leisure facilities for young people at the neighbourhood level including consideration of provision as part of large new residential developments. |

**Education and training**

| Improve educational attainment and promote lifelong learning. Promote sustainable modes of travel to access education. | • Improvements in educational attainment, qualification levels and participation in education and training.  
• Adequate supporting educational infrastructure associated with new residential developments.  
• New education facilities well located in relation to walking, cycling and public transport routes. |

**Energy and climatic factors**

| Continue to improve energy efficiency of dwellings. Continue to increase the provision of ‘affordable warmth’. To decrease the dependency on oil for space heating. Increase the local renewable energy generating capacity. | • An average increase in the SAP rating of dwellings?  
• A reduction of the average household fuel bill.  
• A decrease in oil consumption.  
• Major developments incorporating renewable energy measures into the design.  
• An increase in energy efficient measures and CHP in the design new developments.  
• An increase in the number of large scale renewable energy schemes.  
• A better consideration of climate change adaptation measures? |

**Health and well being**

| To improve health and reduce health inequalities. | • Healthier lifestyles?  
• Improved access to healthcare? |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SA Objective</strong></th>
<th><strong>Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Labour market and economy** | • An adequate supply of land, skills and infrastructure (such as ICT) to meet the requirements of growth sectors and fully exploit locational/ economic opportunities while not harming the environment.  
• Minimise travel distances to work and commuting by modes other than the car. Ensuring access to employment by public transport, walking and cycling.  
• An appropriate range of employment opportunities in rural areas. |
| **Landscape and townscape** | • Provide the character areas and SLA’s with the highest level of policy protection, make appropriate provision for their economic and social wellbeing and reflect Management Plan objectives?  
• Encourage development which considers the existing character, form and pattern of the landscape, buildings and settlements?  
• Encourage development which incorporates green infrastructure into the design e.g. green corridors, linking open space etc?  
• Encourage development which incorporates sports infrastructure into the design e.g. public football pitches, mini pitches, swimming pools? |
| **Material assets** | • Sufficient affordable housing to meet identified needs, including the needs of the community and local economy.  
• Achieve well-designed compact communities which are developed at sufficient density to support viable local services and public transport provision and which achieve efficient use of land.  
• Good access to facilities, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling. |
| **Population** | • Development which delivers an appropriate mix of housing including affordable housing and appropriate housing for older people in locations close to local services/facilities.  
• Appropriate community, social and transport infrastructure. |
| **Social deprivation** | • Improved provision of key services in deprived communities.  
• Reduced spatial inequalities in access to services including healthcare and education and local/community services.  
• Provision of local facilities which are accessible by walking and cycling and public transport. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objective</th>
<th>Appraisal questions. Will the plan/option lead to...?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soil, geology and land use</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Reduce land contamination, and safeguard soil and geological quality and quantity. | • The remediation of contaminated sites?  
• Levels of development on brownfield sites that are above the national target of 60%?  
• Development that protects soil processes and functions?  
• Development that protects sites valued for their geological characteristics? |
| **Waste** | |
| To reduce waste generation and disposal, increase recycling and achieve the sustainable management of waste. | • Explicitly set out to reduce the amount of waste generated by development and land use change?  
• Explicitly encourage development to use re-cycled materials and make provision for recycling / composting in all new development?  
• Make positive provision for appropriate sites for waste management facilities including waste to energy generation, with landfill being the least favoured option?  
• Encourage the reduction in the production and movement of hazardous waste? |
| **Water** | |
| Maintain and continue to improve the quality of ground and river water.  
Reduce risk of flooding.  
Improve efficiency of water use.  
Identify opportunities to implement strategic flood risk management options/measures to reflect the objectives in the River Nene and Great Ouse CFMPs. | • Development where adequate water supply, foul drainage, sewage treatment facilities and surface water drainage is available?  
• Water efficient design and reduction in water consumption (e.g. rainwater recycling/grey water reuse and BREEAM/EcoHomes Excellent Standard)?  
• Development which supports and corresponds with PPS 25 and the flood risk management policies of the EA?  
• Development likely to affect the ecological status of groundwater and surface water and the ability of receiving water to accept additional flows?  
• Development that results in increased spills from combined sewer outlets?  
• The incorporation of the flood risk management policies set out in the River Nene CFMP and the Great Ouse CFMP?  
• Safeguarding of flood storage areas identified in the Nene and Great Ouse CFMPs?  
• Development which incorporates SUDS (including their long-term maintenance), to ensure there is no increase in flood risk (and where possible lead to a reduction in flood risk)? |

**Predicting effects**

4.9 The assessment will focus on the likely **significant effects** of implementing the reasonable alternatives for each of the four components being addressed in the Addendum work, and the
The assessment will be carried out using a matrix based approach. For each reasonable alternative, the matrix will describe:

- The nature of the effect against each of the SA objectives, including whether it is likely to be positive or negative, permanent or temporary, and the timescale of the effect.
- For each effect identified, the scope for mitigation (including reference to other policy or regulatory safeguards, either at the national level or through other policies in the Joint Core Strategy).
- Recommendations for further mitigation or improvements to the Joint Core Strategy to provide more in the way of positive effects will be put forward.
- The likely residual effects, taking into account mitigation.

Symbols will be used to summarise the effects identified as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>++</td>
<td>Significant positive effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Minor positive effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Negligible effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Minor negative effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>Significant negative effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+/-</td>
<td>Mixed effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Likely effect uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Policy is not relevant to SA objective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In carrying out the SA use will be made of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) which provide mapped data of key factors of relevance to the identification of significant effects such as:

- Landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage designations.
- Agricultural land classifications.
- Areas at risk of flooding.
- Mineral deposits.
- Areas of social deprivation.
- Location of employment, retail, community facilities (e.g. schools and hospitals), neighbourhood centres.
- Transport network including public transport (bus, rail).

It will also be informed by the most recent technical studies including those listed as the Evidence Base within the Hearings Document List (18 April 2013) as well as any updates since that list was produced, and relevant documents submitted to the Hearings and subsequently by representors.

The SA will also take into account the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) also being undertaken by LUC.

Once the JPU has selected its preferred options from the reasonable alternatives being considered as part of the Addendum work, cumulative effects will be considered by comparing the likely effects of the preferred options with the effects identified for the remainder of the Joint Core Strategy (in the 2011 SA Report) in order to consider the cumulative effects of the potential revisions to the Joint Core Strategy as a whole. Consideration will also be given to cumulative effects arising from proposed development in West Northamptonshire alongside development in
neighbouring local authorities. This will be undertaken through a review of the plans and accompanying SA reports prepared by neighbouring authorities.

Consultation on the SA Report Addendum

4.16 The results of the appraisal will be reported in the SA Report Addendum prepared alongside any proposed modifications to the Joint Core Strategy that the JPU decides to put forward for the inspector to consider at the further hearings in December 2013. The consultation on the objectively assessed housing needs study, the SA Addendum and proposed modifications to the Joint Core Strategy will be for a 6 week period in October and November 2013

Proposed structure of the SA Report Addendum

4.17 The SA Addendum Report will be designed to complement the SA Report already published. It will include, as appropriate, all the component parts required under Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations:

- An outline of the contents of the plan and its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes, including the work already undertaken.
- The environmental, social and economic characteristics of the plan area as relevant to the SA Addendum work, including any problems and issues identified and their likely evolution without the plan.
- Key environmental, social and economic policy objectives set at the international, national and local level, of relevance to the SA Report Addendum.
- The SA framework, and the assumptions used in coming to judgements on the effects of the draft plan.
- The reasonable alternatives considered and why these were selected, how they performed in sustainability terms, and the reasons for selecting the alternatives included in the plan and the reasons for rejecting reasonable alternatives.
- Any difficulties encountered during the appraisal process, including lack of knowledge.
- How consultation comments were taken into account from the earlier stages in the appraisal process, and how they have been dealt with.
- The significant effects of the preferred alternatives (including cumulative effects) under each of the objectives in the appraisal framework, taking into account mitigation (which may take the form of policy safeguards in national policy, the Core Strategy, or other regulatory mechanisms).
- The influence of the SA process on the modifications to the Joint Core Strategy.
- Proposed monitoring framework for significant effects identified (including uncertain effects where these could become significant).
- A Non-Technical Summary (of the matters listed above).

4.18 The SA Addendum Report will need to reflect any proposed modifications to the Joint Core Strategy. It will also need to incorporate the findings of the HRA.

Monitoring

4.19 The purpose of monitoring under the SEA Regulations is to measure the sustainability effects of the Joint Core Strategy (in particular the likely significant or uncertain effects) and to identify any unforeseen adverse effects, enabling appropriate remedial action to be taken at an early opportunity. It is recognised that the monitoring requirements typically associated with the SA process can place heavy demands on authorities. Therefore the monitoring strategy will,
wherever possible, build on existing monitoring that is being undertaken, using indicators and datasets that are already being routinely collected. For example, it should be possible to utilise the monitoring that is already undertaken for West Northamptonshire as part of its Annual Monitoring process. The monitoring proposed in the SA Report Addendum will update and amend as necessary the relevant parts of the monitoring programme in Table 8.1 of the 2011 SA Report, based on any significant effects identified for the preferred alternatives selected by the WNJPU.
5 Conclusion and Next Steps

5.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the views of the three statutory consultees (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA reports. It should be noted that the SA framework presented in Chapter 4 has already been subject to consultation when it was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report for the Joint Core Strategy (2006).

5.2 This SA Scoping Report Addendum is being published for consultation with the three statutory bodies, other organisations, interested individuals and the general public for the statutory five week period (and one additional day to compensate for the August Bank Holiday) from Thursday 25th July – Friday 30th August 2013.

5.3 In particular, the consultees are requested to consider:

- Whether the information provided in Chapter 3 of this Scoping Report provides a suitable and accurate summary of the contextual baseline for the additional SA work, bearing in mind that the appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the SA Addendum will draw on the studies and other evidence provided to support the Joint Core Strategy, as well as spatial data as presented in the series of maps in Appendix 1.
- Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues relating to the areas likely to be affected that should be included.
- Whether the approach proposed to the appraisal of reasonable alternatives is appropriate in the light of the additional work required by the Inspector.
- Whether the existing SA framework is robust and comprehensive, and is suitable for the additional SA work.
- Whether the reasonableness criteria are appropriate and are suitable for identifying reasonable alternatives.

5.4 Comments received from the statutory consultees will be considered and addressed during the appraisal of the additional reasonable alternatives, and incorporated into the SA Report Addendum, which will be made available to other stakeholders and the general public for wider consultation alongside the proposed modification to the Joint Core Strategy.

LUC
July 2013
Appendix 1
Maps of environmental and heritage assets for Northampton, Daventry, Brackley and Towcester