

Rutland Local Plan Review Consultative Draft

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Report



Rutland
County Council

July 2017

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Rutland Local Plan Consultation Draft

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Rutland County Council (RCC) is undertaking a review of the adopted Rutland Local Plan. The purpose of this screening report is to determine if implementation of the emerging options, and Local Plan, will result in any likely significant effects (LSE) on a European site (either on its own or 'in combination' with other plans or projects). The outcome of the screening report will identify if further assessment is required in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).
- 1.2 A Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required if it is deemed that likely negative significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. As a general 'rule of thumb' sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan/project boundary should be included with a HRA. The following European sites are located either within the County or within 15km the County boundary:
 - Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) / Ramsar (within County),
 - Barnack Hills & Holes Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (~5.4km from county boundary), and
 - Grimsthorpe SAC (~5.9KM from county boundary).
- 1.3 The legislative background is referred to in Section 2, which outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 3, provides a screening assessment for the Local Plan Consultation Draft, assessment of likely significant effects and assessment of cumulative (in combination) effects.
- 1.4 The first part of the report will cover the screening process for the HRA. A summary of findings and conclusions can be found in Section 4 at the end of this document.

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2. Legislative Background

Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

- 2.1 It is required by article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive and by regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) that an appropriate assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans and projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.
- 2.2 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of the Local Plan upon the European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) a screening assessment has been undertaken in Section 3 of this report.

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3. HRA Screening

HRA process

- 3.1 The initial stage of the HRA process is called the screening stage and determines if there are any likely significant effects possible as a result of the implementation of the plan with reference to other plans or projects, for any European site. If a 'significant effect' is likely, the need for an Appropriate Assessment of the emerging Local Plan would be triggered.
- 3.2 The screening process should provide a description of the plan and an identification of the Natura 2000 sites which may be affected by the plan and assess the significance of any possible effects on the identified sites.

The Rutland Local Plan

- 3.3 The Local Plan Review will extend the time period of the existing plan to 2036. Reasons for reviewing the plan include:
 - To extend the plan period to 2036 in order to ensure that there will be a 15 year time horizon as recommended in National Planning Policy Framework the (NPPF);
 - To provide for additional housing, employment and other development that will be required to meet future needs over the extended plan period;
 - To bring the plan up to date and to reflect new issues that have arisen since adoption of the Council's current Development Plan Documents (DPDs);
 - To reflect changes to national planning policy and guidance;
 - To combine a number of existing DPDs into a single Local Plan as recommended in the NPPF; and
 - To take in to account the preparation of a number of neighbourhood plans in Rutland.

Relevant Natura 2000 sites

- 3.4 Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR, Barnack Hills & Holes SAC and Grimsthorpe SAC are internationally designated sites within a 15km radius of the County boundary. Therefore the HRA screening assessment needs to identify if any likely significant effects will result from implementation of the strategic options and emerging Local Plan.
- 3.5 The locations of the sites in relation to Rutland are shown in figure 1 below.

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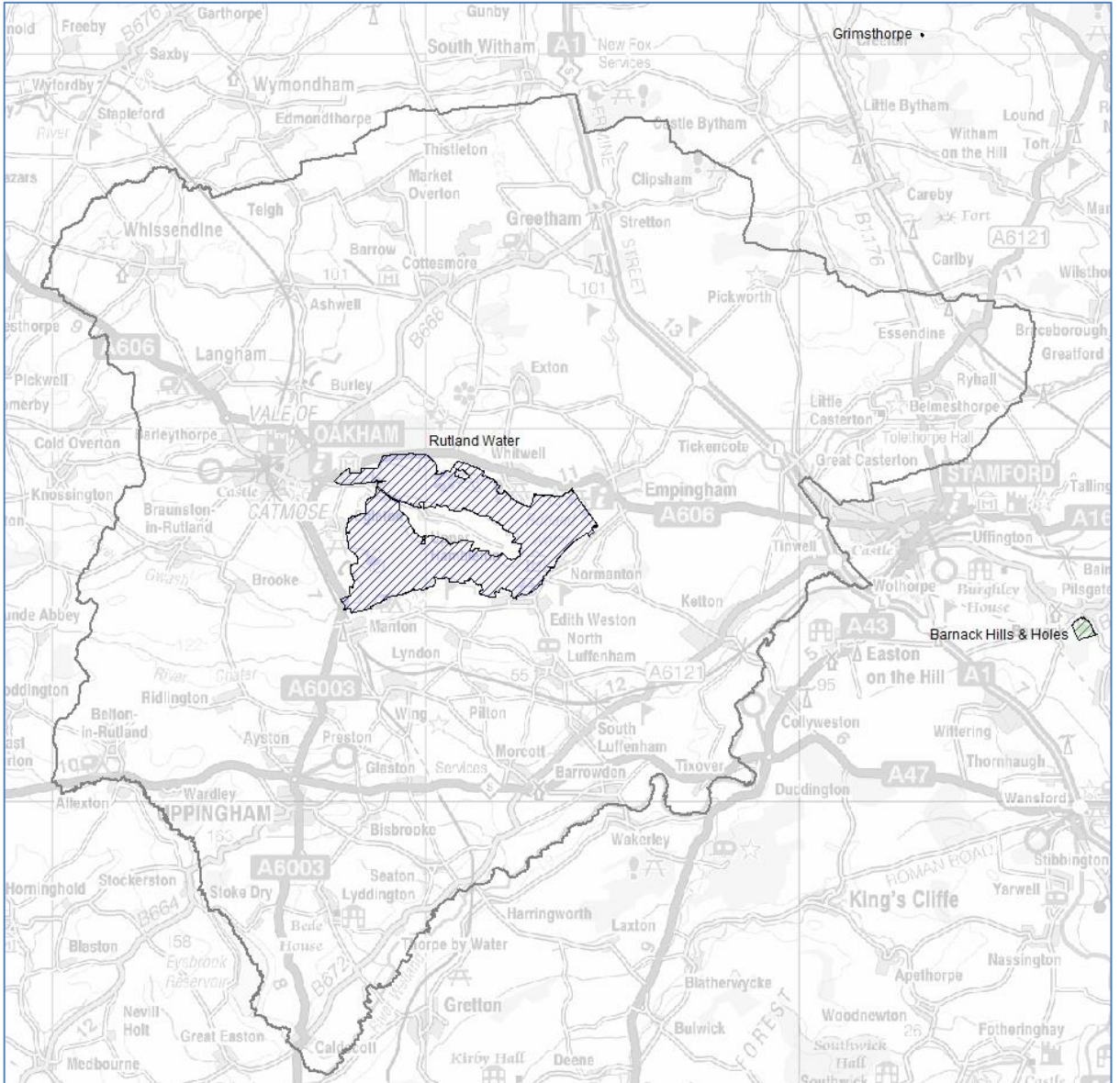


Figure 1: Locations of the relevant Natura sites, in relation to Rutland

3.6 Interest features, sensitivities and threats are included in the table below, taken from the relevant Site Improvement Plans (Improvement for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS))

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Table 1: Features of Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR; Barnack Hills & Holes SAC; and Grimsthorpe SAC

Site	Interest/Qualifying Features	Sensitivities/vulnerabilities/Threats
Rutland Water SPA	<p>Site Code: UK9008051 Qualifying features:</p> <p>A005 Podiceps cristatus; Great crested grebe (Non-breeding) A036 Cygnus olor; Mute swan (Non-breeding) A050 Anas penelope; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding) A051 Anas strepera; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A052 Anas crecca; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) A056 Anas clypeata; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding) A061 Aythya fuligula; Tufted duck (Non-breeding) A067 Bucephala clangula; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding) A070 Mergus merganser; Goosander (Non-breeding) A125 Fulica atra; Common coot (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage</p>	<p>The most notable species are the populations of gadwall and shoveler (it is likely that all other species will be removed from the site citation (other than as Assemblage species) by the SPA Review, when adopted).</p> <p>Data on the use of the site by these species indicate that gadwall and shoveler numbers peak in the autumn, generally around September/October, before declining over the winter period. This suggests that Rutland is mainly used as a refuge whilst species are moulting in early autumn, before dispersing from the site to other wintering areas as winter progresses.</p> <p>During the winter, gadwall and shoveler occupy more extensive open waters of lakes, reservoirs and gravel pits.</p> <p>Prioritised issues that are currently impacting and threatening the condition of Rutland Water, as outlined in the Site Improvement Plan include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water Abstraction Increased water abstraction is proposed that will radically alter water levels in the reservoir which may result in a proportion of waterbirds utilizing areas provided as compensation but which are currently outside the SPA
Rutland Water Ramsar	<p>Ramsar criterion 5 – Assemblages of international importance Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19274 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) • Ramsar criterion 6 – Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. <p>Qualifying species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gadwall Anas strepera, • Northern shoveler Anas clypeata 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Inappropriate Water Levels Water levels of the reserve are managed primarily for public water supply and water storage and not specifically for non-breeding water birds. This can influence the number of specific species of non-breeding waterbirds using the site at certain times of year. At the moment, this is not causing any long term deterioration of the site. However, when the proposed new increased abstraction regime is implemented, appropriate management of the water levels in compensation and mitigation water bodies will be required to offset the impacts of extraction 3. Direct Impact from 3rd Party Cumulative impacts from unregulated third party activities like private firework displays in properties adjacent to the SPA, hot air balloon flights, and private aircraft flights (including microlites and military aircraft flights) is unknown. Investigation is needed to better understand the frequency of these disturbances and the cumulative impacts of these activities upon the waterbirds using Rutland Water

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Site	Interest/Qualifying Features	Sensitivities/vulnerabilities/Threats
		<p>4. Invasive species Rutland Water has been colonised by several non-native species, including zebra mussel, bloody red mysid, Canadian pondweed, Nutall's pond weed and more recently signal crayfish. Whilst some non-natives like pond weed can have a positive impact on the SPA interest features, this is not necessarily the case for all species. This is because non-native species can, either by themselves or in combination with other non-native species, significantly alter food webs which can lead to dramatic decreases in some taxa and to subtle changes in species composition.</p> <p>5. Water Pollution The inflows into Rutland Water currently receive regulated discharges of treated sewage as well as unregulated discharges from septic tanks. Further nutrient inputs from diffuse sources (such as agriculture) which maintain the reservoir in a highly eutrophic state and has led in the past to regular algal blooms.</p> <p>6. Planning Permission: general In the wider area surrounding the SPA, wind farms and other development is being proposed and is taking place. However, the impacts upon the waterfowl behavior during nocturnal migration and dispersal to and from the reservoir and their interactions with the environment in the surrounding countryside is poorly understood. Investigation is needed to better understand the cumulative impact of existing and planned wind farm and other local developments on the waterfowl using Rutland Water.</p> <p>7. Public Access/Disturbance The reservoir and surrounding area is a very important destination for undertaking recreational activities. These include a range of watersports, fishing, cycling, birdwatching and walking. Several large events are also held on the banks of the reservoir each year. Future recreational proposals will need to avoid likely significant effects on the SPA and to do this properly will require an audit of existing recreational activities to evaluate and manage potential impacts prior to any deterioration of the SPA interest features.</p> <p>8. Fisheries Rutland Water is currently managed as a put and take out fishery. Trout essentially have controlling impact on coarse fish populations. However, future changes in coarse fish populations could create a shift in the ecological balance of the water body. In addition, fish diseases or parasite outbreaks (e.g Red Vent Syndrome (RVS)) could potentially cause harm to the current fishery and ecological status of the water body.</p>

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Site	Interest/Qualifying Features	Sensitivities/vulnerabilities/Threats
		<p>Rutland Water Ramsar/SPA is within the boundary of Rutland. The Local Plan could further exacerbate the identified threats of the site through water abstraction; direct impact from 3rd party; inappropriate water levels; water pollution; planning permission; public access/disturbance; and fisheries.</p>
<p>Barnack Hills and Holes SAC</p>	<p>Site Code: UK0030031</p> <p>Qualifying features:</p> <p>H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p>	<p>Prioritised issues that are currently impacting and threatening the condition of Barnack Hills & Holes SAC, as outlined in the Site Improvement Plan include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes in Species Distribution There is a long term decline in population of Man Orchid <i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>, part of the SAC feature for the site. Numbers peaked in the 1980s and have shown a declining trend since. The reasons for this are poorly understood. 2. Public Access/Disturbance High level of public use relative to size of site is causing compaction and degradation of habitat, spread of negative indicator species, and nitrogen due to high number of dogs on the site. 3. Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation. <p>Whilst there are absences of direct pathways to Barnack Hills and Holes SAC, the Local Plan could further exacerbate the identified threats of the site through public access/disturbance; and air pollution.</p>
<p>Grimsthorpe SAC</p>	<p>Site Code: UK0030043</p> <p>Qualifying Features:</p> <p>H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrublands facies: on calcareous subrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</p> <p>S1654 <i>Gentianella anglica</i>: Early gentian</p>	<p>Prioritised issues that are currently impacting and threatening the condition of Grimsthorpe SAC, as outlined in the Site Improvement Plan include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition Atmospheric nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation.

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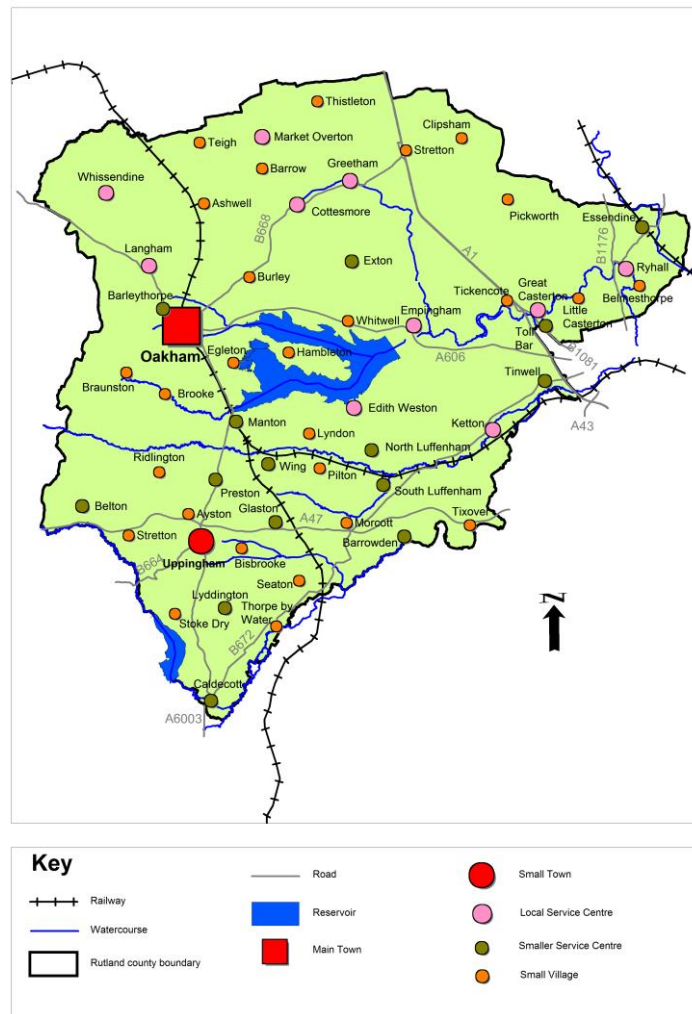
Site	Interest/Qualifying Features	Sensitivities/vulnerabilities/Threats
		Whilst there are absences of direct pathways to Grimsthorpe SAC, the Local Plan could further exacerbate the identified threats of the site through air pollution.

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The Rutland Local Plan Consultation Draft

- 3.7 The spatial portrait, objectives and vision help to identify the issues to be addressed in the Local Plan and set out the context in which the policies of the plan are prepared. The spatial vision and strategic objectives have been updated since the Issues & Options stage to reflect current evidence and aspirations. The Vision for Rutland and associated Strategic Objectives (taken from the Local Plan Consultation Draft) are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.8 The Local Plan Issues & Options DPD set out a growth agenda for Rutland and broad directions of growth around the two towns, as well as two settlement hierarchy options. Due to new evidence, namely the publication of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2017, the housing requirement set out in the Issues & Options has now changed and is reflected within the draft Local Plan. Specific sites for development have also been identified. The proposed settlement hierarchy is set out below in figure 2. A new approach has been taken since the publication of the Issues & Options which removes the category Accessible Villages resulting in 5 categories including: Main Town, Small Town, Local Service Centres; Smaller Service Centres; and Small Villages.

Figure 2: Settlement Hierarchy



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- 3.9 The Local Plan Consultation Draft sets out a requirement (as identified within the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update) of 4,000 dwellings from 2011 to 2036 which equates to 160 new homes per annum. Taking into account existing allocations, windfall allowance and sites with planning permission, the draft Local Plan identifies a remaining requirement of 1,503 from 2016-2036 and proposes a number of sites within the two towns, and the Local Service Centres.
- 3.10 The need for additional employment, retail, waste and minerals sites have also been considered. 25.41 hectares of employment land is required over the plan period and the plan allocates four sites totalling 33.3ha, within Oakham, Greetham, Uppingham and Ketton. 0.69ha of land for retail development is proposed within Oakham. 3 waste sites in Cottesmore, Greetham and Ketton are proposed for waste management and disposal; and two sites in Greetham and Stretton for minerals operations. Locational maps of the proposed sites can be found within the [Local Plan Review Consultation Draft](#).
- 3.11 The proposed policies contained within the Local Plan Consultation Draft are considered in turn within Table 3 of this report.

Relationship between the plan and the Natura 2000 Sites

- 3.12 The relationship between the plan and the three European (Natura 2000) sites and potential impacts from implementation of the plan options are outlined below in the screening assessment. The criterion for assessment includes:
- Identification of the individual elements of the plan (either alone or in combinations with other plans and projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European sites, and a description of the likely impact (direct, indirect or secondary). This should set out the:
 - Plan area, implementation period, and land-take (e.g. allocated sites).
 - Physical changes that are likely to result from implementation of the plan,
 - Distance from Natura 2000 sites or key features of the site, and
 - Requirements of the plan such as resource requirements (e.g. water), and infrastructure development requirements (e.g. transport), as well as outputs such as emissions and waste (disposal to land, water, and air).
 - Potential impacts resulting from the plans, objectives and spatial options.
 - Likely changes to European sites arising as a result of:
 - Reduction of habitat area
 - Disturbance to key species
 - Habitat or species fragmentation
 - Reduction in species density
 - Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality, etc) and
 - Climate Change.
 - Potential likely impacts on the European sites as a whole in terms of interference with the key relationships that define the structure and function of the site.
 - Identification of indicators of significance as a result of likely effects in terms of loss, fragmentation, disruption, disturbance, and change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality), etc.)
 - Identification of the individual plan elements, or combinations thereof, where the impacts are likely to be significant, or the scale/magnitude are not known.

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Individual elements of the plan likely to impact on the European sites

Plan area and implementation period

- 3.13 The Local Plan covers the administration authority area of Rutland. The plan period is 2016-2036.

Land-take

- 3.14 Taking into account existing allocations, windfall allowance and sites with planning permission, the draft Local Plan identifies a remaining requirement of 1,503 from 2016-2036 and proposes a number of sites within the two towns, and the Local Service Centres.
- 3.15 The need for additional employment, retail, waste and minerals sites have also been considered. 25.41 hectares of employment land is required over the plan period and the plan allocates four sites totalling 33.3ha, within Oakham, Greetham, Uppingham and Ketton. 0.69ha of land for retail development is proposed within Oakham. 3 waste sites in Cottesmore, Greetham and Ketton are proposed for waste management and disposal; and two sites in Greetham and Stretton for minerals operations.
- 3.16 A cross Boundary Development Opportunity is proposed within the draft Local Plan which will accommodate a maximum of 600 dwellings and associated infrastructure. Whilst development does not extend outside of the county boundary, the development will only be brought forward for development in conjunction with the land in South Kesteven as part of a comprehensive mixed use scheme known as Stamford North.
- 3.17 The Local Plan does not propose development within the designated area of Rutland Water, nor within the two other Natura 2000 sites, which are located outside the County Boundary.

Physical changes likely to result from the implementation of the plan

- 3.18 Physical changes resulting from the implementation of the plan are associated with the proposed residential, employment, waste and minerals sites. This will result in intensification and expansion of existing towns and sustainable villages to accommodate growth; as well as extensions to, or new waste and mineral sites. Associated infrastructure will also be required for all growth.

Distance from European sites or key features of the site

- 3.19 The Local Plan Review does not include development outside the boundaries of Rutland County and any effects are unlikely to extend to a significant distance (>5km) beyond the boundary. However, the Local Plan proposes a housing site within Rutland County to be delivered as part of a cross boundary development opportunity with South Kesteven District Council.
- 3.20 The distances of the Natura 2000 sites from Rutland County are:
- Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar (within County)

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- Barnack Hills & Holes SAC (approximately 5.4km from the county boundary)
- Grimsthorpe SAC (approximately 5.9km from the county boundary)

Resource Requirements

- 3.21 The plan is intended to guide development within Rutland including residential, commercial, industrial, waste and minerals development as well as the development of public/community facilities. This will require significant natural resources to deliver growth and support
- 3.22 As set out in Strategic Objective 15 (Appendix 1), the plan will seek to reduce the impact of people and development on the environment, encouraging the prudent use of resources. This is further required through policy RLP2, Sustainable Development Principles.

Infrastructure and development requirements

- 3.23 All proposed development will require significant infrastructure to support growth (e.g. transport (road & rail), electrical transmission lines & stations, renewable energy generation facilities (e.g. wind farms), gas & water mains, mineral extraction sites, and community health & education facilities (schools etc.). Infrastructure will also be needed to ensure that potential environmental impacts are minimised (e.g. sewage & waste water treatment; and waste management facilities)

Outputs

- 3.24 Potential emissions to air relating to development include dust, vehicle emissions from transport, greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation to supply development (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.), and emissions from (light) industrial processes.
- 3.25 Policies within the plan, including RLP33 Delivering Good Design, seek the integration of sustainable design and technologies in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from growth and the ongoing use of development related to the Local Plan.
- 3.26 Releases to water should be restricted (for most forms of developments) to disposal or release to sewerage systems with (minimum) primary treatment prior to release to waterways. Policy RLP2 requires development to protect ground and surface water quality. Furthermore, the development principles associated with Policy RLP33, Delivering Good Design, promotes the use of SuDS.

Potential impacts resulting from the plan's objectives, spatial vision and spatial portrait

- 3.27 No direct impacts are required from the plan's objectives, spatial vision and spatial portrait as growth is not proposed within the identified Natura 2000 sites. Indirect impacts could occur from proposed growth, however the plan seeks to minimise and mitigate any indirect adverse impacts.

Potential impacts resulting from the spatial options

- 3.28 Table 2 reviews the proposed policies contained within the Local Plan Consultative Draft. A rapid screening assessment has been applied to the draft policies in order to determine those that could, or are likely to, have an effect on European sites. The test has been derived from the tests identified in Assessment of regional spatial

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strategies and sub-regional spatial strategies under the provisions of the Habitat Regulations, Tyldesley and Associates 2006. A summary of the relevant tests is outlined below:

- Reasons why the policy will have no effect on European Sites:
 1. The policy itself will not lead to development e.g. it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or it is not a land use policy).
 2. The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development and land use change away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
 3. The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
 4. The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment and enhancement measures will not be likely to have any effect on a European site.
- Reasons why the policy could have an effect on a European site:
 5. The policy steers a quantum or type of development towards, or encourages development in an area that includes a European site or an area where development may indirectly affect European sites.
- Reasons why policy would be likely to have an effect on European sites:
 6. The policy makes provision for a quantum or type of development that in the location (s) would be likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

3.29 In taking the precautionary approach, as required under the Regulations, where policy steers development away from European sites (2 and 3 above), and consideration must be given to the potential pathways for adverse effect to occur. Development located some considerable distance from a European site can give rise to adverse effect if a suitable pathway exists.

3.30 The assessment of impacts will ultimately result in a finding of either:

- No adverse impact (resulting in the policy being screened-out), or
- A definitive adverse effect or unable to rule out (resulting in the policy being 'screened-in' and requiring further assessment.

3.31 The assessment also takes account of any mitigation or avoidance measures that have been incorporated into the proposed sites. As with the issues and options, the assessment cannot be formally conclude 'no likely significant effects', although the table indicates if this would be the HRA conclusion were the Consultation Draft adopted. Where appropriate, recommendations for changes or adjustments to the proposed policies are provided. It should also be noted that the assessment takes account of any potential 'in combination' effects between options.

3.32 As the Local Plan is in draft form, there will be no such conclusions made at this stage and no policies will be screened out. The next stage of the plan will be fully screened again and likely impacts will be determined. However, an *indication* of likely significant effects is provided.

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Consultation Draft**

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Table 2 Review of Local Plan Review Consultation Draft Proposed Policies

Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
RLP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	<p>The policy seeks a positive approach to development but does not propose a quantum or location for development. If the Local Plan becomes, out of date, this policy could have a LSE as presumption in favour of sustainable development applies.</p> <p><i>The policy itself does not lead to development nor does it steer development towards a European site.</i></p>
RLP2 Sustainable Development Principles	<p>The policy sets out broad criteria to ensure sustainable development in Rutland and does not propose a quantum nor location of development. The policy is therefore unlikely to result in LSE, although assessment may still be required at scheme level, particularly where development is sited close to a European site.</p> <p><i>The policy itself does not lead to development and intends to protect and conserve the natural and historic environment. The policy does not specifically refer to protecting the Natura 2000 site within Rutland County, however it does require development to maintain and wherever possible enhance the county's environmental assets. Other criteria such as the protection of ground and surface water will also serve to protect Rutland Water. Another criterion is to minimise the impact on climate change would positively affect all the identified Natura sites, with reference to their threat of increase in atmospheric nitrogen.</i></p>
RLP3 The Spatial Strategy for Development	<p>This Policy could have LSE if development directed towards the main centres is not appropriately sited, although this is dealt with in detail in subsequent policies. It is unclear if the total number of houses can be accommodated with respect to water resources and water quality (sewerage), although weighting development towards towns rather than villages will reduce ancillary impacts (car travel etc.) which would not lead to increased atmospheric nitrogen, a key threat of all identified Natura 2000 sites..</p> <p>If the development directed towards the main centres is not appropriately sited or conditioned, LSE could occur, although development directed towards the towns will be easier to control, the proximity of Oakham to Rutland Water and its locations adjacent to some tributaries could make Rutland Water vulnerable to ancillary impacts, such as on water quality. Further growth could lead to an increase in atmospheric nitrogen which is a threat to all the identified Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>The principal of grouping villages in a settlement hierarchy related to their current service will have no LSE on Rutland Water, although which group a village goes into conceivably could have an effect if inappropriate development is subsequently directed there. However, it should not be assumed that because a village is included within the Local Service Centres, that development will necessarily result in no LSE.</p> <p><i>This policy steers development towards the sustainable villages and urban areas. Villages such as Edith Weston are in close proximity to Rutland but development is constrained to within the planned limits of development.</i></p>
RLP4 Built Development in Towns and Villages	<p>Policy RLP4 together with Design & Amenity is a key policy within the DPD as it provides overarching developmental parameters and criteria that influence how other policies are implemented. The policy provides sufficient caveats and measures to ensure that</p>

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Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
	<p>development adhering to it is unlikely to have any significant effects on any European site.</p> <p><i>The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas and planned limits of development, steering development and land use change away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</i></p>
<p>RLP5 Residential Proposals in Towns and Villages</p>	<p>The policy provides sufficient caveats and measures to ensure that development adhering to it is unlikely to have any significant effects on any European site. The Policy concentrates the re-use of land, promoting brownfield development, including the re-use of buildings and redundant agricultural buildings and restricts development to within the planned limits of development for the towns and villages which will ensure that development adhering to it is unlikely to have any significant effects on any European site.</p> <p>If the development directed towards the main centres or villages in close proximity to the European sites are not appropriately sited or conditioned, LSE could occur, although development directed towards the towns will be easier to control, the proximity of Oakham to Rutland Water and its locations adjacent to some tributaries could make the SPA/RAMSAR vulnerable to ancillary impacts, such as on water quality</p> <p><i>The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas and planned limits of development, steering development and land use change away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</i></p>
<p>RLP6 Development in the Countryside</p>	<p>This policy sets out planning criteria and guidelines for housing proposals that are within the countryside (i.e. primarily individual development rather than large housing areas). The policy will not lead to development itself but will (together with other policies) exert control on how individual developments are dealt with. The policy will not have any significant effects on any European sites (when considered in conjunction with other policies) but could usefully contain criteria stating that housing in the countryside must not have any adverse effects on biodiversity or nature conservation sites – although this is not considered essential to avoid LSE due to the provisions of other cross-cutting policies within the document.</p> <p><i>The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity due to caveats</i></p>
<p>RLP7 Non-residential development in the countryside</p>	<p>The policy has the potential for effects on designated nature conservation sites but carries specific criteria relating to the protection of biodiversity and landscape. Whilst normal planning controls would prevent inappropriate development proceeding, it is worthwhile explicitly noting the need for such development to avoid adverse effects on nature conservation sites.</p> <p><i>The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity due to caveats</i></p>
<p>RLP8 Re-use of redundant military bases and prisons</p>	<p>To ensure no LSE, the development of these sites should come forward within the parameters of the total housing numbers identified within the Regional Plan. Necessary sewerage and water resource provision should be phased in advance of the development. Appropriate systems should be put in place to meet appropriate surface and ground water standards. The Policy suitably dictates that proposals will be subject to a development brief or masterplan, setting out the main requirements.</p> <p>Recreational use of Rutland Water by occupiers of the sites, but with particular emphasis upon North Luffenham should be controlled</p>

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Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
	<p>via management regimes and/or inclusion of Suitable Accessible Natural Green Spaces.</p> <p>The proximity of sites to Rutland Water and its tributaries could make the SPA/Ramsar vulnerable to ancillary impacts such as on water quality and LSE are possible. This aspect must be explored further through the HRA.</p> <p><i>It must be noted that This policy has been taken from the adopted Core Strategy Development Plan which has been subject to HRA and deemed to have no LSE. St. George's Military Base is in close proximity to Rutland Water. If redeveloped, an HRA for the site should be undertaken.</i></p>
<p>RLP9 Use of military bases and prisons for operational or other purposes</p>	<p>This policy will not lead to development in itself, and contains criteria safeguards that are likely to provide some protection for the interest features of Rutland Water.</p> <p>This policy has been taken from the adopted Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan which has been subject to HRA and deemed to have no LSE.</p> <p><i>The policy will steer development away from the European sites, and associated sensitive areas.</i></p>
<p>RLP10 Delivering socially inclusive communities</p>	<p>This policy indicates measures that should be advocated to promote social inclusion and allow for core facilities (e.g. recreation space) within communities. This option or its derived policy directs development towards communities and does not advocate a scale or type of development that cannot be accommodated.</p> <p><i>This policy has been taken from the adopted Core Strategy which has been subject to HRA and deemed to have no LSE. The policy does not propose development which would directly impact on Rutland Water and seeks to protect existing facilities.</i></p>
<p>RLP11 Developer Contributions</p>	<p>The proposed framework for agreeing developer contributions will not result in LSE.</p> <p><i>The policy itself will not lead to development.</i></p>
<p>RLP12 Sites for Residential Development</p>	<p>The proposed locations for new residential development are reviewed for their likely effects on European Sites in Table 3. None of the sites selected are considered likely to have significant effects on any European sites alone, although there is a risk of in combination or cumulative effects with respect to sewerage provision and water quality.</p> <p>A Water Cycle Study was commissioned for the Site Allocations & Policies DPD which concluded that there was either sufficient capacity within the sewerage network to avoid significant effects on Rutland Water, or works will be able to improve their treatment levels within the sewerage network to avoid significant effects on Rutland Water, or works will be able to improve their treatment levels within the limits of conventional wastewater treatment technology to allow for increased discharges from the WWTWs. On this basis it was concluded that the policy and allocations were considered unlikely to have any significant effects on any European Sites. However, it cannot be ensured that this is still the case and as such it is recommended the Water Cycle Study be checked to ensure it's still current and whether there have been any material changes since it was done. A further screening assessment may be required.</p>

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Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
	<i>The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas and sustainable villages, steering development and land use change away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</i>
RLP13 Cross Boundary Development Opportunity – Stamford North	<p>The cross boundary site is reviewed in Table 4 for its likely effect on European sites. The site is large in size with the capacity to accommodate 600 dwellings. The site is not in close proximity to Rutland Water and has no direct linkages (e.g. hydrological), although there is a risk of in combination or cumulative effects with respect of sewerage, provision water quality and air pollution. Due to the high number of dwellings, the development may impact the Natura 2000 sites sensitivity with regard to disturbance of public access. Development of the site will result in the loss of a wildlife site, however this is mitigated through the policy.</p> <p>It is recommended the Water Cycle Study be checked to ensure it’s still current and whether there have been any material changes since it was done. A further screening assessment may be required.</p> <p><i>The policy steers development away from European sites and associated sensitivities.</i></p>
RLP14 Housing Density & Mix	<p>The proposed policy does not lead to development itself. However, increased densities may lead to surface drainage issues and sewerage capacity.</p> <p><i>The policy itself will not lead to development.</i></p>
RLP15 Self-build and custom housebuilding	<p>The policy deals with an element of residential development, self-build and custom housebuilding.</p> <p><i>The policy itself will not lead to development.</i></p>
RLP16 Affordable Housing	<p>This policy sets design criteria for adorable housing and affordable sites.</p> <p><i>The policy itself will not lead to development</i></p>
RLP17 Rural Exception Housing	<p>Rural exception sites are supported through this policy which contains restrictive criteria. Although exception sites may be located outside of permitted limits of development (PLD), the policy criteria requires development to be within or adjacent to the PLD</p> <p><i>The policy steers development away from European sites, and associated sensitive areas.</i></p>
RLP18 Gypsies & Travellers	<p>The provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites will not in themselves have LSE on Rutland Water provided that normal development controls are implemented. Criterion c states: that proposals for sites to meet the identified need will be permitted provided that the impact on landscape character and/or sites/areas of nature conservation value including the internationally designated nature conservation site of Rutland Water.</p> <p>It is recommended that this is amended in line with adopted Core Strategy Policy, which has been through the HRA process and deemed not to have LSE to say:</p>

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Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
	<p>In determining suitable sites the following considerations will be taken into account:</p> <p>c) the impact on landscape character and/or sites/areas of nature conservation value including the internationally designated nature conservation site of Rutland Water.</p> <p>Further screening of the policy may be required due to the above amendment.</p>
<p>RLP19 New provision for industrial and office development and related uses</p>	<p>Policy RLP19 does not have criteria to ensure that employment development does not bring LSE on Rutland Water. However policy RLP4 Built Development in Towns and Villages together with the RLP33 Policy Delivering Good Design are key to providing overarching developmental parameters and criteria that influence how other policies are implemented. These Policies provide caveats and measures to ensure that development adhering to it is unlikely to have any significant effects on any European site.</p> <p>The proposed locations for new employment development are reviewed for their likely effects on European Sites in Table 4. None of the sites selected are considered likely to have significant effects on any European sites alone, although there is a risk of in combination or cumulative effects with respect to sewerage provision and water quality.</p>
<p>RLP20 Expansion of existing businesses and protection of existing employment sites.</p>	<p>The policy concerns the expansion of existing businesses and protection of existing employment sites.</p> <p><i>The policy steers development away from European sites and concentrates in built up areas.</i></p>
<p>RLP21 The Rural Economy</p>	<p>The policy concerns the rural economy and only permits the expansion of existing businesses and proposals for new employment-generating uses within or on the edge of Local Service Centres or via diversification.</p> <p><i>The policy steers development towards the Local Service Centres and away from the European sites.</i></p>
<p>RLP22 Agricultural, horticultural, equestrian and forestry development</p>	<p>This policy sets criteria for new buildings and structures associated with agriculture, horticulture, equestrian and forestry developments. The need to avoid impacts on protected sites is not explicitly noted, but this is not particularly necessary for a policy such as this and it would be inappropriate for the policy to simply re-iterate other protective policies.</p>
<p>RLP23 Local Visitor Economy</p>	<p>The policy sets out broad criteria to ensure sustainable local visitor economy in Rutland and does not propose a quantum or location of development. Assessment may still be required at scheme level, particularly where development is sited close to a European site as Rutland Water does attract high visitor and recreational numbers, which is a sensitivity for all identified sites.</p>
<p>RLP24 Rutland Water</p>	<p>This policy deals with restrictive development within defined recreation areas and is taken from our current adopted plans SP26 Rutland Water Recreation Areas; and CS24 Rutland Water which have been subject to an HRA and deemed no LSE.</p> <p>The Policy acknowledges that internationally renowned importance of Rutland Water and suitably states that:</p> <p>“In all cases it will need to be demonstrated that the development within the designated Recreation Areas would:</p>

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Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
	<p>c) not be detrimental to local amenity including the impact of an unacceptable increase in the amount of car travel, parking and congestion in the Rutland Water Area.”</p> <p>It also states criteria which would make development outside of the Recreation Areas acceptable, stating “...subject to it being appropriate in terms of location, scale, design and impact on the landscape.”</p> <p>Whilst the policy as a whole is protective and provides appropriate direction and control on development to ensure that significant effects are not likely as a result of its implementation. It is recommended that the following be added with respect to development outside Recreation Areas:</p> <p>“...subject to it being appropriate in terms of location, scale, design and impact on the landscape and Rutland Water’s international designation.”</p> <p>The policy may need to be re-screened due to the above amendment.</p>
RLP25 Eyebrook Reservoir	<p>The policy permits small-scale recreational development at the reservoir but is largely a protective policy; it is unlikely to have any significant effects on the European sites.</p> <p><i>This Policy is taken from the adopted SADPD (Policy SP27) which was subject to an HRA and deemed no LSE</i></p>
RLP26 Caravans, camping, lodges, log cabins, chalets and similar forms of self-serviced holiday accommodation.	<p>The policy permits small-scale recreational development at the reservoir but is largely a protective policy. However, the development resulting from the policy could impact on threats such as visitor impact and</p> <p><i>This Policy is taken from the adopted SADPD (Policy SP25) which was subject to an HRA and deemed no LSE</i></p>
RLP27 Town Centres and Retailing	<p>This policy deals with town centres and retailing and <i>steers development towards the two towns.</i></p>
RLP28 Primary and secondary shopping frontages	<p>The provision of policies dealing with primary and secondary shopping frontages <i>steers development towards the two towns.</i></p>
RLP29 Site for retail development	<p>The proposed location for retail development is assessed for its likely effects on European Sites in Table 3. There is a risk of in combination or cumulative effects with respect to sewerage provision and water quality when considered with the other proposed development across the county.</p>
RLP30 Securing sustainable transport and accessibility through	<p>The provision of policies advocating sustainable public transport and accessibility will indirectly benefit the sites due to a resultant decrease in air pollution which is an identified threat to the tree European sites.</p>

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Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
development	
RLP31 Electric Vehicle Charging Points	The provision of a policy advocating electric vehicle charging points will indirectly benefit the sites due to a resultant decrease in air pollution which is an identified threat to the tree European sites.
RLP32 High Speed Broadband	The provision of a policy supporting High Speed Broadband could impact the European sites, most notably Rutland Water, due to associated infrastructure which may be required. However criteria could be included to safeguard the interest features of Rutland Water. This may result in the requirement to re-screen the policy.
RLP33 Delivering Good Design	The policy itself will not lead to development as it is a design policy which includes criteria which would indirectly benefit the European sites.
RLP34 Accessibility Standards	The policy itself will not lead to development as it is a design policy.
RLP35 Advertisements	The policy seeks to protect natural and historic features from inappropriate development of advertisements
RLP36 Outdoor Lighting	The policy seeks to protect natural and historic features from inappropriate development of outdoor lighting
RLP37 Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Generation	This policy sets parameters for low carbon generation however does not explicitly refer to Rutland Water. It is recommended that criteria g and c within the wind turbine development; and the solar farm and low carbon energy generating developments sections of the policy, respectively, is amended to: “including any potential impacts on the internationally designated nature conservation area of Rutland Water.” The policy may need to be re-screened.
RLP38 The Natural Environment	This policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
RLP39 Sites of Biodiversity and geodiversity protection	This policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
RLP40 The Historic & Cultural Environment	The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment.
RLP41 Protecting Heritage Assets	The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment.
RLP42 Green Infrastructure, Sport & Recreation	The provision of Green Infrastructure, sport and leisure, particularly within or around new development should not result in significant effects, particularly providing other areas for recreation other than the European sites. Disturbance by visitors is a key threat to the European sites.
RLP43 Important Open Space & Frontages	The proposed Important Open Spaces and Frontages are within the Planned Limits of Development and will not likely impact on the European sites. Furthermore it is a protective policy.
RLP44 Provision of New Open Space	The provision of open space within or near development is important to reduce the risk of casual recreation affecting European sites e.g. dog walking etc. which is a key threat to all European sites. Most allocations are located away from European sites however the

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Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
	visitor catchment is unknown and there may be recreational pressure; however, the requirements of this policy provide an additional safeguard in this respect.
RLP45 Landscape Character Impact	This policy will not lead to development in itself and is primarily a protective policy which is likely to provide some protection for the interest features of Rutland Water.
RLP46 Spatial Strategy for Minerals Development	<p>Given the land use, effects may occur and would depend on the location of the mineral sources and if there are linkages to European sites. The supportive text of the policy states that the strategy does not take into consideration potential adverse impacts and other parameters that may affect the natural environment as such matters should be addressed through the relevant Local Plan Policy. For example, Policy RLP24 states that:</p> <p>“Minerals development, which is likely to have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environmental and recreational value of Rutland Water and its setting and the supply of water from the reservoir, will not be permitted unless the reasons for development outweigh the likely adverse impact, taking into account the requirements of relevant legislation and guidance. In all cases, applications will be subject to the most rigorous examination.”</p>
RLP47 Mineral Provision	<p>Given the land use, effects may occur and would depend on the location of the mineral sources and if there are linkages to European sites. The supportive text of the policy states that the strategy does not take into consideration potential adverse impacts and other parameters that may affect the natural environment as such matters should be addressed through the relevant Local Plan Policy. For example, Policy RLP24 states that:</p> <p>“Minerals development, which is likely to have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environmental and recreational value of Rutland Water and its setting and the supply of water from the reservoir, will not be permitted unless the reasons for development outweigh the likely adverse impact, taking into account the requirements of relevant legislation and guidance. In all cases, applications will be subject to the most rigorous examination.”</p>
RLP48 Safeguarding Mineral Resources	This policy deals with the safeguarding of minerals and would not result in development itself. However, the eastern boundary of the limestone and cement clay safeguarded area is in close proximity to Rutland Water. If development is likely it would need to accord with Local Plan Policies, including RLP24 which restricts minerals development if likely to significantly impact Rutland Water.
RLP49 Development Criteria for Mineral Extraction	This policy includes a number of protective environmental criteria and specifically states that development will be expected to meet the requirements for good design (Policy RLP33) as well as other relevant policies through the Local Plan.
RLP50 Site-specific allocations for the extraction of crushed rock	This proposed minerals allocation (M4a Greetham Quarry North west Extension) is reviewed in table 4.
RLP51 Site-specific allocations for the extraction of building	The proposed allocation (M5a Hooby lane Quarry Extension) is reviewed in table 4.

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Policies	Assessment and Recommended Modifications (in bold)
stone	
RLP52 Safeguarding of minerals development	This is a safeguarding policy and will not lead to minerals development in itself.
RLP53 Borrow Pits	This policy includes the criterion which states: d) the proposal avoids and/or mitigates potentially adverse impacts to acceptable levels and is environmentally feasible. Taking other protective policies into account,
RLP54 Development criteria for other forms of mineral development	This policy ensures that other forms of mineral development will not lead to LSE by requiring proposals to demonstrate that it complies with relevant Local Plan policies and seeks to avoid and/or mitigate potentially adverse impacts
RLP 55 Waste management and disposal	The policy does not lead to development in itself. The existing sites in Cottesmore and North Luffenham have no direct linkages to Rutland Water, however cumulative impact if capacity is increased would need to be considered.
RLP56 Waste related development	This policy contains a criterion which requires proposed development to not result in unacceptable adverse impacts in relation to a range of environmental parameters, including nature conservation.
RLP57 Sites for waste management and disposal	The waste sites proposed in this policy have been subject to review in table 4. Other protective Local Plan policies must be adhered to.
RLP58 Restoration and aftercare	The policy deals with the restoration and aftercare of minerals and waste sites and not development. Criterion b) supports geodiversity, biodiversity and nature conservation.

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3.33 Table 3 reviews the proposed allocations for development. The structure focuses on the likely outcomes of the proposed policies. The proposed allocation sites are assessed in relation to the following key aspects:

- The proximity of potential allocation sites to any European sites;
- The presence of direct linkages or impact pathways to a European site (e.g. connecting watercourses);
- Any known indirect linkages or impact pathways (e.g. roosting areas);
- The broad type of development envisaged for the potential allocation site; and
- The size of the potential allocation site (as a proxy for scale of potential environmental impact).

3.34 General comments relating to table 4 are:

- Planning permissions are a threat to Rutland Water, as identified . No development is proposed within the allocated sites. Some sites have direct linkages (e.g. hydrological which may lead to water pollution); and all proposed development could indirectly impact the sites through e.g. air pollution. Policies are proposed within the Local Plan to mitigate/limit both direct and indirect effects from development.
- All development of residential sites may lead to increased visitor numbers at all of the Natura 2000 sites. Visitor impact is an identified threat to all sites. As Rutland Water is within the boundary of Rutland, it could be more susceptible than the other two sites located outside the boundary.
- All development may lead to increase in atmospheric nitrogen due to increased traffic, which is an identified threat of the Natura 2000 sites, other than Rutland Water.
- All development may lead to water pollution and water abstraction issues if not developed, nor sited appropriately. Policies within the plan are designed to limit or mitigate such impacts.

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Table 3 Review of Local Plan Review – Consultation Draft Sites for Development

The associated maps of the locations, including site reference can be found within the [Local Plan Review Consultation Draft](#)

Parish	Site Location	Site Reference	Site Area (ha)	Proposed Land Use	Review Summary	Notes
Oakham	Land S. of Brooke Road	OAK/04	7.79	Residential – 139 dwellings	Potential Issue - Hydrological linkages	Northern tip of site adjacent to tributary to Rutland Water, possible water quality issues
Oakham	Land off Uppingham Road	OAK/05	4.13	Residential – 73 dwellings	Site close to Rutland Water but no direct linkages	Site in close proximity to Rutland Water but no direct linkages.
Oakham	Land at Stamford Road & Uppingham Road	OAK/08 (A)	3.31	Residential – 80 dwellings	Potential Issue – hydrological links	Site adjacent to main tributary to Rutland Water; possible water quality issues.
Oakham	Land off Burley Road (part of mixed use development)	OAK/13	25.8 residential and 7.5ha employment	Mixed Use Development – including 465 dwellings and 7.5ha employment.	Large Site: Potential issue – hydrological links	Site close to Rutland water and adjacent to main tributary of Rutland Water; possible water quality issues and increased casual recreational usage which could cause disturbance.
Oakham	Tim Norton, Long Row	R1	0.69ha	Retail	No particular Issues	Site close to Rutland Water but no direct linkages.
Uppingham	Land at Uppingham Gate, Uppingham	UPP/02	6.8ha	Employment	Potential Issue – hydrological links	These sites are located some distance (>6km) from Rutland Water and so direct effects will be limited; however,
Uppingham	Land south of Leicester Road	UPP/04	8.38	Residential – 150 dwellings	Potential Issue – hydrological links	Uppingham is in the headwaters of the R Welland, which is used to feed Rutland Water via an abstraction near
Uppingham	Land off	UPP/05 (A)	2.07	Residential –	Potential Issue	

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Parish	Site Location	Site Reference	Site Area (ha)	Proposed Land Use	Review Summary	Notes
	Ayston Road			49 dwellings	– hydrological links	Stamford. Cumulatively, development in this area could affect the quality of water entering Rutland Water if existing treatment facilities (WTWs) or other waste and surface run-off infrastructure (e.g. CSOs) are already at or near capacity. This aspect will require discussion with Anglian Water to determine the treatment capacity or caveats within relevant policies to ensure that capacity precedes development
Uppingham	Land off Leicester Road	UPP/06 (A)	0.89	Residential – 28 dwellings	Potential Issue – hydrological links	
Uppingham	Land North of Leicester Road	UPP/08	6.23	Residential – 112 dwellings	Potential Issue – hydrological links	
Uppingham	Land south of Leicester Road	UPP/11	1.13	Residential - 29 dwellings	Potential Issue – hydrological links	
Cottesmore	Land off Mill Lane	COT/13	4.65	Residential – 60 dwellings	No particular issues	Site over 5km from Rutland Water with no direct linkages (e.g. watercourse)
Cottesmore	Burley Road	W1	3.83	Waste – Preliminary treatment facilities.	No particular issues	The use of the site for waste treatment may give rise to significant effects, however due to the site being more >6km from Rutland Water and no direct Linkages, it is unlikely.
Edith Weston	The Yews, Well Cross	EDI/02(A)	0.57	Residential – 17	Potential Issue – Proximity	Site is <1km from Rutland Water. Possible increased casual recreational usage etc. disturbance.
Empingham	West of 17 Whitwell Road	EMP/01(A)	0.17	Residential – 4 dwellings	No particular issues identified	Site approximately 1km from Rutland Water so proximity effects possible but the site is small in size.

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Parish	Site Location	Site Reference	Site Area (ha)	Proposed Land Use	Review Summary	Notes
Greetham	Part of Greetham Quarry, Stretton Road (as part of mixed use site)	GRE/01(A)	27.6	Residential as part of mixed use site – 30 dwellings	No particular Issues Identified	Site is large in size but > 6km from Rutland Water and hydrological linkages to Rutland Water.
Greetham	Land South of Oakham Road	GRE/02	1.17	Residential – 28 dwellings	No particular issues identified	Site >6km from Rutland Water and no direct linkages
Greetham	Wood Lane	W2	2.97	Waste – Preliminary treatment facilities	No particular issues identified	The use of the site for waste treatment may give rise to significant effects, however due to the site being more >6km from Rutland Water and no direct Linkages, it is unlikely.
Greetham	Greetham Quarry	M4a		Minerals site extension – extraction of crushed rock	Potential Issue – cumulative & land use.	The development would be an extension to the west of an existing site. The extension would have no direct linkages, such as hydrological, to Rutland Water. However, the south edge of the existing site is near to a hydrological link and as such the cumulative impact of the new and existing development may impact upon Rutland Water. However, the site is >6km from Rutland Water.
Ketton	Land adjacent to	KET/02 (A)	6.23	Residential - 112 dwellings	No particular issues	Site >4km from Rutland Water and no direct linkages

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Parish	Site Location	Site Reference	Site Area (ha)	Proposed Land Use	Review Summary	Notes
	Empingham Road				identified	
Ketton	Land adjacent to Empingham Road	KET/03 (A)	4.13	Residential – 74 dwellings	No particular issues identified	Site >4km from Rutland Water and no direct linkages
Ketton	Land at Pitt Lane, Ketton	KET/11	1.4ha	Employment	No particular issues identified.	Site >4km from Rutland Water and no direct linkages
Ketton	Ketco Avenue	W3		Waste – inert disposal	Proposed use of site and linkages.	The use of the site for waste treatment may give rise to significant effects as the northern edge of the site is adjacent to a hydrological link to Rutland Water.
Little Casterton	Quarry Farm, Stamford North	LIT/01 & LIT/02	-	Residential – 600 homes	No particular issues identified	Site >8km from Rutland Water, no direct linkages (e.g. watercourse) but site large in size
Market Overton	Main Street	MAR/04	1.9	Residential – 45 dwellings	No particular issues identified	Site >4km from Rutland Water and no direct linkages
Ryhall	River Gwash Trout Farm, Belmesthorpe Lane	RYH/04	0.51	Residential - 14	No particular issues identified	Site >10km from Rutland Water, no direct linkages (e.g. watercourses).
Ryhall	Between Meadow Lane and Belmesthorpe Road	RYH/06(A)	3.44	Residential – 82 dwellings	No particular issues	Site >10km from Rutland Water, no direct linkages (e.g. watercourses)
Stretton	Hooby Lane	M5a		Minerals – Extraction of	No particular issues	The use of the site for waste treatment may give rise to

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Parish	Site Location	Site Reference	Site Area (ha)	Proposed Land Use	Review Summary	Notes
				Building Stone.	identified.	significant effects, however due to the long distance of the site to Rutland Water, and no direct Linkages, it is unlikely.
Whissendine	Land off Melton Road	WHI/06	2.5	Residential – 60 dwellings	No particular issues	Site not within close proximity of Rutland Water and no direct links.
Whissendine	South Lodge Farm	WHI/09 (A)	0.99	Residential – 28 dwellings	No particular issues	Site not within close proximity of Rutland Water and no direct links.

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Likely changes (potential effects) to the European sites resulting from the plan

- 3.35 This section explores the likely changes to the identified European sites arising as a result of reduction in habitat; disturbance to key species; habitat or species fragmentation; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality etc.); and climate change.

Reduction of habitat area

- 3.36 There will be no physical reduction in the area of habitat resulting from the implementation of the Local Plan.

Disturbance to key species

- 3.37 Most noise sources are likely to be associated with construction and associated movements of new traffic. An increase in noise levels may disturb birds, which may disturb roosting and feeding and ultimately result in a loss of available habitat and possible relocation to an alternative site.
- 3.38 Light from development has the potential to illuminate habitat areas and affect feeding habitats of waders. Strong lights can cause unusual behaviour in flying birds causing them to disorientate, lose control of their flight and collide with the light source or its associated structures causing high levels of mortality.
- 3.39 Increased density of development and close proximity has the potential to obstruct flight paths and line of sight species, reducing the appeal of the habitat and increasing risk of fatalities through collision.
- 3.40 Visual contact with people can cause disturbance to birds such as increased anxiety and flight response. The distance for provoking flight response varies between species.
- 3.41 No direct disturbance to key species nor with regard to habitat/species fragmentation/reduction in density is likely to result from implementation of the plan. Intensification of land-use surrounding or connecting to the European site may result in indirect disturbance.

Changes in key indicators of conservation value

- 3.42 The Water Framework Directive aims for a 'good' status for all ground and surface waters in the European Union.
- 3.43 The ecological and chemical status of surface waters are assessed according to the following criteria:
- Biological quality.
 - Hydromorphological quality such as river bank structure, river continuity or substrate of the river bed.
 - Physical-chemical quality that refers to environmental quality standards for river basin specific pollutants. These standards specify maximum concentrations for

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specific water pollutants. If even one such concentration is exceeded, the water body will not be classed as having a 'good ecological status.'

- Chemical quality that refers to environmental quality standards for river basin specific pollutants. These standards specify maximum concentrations for specific pollutants.

- 3.44 The Water Framework Directive stipulates that the groundwater must achieve 'good quantitative status' and 'good chemical status' (i.e. not polluted) by 2015. Groundwater bodies are classified as either 'good' or 'poor'.
- 3.45 Diffuse pollution, including discharges into the river from sewage treatments works, industrial sources, agricultural and urban run-off all contribute towards the introduction of chemicals into the water bodies.
- 3.46 The South Holland, South Kesteven and Rutland Water Cycle Study states that Oakham is within the East Midlands WRZ, supplied by Severn Trent Water. Any increases in flow from Oakham Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) have the potential to impact upon the Rutland Water/SAC. It is assumed that the WwTW will be required to discharge to their consented water quality standards as well as their consented water discharge volumes. Therefore it is considered that there will not be a decrease in water quality compared with current water quality. Discharge consents are regulated by the Environment Agency to protect the water quality of receiving watercourses. Water discharge from wastewater treatment will be required to meet the water quality requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2015.
- 3.47 Many wetlands have close associations with groundwater and the relationship can be disrupted by wither changes to the aquifer or to the wetland. Alterations to hydrology have the potential to affect important networks for local wildlife. Abstraction of groundwater or surface water is undertaken for use in agriculture, industry domestic water supplies, or tourism. In catchments of key wetland sites, abstraction could either lead to drying of the wetland or cause indirect damage through difficulties in water level control, drying of springs, and reduced river flows. Wetland habitat wildlife are influenced by the physical and chemical characteristics of the water environment.
- 3.48 Development within flood zones and implementation of flood alleviation/attenuation measures may cause an alteration to the water balance. It is recognised that although such development and measures may not have an impact at the source; there may be an impact on flooding regimes downstream. The suitability for SuDS is variable and will need to be assessed on a site-by-site basis once the extent of the growth sites are known. With regard to connection of the closest surface watercourse, confirmation should be sought from the Environmental Agency as to the available capacity and preferred run-off rates.
- 3.49 Potential effects regarding key indicators of conservation value of the European sites may occur, including changes in hydrology (abstraction & maintenance of water tables and flooding regimes), changes in water quality (run-off and increased throughput at sewage treatment facilities), and indirect disturbance & environmental nuisance impacts (noise, fugitive dust & diffuse emissions from transport/industrial activities).

Climate change

- 3.50 Climate change may potentially affect wetland habitats due to reduced water availability, which may also reduce food availability.

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- 3.51 Potential effects relating to climate change as a result of development of SUEs include vehicle emissions, and energy consumption associated with residential, commercial, industrial development as well as development of supporting infrastructure and facilities.

Potential likely impacts on European sites as a whole in terms of interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site

Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR

- 3.52 Potential effects identified resulting from the draft Local Plan include:
- Fragmentation of surrounding habitat areas outside of the designation.
 - Indirect disturbance and environmental nuisance (air quality, noise, lighting, visitor pressure) leading to a decrease in key species populations over time.
 - Changes in water quality related to increased levels of sewerage outfall and diffuse pollution sources.
 - Changes in the water table (resulting from increased abstraction).
 - Alteration of the flooding regime.
 - Emissions from increased vehicle emissions that contribute to the release of greenhouse gases and may reduce air quality leading to affects on habitat/ecosystem structure and function.

Barnack Hills & Holes SAC

- 3.53 The principle vulnerability of the site is inappropriate management, and therefore there will be few (if any) effects that are likely to occur at distances involved (at least 5km from the county boundary), particularly given the absence of pathways.

Grimsthorpe SAC

- 3.54 The principle vulnerability of the site is inappropriate management, and therefore there will be few (if any) effects that are likely to occur at distances involved (at least 5km from the county boundary), particularly given the absence of pathways.

Identification of indicators of significance as a result of likely effects in terms of loss, fragmentation, disruption, disturbance, and changes to key elements of the site

- 3.55 Table 4 below identifies indicators of significance, in light of the specific sensitivities/vulnerabilities and conservation objectives for the sites.

Identification of the Individual Plan Elements, or Combinations thereof, where the impacts are likely to be significant, or the scale/magnitude are unknown

- 3.56 Land use plans that may act in-combination with the plan include:

- Harborough District Core Strategy DPD
- Harborough District Council emerging Local Plan
- Melton Borough Council Core Strategy
- Melton Borough Council emerging Local Plan
- South Kesteven Core Strategy

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- South Kesteven Site Allocations and Planning Policies DPD
- South Kesteven Emerging Local plan
- City of Peterborough Core Strategy
- City of Peterborough Site Allocations DPD
- City of Peterborough emerging Local Plan
- North Northants Joint Planning Unit Core Strategy
- Rural North Oundle and Thrapston Plan

3.57 A number of Neighbourhood Plans have been made or are in preparation. Edith Weston was made in June 2014 but did not propose any growth. Uppingham and Langham have both been made and propose growth. When adopted, Neighbourhood Plans form part of the statutory development plan for the area together with the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force and a separate HRA screening report must be undertaken. The HRA screening reports for the made plans do not identify any significant effects. In-combination effects may occur but this is unlikely due to the scale of development proposed.

Assessment of cumulative (in-combination) effects

3.58 Heavy vehicles, machinery and plans required for existing and further potential development in the vicinity of the European site will increase levels of noise affecting the site.

3.59 Surface run off from new transport infrastructure and other developments may be a source of contamination to water in the river. Indirect activities occurring within the river catchment contribute towards diffuse pollution, which may have a cumulative effect on the integrity of the sites. Other development in the area may increase levels of sedimentation of waterways and contribute to nutrient loading, particularly intensification of agriculture and development related to urban extensions.

3.60 A number of species for which the European site has been designated are highly susceptible to disturbance. As such pressure from increased numbers of people using the site for recreation particularly residents from new housing development could have significant effects on the European sites.

Table 2: Identification of indicators of significance

European site	Key environmental features	Site specific vulnerabilities & potential effects	Indicators of significance of likely effects.
Rutland Water SPA	A005 Podiceps cristatus; Great crested grebe (Non-breeding) A036 Cygnus olor; Mute swan (Non-breeding) A050 Anas penelope; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding) A051 Anas strepera; Gadwall (Non-breeding) A052 Anas crecca; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) A056 Anas clypeata; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding) A061 Aythya fuligula; Tufted duck (Non-breeding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water abstraction • Inappropriate water levels • Direct impact from 3rd party • Invasive species • Water pollution • Planning permission: general • Public access/disturbance • Fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in/disturbance of key species • Water quality indicators (phosphate levels) • Water level & alteration of trophic status • Evidence of disturbance by public access • Increase in atmospheric nitrogen

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European site	Key environmental features	Site specific vulnerabilities & potential effects	Indicators of significance of likely effects.
	A067 Bucephala clangula; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding) A070 Mergus merganser; Goosander (Non-breeding) A125 Fulica atra; Common coot (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage		
Rutland water Ramsar	Species with peak counts in winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19274 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) • Ramsar criterion 6 – Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gadwall Anas streera • Northern shoveler Anas clypeata 		
Barnack Hills & Holes SAC	Site Code: UK0030031 Qualifying features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in species distribution • Public access/disturbance • Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of disturbance by public access • Increase in atmospheric nitrogen
Grimsthorpe SAC	Site Code: UK0030043 Qualifying Features H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrublands facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) S1654 <i>Gentianella anglica</i> : Early gentian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of disturbance by public access • Increase in atmospheric nitrogen

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4 Future Assessment Requirements

4.1 The overall conclusions of the HRA Screening Report are:

- The review of the Consultation Draft Local Plan cannot conclude no likely significant effects or no adverse effects since these judgements can only be made in relation to the completed DPD.
- The assessment of the policies shows some potential impact on the three Natura 2000 sites. This should be explored further through the HRA process and taken into consideration as the Local Plan evolves.
- Several amendments to policies are suggested to make the policies more robust in terms of aiding protection to the Natura 2000 site.
- Taking into account the suggestions from this report, the next stage of the Local Plan will be re-screened to assess likely significant effects to the HRA.

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Local Plan Consultation Draft Vision

A Vision of Rutland in 2036

Rutland will remain one of the most desirable places in the country to live, learn, work, play and visit.

A place where:

- *Sustainable growth will have resulted in more people, and a more balanced aged profile, living in vibrant, thriving town and village communities with good access to jobs and facilities;*
- *Economic growth will have resulted in the creation of new jobs and businesses; improved learning opportunities; and the delivery of appropriate services and infrastructure;*
- *A steady and adequate supply of minerals will be provided for. Waste will be recognised as a resource and the county's waste management capacity will have been increased enabling communities and businesses to take more responsibility for their own waste.*
- *The individual character and attractiveness of each town and village and the countryside will have been maintained and the quality of life for residents improved;*
- *The housing stock of the County will have expanded to meet the identified need for a range of different housing of an appropriate size, type and cost;*
- *The impact of people and development on the environment would be improved by the prudent uses of resources (including minerals and their safeguarding), improved waste management and recycling, increased use of renewable energy, addressing the implications of flood risk and climate change*
- *low crime rates, high life expectancy, high levels of academic achievement and attainments are achieved; and*
- *the health and well-being needs of our community have been promoted and there is an active and enriched community life for everyone.*

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Local Plan Consultation Draft Strategic Objectives

Spatial strategy

Strategic Objective 1: Locations for development

- To identify locations and sites suitable to accommodate development in a sustainable way. Providing an opportunity to access services and facilities locally; facilitate the provision of minerals, contribute towards waste management capacity needs, minimising the need to travel; promoting the efficient use of land; and protecting the natural environment, heritage, landscape, the unique character and identity of the towns, villages and countryside.

Strategic Objective 2: Vibrant and prosperous market towns

- To support the vibrant and prosperous market towns of Oakham & Uppingham by encouraging sustainable development that supports their function as service centres with a range of good quality housing, jobs, businesses, shops and services that meet the needs of local people, visitors, businesses and the wider rural hinterland.

Strategic Objective 3: Diverse and thriving villages

- To develop diverse and thriving villages by encouraging sustainable development where it supports the role of the larger villages as “service hubs” for the smaller villages and meets local needs in the smaller villages to maintain and improve their vitality and viability.

Creating sustainable communities

Strategic Objective 4: Housing for everyone’s needs

- To deliver an appropriate number of new homes in the right locations, providing a good range and mix of housing size and types to meet the needs of the whole community including: affordable housing, elderly and specialist housing and pitch provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Strategic Objective 5: Healthy and socially inclusive communities

- To support healthy and thriving communities by protecting existing and providing new, high quality local and accessible access to health, leisure, recreation, sport, green infrastructure and cultural activities.

Strategic Objective 6: A stronger and safer community

- To develop a stronger and safer community by designing out opportunities for crime and implementing measures to improve road safety to ensure that people can live, work and relax where they feel safe and enjoy a better quality of life.

Building our economy and infrastructure

Strategic Objective 7: Strong and diverse economy

- To deliver new employment land and premises to help retain and expand existing businesses and attract inward investment to strengthen and diversify the local economy in order to provide a greater range and quality of employment opportunities locally and reduce commuting out of the County.

Strategic Objective 8: Rural economy and communities

- To support the rural communities by encouraging development opportunities related to the rural economy including farm and rurally based industries, sustainable tourism and promoting services and facilities in the Local service centres and villages.

Strategic Objective 9: Sustainable transport and infrastructure

- To develop a strong and vibrant community by developing communication links throughout the county and beyond and developing integrated and sustainable forms of transport including public transport, walking and cycling facilities.

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Strategic Objective 10: Town Centres

- To maintain and promote the two market town centres as vibrant and attractive places for residents and visitors to work, live and shop.

Strategic Objective 11: Safeguarding minerals and waste development

- To safeguard mineral resources of local and national importance to ensure access to important resources well into the future, as well as mineral and waste commitments, associated facilities and infrastructure to support the development of sustainable communities.

Sustaining our environment

Strategic Objective 12: Natural and cultural environment

- To safeguard and enhance the natural resources, landscape and countryside, cultural heritage and the diversity of wildlife and habitats, including green infrastructure and special protection for Rutland Water to improve our quality of life and make a full contribution to global sustainability.
- Secure the restoration and aftercare of mineral extraction sites at the earliest opportunity, to high environmental standards. The after-use should reflect local circumstances and seek to deliver a net gain in biodiversity.

Strategic Objective 13: Built environment and local townscape

- To protect and enhance the built environment and open spaces, historic environment and local townscape associated with the historic core of the market towns, listed buildings and conservation areas. To support the distinctive local identity of Rutland through the supply of locally sourced building materials and encourage their use for purposes for which they are most suitable.

Strategic Objective 14: High quality design and local distinctiveness

- To ensure that design of new development is of the highest quality to provide attractive and safe places to live, work and visit and to reflect the local character, identity and distinctiveness of the towns and villages.

Strategic Objective 15: Resources, waste and climate change

- To reduce the impact of people and development on the environment by sustainable design and construction, reducing pollution, encouraging the prudent uses of resources, including the re-use of previously developed land, minerals, waste management and recycling, increased use of renewable energy and provision of green infrastructure and addressing the implications of flood risk and climate change.

Minerals and waste

Strategic Objective 16: Mineral resources

- To safeguard Rutland's mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation and ensure *a steady and adequate supply* of essential raw materials (limestone and clay) for cement production at Ketton together with a supply of limestone for aggregates purposes.

Strategic Objective 17: Sustainable waste management

- To support the development of sustainable communities by recognising waste as a resource, driving waste up the waste management hierarchy and increasing the county's waste management capacity in order to enable communities and businesses to take more responsibility for their own waste.

Strategic Objective 18: Mineral and Waste Development

- To reduce the impact of minerals and waste development on the environment and the community by encouraging the use of secondary and recycled aggregates, adopting sustainable design and construction, encouraging the prudent use of resources, addressing potential adverse impacts including on flood risk and climate change and promoting sustainable transport.

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Strategic Objective 19: Restoration of mineral works

- Secure the restoration and aftercare of mineral extraction sites at the earliest opportunity, to high environmental standards, and seek to deliver a net gain in biodiversity.

Strategic Objective 20: Safeguarding existing waste and mineral development

- To safeguard mineral and waste commitments, associated facilities and infrastructure from other forms of incompatible development.