

Issue 10 Protecting and enhancing the County’s biodiversity, wildlife habitats, green and blue infrastructure, and open spaces

Strategic Objective 8: Protect and enhance the built and natural environment. To provide, protect and enhance Rutland’s varied and high-quality built and natural environment, which includes:

- natural landscapes
- multifunctional blue and green infrastructure
- biodiversity and geodiversity
- trees and hedgerows
- heritage assets and their settings
- cultural assets

Seek initiative-taking and creative solutions to securing endangered assets in perpetuity and improving landscape connectivity for people and wildlife.

Promote the multifunctional role of green and blue infrastructure in combating the effects of climate change and supporting health and wellbeing. Deliver biodiversity net gain (BNG) on new developments.

Rep ID	Respondent (ID)	Agent	Officer Summary Q47-Q50	Officer Comments
4261	Ketton and Tinwell Joint Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Neighbourhood Plan Group Representative) [196]		<p>Question 47 additional comments: We choose Option A. but we would note that it will be difficult for RCC to demonstrate performance against Option A if the baseline suggested in Option B is not also established.</p> <p>Question 49 additional comments: In respect of Question 49, we would note that it is important that the role of green and blue corridors should not simply be seen in terms of physical access: the visual aspect, landscape value, and heritage - both historic and natural - also play an important part in their value to the community.</p> <p>Question 50: Advocate the creation of an extensive wildlife corridor network across the county, which will provide highways for biodiversity expansion and conservation of valuable green space.</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable</p>

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				net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.
4222	The British Horse Society (Wendy Bannerman, Access Field Officer West and East Midlands) [1145]		The language here does not include equestrians.	Noted. Policy EN7 Green and Blue Infrastructure Network policy will conserve the existing GBI in Rutland and promote the opportunities for the creation of new high quality GBI.
4215	The Society of Merchant Venturers [693]	Savills (Lynette Swinburne, Associate Director) [520]	<p>Q- 47 The Local Plan should be consistent with the aims of national planning policy and should therefore reflect the provision of NPPF paragraph 174d.</p> <p>It is important that allowing biodiversity net gain to be achieved off-site in appropriate circumstances, as well as having appropriate regard to existing landscaping, are examples of considering site-specific circumstances to ensure sites are delivered as envisaged.</p> <p>A combination of Option A and B is therefore supported to ensure existing opportunities for biodiversity net gain and ecological enhancements are optimised, whilst ensuring the Local Plan Review is kept up-to-date and consistent with the requirements of national policy</p>	Support noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity Policy EN3 of the Local Plan, which ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.
4165	The Burley Estate [691]	Savills (Lynette Swinburne, Associate Director) [520]	Leisure and recreational uses that enable people to sensitively access the County's habitats should be encouraged where impacts can be managed. Projects that seek to improve these environments should be actively encouraged.	Noted.

4106	Wells McFarlane [365]	Pegasus group (Mrs Georgina Doyle) [575]	<p>Q47- Paragraph 179 of the NPPF states that plans should secure net gains for biodiversity.</p> <p>Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a mandatory system of spatial strategy for nature established by the Environment Act 2021. Therefore, the Council are required to refer to this as part of its drive for nature recovery.</p> <p>The Council's Viability Assessment should provide a sufficiently robust assessment of the impacts of biodiversity net gain on housebuilding.</p> <p>Q48- Providing standards for opens space, sports and recreation in the development plan that is backed up by robust evidence and supported by viability evidence provides certainty to the development industry in terms of the delivery of development across the County.</p> <p>Q49- The development of a green and blue infrastructure strategy would be accordance with national policy.</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.</p> <p>Noted. Up to date evidence on opens space, sports and recreation has been prepared in the Open Space Assessment. This evidence and the standards that were produced and have inform Policy SC7 of the Local Plan.</p>
4052	Vistry Group c/o Pegasus Group (Jonathan Porter,	Pegasus group (Mrs Clare Clarke,	Q47- 3.32. Paragraph 179 of the NPPF states that plans should secure net gains for biodiversity.	Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared. The Rutland County

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	Strategic Planning Manager) [1129]	Associate Planner) [523]	<p>Environment Act 2021. Any policy should therefore refer to transitional arrangements.</p> <p>3.33. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a mandatory system of spatial strategy for nature established by the Environment Act 2021. Therefore, the Council are required to refer to this as part of its drive for nature recovery.</p> <p>3.34. The Council's Viability Assessment should provide a sufficiently robust assessment of the impacts of biodiversity net gain on housebuilding.</p> <p>Q49- Providing standards for opens space, sports and recreation in the development plan that is backed up by robust evidence and supported by viability evidence provides certainty to the development industry in terms of the delivery of development across the County.</p>	<p>Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.</p> <p>Up to date evidence on opens space, sports and recreation has been prepared in the Open Space Assessment. This evidence and the standards that were produced and have inform policy SC7 of the Local Plan.</p>
4031	John Dejardin [128]		<p>A GBI map needs to be produced using the baseline data and then intelligently expanded to develop a county network of wildlife corridors linking all the green and blue assets. By having this as goal nature will take the opportunities to expand the counties biodiversity. This network would in part increase the opportunity for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Previous local plans have been very weak in environment policies it's not</p>	<p>The Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy has been prepared. This describes and maps the distribution of broad habitat types for the whole of</p>

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		<p>enough to just protect BAP sites. There needs to a be series of well drafted policies promoting the plans intentions for raising biodiversity:</p> <p>Promoting a target for increasing tree cover/woodlands county wide</p> <p>Promoting cleaner rivers and streams (Welland Valley Trusts states only one stream/river in Rutland is in the GOOD category. Farming practice and sewage are the principle reasons for this.</p> <p>By setting clear policies the Neighbourhood Plans can use these to justify local action underpinned by policy. Many of these objectives will only be achieved by inspiring local communities to be involved; evidence of the Wing NP shows people are keen to be active in combatting the climate crisis and raising biodiversity.</p> <p>All climate crisis and low carbon initiatives are interlinked the vision needs to reflect this; the next 20 years are crucial.</p>	<p>Rutland. The strategy has developed 5 priorities for Rutland and Protecting and enhancing tree cover and enhancing water and soil quality are two of these top 5 priorities. The evidence from the GBI Strategy has informed the policies of the environment chapter. Policies Policy EN4 – Trees, woodland, and hedgerows and Policy EN5- Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees have been informed by this evidence. Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable</p>
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				net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.
4003	The Society of Merchant Venturers [693]	Savills (Julia Mountford, Planning Consultant) [735]	<p>Q47-. The new Local Plan should be consistent with the aims of national planning policy and should therefore reflect the provision of NPPF paragraph 174d. It is important that allowing biodiversity net gain to be achieved off-site in appropriate circumstances, as well as having appropriate regard to existing landscaping, are examples of considering site-specific circumstances to ensure sites are delivered as envisaged.</p> <p>A combination of Option A and B is therefore supported to ensure existing opportunities for biodiversity net gain and ecological enhancements are optimised, whilst ensuring the Local Plan Review is kept up-to-date and consistent with the requirements of national policy.</p> <p>Q48- The Council’s aspiration to achieve high design standards, a part of which relates to open space, is supported. The process of conjoining the provision of additional open space with Green Infrastructure provision is logical and subject to including flexibility to accommodate site specific circumstances is broadly supported in principle.</p> <p>The provision of open space is however not only about the quantum of that provision, but also about the quality of the open space. Where appropriate, there should be flexibility within the policy for contributions towards existing open space to support qualitative improvements. Any policy should therefore evidence the deficiencies and ensure the policy is about qualitative as well as quantitative improvements alongside having the flexibility to respond to site-specific circumstances to ensure sites remain deliverable and viable.</p> <p>Q49- The principle of utilising the provision of open space and Green</p>	<p>Support noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.</p> <p>Noted. Up to date evidence on open space, sports and recreation has been prepared in the Open Space Assessment and a Green Infrastructure Strategy has been prepared.</p>

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			<p>Infrastructure to complement each other is broadly supported. This will help to ensure that the Green Infrastructure network is improved and enhanced</p>	<p>This evidence and the quantity, quality and accessibility standards that were produced and have informed policies SC7 – Creation of new open spaces and policy EN7: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network of the Local Plan. Both policies outline opportunities that developers should take advantage of to design high quality of GBI projects.</p>
3975	<p>Clipsham Parish Meeting (Clifford Bacon) [110]</p>		<p>Need to create and enforce new supplementary planning guidance on applying biodiversity net gain principles to all new development as required by the Environment Act</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.</p>

3945	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) [1042]	Montagu Evans LLP (Miss Lauren Hawksworth, Associate) [1041]	<p>Question 47 – Biodiversity</p> <p>The DIO welcome the Council’s proposal to provide new evidence on biodiversity and wildlife for the County.</p> <p>The St George’s Barracks site, which is currently unavailable to the public, provides a unique opportunity to deliver significant enhancements to the natural landscape, green infrastructure and biodiversity. The Site has the potential to enhance the substantial areas of existing green space, which would be opened up for use by the new and existing community.</p>	Support noted. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan
3942	North Northamptonshire Joint Planning & Delivery Unit (Samuel Humphries) [244]		<p>The document is not yet identifying specific key green/blue infrastructure assets for protection and enhancement. However, it’s worth referencing the Welland Valley in relation to opportunities for cross boundary green infrastructure and biodiversity net gains. This asset is identified as a local corridor in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy at Policy 19, and it may be appropriate for RCC to also recognise the valley in a similar way in the new Local Plan. It will be important for the two authorities to continue with dialogue on cross boundary GI matters both for plan-making and delivery.</p>	<p>Noted. The Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy has been prepared. This describes and maps the distribution of broad habitat types for the whole of Rutland. The evidence from the GBI Strategy has informed the policies of the environment chapter. Policy EN7: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network includes expectations/requirements for developers when designing GBI into a development in Rutland.</p>
3929	Anglian Water (Darl Sweetland,		3.12.8 The consultation document recognises the value that Rutland Water has for sport, recreation and informal leisure. Anglian Water supports	Support noted.

	Spatial Planning Manager) [234]		policy and resource mapping which serves to identify and strengthen linkages between assets including through active travel.	
3908	Melton Borough Council (Mr Jorge Fiz Alonso, Senior Planning Policy Officer) [1025]		<p>Q47. Option A may be the most appropriate, although option B would be beneficial. Option B could be done “as well” as Option A as they are not necessarily exclusive. Potential cross-boundary collaboration to undertake the mapping exercise.</p> <p>Q48. Options B and C may be the most appropriate to future proof the policy with the most updated standards always being used. Additional criteria would help strengthen the position and help to produce more appropriate open spaces with the potential to encourage more people towards exercise and healthy living.</p> <p>Q49. Option B may be beneficial for the future, strengthening the existing policy approach and providing a good map-based evidence base. Establishing network of multi-functional green spaces and new linkages will provide wide biodiversity and health benefits.</p> <p>Q50. Melton Borough Council would welcome the opportunity to work with you on biodiversity and open spaces-based issues and policies, our cross-boundary relationship means that we share a significant amount of sites which would benefit from inter-connectivity. In addition, we would be happy to investigate a collaboration with you on any evidence bases that may involve cross-boundary sites.</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped based evidence. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.</p>
3848	Sally Renner [1124]		protect SSSIs	<p>Noted. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment.</p>
3803	Ketton Darby & Joan Club (Ruth Renner) [1122]		Policies to protect our rural environment should be stronger. Plant more trees in urban areas and new development and provide better walking/cycling routes.	<p>Noted. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local</p>

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				<p>environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.</p>
3694	<p>Severn Trent (Chris Bramley) [230]</p>		<p>Severn Trent are supportive of the need to incorporate Blue – Green infrastructure within new development, where this infrastructure is designed correctly it can provide SuDS attenuation and/or conveyancing opportunities provide vital biodiversity corridors. They can support sustainable travel by incorporating cycleways and footpaths.</p> <p>Please keep us informed when your plans are further developed when we will be able to offer more detailed comments and advice.</p>	<p>Support welcomed. The Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy has been prepared and used to inform policy EN7: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network which includes expectations/requirements for developers when designing GBI into a development in Rutland.</p> <p>Biodiversity opportunities of SUDs will be considered through the next stages of the Local Plan. We consult Severn Trent on the progress with the Local Plan.</p>
3569	<p>Barrowden Parish Council (Mr Gordon Brown, Chairman) [1103]</p>		<p>Define Green Corridors which should have a higher level of protection from development outside of PLDs</p>	<p>Noted. The Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy has been prepared. This describes and maps the distribution of broad habitat types for the whole of Rutland. The evidence from</p>

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				<p>the GBI Strategy has informed the policies of the environment chapter. Policy EN7: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network states that Development proposals must protect the linear features of the GBI network that provide connectivity between GBI assets, including public rights of way, bridleways, cycleways, and waterways, and take opportunities to improve and expand such features.</p>
3501	Mrs Pam Allen [1085]		<p>Keep development away from our precious wildlife habitat which has taken so long to build up and is the envy of the Midlands. Protect and enhance the special SSSI and RAMSAR statii. Make residents proud to stay in Rutland by not producing development plans which force them to leave!</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute</p>

				towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.
3452	Vistry Homes East Midlands [1070]	Marrons (Mr Dan Robinson-Wells, Associate Director) [535]	<p>In relation to question 47 there is nothing to suggest that both Option A & B should not be the approach. What is achieved in Option B could inform requirements in Option A. Yet, in having regard to the requirements in the Environment Act the council should ensure that it is not unnecessarily duplicated in policy.</p> <p>For Question 48, standards need to viability tested and Local Plan reviews means the standards can be kept reasonably up to date.</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period.</p>
3412	Mr Adam Cade [1078]		<p>Research and map land and water-based ecological corridors so these can have some degree of protection.</p> <p>Appoint a full-time Biodiversity Officer, rather than using other staff such as the Tree Officer or contracting consultants or neighbouring authorities for</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023)</p>

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		particular projects or roles. The new legal requirements for RCC will require this.	provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications.
3293	The Woodland Trust (Ben Green, Regional External Affairs Officer Central) [842]	<p>It is essential that the climate and nature crises are addressed jointly, with trees’ remarkable ability to combat each recognised by the Local Plan.</p> <p>Assign definite BNG targets while grasping future opportunities afforded by Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSEs) required by the Environment Act 2021. Complementing these should be a robust commitment to protection, enshrining the irreplaceable nature of ancient woodland, and individual ancient and veteran trees.</p> <p>Specifically, we would like to see the Local Plan expand on these environmental principles in the following ways.</p> <p>1. Protection of valued habitats must be at the heart of the Local Plan. In particular, irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woods and veteran trees must be protected from loss and damage. To achieve this, the Local Plan should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipulate a minimum 50 metre buffer for development from ancient woodland. This is to minimise indirect impacts from industrialisation, including light and chemical pollution, and recreation on the ecological integrity of ancient woodland. • Protect ancient woodland sites through strong policy in the Local Plan. We would welcome the opportunity to help develop suitable policy wording as the Local Plan is brought forward. Our Planners’ Manual for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees includes guiding principles and 	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period & EN4 promotes the retention and enhancement of existing trees, woodland, and hedgerow cover and encourages the</p>

		<p>examples of policy wording.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give weight to the relevant LNRS, as it is refined, which should identify ancient woodland sites, to ensure that development is not allocated in close proximity to ancient woodland. • For veteran trees, the Local Plan should encourage them to be recorded on the Ancient Tree Inventory, and to consider locations where it might be suitable to place a Tree Preservation Order on any ancient, veteran or notable trees recorded. In addition, the Local Plan should encourage a buffer zone to go beyond the minimum distances stipulated in planning advice. <p>2. The Local Plan must go beyond minimum requirements for BNG and be an example of best practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Plan should require development projects to deliver 20 per cent BNG. • Consideration should be given to the quantum of other investment sources (public and private) which will be needed in order to meet these targets. • The Local Plan should require BNG units to be maintained for a minimum of 50 years, not just the 30 set out in the Environment Act. <p>> This is particularly important for woodland creation, as it takes many decades for new woods to reach maturity and their full ecological potential.</p> <p>> BNG should deliver a rich mix of habitats including native woodland, informed by LNRSes.</p> <p>> Habitat creation funded through other mechanisms (such as public funds)</p>	<p>exploration of opportunities for new tree planting as part of all development proposals.</p> <p>The Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy has developed 5 priorities for Rutland of which Protecting and enhancing tree cover is one. The evidence from the GBI Strategy and the biodiversity report has informed Policy EN4 – Trees, woodland, and hedgerows and Policy EN5- Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees. We would welcome the woodland trusts feedback to improve the policies on Trees, woodland, and hedgerows and Ancient Woodland.</p>
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		<p>should also be maintained in the long term.</p> <p>3. The Local Plan should give strong weight to LNRS's for development site allocation at a local level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be essential to embed avoidance of impacts to ancient woodland and other existing sensitive natural assets, by providing a 'spatial' element to site allocation decisions. It is vital that development is allocated in a way which protects important sites for nature, maintains ecological integrity and maximises potential enhancements from land in recovery. • Once a site has been allocated in a local plan, it is more likely to receive planning permission, so it is essential to embed ecologically coherent criteria for spatial prioritisation at the framework level. • LNRS's should also be used to inform priority locations for the provision of green infrastructure, and habitat creation and enhancement through BNG. <p>The Environmental Principles must be treated as a foundational component of the Local Plan. As part of incorporating the principles, the Local Plan must support the protection of sensitive natural assets, such as ancient woodland; be an exemplar of emerging practice including BNG; and set high standards for the retention and provision of trees within developments.</p>	
3146	Mr Martyn Williams [1055]	<p>Consider a mapping exercise to record a biodiversity baseline for Rutland and identify locations where there are opportunities to improve or restore existing wildlife habitat and create new habitat to strengthen the ecological network across the plan area.</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and</p>

				natural environment policies of the Local Plan.
3083	Leicestershire County Council (Mitch Harper, Public Health Strategic Lead - Rutland) [939]		<p>Include additional guidance in the strategy for green and blue infrastructure relating to areas of most need. E.g., areas of Rutland with high obesity or low physical activity may benefit most.</p> <p>Also need should be assessed on wider provision encouraging active lives, not just green and blue space, such as areas most distant from leisure provision (leisure centres, sports groups etc).</p>	<p>Noted. Policies will need to be based on justifiable evidence. The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy discusses the health and environmental benefits of high quality green and blue infrastructure, and this evidence has fed into policy EN7: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network.</p>
3036	Mr Harold Dermott [1001]		<p>Question 47 There has been a significant change in the way government views biodiversity issues over the past few years, and these new requirements must be reflected in this Local Plan. It MUST be enhanced by the processes identified in Option B. What must not happen is a copy and paste of the old sections into the new Local Plan, because by 2041, there may be very few wildlife habitats and very little green and blue infrastructure left.</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole</p>

				is improved by the end of the Local Plan period & EN4 promotes the retention and enhancement of existing trees, woodland, and hedgerow cover and encourages the exploration of opportunities for new tree planting as part of all development proposals.
2964	Mr Brian Grady [1052]		There is insufficient emphasis placed on actions taking place adjacent/ near to the Rutland Water Policy Area especially where it is close to the Water itself, e.g., the risk of pollution, the effect on nesting areas of Ospreys and the effect on migrating birds approaching the Water.	Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period & EN4 promotes the retention and enhancement of existing trees,

				woodland, and hedgerow cover and encourages the exploration of opportunities for new tree planting as part of all development proposals & Policy EN10 sets out the overall approach to development around Rutland Water.
2910	Mr Simon Frearson [1047]		<p>Strict adherence and upholding of planning laws including bat surveys prior to build works.</p> <p>Offset planning/new build demands with wildlife habitat enhancement</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications</p>
2862	CPRE Rutland (Mr Ron Simpson, Chair) [1036]		Work with CPRE Rutland to develop a strategy we can jointly be proud of.	Noted

2773	Barrow parish meeting (Parish Council Representative) [401]		All new-build to include swift bricks or boxes. All new fencing to provide hedgehog access (13cm x 13cm). Stop use of glyphosate unless essential. Maintain a policy of enhancing wildlife on verges, by only mowing twice - early spring and late summer - except where road safety is compromised. Minimise light and noise pollution wherever possible.	Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications.
2669	Mrs Karen Hubbard [1033]		No development should be allowed within a certain timeframe of the last within a mile of development. This will allow wildlife to resettle	Noted. Falls outside the scope of the Local Plan to include this in a policy
2633	Define (on behalf of William Davis Homes) (Mr Sam Perkins, Graduate Planner) [1027]		<p>Biodiversity Net Gain (Additional comments regarding Question 47):</p> <p>WDH is of the view that RCC will need to pursue both options in bringing forward a policy in relation to biodiversity. Indeed, the policy should take full account of the latest national planning policy and guidance, and RCC are required in any case to map the biodiversity baseline for Rutland; that exercise will be important in ensuring that biodiversity enhancement is valuable in ecological terms.</p> <p>WDH also notes that the emerging policy, which presumably will require</p>	Noted Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN3

		<p>10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) in line with the latest Government guidance, should recognise that BNG can be achieved on-site, off-site, through contributions to a wider scheme, or through a combination of mechanisms. The policy should be explicit in that regard.</p> <p>Open Space Provision (Additional comments regarding Question 48):</p> <p>WDH advocates developing a flexible policy in relation to public open space (POS) provision, to reflect that the need and demand for POS provision will evolve through the plan period.</p> <p>It is suggested, therefore, that the policy itself sets out that POS provision should respond to the most recent open space standards (in terms of quantum and typology), local needs and provision, site and settlement-specific characteristics and viability. It would be prudent, however, to include the latest POS standards in a table within the supporting text to give certainty to developers; albeit the supporting text should make clear that the standards could alter upon review.</p>	<p>ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications.</p> <p>Noted. Up to date evidence on open space, sports and recreation has been prepared in the Open Space Assessment. This identifies current provision, set out the quantity, quality, value and accessibility standards. This evidence informed policies SC7 – Creation of new open spaces. The table that contains these standards is set out as a separate appendix in the Local Plan.</p>
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				Noted
2552	Pigeon Investment Management Ltd [1022]	Carter Jonas (Ms Kimberley Brown, Associate Partner) [601]	<p>Question 48 Options for Open spaces: Which option(s) do you consider to be most appropriate to include in the Rutland Local Plan?</p> <p>It is considered that the existing approach of defining open space standards, updated according to the evidence, is the most appropriate option and provides certainty for developers and the local community. If circumstances change in respect of the need for open space during the plan period, then this would be a material consideration that could be taken into account in decisions on individual planning applications. It is likely that larger developments would generally need to provide open space on site. Option A is supported.</p> <p>It should be noted that the proposed scheme by Pigeon, at land off Burley Road in Oakham (also subject to planning application Ref. 2022/0336/MAO) includes extensive open space, children's play area and allotments. In this case the open space required for this proposed development is provided on site.</p> <p>Question 49 Options for the protection of Green and Blue Infrastructure: Which option do you consider to be most appropriate to include in the Rutland Local Plan?</p> <p>Paragraph 93 of the NPPF relates to the provision and protection of open space and sports facilities. It would be appropriate for the emerging RLP to protect open space and sports facilities, although there may be circumstances where existing facilities could be redeveloped, re-provided</p>	<p>Noted. Up to date evidence on open space, sports and recreation has been prepared in the Open Space Assessment. This identifies current provision, set out the quantity, quality, value and accessibility standards. This evidence informed policies SC7 – Creation of new open spaces. The table that contains these standards is set out as a separate appendix in the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy has been prepared and informs policy EN7- Green and Blue Infrastructure Network which also focuses on protecting existing GBI.</p>

		<p>elsewhere, or enhanced. Option A is supported.</p> <p>It appears that there is some overlap between the biodiversity and wildlife habitat mapping exercise referred to in Question 47 and the mapping of green infrastructure areas referred to in Option B of Question 49. The mapping exercise might identify additional nature conservation sites that should be protected, green infrastructure opportunity areas, or biodiversity net gain receptor sites. If the mapping exercise does identify suitable sites, then it would be appropriate for the emerging RLP to include a policy for the protection and delivery of such sites.</p>	<p>Noted. Evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications.</p>
2503	Uppingham Town Council (Parish Council Representative) [445]	Yes, make appropriate reference and support to any relevant policies in Neighbourhood Plans (where they exist)	Neighbourhood Plans cover parishes whereas the Local Plan covers all of Rutland.
2338	Mr Murdo Ross [890]	Try to more actively to support the work of the Welland Valley Partnership as the forum for bodies such as the Woodlands Trust and the Rivers Trust and major landowners. The forum includes Anglian Water who work with the Rivers Trust to improve the quality of our rivers and manage the issues arising from existing pollution and increased abstraction arising from new reservoirs. It also has close links with bodies such as the Rutland Agricultural Society.	Noted, falls outside of the scope of the Local Plan

			Cllr Baines is the representative.	
2279	Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan Group (David Ainslie) [270]		Yes. Make appropriate reference and support to any relevant policies in Neighbourhood Plans (where they exist).	Neighbourhood Plans cover parishes whereas the Local Plan covers all of Rutland.
2150	Mr Norman Milne [996]		If the space on SGB is to be developed at all in future, then all space outside the accommodation wire should revert to natural green space. This is a very special location as it is fundamentally untouched - Rutland reforestation perhaps	Noted.
1767	Ms Gayle Burgess [976]		Paramount would be to not build any new roads around the more rural parts of the County; the existing roads run through a number of wildlife havens (whether officially protected or not) and casualties arise as a consequence, especially during the spring, and can be a very depressing sight to see. Prioritising wildlife sites over development would also be critical - having lived in Bedfordshire, London and Cambridgeshire during my life, Rutland and the neighbouring East Midlands are one of the few areas of the country with such a high level of biodiversity. As a professional nature conservationist, I care about this issue very deeply and am proud to live somewhere that has so successfully nurtured a positive balance between people and nature. Congratulations and long may this remain :)	Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period and includes

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				the requirements and processes for planning applications.
1718	Barry Hobbs [646]		Reference and support any relevant policies in Neighbourhood Plans	Neighbourhood Plans cover parishes whereas the Local Plan covers all of Rutland
1627	Oakham Quaker Meeting (Ms Susan Bolter, Clerk) [941]		Policies to protect local biodiversity should be strengthened. We feel that biodiversity is being gradually eroded especially at SSSIs.	Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications
1160	Mrs Sarah Ford [922]		The local plan should adopt considerably more stringent criteria for protecting and enhancing the things - what is the point in offering an	Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been

Issues and Options Consultation Responses – Issue 10 Protecting and enhancing the County’s biodiversity, wildlife habitats, green and blue infrastructure and open spaces.

		option to “consider mapping” biodiversity, set baselines etc? Don’t think - do!	prepared including GIS mapped areas which sets out the baseline. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications
739	Environment Agency (Mrs Nicola Reyman, Planning Specialist) [855]	<p>Question 47 additional comments: Whilst we support Option A, suggest that Option B is vital to have a detailed understanding of the current levels of biodiversity and to appropriately seek opportunities to protect, restore, enhance, and introduce wildlife habitats and consider the important connections between sites/areas.</p> <p>It is essential that Option B includes an assessment of all the water-based environments to understand the current position and future opportunities for these areas, alongside green assets, and their habitats. We would</p>	Noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas which sets out the baseline. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and

		<p>welcome the opportunity to review the outcome of any mapping exercise. Opportunities to create new habitats could provide multiple benefits, for example form part of the green and blue infrastructure network, flood alleviation and natural flood management, and increasing recreational opportunities. We welcome the recognition of the Environment Act 2021 which sets the legal framework for development to achieve a 10% measurable net gain in biodiversity. We advise that development proposals are encouraged to exceed this target and refer to the Local Nature Recovery Strategies which are also a new mandatory spatial strategy for nature, established in the Environment Act. Furthermore, we are pleased that blue assets have been recognised in paragraph 3.12.3 which together with green assets form an important part of the network.</p> <p>Question 48 additional comments: We recognise that Option A sets the expectation for new development which would provide more certainty in the decision-making process. We are pleased to see Option C which we strongly support. Additional criteria for new green and blue infrastructure provision would provide a multitude of benefits to people and nature, including the provision of safe, inclusive, accessible routes to encourage physical activity, as well as provide additional spaces for nature and support climate change mitigation.</p> <p>Question 49 additional comments: We strongly support Option B. This option ensures that the existing green and blue assets in Rutland are clearly identified, which is vital to ensure they can be protected for the duration of the Plan period, and beyond. A clear baseline is important to also look for opportunities to enhance existing assets and introduce new green and blue assets. It also helps recognise existing and potential connections between assets to ensure they are protected and enhanced. These linkages between places have a vital role to connect wildlife between assets as well as providing people access to nature. We are pleased to see that Option B recognises the role of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Network in establishing multi-functional spaces. This policy approach should consider</p>	<p>natural environment policies of the Local Plan Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the Local Plan period and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications</p> <p>Strong support for Option C is noted.</p> <p>Strong support for Option B is noted. Policies will need to be based on justifiable evidence. Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy</p>
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		<p>the various ecosystem services to ensure new development supports the opportunities nature can provide.</p> <p>Furthermore, this would provide the opportunity for the Local Plan to identify opportunities for enhancing the natural environment at a strategic scale. For example, for blue infrastructure, there would be several significant benefits to a strategic approach to enhancing the natural environment including protecting floodplains and increasing biodiversity. The Plan should support adopting a natural capital approach which considers the social, economic, and environmental role of natural assets, consider environmental net gain, and refer to Local Nature Recovery Strategies.</p> <p>Question 50: The approach to natural assets, including the green and blue infrastructure network, should support nature-based solutions and acknowledge the important role of protecting and enhancing assets that provide carbon sinks and opportunities for sequestration, including woodland, trees and scrub, open habitats and farmland, blanket bogs, raised bogs and fens, and rivers, lakes, and wetland habitats</p> <p>Water Resources</p> <p>As recognised in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (March 2022), Rutland is within an area of serious water stress, which could be exacerbated by population growth and the impacts of climate change. The Local Plan should ensure that the approach to protecting and enhancing natural assets considers the impact of the plan (such as growth targets and increasing visitors) on water resources which have a vital role in supporting species and providing habitats.</p> <p>Contamination and Groundwater</p> <p>Objective 10 encourages the effective and prudent use of previously</p>	<p>has been prepared. This describes and maps the distribution of broad habitat types for the whole of Rutland. The strategy has developed 5 priorities for Rutland. The evidence from the GBI Strategy has informed the policies of the environment chapter.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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			<p>developed land. Whilst we support this objective, we note that it does not mention the risk of contaminated land in any of the issues. The Framework encourages Local Plans to enhance the natural and local environment, including by ‘remediating and mitigating unspoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate’. The Water Framework Directive and the Groundwater Directive set out objectives for groundwater including aiming for good chemical and quantitative status; reverse upwards trends in pollution; and preventing or limiting the entry of certain substances to waterbodies. Contamination in or on land can present unacceptable risk to human health and the wider environment, including groundwater, and it may be caused by previously developed land. It is vital that the Rutland Local Plan policies ensure that where land is affected by contamination, it will not create unacceptable risk, it protects soils and water and contributes positively to reducing the impacts of and adapting to climate change</p>	<p>Noted. Policy SC4 – Pollution Control has been prepared. It sets out the ways in which new development should minimise pollution and where possible contribute to the protection and improvement of the quality of air, land, and water.</p>
637	Sport England (Steve Beard) [233]		<p>Whilst we have agreed Q48 option A - the provision of sports facilities including playing pitches by standards is not appropriate. The Playing Pitch Strategy (and other strategy work underway) and the pitch demand calculator should be used to understand. - If demand can be met at existing sites if not what can be done to meet that demand for different sports i.e., increase capacity at existing sites by an appropriate contribution. If not, are new sites required on site or off site</p>	<p>Noted. Policies will need to be based on justifiable evidence. We are preparing a playing pitch strategy and have prepared an Open Space assessment which identifies the current provision by settlement. This evidence will be used to inform the policies in the Local Plan regarding the creation and protection of sport facilities.</p>
306	Mr Graham Layne [801]		<p>Ensure that mineral extraction planning restoration is carried out in line with the approved application. If this needs to be changed a revised planning application should be submitted so that the impact on local communities and the associated biodiversity and wildlife habitats can be reassessed independently</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

267	Mr Christopher Jordan [712]		As Rutland is a rural area not all developments require open / green spaces as part of their design, who is going to pay for the management and up keep of these spaces or will they be adopted by RCC?	Policy EN7 – Green and Blue Infrastructure Network requires developers to put measures in place to ensure appropriate long-term management of any green or blue infrastructure directly related to the development (normally 30 years)
3926	Anglian Water (Darl Sweetland, Spatial Planning Manager) [234]		<p>Rutland Water</p> <p>Anglian Water welcome the continued recognition that the Council and partners have of the importance of Rutland Water and its role in the local economy. Projects through the Water Industry Natural Environment Programme (WINEP) continues to improve the habitats and biodiversity of the area such as measures to enable the migration of elvers and eels. This is alongside our management of the water and land based habitats to ensure they are protected and suitably accessible for visitors. Our work with local farmers also seeks to use our understanding of the water environment to support them in reducing the use of fertilisers and pesticides which can end up in local water bodies.</p> <p>3.6.19 Anglian Water supports the evidence based approach including landscape assessment to both protect areas of sensitivity and importance and identify locations where suitable development to support the existing facilities and businesses can take place. The identification of the five Recreation Areas enables us to ensure growth associated with our leisure and recreation functions is located in the most appropriate locations which can accommodate the required scale and form of business. The income generated by the businesses enable us to manage and protect and when possible, enhance the habitats in and around Rutland Water. It is important that there is sufficient flexibility in these Recreation Areas to ensure that</p>	Support noted.

		<p>the various uses and businesses can continue to operate or to introduce new businesses and uses where appropriate.</p> <p>3.6.21 The wider 'Rutland Water Area' recognises the function of the reservoir and the value of the asset in supporting the rural economy. Anglian Water considers that the Barnsdale Recreation Area can accommodate sensitively located eco lodge/ glamping activities. The long standing exclusion of this area from the SSSI and its proximity to the A606 means it provides a suitable location for tourism activities. It is this area, outside of the habitat designations which Anglian Water through our agents submitted for consideration in the Call for Sites.</p>	
202	Natural England (Roslyn Deeming, Senior Planning Adviser) [236]	<p>Question 47 additional comments: Natural England agrees that local plan policies need to take full account of national planning policy and guidance, and the Environment Act. The plan's approach to biodiversity net gain should be compliant with the mitigation hierarchy, as outlined in the NPPF. The policy should ensure that biodiversity net gain is not applied to irreplaceable habitats and should also make clear that any mitigation and/or compensation requirements for European sites should be dealt with separately from biodiversity net gain provision. Natural England therefore recommends that the Plan should include a policy to refer to this change. The Defra Biodiversity Metrics can be used to measure gains and losses to biodiversity resulting from development and is a fully tested metric that will ensure consistency across the plan area. Your authority may want to consider adopting a Supplementary Planning Document for Biodiversity Net Gain where more detailed information, including targets and biodiversity opportunity mapping can be included.</p> <p>Natural England also suggests that a mapping exercise, as set out in Option B, would also be a useful way to identify locations where there are opportunities to improve or restore existing wildlife habitat and create new habitat to strengthen the ecological network across Rutland. However, this exercise could be carried out in parallel to the mapping that will form part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p>	<p>Support noted. Up to date evidence on biodiversity has been prepared including GIS mapped areas which sets out the baseline. The Rutland County Biodiversity Assessment (May 2023) provides robust evidence to inform the biodiversity and natural environment policies of the Local Plan. Policy EN1 ensures that new development in Rutland will contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and Policy EN3 ensures that all major development will contribute towards delivering measurable net gains for nature so that biodiversity across the County as a whole is improved by the end of the</p>

		<p>Question 48 additional comments: Natural England would support this option to set out additional development criteria for new green infrastructure provision. Natural England has recently launched a new national GI framework which will be helpful in developing these criteria. The GI Framework will better support planning for good quality GI and help to target the creation or improvement of GI where existing provision is poorest. It includes a set of principles and standards and a mapping tool which can identify priorities for GI enhancement and creation, and to address inequalities in access to green space. The Framework will continue to be developed and will include further design guidance and updated Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt). https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx</p> <p>Question 49 additional comments: Natural England would encourage the development of a Strategy for the protection, enhancement, and management of Green and Blue Infrastructure. Formulating a GI Strategy is a way of gathering evidence and ensuring that multifunctional benefits of GBI are fully integrated into the Local Plan. It should include links to wider stakeholders and partners so that integrated outcomes across social, environmental, and economic agendas are considered. When planned and delivered well GI can provide benefits to everyone for the long term and play a vital role in placemaking. We suggest that reference is made to the Natural England’s new GI Framework which has recently been launched: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx</p> <p>Question 50: Natural Capital: A natural capital approach to policy and decision making considers the value of the natural environment for people and the economy. The recently produced Natural Capital Atlas provides a</p>	<p>Local Plan period and includes the requirements and processes for planning applications.</p> <p>Noted. The Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy has been prepared. This describes and maps the distribution of broad habitat types for the whole of Rutland, describes the ecosystem services of GBI, shows what good GBI looks like in Rutland and how this can be achieved. Stakeholder engagement was undertaken as part of the preparation of the GBI strategy to gain local knowledge and experience of GBI in Rutland. The strategy has highlighted 5 key priorities to improve GBI in Rutland. It used Natural England’s Green Infrastructure framework as</p>
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		<p>baseline assessment of our natural capital in England, which means it can be a starting point from which to measure change. The atlas provides nationally consistent evidence which will be useful in designing a coherent nature recovery network across the country. The natural capital atlas can be found on this link: Natural Capital Atlases: Mapping Indicators for County and City Regions - NECR318 (naturalengland.org.uk)</p>	<p>an evidence base. The evidence from the GBI Strategy has informed the policies of the environment chapter in particular EN7: The Green and Blue Infrastructure Network.</p>
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