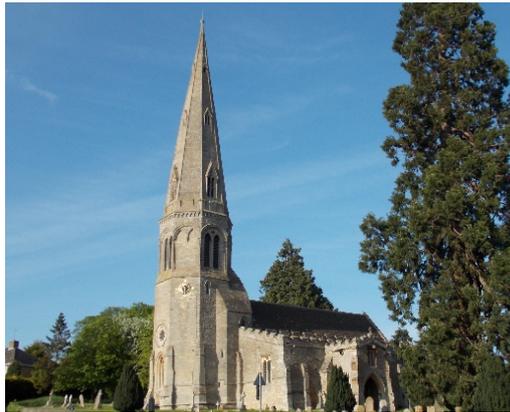




# **Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2031**



## **Basic Conditions Statement**

August 2016

Prepared by Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group  
Published by Stanwick Parish Council as the qualifying body entitled to submit  
a Neighbourhood Plan for its Parish

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## Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan	1
3 Legal requirements	2
4 Submission of supporting documents & evidence	4
5 The Basic Conditions	5
6 Compatibility with EU Obligations	8
7 Conclusions	9

## Appendices

1 Application for Designation for Neighbourhood Plan Area	10
2 Public Notice of Application for Neighbourhood Plan designation	11
3 Map showing Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Area	16
4 Response from English Heritage to Neighbourhood Plan Area	17
5 Response from Natural England to Neighbourhood Plan Area	19
6 Confirmation of designation of Neighbourhood Plan Area	21
7 Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report	22
8 Habitat Regulations Assessment screening report	41
9 Response from Natural England to SEA/HRA screening reports	58
10 Response from the Environment Agency to SEA/HRA screening reports	60
11 Equalities Impact Assessment screening report	62

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 This Basic Conditions statement is prepared by Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group. The Parish of Stanwick has been designated a qualifying area and the Parish Council is a qualifying body. See Appendix 1 for East Northamptonshire Council's designation statement.

1.2 This report sets out the reasons for producing the Neighbourhood Plan for the community of Stanwick and explains how the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 ('the regulations'). The Basic Conditions Statement also addresses how the basic conditions of the Neighbourhood Planning have been met as prescribed by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B.

## **2. Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan**

2.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan has been sponsored by the Parish Council to enable the community to take a greater role in influencing the future growth of the parish and in encouraging sustainable development. It has developed out of reviewing and re-issuing the Stanwick Parish Plan in 2013.

2.2 The plan has been prepared by a steering group and with strong engagement with the local community. The main purpose of the plan is to deliver the shared vision and objectives agreed by the community. These are set out below:

### **2.3 Vision – Stanwick will be:**

#### A sustainable thriving community

The aim is for Stanwick to have small, sustainable timely developments that meet the needs of residents and that do not distort the shape and essence of the village; to evolve and expand whilst retaining its unique and distinctive character.

#### A good place to live

The vision is for Stanwick to be a forward thinking, vibrant village, which is clean and healthy with a strong sense of community to provide an outstanding quality of life for current and future generations where the views of the community are respected and reflected.

#### A community that retains links with the past whilst looking to the future

The Parish Plan 2013-2018 demonstrates that residents value the character of the village e.g. St Laurence Church, The Duke of Wellington Public House; and its links with ages past e.g. Roman and Saxon settlements and this should be retained and maintained during the Neighbourhood Development Plan period.

#### A village that provides for all sectors of the community

Stanwick has a number of good facilities and the aim is to maintain and develop those facilities for the benefit of the community.

## **2.4 Objectives – of the Neighbourhood Development Plan**

### **Objective 1**

To ensure Stanwick develops in a sustainable manner, where any new housing is in response to a proven housing shortage and that the housing is provided in a range of tenures, types and sizes so that local people of all ages can continue to live here.

### **Objective 2**

To ensure that any new housing is of high quality design that respects Stanwick's local distinctiveness and enhances the historic character and setting of the parish.

### **Objective 3**

To seek solutions to the parking congestion issues and to reduce traffic volume and speed.

### **Objective 4**

To create a safer more accessible environment for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users

### **Objective 5**

To preserve and promote green areas within the village and wider parish to retain Stanwick's rural identity.

### **Objective 6**

To ensure Stanwick has the appropriate open space provisions, community and recreational facilities to support members of the community of all ages.

### **Objective 7**

To ensure the preservation and enhancement of locally listed heritage assets.

### **Objective 8**

To ensure that infrastructure and services meets needs of current and future residents.

## **3. Legal requirements and outline compliance statement**

### **3.1 Draft plan is being submitted by a qualifying body**

3.1.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan is being submitted by Stanwick Parish Council, which is a qualifying body under 'the regulations'.

### **3.2 What is being proposed is a Neighbourhood Development Plan**

3.2.1 The plan proposal relate to planning matters (the use and development of land) and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes

set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and ‘the regulations’.

### 3.3 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan states the period for which it is to have effect

3.3.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan is from 2016 to 2031. This period has been chosen to align with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy adopted 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

### 3.4 The polices do not relate to excluded development

3.4.1 The Neighbourhood Plan proposal does not deal with county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

### 3.5 The Neighbourhood Plan area

3.5.1 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and there are no other neighbourhood development plans within the neighbourhood area.

3.5.2 The Neighbourhood Plan proposal relates to the Stanwick Neighbourhood Area and to no other area. There are no other neighbourhood plans relating to that area.

### 3.6 Outline Compliance Statement

3.6.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation draft was made available for consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of ‘the regulations’, for a six week period, from 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016.

3.6.2 Part 5, paragraph 15 of ‘the regulations’ sets out the requirements for the qualifying body submitting a Neighbourhood Plan to the local authority as follows:

**15.—**(1) Where a qualifying body submits a plan proposal to the local planning authority, it must include—

(a) a map or statement which identifies the area to which the proposed neighbourhood development plan relates;

(b) a consultation statement;

(c) the proposed neighbourhood development plan; and

(d) a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act.

3.6.3 Part (a) is provided within Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 6 of this statement and includes the application, map and designation notice.

3.6.4 Parts (b) and (c) have been prepared and will accompany this statement as part of this submission.

3.6.5 The requirements for part (d) in respect of Neighbourhood Development Plan are that the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan meets the following basic conditions:

- The plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- The plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- The plan is in general conformity with strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority.
- The plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations.
- Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Development Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with on connection with the proposal for the plan.

3.6.6 The next section sets out how the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan has met these basic conditions.

#### 4. Submission of supporting documents and evidence

4.1 In addition to this Basic Conditions Statement, the following documents have been prepared to support the preparation of the Plan and meet the Basic Conditions:

- **Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan** – the Neighbourhood Plan for the designated neighbourhood area of Stanwick (submission version) has been developed with the community and contains policies to guide future development in the area.
- **Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement** – this sets out the consultation and community engagement processes from early engagement through to the formal pre-submission consultation.
- **Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Reports and decision letters** – These reports establish that no SEA or HRA assessment is required in response to the potential impacts that ensue due to the plan's policies and proposals.
- **Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Equalities Assessment** – This report forms part of the Basic Conditions Statement and assesses whether the Neighbourhood Plan policies and proposals have any impact on 'protected characteristics' as defined by the Equalities Act 2010 or contravene the Convention Rights as defined by the Human Rights Act 1998.
- **The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base** - documents prepared by the Steering Group and a compilation list of other relevant information used to inform and for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan

## 5. The Basic Conditions

### 5.1 The plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State

5.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in sections 184 provides national policy direction for Neighbourhood Plans. It requires that Neighbourhood Plans are aligned to the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area and as such must be in 'general conformity' with the strategic policies of the Local Plan (in this case, the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031). The Neighbourhood Plans itself should also have general regard to the NPPF.

5.1.2 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan includes a conformity list for each policy section. This part of the Basic Conditions Statement expands and explains these conformity statements in relation to the NPPF and has been set out to address the key principles in paragraph 17 of the NPPF and the main sections of the NPPF excluding 'Protecting Green Belt Land' and 'Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals' which are not relevant in the case of Stanwick.

### 5.2 General regards for NPPF – Key principles

5.2.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan reflects the 12 core principles of the NPPF which are set out in paragraph 17 in the following ways (as set out below)

5.2.2 It is **Plan-led** through community-led planning progress, which includes extensive consultation in understanding the community's issues and formulating the policies of the Plan. Collaboration with East Northamptonshire Council has been sought to ensure that policies are practical and workable and that they comply with the Joint Core Strategy.

5.2.3 It contains policies which are at heart of **place making** – enhancing design, conserving green space and protecting the environment and creating places where people will be proud to live and work.

5.2.4 The plan recognises the need for **sustainable growth** where there is a proven need for development and that development should meet any shortfall in the housing stock.

5.2.5 It promotes **high quality design** and the need to respect local character of the existing built and natural environments.

5.2.6 It takes account of the **different role and character of different areas** of parts of the village, recognising the link between the village and its countryside/rural hinterland.

5.2.7 It takes account of local **flood risk** and addresses climate change by conserving and enhancing the natural environment and protecting local green spaces and recognising the benefits of re-using existing sites.

5.2.7 The plan contributes to **conserving and enhancing the natural environment.**

5.2.8 The plan allows for **re-use of previously developed land** focusing upon smaller scale development opportunities within the existing built up areas.

5.2.9 The plan promotes a continued mix of uses within the village whilst allowing development to meet local need while protecting valued green space and environmental assets for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation and food production.

5.2.10 The plan helps **conserve local heritage assets** by reference to the Parish List and Heritage Asset polices.

5.2.11 The plan sets out access design requirements for new developments for safe and convenient routes for walking, cycling users, disabled users and access to **public transport to make developments sustainable**.

5.2.12 The Plan recognises and supports local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and promotes the retention of community facilities including leisure and recreation which will have a positive impact on **health, social and cultural wellbeing**.

### 5.3 Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development

5.3.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group has prepared the plan with a conscious approach to delivering a document and policies which actively promotes sustainable development for the community.

5.3.2 The plan sets out that Stanwick Parish Council will work with East Northamptonshire Council to identify rural exception sites where a justified proven need for development arises.

### 5.4 Being in conformity with Strategic Local Plans

5.4.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in close liaison with the planning officers at East Northamptonshire Council. This has ensured that throughout the process the development of policies for the plan have been fully scrutinised in terms of conformity with strategic policies of the Local Plan, the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The Plan is therefore aligned with these strategies.

5.4.2 The following sets out the strategic polices that are relevant to the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan and states how the plan is in general conformity with these strategic policies in the Local Plan (JCS).

#### North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

5.4.3 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) is a district wide strategic document containing polices beyond the scope of this Neighbourhood Plan. The Steering Group has considered the conformity of the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan to all of the JCS policies but has restricted its assessment of conformity herein to the policies applicable to the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan.

#### 5.4.4 Policy 1 Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

This policy states that the Local Planning Authority will have a positive approach in favour of sustainable development

5.4.4.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan reflects the housing targets set out for rural areas in the Plan and supports the principles of sustainable development. (Stanwick NP policies HSG1, HSG2, HSG3)

#### 5.4.5 Policy 2 Historic Environment

This policy states that the distinctiveness of North Northamptonshire historic environment will be protected, preserved and where appropriate enhanced.

5.4.5.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan has identified heritage assets within Stanwick and seeks to protect and preserve these. (Stanwick NP policies HTG1, HTG2, HTG3, HTG4).

#### 5.4.6 Policy 5 Water environment, resource and Flood risk management

This policy requires that development should contribute towards reducing the risk of flooding and to the protection and improvement of the quality of the water environment.

5.4.6.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan requires development to have appropriate regard to flood risks and to provide appropriate levels of infrastructure including the water supply and waste water provision. (Stanwick NP policies HSG3e, IFR1).

#### 5.4.7 Policy 8 North Northamptonshire Place shaping principles

This policy states that development should provide connected settlements with integrated transport means; safe and pleasant streets; distinctive neighbourhoods which provide for local needs; create and enhance local character; and ensure quality of life and safer and healthier communities

5.4.7.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan requires development to enhance local character and communities and provide non-motorised transport links. (Stanwick NP policies HDN1, HDN2, TRA3).

#### 5.4.8 Policy 11 Network of urban and rural areas

This policy stress out the overall spatial approach to development across the North Northamptonshire area. It states how development will be distributed between urban and rural areas to strengthen the network of settlements in East Northamptonshire.

5.4.8.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan requires Stanwick Parish Council to work with East Northamptonshire Council to identify sustainable development opportunities. (Stanwick NP policies HSG2)

#### 5.4.9 Policy 13 Rural Exception sites

This policy allows new development adjoining established settlements, beyond the built up area or defined boundary subject to certain criteria.

5.4.9.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan recognises the potential future requirement for rural exception sites (Stanwick NP policies HSG1, HSG2).

#### 5.4.10 Policy 29 Distribution of New Homes

This policy describes how new housing will be accommodated in line with Spatial strategy with a strong focus on Growth Towns, followed by Market Towns. It allows for small scale infilling or rural exception schemes where it is tested and supported through Part 2 Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans.

5.1.10.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan permits small scale infilling and rural exception schemes in line with policies 11 and 29 (Stanwick NP policies HSG2, HSG3)

#### 5.4.11 Policy 30 Housing Mix and Tenure

This policy states that housing development should provide a mix of dwelling sizes and tenures to cater for the current and forecast accommodation needs and to assist in the creation of sustainable mixed and inclusive communities.

5.4.11.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan recognises the need for development to address any shortages in the housing mix (Stanwick NP policy HSG1)

### 5.5 Conclusions

5.5.1 In conclusion, from the above assessment and those liaison with officers at East Northamptonshire Council, the Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group considers that the Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1)

## 6. Compatibility with EU obligations

### 6.1 Convention rights

The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedom guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The main issues for planning are the right to family life and in preventing discrimination. An Equalities Assessment has been prepared and is submitted in support of the Neighbourhood Plan. This concludes that the Plan does not generate any negative equality impacts on any parts of the local community with protected characteristics arising from policies or proposals contained in the Neighbourhood Plan. It concludes that there are no issues or implications in relation to any of the convention rights in the Human Rights Act 1998.

### 6.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

6.2.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has completed a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening for the Neighbourhood Plan (see Appendix 7). This is based on the template prepared by East Northamptonshire Council. It was concluded that the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken. The response letters from Natural England and the Environment Agency affirm this conclusion (see Appendix 9 and 10).

### 6.3 Habitat Regulations

6.3.1 The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has completed a Habitat Assessment (HRA) screening for the Neighbourhood Plan (see Appendix 8). This is based on the template prepared by East Northamptonshire Council. It was concluded that the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full HRA to be undertaken. The response letters from Natural England and the Environment Agency affirm this conclusion (see Appendix 9 and 10).

6.4 It is therefore considered that the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with EU obligations.

## **7. Conclusions**

The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to be met by the Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein.

## ***Stanwick Parish Council***

**Chairman: Councillor Amanda Michel**

**Clerk to the Council: Mrs J. L. Hodgson**

29 Hill House Gardens

Stanwick Northamptonshire NN9 6QH

Tel: (01933) 461868

**Date 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014**

Michael Burton  
East Northamptonshire Council  
East Northamptonshire House  
Cedar Drive  
Thrapston  
Northamptonshire NN14 4LZ

Dear Mr Burton

### **Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Part 2 (5)**

Stanwick Parish Council hereby applies for designation of the following area to be subject of a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the above regulations.

#### **Section 5 (1) (a) Application Area**

The area outlined in blue on the attached plan is the area to be designated representing the whole of the parish, save for the part marked as site 2a (as this site is due to transfer to Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council under the Community Governance Review) and marked on the attached plan.

#### **Section 5 (1) (b) Appropriate Statement**

The area is considered appropriate for designation as a Neighbourhood Plan Area for the following reasons:

- The Parish Council considers<sup>4</sup> the whole of the parish (less site 2a) to be an appropriate area. This is to ensure any policies that are developed will have weight within the plan.
- The allocation of sites for housing, employment and community facilities across the parish will have an impact on the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan aspirations and therefore the whole parish (less site 2a) should be included in the designated area. The Neighbourhood Plan will be in conformity with the emerging Four Towns Plan.

#### **Section 5 (1) (c) Qualifying Body**

Stanwick Parish Council meets the criteria of a relevant body by virtue of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, section 9, part 1 section 61G2)(a)

Yours sincerely

Mrs J L Hodgson  
Clerk to the Council



*Stanwick  
Parish  
Council*

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AMENDED BY THE LOCALISM ACT 2011) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012**

#### **DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS**

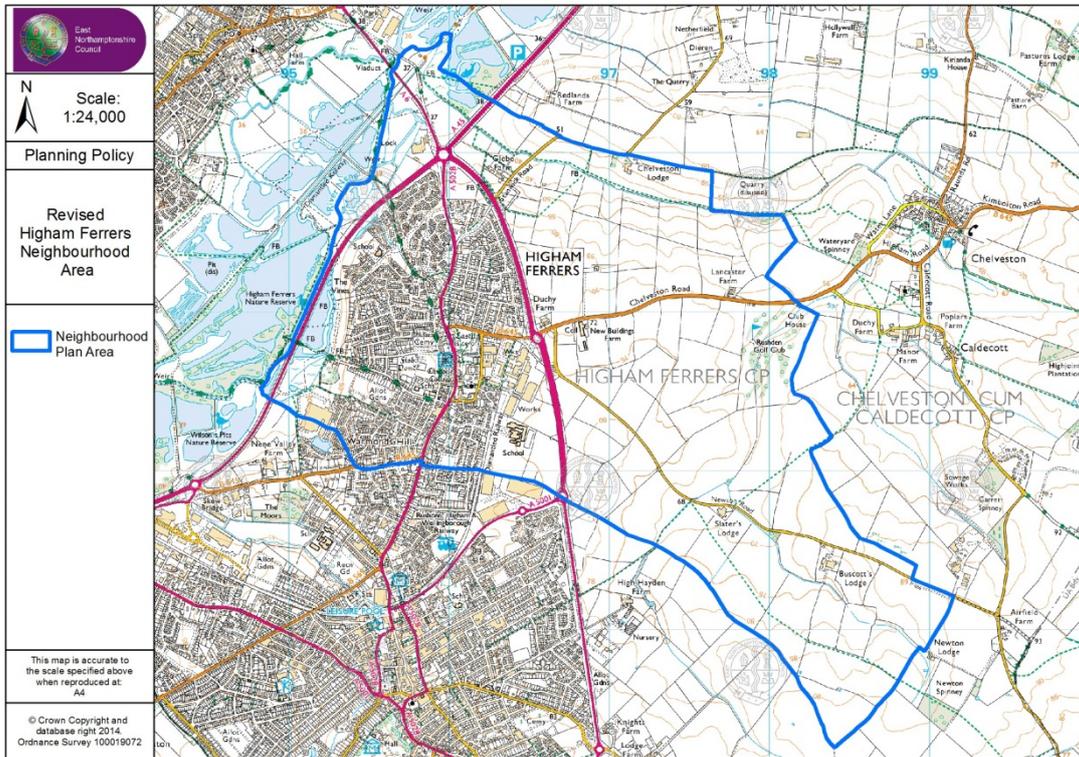
Notice is given that applications have been made by the following Town and Parish Councils for the designation of three Neighbourhood Areas, under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012:

- **Higham Ferrers Town Council (revision to the designated Neighbourhood Area, previously approved on 17 June 2013)**
- **Irthlingborough Town Council (designation of a new Neighbourhood Area)**
- **Stanwick Parish Council (designation of a new Neighbourhood Area)**

This will enable these Town and Parish Councils to undertake neighbourhood planning and in particular to prepare Neighbourhood Plans for their respective parishes. It is intended that wider, strategic planning issues will be addressed through the adopted Local Plan for East Northamptonshire Council, which consists of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (adopted June 2008); Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (adopted July 2011); and saved policies from the East Northamptonshire District Local Plan (adopted November 1996). Preparation of a replacement Local Plan is already underway, which will consist of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) review and relevant site specific Plan(s), prepared by East Northamptonshire Council.

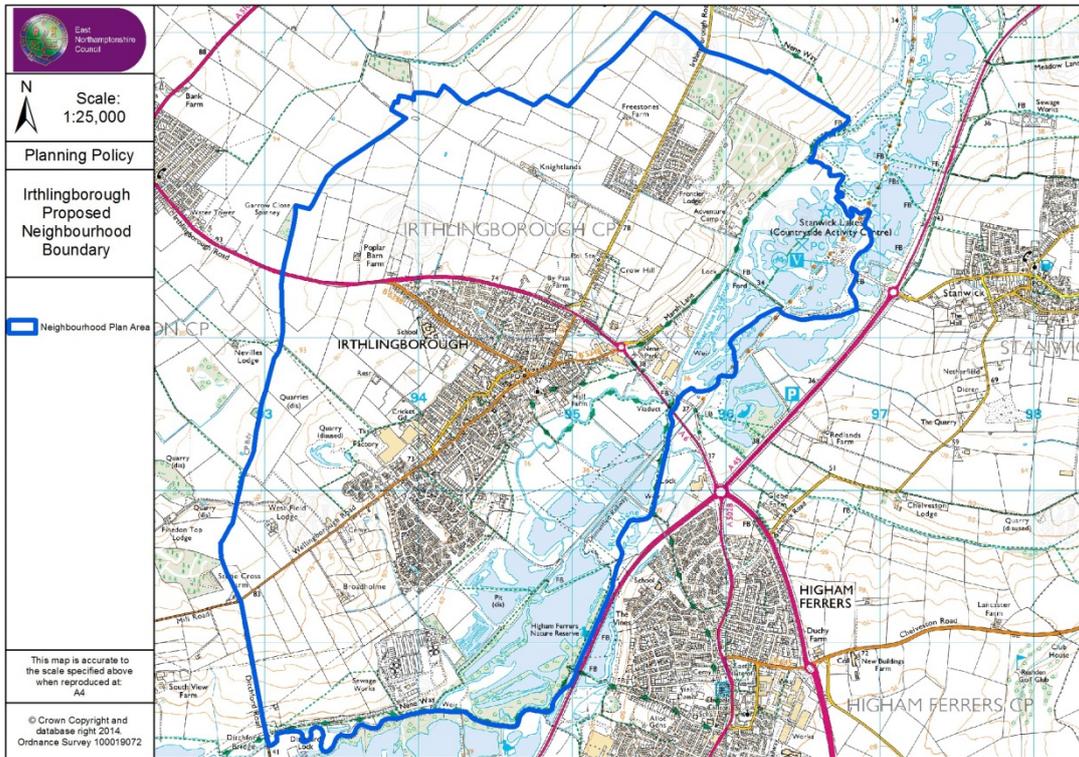
## Higham Ferrers

East Northamptonshire Council is seeking to designate a revised Neighbourhood Area boundary for Higham Ferrers. This is necessary in order to ensure that the Neighbourhood Area boundary aligns with the revised Parish boundary for Higham Ferrers which is due to come into effect on 15 October 2014, and the proposed adjacent Neighbourhood Area boundaries for Irtlingborough and Stanwick.



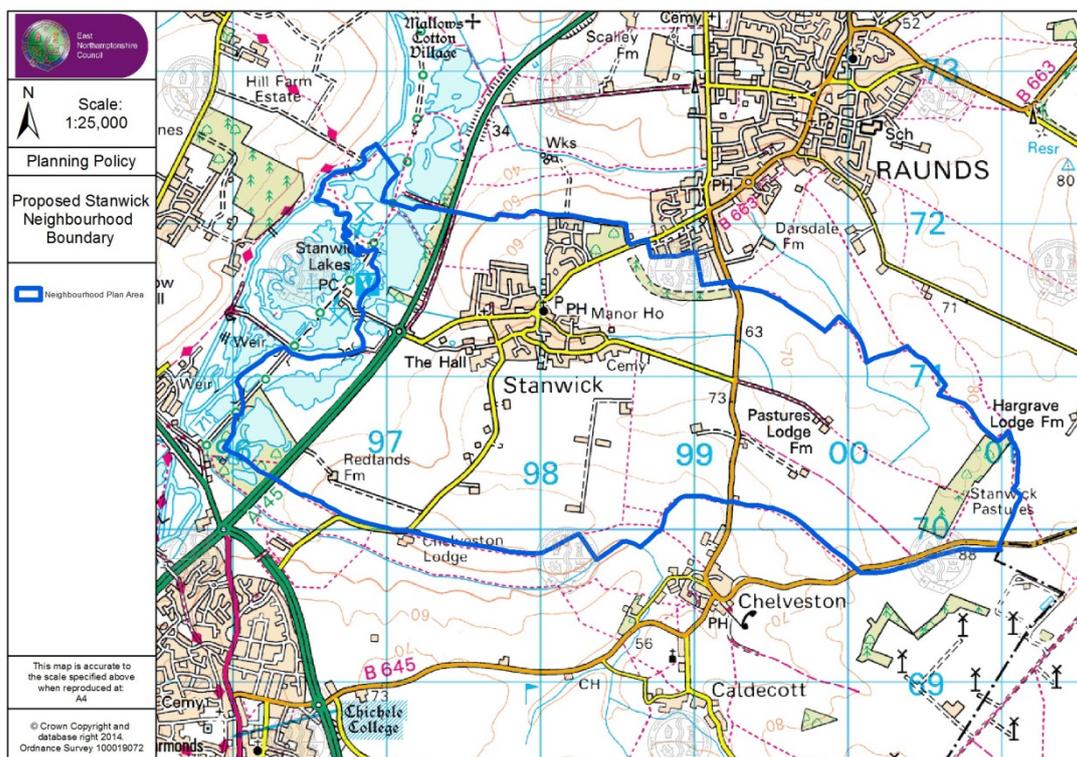
## Irthlingborough

Irthlingborough Town Council considers that the whole of the revised parish area of Irthlingborough, due to come into effect on 15 October 2014 represents the most appropriate area to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, as shown on the map below. This will ensure that any policies which are developed which extend or have influence outside of the existing built up areas can be implemented and have weight in planning decisions.



## Stanwick

Stanwick Parish Council considers that the whole of the revised parish area of Stanwick, due to come into effect on 15 October 2014 represents the most appropriate area to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area. Nevertheless, 16.9ha land south of Kimbolton Road (B645) has been excluded from the proposed Neighbourhood Area for Stanwick, as this land is due to transfer from Stanwick to Chelveston cum Caldecott, as of 15 October 2014. The proposed Neighbourhood Area is shown on the map below.



Higham Ferrers Town Council, Irthlingborough Town Council and Stanwick Parish Council are all 'relevant bodies' for the purposes of Section 61G of the 1990 Act, and are therefore qualified to undertake neighbourhood planning. In the case of the three proposed Neighbourhood Areas, the preparation of each Neighbourhood Plan will be led solely by the respective Town and/ or Parish Council.

In accordance with Regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the three proposed boundaries are now advertised for comments as to whether there is any reason why East Northamptonshire Council should not make these designations. Further information can be found on the Council's website under the consultation pages at the following link: <http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/consultation>.

Copies of the three proposed Neighbourhood Area boundaries will be available to view at the following locations, between **Friday, 18 July** and **Monday, 15 September 2014** inclusive:

- Customer Service Centre, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, NN14 4LZ (8:45am-5pm, Monday to Friday)

- Customer Service Centre, Newton Road, Rushden, NN10 0PT (9am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday)
- Customer Service Centre, Oundle Library, Glapthorn Road, Oundle. PE8 4JA (10am-1pm, Monday to Saturday)
- Raunds Town Council, The Hall, Thorpe Street, Raunds, NN9 6LT (9:30am-2pm, Monday to Friday)
- Libraries at Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough, Raunds and Rushden (opening times and other details are available from [Northamptonshire County Council](#))

Any comments concerning these proposed neighbourhood planning boundaries should be made, in writing, to: Planning Policy and Conservation, East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, Kettering; NN14 4LZ; or by e-mail to [planningpolicy@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk), no later than **4pm on Monday, 15 September 2014**.

David Reed  
Head of Planning Services  
East Northamptonshire Council



East Northamptonshire Council



Scale: 1:22,000

Planning Policy

Stanwick Proposed Neighbourhood Plan Area

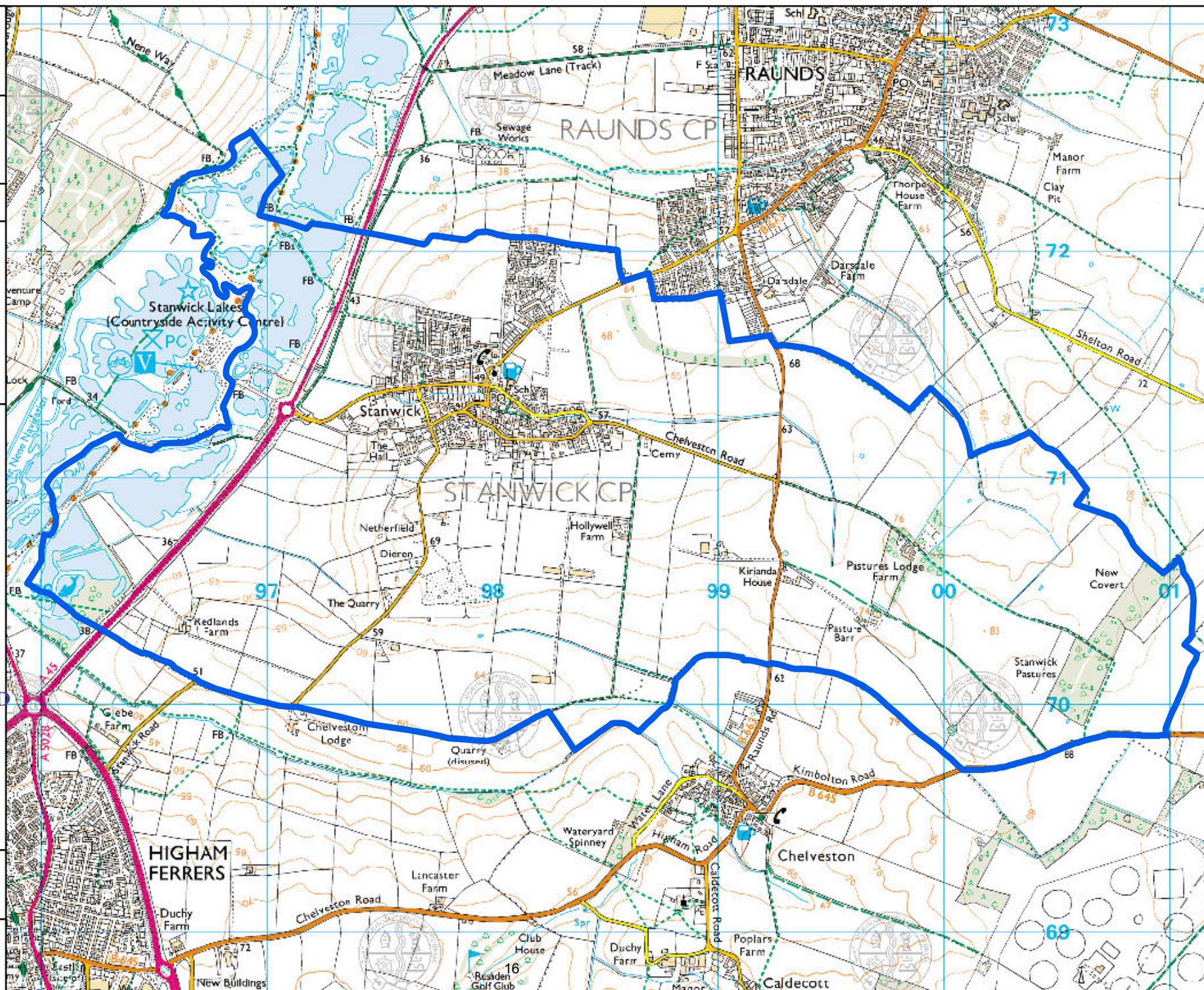
 Neighbourhood Plan Area

Appendix 3

MAP SHOWING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

This map is accurate to the scale specified above when reproduced at: A4

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST MIDLANDS

BY EMAIL: [planningpolicy@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk)

Our Ref: HD/P 5325

Your Ref:

Telephone: 01604 735450

9<sup>th</sup> September 2014

For the attention of David Reed

Dear Mr Reed

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS:  
HIGHAM FERRERS, IRTHLINGBOROUGH AND STANWICK**

We write with reference to the Public Notice regarding the designation of the above locations as Neighbourhood Areas for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. We do not have any objections to the three proposed designations.

English Heritage wishes to ensure that an understanding of the historic environment, including designated heritage assets and locally important assets, and the contribution that the historic environment makes to local character, is fully considered when Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared. We have a range of guidance available on our website which may be of assistance for the drafting of such plans:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/improve-your-neighbourhood/>

Due to the coalescence of Higham Ferrers with Rushden, we hope that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Higham Ferrers considers its impact on Rushden (and vice versa). Both Higham Ferrers and Rushden contain important heritage assets, including conservation areas, listed buildings and scheduled monuments, with Chichele College in Higham Ferrers in the guardianship of English Heritage. The boundary of Higham Ferrers Conservation Area lies a short distance from the boundary of the proposed Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Area. There are, of course, heritage assets beyond the boundary of Higham Ferrers and Rushden which might be relevant depending on the emerging plan.

English Heritage has a statutory role in the development plan process and there is a duty on either you as the Local Planning Authority or the Neighbourhood Planning Forum to consult English Heritage on any Neighbourhood Plan where our interests are considered to be affected, as well as a duty to consult us on all Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders. Should a Strategic

44 DERNGATE, NORTHAMPTON, NN1 1UH

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*Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available*



Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal be required, we again have a formal role in that process.

We would be grateful if a copy of this letter could be passed onto Higham Ferrers Town Council, Irthlingborough Town Council and Stanwick Parish Council.

Should you wish to discuss any points within this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of these comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark White', written over a horizontal line.

Mark White  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser  
E-mail: [mark.white@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:mark.white@english-heritage.org.uk)

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*Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available*

## Appendix 5 NATURAL ENGLANDS RESPONSE TO DESIGNATION APPLICATION

Date: 23 July 2014  
Our ref: 126997  
Your ref: MB/HF/I/St/NPD



Michael Burton  
East Northamptonshire Council  
Cedar Drive  
Thrapston  
Northamptonshire  
NN14 4LZ

Sustainable Development  
Hombeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Burton

Thank you for notifying Natural England of the application for Neighbourhood Planning Areas for Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough and Stanwick dated 18/07/2014

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning. We must be consulted on draft Neighbourhood Development Plans where the Town/Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum considers our interests would be affected by the proposals. We must be consulted on draft Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders where proposals are likely to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest or 20 hectares or more of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. We must also be consulted on Strategic Environmental Assessments, Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and Environmental Impact Assessments, where these are required. Your local planning authority will be able to advise you further on environmental requirements.

The following is offered as general advice which may be of use in the preparation of your plans.

Natural England, together with the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Forestry Commission has published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans and development proposals. This is available at: <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0212BWAZ-E-E.pdf>

Local environmental record centres hold a range of information on the natural environment. A list of local records centre is available at: <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

### Protected landscapes

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), we advise that you take account of the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area. For Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, you should seek the views of the AONB Partnership.

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision making framework for the natural environment.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/default.aspx>

### Protected species

You should consider whether your plan or proposal has any impacts on protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced standing advice to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species should they be identified as an issue. The standing advice also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, you should undertake further consultation with Natural England.

[Natural England Standing Advice](#)

### Local Wildlife Sites

You should consider whether your plan or proposal has any impacts on local wildlife sites, eg Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) or whether opportunities exist for enhancing such sites. If it appears there could be negative impacts then you should ensure you have sufficient information to fully understand the nature of the impacts of the proposal on the local wildlife site.

### Best Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and used sustainably. Paragraph 112 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that:

*'Local planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.'*

General mapped information on soil types is available as 'Soilscapes' on the [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk) and also from the LandIS website; <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm> which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

### Opportunities for enhancing the natural environment

Neighbourhood plans and proposals may provide opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment, use natural resources more sustainably and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature.

Opportunities to incorporate features into new build or retro fitted buildings which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes should also be considered as part of any new development proposal.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again at [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Bottomley  
Sustainable Development Consultation Team

*(Reason – to progress the implementation of CIL.)*

**288. CONFIRMATION OF NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS FOR IRTHLINGBOROUGH AND STANWICK, AND REVISIONS TO DESIGNATED HIGHAM FERRERS NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA**

The Committee considered a report summarising the main issues arising from the statutory consultations regarding the designation of new Neighbourhood Plan area boundaries for the emerging Irthlingborough and Stanwick Neighbourhood Plans, together with revisions to the (already designated) Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan area.

It was noted that none of the respective Parish Councils had presented any comments and that no other objections to the proposed boundaries had been received.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the designation of a revised Neighbourhood Area for Higham Ferrers, aligned to the revised Higham Ferrers Parish area which came into effect on 15 October 2014, be approved. (Planning Policy Committee Agenda Item 5, 23 June 2014, Appendix 6).
- (ii) That the designation of new Neighbourhood Area for Irthlingborough in accordance with the area previously agreed for consultation by the Planning Policy Committee, be approved (Agenda Item 5, 23 June 2014, Appendix 1);
- (iii) That the designation of new Neighbourhood Area for Stanwick in accordance with the area previously agreed for consultation by the Planning Policy Committee be approved (Agenda Item 5, 23 June 2014, Appendix 7);

*(Reason - to enable work to commence on the Irthlingborough and Stanwick Neighbourhood Plans, and to align the emerging Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan area with the revised Parish boundary)*

**289. PROPOSED REVISION TO THE CHELVESTON CUM CALDECOTT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA BOUNDARY**

The Senior Planning Policy Officer presented a report setting out a proposed revision to the designated Neighbourhood Area boundary for Chelveston cum Caldecott. The proposal for the change was to bring the boundary into line with the changed Parish boundary resulting from the Community Governance Review.

**RESOLVED:**

That the statutory consultation in relation to the proposed revisions to the designated Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Area be approved.

*(Reason - to ensure that the designated Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Area is consistent with the new Parish boundary.)*



# Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening for Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders

## Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan

European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”

### Introduction to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) and Neighbourhood Plans have legal status as statutory development plan documents (DPDs). Since 2004, there has been a legal requirement for DPDs to be assessed against the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC; also known as the “Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive”. The objective for SEA is “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development” (SEA Directive, Article 1).

The SEA Directive was incorporated into national law through [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#) (SI 2004 No 1633).

### National guidance regarding SEA

The government guidance document, “[A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)” (ODPM, September 2005) explains the process of screening for SEA. Screening is the first stage in the SEA process; i.e. testing whether or not SEA is required in the case of a Neighbourhood Plan or NDO.

The guidance explains the types of plans etc which are covered by European Directive 2001/42/EC (the “SEA Directive”). It explains that Land use and spatial plans (including Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs) would **normally** be subject to SEA. Critically, however, the guidance also states that: “Plans and programmes...which determine the use of small areas at local level, or which are minor modifications to [existing] plans and programmes...only require SEA if they are judged likely to have **significant** environmental effects” (Appendix 1). In many cases, Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs will fall into this category. It is therefore essential that a robust screening exercise is undertaken for each Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO.

## Local planning authority support to Town/ Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums in undertaking SEA

The [Neighbourhood Planning Protocol](#) (2013) explains the support that East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) can offer to the relevant Town Council(s), Parish Council(s) or Neighbourhood Forums in respect of SEA:

- Provide advice on any relevant European and National legislation (in this case, the SEA Directive);
- Carry out screening to identify any need for SEA (note: where consultants have been employed to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan they will be expected to undertake these);
- However, ENC will **not** be able to actually undertake the SEA if this is required following screening.

This toolkit is intended to be used by officers of ENC in undertaking SEA screening, or in checking SEA screening reports which have been prepared by consultants. Relevant Town Council(s), Parish Council(s) or Neighbourhood Forums may also use the toolkit to carry out their own SEA screening, if they so wish.

### Undertaking SEA screening

The SEA guidance explains that for Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs screening is a two stage process:

1. Generic application of the SEA directive
2. SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II – Application of criteria for determining the likely significance of effects

This toolkit contains two forms, in respect of stages 1 and 2 respectively:

1. For SEA Screening Stage 1, the form considers Neighbourhood Plans and NDOs generically against the SEA Assessment criteria specified in the national guidance ("[A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)", Figure 2), to determine whether each would require full SEA.
2. Where it is determined that there is potential for a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO to have a significant effect on the environment, then it is necessary to progress to Stage 2 in the SEA Screening process. This involves testing the relevant Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO against the relevant criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects, as specified in SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II.

**Please note that only the parts of this form which are highlighted in red will need to be completed.**

## SEA Screening Stage 1: Application of SEA Directive in the case of Neighbourhood Plans/ Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs)

SEA Assessment criteria	Commentary	N'hood Plan Outcome (Y/N)	NDO Outcome (Y/N)
1. Is a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO subject to preparation and/ or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	<i>A local planning authority has a statutory obligation to adopt or "make" a Neighbourhood Plan or NDO once it has successfully gone through the relevant statutory preparation stages, culminating in a local referendum. At this stage, a Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the statutory development plan for the relevant local authority area. To this extent, the Neighbourhood Planning/ NDO process is directed by/ through a legislative procedure.</i>	Y	Y
2. Is a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	<i>The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs is not mandatory; i.e. a Town/ Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum can chose whether or not to undertake either of these. However, if the relevant body decides to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO, that Town/ Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum is required to follow the set regulatory and administrative procedures.</i>	N	N
3. Is a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	<i>A Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO must relate to town and country, spatial and/ or land use planning. Once made, it will form part of the statutory framework ("development plan") for the determination of planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs both, therefore, set specific frameworks for future development consents.</i>	Y	Y

SEA Assessment criteria	Commentary	N'hood Plan Outcome (Y/N)	NDO Outcome (Y/N)
4. Will a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	<p><i>The <a href="#">North Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit</a> (December 2012) explains that Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs may also need to be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) if there might be an impact on the Nene Valley Special Protection Area (SPA)/ Ramsar site<sup>1</sup>. This will depend upon the location and/ or scope of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO. Separate HRA screening will be required, although it must be assumed that in the event that a full HRA is deemed necessary, any Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO must also be subject to full SEA.</i></p>	N	N/A
5. Does a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of an existing plan/ programme?	<p><i>In many cases a Neighbourhood Plan will set out detailed, localised policies to reflect local aspirations, concerns or issues. However, Neighbourhood Plans may seek to take on a more challenging role, through making site specific land use allocations.</i></p>	N	N/a
	<p><i>An NDO involves the relaxation or extension of “permitted development rights” (“General Permitted Development Order”) for a small, localised area. Invariably it will involve minor changes to national legislation (the regulatory framework) in a local context, so would therefore represent a minor modification to an existing programme (i.e. national permitted development rights)</i></p>	N/a	N/A

<sup>1</sup> Full details of the extent of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site are available through East Northamptonshire Council's [LocalView](#) mapping system (also known as “In My Area”)

SEA Assessment criteria	Commentary	N'hood Plan Outcome (Y/N)	NDO Outcome (Y/N)
6. Is a Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	<i>The relevant criteria for determining whether Neighbourhood Plans/ NDOs are likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Article 3(5) Annex II of the SEA Directive.</i>		
	<i>Any potential environmental effects of a Neighbourhood Plan will largely depend upon two factors; location and/ or proposed scope. Stage 2 of this screening assessment will determine whether or not a Neighbourhood Plan will lead to any significant effects on the environment and, therefore, whether that Neighbourhood Plan will need to be accompanied by a full SEA.</i>	<b>N</b>	<b>N/a</b>
	<i>By definition, an NDO involves a limited relaxation of "permitted development rights for a small, localised area. Accordingly, it cannot reasonably be argued that an NDO would have a significant effect on the environment.</i>	<b>N/a</b>	<b>N</b>

## SEA Screening Stage 1: Conclusions

### Would a Neighbourhood Plan require SEA?

These assessment criteria reveal that as a starting point in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan there **must** be a presumption that SEA will be required, unless it can be satisfactorily and objectively demonstrated that the scope of the Plan will **not**:

- Require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (**Q4**, above), whereby if a full HRA is deemed necessary, any Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO must also be subject to full SEA;
- Will only determine the use of small areas at local level – i.e. involves minor/ small scale land allocations/ designations, or detailed, locally distinctive design criteria (**Q5**, above);
- Have a significant effect on the environment (**Q6**, above).

### Would an NDO require SEA?

It is not considered that an NDO would normally require SEA given that, by definition, this will function as a local modification to the [Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) Order 1995](#) (GPDO), as amended. The GPDO itself relates exclusively to minor/ small scale developments. Any local modification to the GPDO put forward through a NDO could, similarly, only relate to small/ minor developments. Accordingly, this would not require SEA unless, in exceptional circumstances, a full HRA was deemed necessary.

## SEA Screening Stage 2: SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II – Application of Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects of a Neighbourhood Plan

The SEA Directive (Article 3(5)) requires the relevant body (i.e. East Northamptonshire Council; and/ or the relevant Town/ Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum) to: “ensure that plans and programmes [i.e. their Neighbourhood Plan] with likely significant effects on the environment are covered by this Directive”. In other words, the proposed scope and/ or range of themes, topics and/ or policies that a Neighbourhood Plan is intended to cover will form the basis for determining whether a full SEA will be required. Stage 2 of the SEA screening process will determine whether the emerging Neighbourhood Plan would:

- Only determine the use of small areas at local level – i.e. involves minor/ small scale land allocations/ designations, or detailed, locally distinctive design criteria [whereby a full SEA would **not** be required]; or
- Be likely to have a significant effect on the environment [whereby a full SEA **would** be required]?

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary	Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
1	<b>Characteristics of Neighbourhood Plan</b>		
A	Degree to which this sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	<i>[How to assess if “significant” – Consider emerging vision/ scope – i.e. what policies/ proposals are intended to be included within the Neighbourhood Plan]</i>	?
	[Site allocations for development]	<b>No. The Stanwick NDP does not allocate sites for development.</b>	N
	[Design policies/ standards/ codes]	<b>Yes. The Stanwick NDP includes policies to promote good design, Policy HDN1 &amp; HDN2</b>	N
	[Landscape protection/ enhancement policies]	<b>No. The Stanwick NDP does not include a landscape protection/enhancement policy. Higher level policies in other Plans will be used. Policies OSP1, 2 &amp; 3 seek to protect the village setting</b>	N

	<b>SEA Directive (Annex II)</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</b>
	[Protected land designations]	<b>Yes. The Stanwick NDP proposes the following types of protected land designations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Area of separation (OSP1);</b></li> <li>• <b>Area of Important Open Space (OSP2).</b></li> </ul>	<b>N</b>
	[Linkages/ green infrastructure proposals]	<b>No. The Stanwick NDP does not include a linkages/green infrastructure policy</b>	<b>N</b>
	[Community facilities] etc	<b>No. The Stanwick NDP does not include a communities facilities policy</b>	<b>N</b>
B	Degree to which this influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	<i>Neighbourhood Plans are locally driven and will, inevitably, cover a small, defined locality/ neighbourhood. In practice, Neighbourhood Plans will provide detailed policy, land-use or development management direction at the smallest defined (“neighbourhood”) level. These are “bottom up” development plan documents/ policy tools; so by definition must have regard to, and be in general conformity with, “higher level” policies/ programmes, but will not, by themselves, influence other more strategic policies/ programmes.</i>	<b>N</b>
C	Relevance for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	<i>The “basic conditions” require that Neighbourhood Plans must “have regard” to sustainable development. For a Plan to be deemed sound, an Examiner must be satisfied that the effective implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan would give rise to sustainable developments.</i>	<b>N</b>
D	Environmental problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan	<i>[Consider what net environmental impacts would arise from the effective implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan]</i>	
	[Is it proposed that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will allocate land for development?]	<b>No. The Stanwick NDP does not allocate sites for development.</b>	<b>N</b>

	<b>SEA Directive (Annex II)</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</b>
	[Is it proposed that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan contain detailed design policies/ standards?]	<b>Yes. The Stanwick NDP includes policies to promote good design, Policy HDN1 &amp; HDN2</b>	<b>Y</b>
	[Is it proposed that the emerging Plan will identify “high quality” green/ open spaces/ green infrastructure which may require protection by way of a Neighbourhood Plan policy?]	<b>No. The Stanwick NDP does not include a landscape protection/enhancement policy. Higher level policies in other Plans will be used. Policies OSP1, 2 &amp; 3 seek to protect the village setting</b>	<b>N</b>
	[Is it proposed that the emerging Plan will identify other zonal safeguarding/ protection policies; e.g. retail frontages, employment areas or community hubs?]	<b>Yes. The Stanwick NDP proposes the following types of zonal safeguarding designations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Area of separation (OSP1);</b></li> <li>• <b>Area of Important Open Space (OSP2).</b></li> </ul>	<b>N</b>
	[Are there any other environmental issues that may arise from the adoption and implementation of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan?]	<b>No. None identified</b>	<b>N</b>
E	Relevance for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)	<i>Strategies relating to waste disposal or water protection are mostly dealt with by Northamptonshire County Council. East Northamptonshire Council itself has a number of strategies in place, relating to waste collection and environmental protection. Community Plans may identify specific local environmental concerns or issues, but these are generally not issues which could be addressed through a Neighbourhood Plan.</i>	<b>N</b>

	<b>SEA Directive (Annex II)</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected</b>		
F	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of any effects	<i>A Neighbourhood Plan will relate to specific, small scale issues of either ensuring that any development coming forward will deliver the maximum local benefits. Likewise, in most cases a Neighbourhood Plan will address specific local development management issues, complementing the higher level strategic policy framework already established through the adopted Local Plan and national policies (NPPF). Neighbourhood Plans are intended to have a specifically “local” focus, and are not intended to replace the requirement for Local Planning Authorities (individual, or working in partnership with neighbouring, Local Planning Authorities) to produce a Local Plan. As such, any development policies/ proposals likely to have significant environmental effects would, by definition, need to be addressed through the Local Plan.</i>	<b>N</b>
G	Cumulative nature of any effects	<i>Development of such a magnitude/ quantum to cumulatively lead to effects of such significance that SEA would be required would, by definition, be of a “strategic” nature. Therefore, such development could not be appropriate to be brought forward through a Neighbourhood Plan.</i>	<b>N</b>
H	Transboundary nature of any effects	<i>Neighbourhood Plans are required to relate to discrete administrative areas. By definition, “transboundary” issues are “strategic” matters; therefore beyond the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan. Instead, the Local Plan is the correct forum for addressing any “trans-boundary” issues relating to spatial planning.</i>	<b>N</b>

	<b>SEA Directive (Annex II)</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]</b>
I	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	<i>Strategies relating to waste disposal or water protection are mostly dealt with by Northamptonshire County Council. East Northamptonshire Council itself has a number of strategies in place, relating to waste collection and environmental protection. Community Plans may identify specific local environmental concerns or issues, but these are almost certainly not issues which could be addressed through a Neighbourhood Plan.</i>	<b>N</b>
J	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	<i>Neighbourhood Plans, by definition, will cover small geographical areas. The NPPF (paragraphs 184-185) requires that these should set out specific <b>non-strategic</b> development plan policies to address specific local issues. Therefore, development of a sufficient scale and extent to fall within the requirements of the SEA directive would, by definition, not be appropriate to be included within a Neighbourhood Plan.</i>	<b>N</b>
K	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected	<i>[e.g. due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; intensive land-use]</i>	
	[What statutory natural or built environment designations are situated within designated Neighbourhood Area?]	<p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan area includes part of the Stanwick Lakes Special Protection Area and SSSI.</i></p> <p><i>There is no conservation area.</i></p> <p><i>There are the following listed buildings and scheduled Ancient Monuments</i></p> <p><b>Raunds Bowl Barrow</b>  N 52.32712°, W 0.58905°  Prehistoric  Undisturbed Neolithic or Bronze Age barrow.  Scheduled, No.1012452</p>	<b>N</b>

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary	Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
		<p><b>St Laurence Church</b>  N 52.33245°, W 0.56310°  Medieval  Early English Gothic-style church, built circa 1224  Listed Grade I, No.1192232</p> <p><b>Wall and Churchyard cross socket</b>  N 52.33202°, W 0.56285°  Medieval  14th/15th Century  Listed Grade II, No.1371902</p> <p><b>39 High Street</b>  N 52.33090°, W 0.56645°  Post-Medieval  17th Century  Listed Grade II, No.1040342</p> <p><b>Dovecote Close</b>  N 52.33004°, W 0.56798°  Post-Medieval  17<sup>th</sup> Century  Listed Grade II, No.1040343</p> <p><b>Manor House</b>  N 52.33166°, W 0.56089°  Post-Medieval  17<sup>th</sup> Century  Listed Grade II, No.1192276</p> <p><b>Old Rectory</b>  N 52.33258°, W 0.56420°  Post-Medieval  18<sup>th</sup> Century, rebuilt 1717 on site of former rectory</p>	

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary	Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
		<p>Listed Grade II*, No.1286673  <b>Stanwick Hall</b>  N 52.33017°, W 0.57016°  Post-Medieval  18th Century, built 1742/1743  Listed Grade II*, No.1192263  <b>Grange Farmhouse</b>  N 52.33011°, W 0.56140°  Post-Medieval  18th Century  Listed Grade II, No.1192244  <b>War memorial</b>  N 52.33213°, W 0.56328°  Modern  1921, topped by a Flanders Cross  1921, commemorating those who died in the two world wars.  Listed Grade II, 1429420</p>	
	<p>[What other (non-statutory) natural or built environment designations are situated within designated Neighbourhood Area?]</p>	<p><i>There are no Wildlife trust sites  Part of the Plan area falls within the Nene Valley</i></p> <p><i>Heritage assets listed on the East Northamptonshire Council Local List:</i>  <b>Hillstone Farmhouse</b>  N 52.32143°, W 0.57064°  Post Medieval  18 C  ENC Local List, No.SW7</p>	<p><b>N</b></p>

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary	Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
		<p><b>2/4 High Street</b>  N 52.33192°, W 0.56333°  Post-Medieval  Central location, original brickwork and tiles  ENC Local List, No.SW5</p> <p><b>Old School Rooms</b>  N 52.33186°, W 0.56350°  Modern  1839, built as a Board School  ENC Local List, No.SW2</p> <p><b>Beulah Cottage, East Street</b>  N 52.33022°, W 0.55687°  Modern  19<sup>th</sup> Century, date stone 1883  ENC Local List, No.SW1</p> <p><b>Red Telephone Box</b>  N 52.33200°, W 0.56355°  Modern  K6 design to commemorate King George V's Silver Jubilee. Installation date unknown.  ENC Local List, No.SW4</p> <p>Heritage assets listed on the Parish List (in addition to those above)</p> <p><b>SPC12 Georgian Post Box</b>  N 52.33192°, W 0.56333°  Post-Medieval  Georgian; embedded into wall of No.2 High Street</p> <p><b>SPC13 Duke of Wellington Public House</b></p>	

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary	Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
		<p>N 52.33200°, W 0.56262°  Modern  Rebuilt 1817, possibly on the site of an earlier inn  <b>SPC14 Stone Walls</b>  Various locations in the parish  Modern  Circa 1838 following the Field Enclosures  <b>SPC15 Ridge and Furrow Field</b>  N 52.33158°, W 0.57399°  Post-Medieval  Last remaining local example of ridge and furrow  <b>SPC18 Queen Victoria Jubilee Marker</b>  N 52.33076°, W 0.55699°  Modern  1897, commemorative brick (Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee)  <b>SPC21 Millennium Sign</b>  N 52.33221°, W 0.56487°  Modern  2001, Village Sign  <b>SPC22 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Marker</b>  N 52.33202°, W 0.56350°  Modern  2012, commemorative stone (Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee)  <b>SPC23 World War I Plaque</b>  N 52.33189°, W 0.56350°  Modern  2014, commemorative plaque (World War I)</p>	

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary	Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]
L	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	<i>The presence of a statutory natural or built environmental designation (e.g. SSSI, Scheduled Ancient Monument) in close proximity to a potential Neighbourhood Plan site/ area specific designation may be argued to act as a trigger for a “significant effect”; therefore a requirement for a full SEA to be undertaken. Natural England direction regarding Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) “buffer zones” provide an appropriate specification for where full SEA will be required; i.e. if HRA is deemed necessary, then full SEA will also be required. Potential development proposals which should be subject to EIA screening should be regarded as having a significant environmental impact and, therefore, would require SEA.</i>	
		<i>A statutory designation covering any site, area or landscape would effectively preclude most development. The exception to this may be development within the curtilage of, or likely to affect the setting of listed buildings (“designated heritage assets”) and/ or conservation areas. In this case potential Neighbourhood Plan policies may require full SEA.</i>	
	[Potential site allocations for development]	<i>None</i>	N
	[Potential design policies/ standards/ codes]	<i>The plan includes a policy to promote good design. Policy HDN1 &amp; HDN2 and policies HTG1 to 4 for heritage assets. This is in accordance with the NPPF. The policies includes criterion to preserve and enhance the locally distinctive built historic environment.</i>	N
	[Linkages/ green infrastructure proposals]	<i>No. The Stanwick NDP does not include a linkages/green infrastructure policy</i>	N
	[Community facilities] etc	<i>The plan does not include any community facility proposals</i>	N

	SEA Directive (Annex II)	Commentary	Conclusion – significant environmental impact? [Y/N]

## **SEA Screening conclusion – Will a full Strategic Environmental Assessment be required, in accordance with the SEA Directive; i.e. is the proposed Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a significant effect on the environment?**

The need to ensure compliance with statutory legislation, including European Union Directives, is one of the major challenges associated with Neighbourhood Planning. The requirements of the SEA Directive are potentially far-reaching, but many aspects of this may not be applicable in the case of Neighbourhood Plans, given their “non-strategic”/ locally based context.

Already, it must be recognised that, in all but exceptional circumstances, a Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) would **not** require the preparation and submission of a formal SEA. Instead, completion of this Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening pro-forma would be sufficient to comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive.

In the case of a Neighbourhood Plan, it will be necessary for the relevant “responsible body” (i.e. local planning authority, Town Council, Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum/ Parish Meeting) to complete questions **A, D, K and L** (highlighted **red**) within Part 2 of this pro-forma. Following this, the person(s) preparing this SEA screening assessment will need to briefly summarise these findings and come to a conclusion as to whether the emerging Neighbourhood Plan would have a **significant** environmental impact so, therefore, whether a full SEA would be needed to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **SEA SCREENING CONCLUSION – WILL A FULL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BE REQUIRED?**

The Stanwick NDP does not include land allocations. The Plan includes a number of polices to protect and enhance key aspects of the parish, including Heritage Assets and Open Spaces

The plan also includes polices to promote good design.

These polices will be used to assess development proposals as and when they arise and will be used to assess their environmental impacts.

**Will a full SEA be required [Y/N]? No**



## The next stages

If it is concluded that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will **not** require a full SEA, then it will be necessary to publish the completed pro-forma, using the relevant Neighbourhood Planning forum (e.g. local website, East Northamptonshire Council website). Following this, no further action will be required.

If it is concluded that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan **is** likely to have a significant effect on the environment, it will be necessary to follow the various stages in the process. These are explained in full detail in the government guidance, "[A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)" (ODPM, September 2005). While this guidance pre-dates Neighbourhood Plans, it remains a relevant and useful document and is provides the definitive government guidance.

In the event that a full SEA is deemed necessary, it is advised that the responsible body should contact East Northamptonshire and/ or their appointed consultant (in the event that a consultant has been employed to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan). It is likely that a specialist consultant would be needed to prepare the necessary SEA documentation.



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# Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening for Neighbourhood Plans Stanwick neighbourhood Development Plan

European Union – “Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora”  
 (“European Habitats Directive”, Article 6(3))

## Introduction to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Article 6(3) of the [European Habitats Directive](#) (1992) requires that any plan (or project), which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site [also known as a “Natura 2000” site], but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an ‘appropriate assessment’ of its implications for the European site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. The plan-making body shall agree to the plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned, unless in exceptional circumstances the provisions of Article 6(4) are met.

The Habitats Directive was initially incorporated into national law through [The Conservation \(Natural Habitats, &c.\) Regulations 1994](#) (SI 1994 No 2716). These Regulations were amended in 2007 to include a requirement for the relevant body (i.e. East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) and/ or the relevant Town Council(s), Parish Council(s) or Neighbourhood Forums) to undertake a discrete ‘appropriate assessment’ or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). The 2004/ 2007 Regulations were subsequently consolidated into [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010](#) (SI 2010 No 490), as amended.

## Guidance regarding HRA

The [North Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit](#) (December 2012) explains that: “*The [Neighbourhood] Plan or [Neighbourhood Development] Order may also need to be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment if there might be an impact on the Nene Valley Special Protection Area (SPA)*” (paragraph 3.16). It is therefore critical to establish at an early stage in the process whether or not their emerging Neighbourhood Plan/ NDO will require Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA).

A range of guidance has been produced, regarding the methodologies and processes for undertaking HRA (also known as ‘appropriate assessment’). Key reference documents include:

- [Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans – Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland](#) – Version 2.0 (David Tyldesley and Associates, August 2012)
- [Habitats Directive – Guidance on competent authority coordination under the Habitats Regulations](#) (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, July 2012)
- [Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment](#) (Department for Communities and Local Government, August 2006)
- [Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6\(3\) and \(4\) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC](#) (European Commission, November 2001)

### HRA Screening stages

A review of the various guidance documents has found that David Tyldesley and Associates' (DTA) Scottish guidance provides the most up to date any systematic guidance currently available for undertaking HRA Screening. Reference to the DTA and other guidance has identified the following stages:

- Preliminary HRA stages:
  - Stage 1: Deciding whether a Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to HRA;
  - Stage 2: Identifying the European sites that should be considered;
  - Stage 3: Gathering information about the European sites;
  - Stage 4: Initial discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal.
- HRA Screening – testing whether a Neighbourhood Plan is 'likely to have a significant effect' on a European ("Natura 2000") site (DTA Stage 5):
  - Step 1: Neighbourhood Plan vision and outcomes;
  - Step 2: Policies, proposals and projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the Neighbourhood Plan;
  - Step 3: Typologies of policies in Neighbourhood Plans – identifying if any are likely to have significant effects on any European site.
- Where any possible 'likely significant effects' of a Neighbourhood Plan are identified through the initial HRA Screening exercise, additional stages in the process are:
  - Applying mitigation measures at screening stage to avoid likely significant effects (DTA Stage 6);
  - Rescreening the Neighbourhood Plan and deciding upon on the need for appropriate assessment (i.e. full HRA).

The remainder of this toolkit will consider each of these HRA Screening stages, in turn.

**Please note that only the parts of this form which are highlighted in red will need to be completed.**

## Preliminary HRA stages (stages 1-4)

Stage 1: Deciding whether a Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to HRA	Y/N	Commentary
<p><b>Is the whole of the plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation purposes?</b></p>	<b>N</b>	<p><i>A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory development plan document. By definition, it will have a broader scope than the management of a European “Natura 2000” site. It should be noted that the Habitats Directive does not specify the scope of either ‘plan’ or ‘project’ by reference to particular categories of either. Instead, the <b>key</b> limiting factor is whether or not they are likely to have a significant effect on a site.</i></p>
<p><b>Is the plan a development plan document?</b></p>	<b>Y</b>	<p><i>The Plan-making body (i.e. ENC and/ or the relevant Town Council(s), Parish Council(s) or Neighbourhood Forums) should proceed to identify the European sites that may potentially be affected, gather the information about them and ‘screen’ the plan for likelihood of significant effects on a European site.</i></p>
Stage 2: Identifying the European sites that should be considered	Y/N	Commentary
<p><b>Which European (Natura 2000) sites should be considered?</b></p> <p><b>[European sites, subject to the Habitats Directive, will have one or more of the following designations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramsar site</li> <li>• Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</li> <li>• Special Protection Area (SPA)]</li> </ul>	<b>N/a</b>	<p><i>The recent North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) review and Four Towns Plan (in combination, the emerging Local Plan) HRA Screening Reports have already assessed the potential impacts of the emerging Local Plan on the following designated Natura 2000 sites:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar</li> <li>• Orton Pit SAC</li> <li>• Nene Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar</li> <li>• Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar</li> <li>• The Wash SPA and Ramsar</li> <li>• The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC</li> </ul> <p><i>The JCS and Four Towns Plan HRA Screening Reports, which relate to “higher level” Plans, concluded that these Plans (the Local Plan) could have a significant impact <b>solely</b> upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar (Natura 2000) site.</i></p>

Stage 3: Gathering information about the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site	Y/N	Commentary
<p><b>Is there data or information already available/ published regarding the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site?</b></p> <p>[The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site extends for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain from Clifford Hill (Billing) on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville, north of Thrapston]</p>	Y	<p><i>The following documents provide detailed direction as to the characteristics (Habitats Directive qualifying species and vulnerabilities) of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">North Northamptonshire Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment</a> (November 2011)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Four Towns Plan – Habitat Regulations Assessment – European Site Characterization</a> (2012)</li> </ul>
Stage 4: Initial discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal	Y/N	Commentary
<p><b>Have preliminary discussions have taken place with relevant bodies regarding the HRA for the Neighbourhood Plan?</b></p>	Y	<p><i>ENC has already consulted Natural England, as the relevant statutory consultation body, during the initial Neighbourhood Area consultation stage (Regulation 6, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). All consultation feedback (including from Natural England) will be sent on to the relevant Town/ Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum.</i></p>

### Preliminary HRA Screening stages – overview

The emerging Local Plan (JCS review and Four Towns Plan), which sets the strategic policy framework for the Neighbourhood Plan, has already been subject to HRA screening. The JCS and Four Towns Plan Screening Assessments have both already concluded that the emerging Local Plan will not have any significant impacts upon any Natura 2000 sites, with the exception of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site. These Assessments have already been endorsed by Natural England, the relevant statutory consultation body.

Natural England has already agreed that the emerging Local Plan could **only** have a significant impact upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site. By definition, Neighbourhood Plans are smaller and more localised, so the remainder of this HRA Screening Assessment will exclusively consider the possible significant impacts of emerging Plan policies upon this Natura 2000 site.

## HRA Screening – testing whether a Neighbourhood Plan is ‘likely to have a significant effect’ on a European (“Natura 2000”) site [the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site] (stage 5)

The process of HRA Screening is necessary to determine whether there are any potentially **significant** impacts upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (UNVGP) SPA/ Ramsar site arising from emerging policies or proposals in the

**Stanwick**  **Neighbourhood Plan.**

The DTA guidance explains the role of HRA, as a whole. The fundamental test of significance is where a plan or project **could** undermine the conservation objectives of the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site. Overall, this Neighbourhood Plan Screening exercise should:

- a) Identify all aspects of the plan which would have no effect on a European site, so that that they can be eliminated from further consideration in respect of this and other plans;
- b) Identify all aspects of the plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site (i.e. would have some effect, but minor residual), either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects, which therefore do not require full ‘appropriate assessment’; and
- c) Identify those aspects of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This provides a clear scope for the parts of the plan that will require appropriate assessment.

The emerging Neighbourhood Plan will include some, or all, of the following policy typologies:

- Overarching Neighbourhood Plan vision and outcomes
- Development management policies, e.g. detailed design policies and criteria
- Protection policies, e.g. zonal land designations
- Development land allocations
- Transport and connectivity policies
- Green infrastructure and tourism policies

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
<b>Step 1: Overarching Neighbourhood Plan vision and outcomes</b>	✓	X	✓	The DTA guidance explains that parts of plans which are merely general policy statements, or which only show the general political will or intention of a public body, will not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
Vision: Stanwick to be a forward thinking, vibrant village, which is clean and healthy with a strong sense of community to provide an outstanding quality of life for current and future generations with the views of the community are respected and reflected	✓	X	X	It may be appropriate, for completeness, to consider whether the overall Neighbourhood Plan vision or specific outcomes might have any conceivable potential negative implications for the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site
Outcome 1 Sustainable development	✓	X	✓	To ensure Stanwick develops in a sustainable manner, where any new housing is in response to a proven housing shortage and that the housing is provided in a range of tenures, types and sizes so that local people of all ages can continue to live here No foreseeable negative impacts for the SPA/Ramsar site
Outcome 2 Quality design	✓	X	✓	To ensure that any new housing is of high quality design that respects Stanwick's local distinctiveness and enhances the historic character and setting of the parish. No foreseeable negative impacts for the SPA/Ramsar site

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
Outcome 3 Traffic and movement	✓	X	✓	To seek solutions to the parking congestion issues and to reduce traffic volume and speed. To create a safer more accessible environment for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users No foreseeable negative impacts for the SPA/Ramsar site
Outcome 4 Retain rural identity	✓	X	✓	To preserve and promote green areas within the village and wider parish to retain Stanwick's rural identity. No foreseeable negative impacts for the SPA/Ramsar site
Outcome 5 Heritage assets	✓	X	✓	To ensure the preservation and enhancement of locally listed heritage assets. No foreseeable negative impacts for the SPA/Ramsar site
Outcome 6 Infrastructure and services	✓	X	✓	To ensure that infrastructure and services meets needs of current and future residents. No foreseeable negative impacts for the SPA/Ramsar site

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
<b>Step 2: Policies, proposals and projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the Neighbourhood Plan</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	✓	The introductory sections of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will, inevitably, cross refer to other relevant plans, policies and programmes. The DTA guidance explains that a useful 'test' as to whether a project should be screened out at this stage is to consider whether the plan, project or programme would be likely to be implemented, irrespective of the Neighbourhood Plan?" If the answer is "yes", it will normally be appropriate to screen the project out at this stage.
Emerging JCS policies	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	✓	Separately screened through JCS Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment process
<i>Emerging JCS policy 8,9,13 and 16</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	✓	<i>Draft JCS policies all assessed through HRA for draft submission JCS 2011-2031. No foreseeable negative impacts for the SPA/Ramsar site.</i>
<b>Step 3:</b>				
<b>Development Management policies</b>				
Detailed design policies and criteria etc	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	✓	Most detailed design policies set out locally significant design criteria. These small scale, development management policies are often most relevant for householder or other minor applications/ schemes. The detailed, localised nature of such policies enables these to be screened out, as not having any significant impact upon the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site.

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
<p><b>HDN1:</b> Detailed 'Place Shaping Principles' are set out in the Local Plan. For development within Stanwick to fulfil these principles, it must</p> <p>1 Relate well to its site and its surroundings...</p> <p>.....</p>	X	X	✓	This policy seeks to promote high quality design. Nothing in the policy could have negative implications for the SPA/ Ramsar site
<b>Protection policies</b>	X	X	✓	Protection policies seek to maintain the 'status quo'. As such, by definition, any decision to retain existing land use types or operations at a particular location would not lead to any changes to 'baseline' circumstances. Therefore, these policies could not be expected to have a significant impact upon the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site, so may be screened out at this stage.
'Protection of assets' policies and site specific designations	X	X	✓	The Stanwick NDP seeks to protect existing heritage assets through policies HTG1-4 and existing open spaces through policies OPS1 - 5
Landscape/ protection of open space designations	X	X	✓	The Stanwick NDP seeks to protect existing open spaces through policies OPS 1-5
Employment protection areas	X	X	✓	The Stanwick NDP does not include employment protection policies.
Town centres and primary shopping frontages	X	X	✓	The Stanwick NDP does not include a town centre
None.				The Plan includes specific protection policies for heritage assets, landscape and open spaces. All seek to protect existing assets (i.e. baseline); therefore would not affect the SPA/Ramsar site.

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
<b>Development land allocations</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	Natural England has recently advised that: “ <i>There may be a need for consideration of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site (under the Habitats Regulations) if any of the Neighbourhood Plans put forward new development in sensitive locations. We would expect to advise on this formally at the appropriate consultation stage but... understand that communities may appreciate an early steer before investing time developing options that may prove challenging with the SPA</i> ” (June 2014).
Smaller scale/ minor employment and housing land allocations (<100 dwellings or <1000m <sup>2</sup> floorspace)	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	✓ <sup>1</sup>	Natural England has advised that for sites within 200m of the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site, it cannot be regarded as possible to rule out the risk of significant effects. Therefore, in these circumstances a full HRA ‘appropriate assessment’ may be required.
Major employment land allocations (>1000m <sup>2</sup> floorspace)	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	✓ <sup>2</sup>	Natural England has advised that for sites within 500m (0.5km) of the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site, it cannot be regarded as possible to rule out the risk of significant effects. Therefore, in these circumstances a full HRA ‘appropriate assessment’ may be required.

<sup>1</sup> Impact may be regarded as neutral, unless a site is within 200m radius of the SPA/ Ramsar site

<sup>2</sup> Impact may be regarded as neutral, unless a site is within 500m radius of the SPA/ Ramsar site

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
Larger scale housing land allocations (100 dwellings or more)	?	?	X <sup>3</sup>	Natural England has advised that for sites within 2km (2000m) of the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site, it cannot be regarded as possible to rule out the risk of significant effects. Therefore, in these circumstances a full HRA 'appropriate assessment' may be required. Reference ought to be made to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), to identify those potential sites within the SPA/ Ramsar site <b>2km</b> buffer zone.
<i>None</i>	X	X	✓	The Plan does not include site allocation or a housing target. Therefore does not adversely affect the SPA/Ramsar site.
<b>Transport/ connectivity policies</b>	?	?	?	Natural England has advised that for new transport connections or linkages within 500m (0.5km) of the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site, it cannot be regarded as possible to rule out the risk of significant effects. Therefore, in these circumstances a full HRA 'appropriate assessment' may be required.

<sup>3</sup> Impact cannot be regarded as neutral, unless a site is more than 2km (2000m) radius away from the SPA/ Ramsar site

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
Potential routes/ proposals to open up access to Nene Valley; e.g. additional links to East Northamptonshire Greenway	?	?	X	Neighbourhood Plans may consider specific proposals for new pedestrian and cycle links to the Nene Valley (including SPA/ Ramsar site). If specific proposals which could increase access (and therefore possible disturbance) to the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site are put forward through a Neighbourhood Plan; in such circumstances a full HRA 'appropriate assessment' may be required.
Other transport/ connectivity policies or proposals	X	X	✓	Other potential accessibility proposals are likely to be strategic in nature. As such, these are extremely unlikely that specific transport proposals would be put forward through a Neighbourhood Plan.
<i>No specific policies</i>				<i>The Plan does not include specific new links, although it does include specific policies regarding enhancing connectivity in association with new small-scale/ windfall developments within the village (TRA1/ TRA3). Therefore it is considered that these policies do not affect the SPA/Ramsar site.</i>
<b>Green infrastructure/ tourism policies</b>	✓	?	X	

Policy typology	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary
Potential green infrastructure connections to Nene Valley	✓	?	X	Neighbourhood Plans may consider specific proposals for new green infrastructure connections to the Nene Valley (including SPA/ Ramsar site). If specific proposals which could increase access (and therefore possible disturbance) to the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site are put forward through a Neighbourhood Plan; in such circumstances a full HRA 'appropriate assessment' may be required.
Proposals for tourist hubs or facilities	?	?	X	Neighbourhood Plans may put forward specific proposals to develop tourist or visitor facilities. Natural England has advised that where these are proposed within 200m of the UNVGP SPA/ Ramsar site, it cannot be regarded as possible to rule out the risk of significant effects. Therefore, in these circumstances a full HRA 'appropriate assessment' may be required.
<i>None</i>				<i>The Plan does not include specific proposals for new green infrastructure or tourism policies. Therefore would not affect the SPA/Ramsar site.</i>

**In the event that any potential negative effects are identified at Stage 5 in respect of specific relevant policies, the screening opinion should be sent to Natural England for an initial view, to confirm that these really are “likely significant effects”. This preliminary consultation should take place in advance of the formal consultation stage.**

## Applying mitigation measures at screening stage to avoid likely significant effects (stage 6)

- Smaller scale/ minor employment and housing land allocations (<100 dwellings or <1000m<sup>2</sup> floorspace) within **200m radius** of the SPA/ Ramsar site;
- Major employment land allocations (>1000m<sup>2</sup> floorspace) within **500m (0.5km) radius** of the SPA/ Ramsar site;
- Larger scale housing land allocations (100 dwellings or more) within **2000m (2km) radius** of the SPA/ Ramsar site;
- Potential routes/ proposals to open up access to Nene Valley; e.g. additional links to East Northamptonshire Greenway; Potential green infrastructure connections to Nene Valley;
- Proposals for tourist hubs or facilities) within **200m radius** of the SPA/ Ramsar site.

<p><b>If a potentially significant negative impact of an emerging Neighbourhood Plan policy or proposal upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar sites has been identified, the questions below should be considered</b></p>		
<p><b>Policy reference(s) and/ or proposal (s):</b> No policies have been identified which could be regarded as having any possible significant negative impacts on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site. All policies within the NDP relate to enhancing the design quality of small scale/ minor development; or the protection of existing heritage, landscape and open space assets. Therefore, in accordance with the HRA regulations, it is not considered that a full appropriate assessment would be required.</p>		
Is the policy or proposal essential to deliver the overall vision and objectives of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	N/A	
If yes, could the policy or proposal be deleted, amended, or its scale reduced; so as to ensure that any potential harm is eliminated or minimised to the extent that it could not lead to any significant impact upon the SPA/ Ramsar site?	N/A	
<p><b>Commentary</b> N/A</p>		

<p>Could the policy or proposal be redrafted or relocated respectively, to ensure that it is sufficiently well situated, so as to remove any potential significant impacts?</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>	
<p><b>Commentary</b> N/A</p>		
<p>Could the policy or proposal be developed in association with other policies or proposals being put forward through the emerging Local Plan (i.e. JCS review and/ or Four Towns Plan)?</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>	
<p><b>Commentary</b> N/A</p>		
<p>Could a “buffer” or exclusion zone be appropriate, to overcome any concerns regarding the potential impacts of a Neighbourhood Plan policy or proposal upon the SPA/ Ramsar site?</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>	
<p><b>Commentary</b> N/A]</p>		
<p><b>Conclusions regarding proposed mitigation measures</b> N/A</p>		

**Conclusions: Rescreening the Neighbourhood Plan and deciding upon on the need for appropriate assessment (i.e. full HRA)**

**Screening has revealed that the following emerging Neighbourhood Plan policies and proposals, which are deemed essential and integral to the overall Plan vision**

and outcomes, could have a potentially significant impact upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/ Ramsar site:

**None**

In order to overcome any potentially significant negative impact, the following amendments to policies or proposals within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan are proposed:

**None**

A view has been sought from Natural England, as to whether it will be necessary for the emerging Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan to be accompanied by a full 'appropriate assessment' (HRA).

**[Copy/ summary of Natural England comments]**

On this basis, this HRA Screening has revealed that it **will not** be necessary to undertake a full HRA 'appropriate assessment' to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan.

Please note that if a full HRA 'appropriate assessment' is deemed necessary, then it will be necessary for a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to also be undertaken to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan.



## Appendix 9 NATURAL ENGLAND'S RESPONSE TO SEA & HRA SCREENING REPORTS

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Our ref: 181438



Mike Burton

East Northamptonshire Council

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mike

**Screening consultation:** Regulation 14 Consultation and SEA/HRA Screening for Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016. We have also been consulted by Stanwick Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 on the draft plan and this letter is intended to respond to both consultations.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan. Natural England has no comments on the specific policies in the plan but we make the following comments in relation to SEA and HRA Screening.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup>. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals/allocations contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

#### **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

Natural England is in agreement with the conclusion of the screening report in relation to HRA as the location and scale of development included within the plan would not represent a likely significant effect to any European Site.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Ross Holdgate on 0208 026 5934. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Ross Holdgate

Essex, Herts, Beds, Cambs and Northants Area Team

Cc Mrs J Hodgson – Clerk to Stanwick Parish Council

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Mr Michael Burton  
East Northamptonshire Council  
Planning Policy  
East Northamptonshire  
House Cedar Drive  
Thrapston  
NN14 4LZ

**Our ref:** AN/2012/114626/OT02/IS1-L01

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 01 April 2016

Dear Mr Burton

**Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan - Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinions**

Thank you for consulting us on the HRA and SEA Screening Opinion for Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan which was received on the 16 March 2016.

We have reviewed the HRA and SEA Screening reports for Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan.

This Neighbourhood Development Plan follows the strategic policies of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (2008), the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Spatial Strategy (submitted Plan 2016) and East Northamptonshire Council Local Plans.

It is our opinion that the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant effect on environment considerations that fall within our remit.

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Sharon Nolan**  
**Sustainable Places Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 01536 385229  
Direct fax 01536 411354

**Environment Agency**  
Nene House (Pynchley Lodge Industrial Estate),  
Pynchley Lodge Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JQ  
Email: [planningkettering@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:planningkettering@environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

*Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
Calls to 03 numbers cost the same as calls to standard  
geographic numbers (i.e. numbers beginning with 01 or 02).*

Cont/d..

Direct e-mail [sharon.nolan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.nolan@environment-agency.gov.uk)



Awarded to Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area.



**EIA Initial Screening Form – policy**  
**Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2031**

<b>1. Name of Policy:</b>	
<b>2. Name and Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:</b>	Ms Jenny Hodgson Clerk to the Council Stanwick Parish Council
<b>3. What is the main purpose of the Policy?</b>	To deliver the shared vision of small sustainable development in Stanwick until 2031 through policies for Housing, Housing Design, Transport, Heritage assets, Open Space and Infrastructure.
<b>4. Who is the Policy aimed at?</b>	Landowners, developers, employers and residents
<b>5. How is the success of the Policy measured?</b>	By future development being in conformity with the adopted Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan
<b>6. Are equality monitoring systems for the Policy in place?</b>	No <i>(If yes give details)</i>

**7. Use the following table to indicate using a ✓:**

- a) Where you think that the Policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality of opportunity or improving relations within equality groups.
- b) Where you think that the Policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- c) Where you think that the Policy could have a neutral impact on any of the equality group i.e. no impact

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
<b>Gender:</b>				
Women/Girls			✓	
Men/Boys			✓	
Transgender people			✓	
<b>Sexual Orientation:</b>				
Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals			✓	
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>				
White British people			✓	
White non-British people (including Irish people)			✓	
Asian or Asian British people			✓	
Black or Black British people			✓	
People of mixed heritage			✓	
Chinese people			✓	
Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)			✓	
People from other ethnic groups			✓	
People who do not have English as their first language			✓	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
<b>Disability:</b>				
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.			✓	
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.			✓	
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia			✓	
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder			✓	
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy			✓	
Other health problems or impairments ( <i>please specify if appropriate</i> )			✓	
<b>Age:</b>				
Older People (60+)	✓			Recognises housing stock deficiencies & provides that development should allow for smaller dwellings
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)			✓	
<b>Religion/Belief:</b>				
Christian			✓	
Buddhist			✓	
Hindu			✓	
Jewish			✓	
Muslim			✓	
Sikh			✓	

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Other religion (including holding no belief)			✓	
<b>Other Potentially Affected Groups</b>				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access			✓	
Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands			✓	
Any other potentially affected groups ( <i>please specify</i> )			✓	
<b>8. If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group: Not applicable</b>				
a) Is that impact against legislation?	Yes	No		
b) What is the level of impact?	High	Low		
9. Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?	How? Not applicable			
10. Could you improve a positive impact of the Policy?	How? Not applicable			
11. If there is no evidence that the Policy promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does?	How? Not applicable			
Head of Service signature	<i>D Hodgson</i>			

**Date of Initial Screening:**

4<sup>th</sup> August 2016