

Central Bedfordshire Council Local Plan (2015-2035)

**Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)
(January 2018)**



**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN:
Pre-Submission
Regulation 19 Consultation**

**HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT
SCREENING REPORT**

December 2017

Central Bedfordshire Council

Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan: Pre-Submission Regulation 19 Consultation

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report

December 2017

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Central Bedfordshire Local Plan

- 1.1 The new Local Plan sets out a long-term vision and objectives for how the Central Bedfordshire area will develop in the period up to 2035. The plan addresses future needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities, and infrastructure as well as setting out the principles that will guide and support future development. It will set out the overall level and strategic direction for new development in the area during the life of the plan as well as identifying site allocations for housing, employment, and for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.
- 1.2 The Council started developing the new Local Plan in February 2016 with the Call for Sites. This was an opportunity for agents, landowners and developers to submit land which they believe could be developed to meet future demand for homes and jobs. Since early 2016, the Council has been gathering evidence to inform the preparation of the Local Plan and this includes commissioning various technical studies. The findings of the technical studies will identify the needs for housing, employment, supporting infrastructure, and community facilities for the area 2015-2035.
- 1.3 The Council is also considering if the Central Bedfordshire area is able to help meet the housing needs arising from outside the Plan area since there are major urban areas with intensifying growth pressures adjacent to the CBC area. In particular, Luton is severely constrained by its boundary and has major housing pressures affecting CBC in the south-east, and development in Milton Keynes is now approaching the M1 with potential issues for CBC in the north-east of the area.
- 1.4 The first draft of the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (CBLP) included broad policies for guiding and shaping development, including potential broad Growth Locations that could accommodate more homes that will be required at this stage, and comprised the following elements:
 - Vision & Strategic Objectives
 - A draft Spatial Strategy with directions of growth that could deliver between 42,000 and 55,000 homes through existing commitments and new homes, and a minimum of 24,000 new jobs
 - Strategic Policies & Development Management Policies
- 1.5 This first draft CBLP was prepared in accordance with Regulation 18 of the planning requirements¹ and was submitted for formal and public consultation from 4 July to 29 August 2017. This first draft Plan did not at this stage include allocation policies for specific development sites. It suggested an approach to Strategic Growth Locations. The Council consulted in June -July 2016 on

¹ Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

the proposed methods for assessing site allocation options (Site Assessment Technical Document). The final revised assessment criteria, taking into account the comments received, were used to help identify the most suitable and deliverable sites for new development.

- 1.6 The next draft of the CBLP (Regulation 19, Pre-Submission) includes proposed site allocations (strategic, small and medium sites), together with the preferred strategic approaches, core and development management Policies - these have been refined as a result of consultation and ongoing technical studies.
- 1.7 The Pre-Submission Local Plan is published for consultation in January 2018 and representations will be sent to the Inspector to be considered during the examination of the Local Plan. The Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in March 2018. The Plan will be accompanied by all the supporting documents, including the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Reports.
- 1.8 Central Bedfordshire Council has commissioned independent specialist consultants Enfusion Ltd to undertake the statutory SA process (incorporating SEA) and the HRA process for the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 1.9 The Council is required to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment² (HRA) of the Local Plan. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the nature conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. The HRA screening considers if the potential impacts arising as a result of the CBLP are likely to have significant effect on these sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 1.10 The HRA process has its own legislative drivers and requirements and, while the different processes can inform each other, it is important that the HRA remains distinguishable from the wider SA process. The HRA process has been undertaken in parallel with the SA process but the detailed methods and findings are reported separately within this HRA Report (November 2017). Summary HRA findings are incorporated into the integrated SA Report.

Initial HRA Screening Studies

- 1.11 Early HRA studies were undertaken with Council preparing a HRA Screening Report in 2014 of the then proposed Development Strategy for the Central Bedfordshire area. This screening assessment identified that there are no European Conservation sites within the Council's administrative boundary. Nine sites were identified outside of Central Bedfordshire that had the potential to be negatively affected by their Plan, all located within 40km of Central Bedfordshire. The HRA concluded that the policies which were

² The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>

allocating land for development were not considered to result in any impacts on European designated sites in the surrounding area, either alone or in combination with other plans and programmes.

- 1.12 The emerging elements of the draft new Local Plan were tested through the SA process and published in the Initial SA Report (June 2017) alongside the Draft Plan for Regulation 18 consultation during July-August 2017. As this initial draft of the Plan did not include any proposed site allocations, the scope of the HRA was limited at this stage, and the HRA studies were summarised in the SA Report at Section 8. The initial HRA updated the European Sites Characterisation and the Review of Plans, Programmes & Projects – building upon the earlier HRA work reported in 2014. This updating confirmed the nine European Sites that are outside the boundary of the Central Bedfordshire area but could be negatively affected by the CBLP.
- 1.13 The SA Report (paragraph 8.9) explained that at the next stage of plan-making and as the locational specificity for strategic and other small-medium sites is progressed, the HRA Screening will be updated and published for public consultation accompanying the Pre-Submission draft CBLP later in 2017. The SA Report will be updated and it will incorporate the findings of the updated HRA screening.

Consultation

- 1.14 The Habitats Regulations require the plan making/competent authority to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body, in this case Natural England (NE). Comments from the statutory nature conservation bodies (NE & Environment Agency) were received on the HRA Screening Report (2014), the SA Scoping Report (June 2016), and the Initial SA Report (June 2017). These comments and any advice provided have been taken forward in the iterative HRA work documented in this Report.
- 1.15 The Habitats Regulations leave consultation with other bodies and the public to the discretion of the plan making authority. Therefore, in addition to the statutory consultation undertaken with the appropriate nature conservation bodies, this HRA Report is available for wider public Regulation 19 consultation alongside the Pre-Submission Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan.

Purpose & Structure of this Report

- 1.16 This report documents the process and the findings of the HRA for the Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (Pre-Submission). Following this introductory section, the document is organised into a further four sections:
- Section 2 summarises the requirement for HRA and the background to the Draft Plan
 - Section 3 outlines the screening process and the findings of the screening assessment, including avoidance and mitigation measures where necessary
 - Section 4 summarises the findings of the HRA and sets out the next steps

2.0 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT & THE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 2.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) [the Habitats Regulations] require that HRA is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance.
- 2.2 The Habitats Regulations transpose the requirements of the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna [the Habitats Directive] that aims to protect habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European Sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which are designated under European Directive (2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds [the Birds Directive]. In addition, Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention]) are included within the HRA process as required by the Regulations.
- 2.3 The process of HRA is based on the precautionary principle³ and evidence should be presented to allow a determination of whether the impacts of a land-use plan, when considered in combination with the effects of other plans and projects against the conservation objectives of a European Site; would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where effects are considered uncertain, the potential for adverse impacts should be assumed. The HRA process must be applied before a plan or project that might affect a European Site can be adopted or authorised.

Guidance and Good Practice

- 2.4 The application of HRA to Local Plans is still developing and has been informed by a number of key guidance and practice documents. Draft guidance for HRA 'Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment', was published by the Government (DCLG, 2006) and is based on the European Commission's (2001) guidance for the Appropriate Assessment of Plans. The DCLG guidance recommends three main stages to the HRA process:
- **Stage 1:** Screening for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)
 - **Stage 2:** Appropriate Assessment (AA) Ascertaining Effects on Integrity
 - **Stage 3:** Mitigations Measures and Alternatives Assessment.

³ For example, see HRA Standard, Natural England (February 2016)

- 2.5 If alternative solutions or avoidance/mitigation measures to remove adverse effects on site integrity cannot be delivered then current guidance recommends an additional stage to consider Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) for why the plan should proceed. For the HRA of land use plans IROPI is only likely to be justified in a very limited set of circumstances and must be accompanied by agreed, deliverable compensation measures for the habitats and species affected. For this reason, the IROPI stage is not detailed further in this report.
- 2.6 Natural England produced draft additional, detailed guidance on the HRA of Local Development Documents (Tyldesley, 2009 (as updated)) that complements the DCLG guidance, and builds on assessment experience and relevant court rulings. The guidance: sets out criteria to assist with the screening process; addresses the management of uncertainty in the assessment process; and importantly outlines that for the HRA of plans; '*... what is expected is as rigorous an assessment as can reasonably be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations ...*'.

Method

- 2.7 The approach taken for the HRA of the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan follows the method set out in the formal guidance documents, builds upon the previous HRA Screening, and takes into account comments and advice provided by the environmental regulator, Natural England. The key stages of the HRA process overall, and the specific tasks undertaken for each stage are set out in Table 2.1, as follows:

Table 2.1: Habitats Regulations Assessment Key Stages

Stages	Habitats Regulations Assessment
Stage 1: Screening for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)	1. Identify European sites in and around the plan area.
	2. Examine the conservation objectives of each interest feature of the European site(s) potentially affected.
	3. Analyse the policy/ plan and the changes to environmental conditions that may occur as a result of the plan. Consider the extent of the effects on European sites (magnitude, duration, and location) based on best available information.
	4. Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute (cumulatively) to identified impacts/ effects.
	5. Produce screening assessment based on evidence gathered and consult statutory nature conservation body on findings.
	6. If effects are judged likely or uncertainty exists – the precautionary principle applies proceed to Stage 2.
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (AA)	1. Agree scope and method of Appropriate Assessment with statutory nature conservation body.
	2. Collate all relevant information and evaluate potential impacts on site(s) in light of conservation objectives.
Stage 3: Mitigation Measures and Alternatives Assessment	1. Consider how effect on integrity of site(s) could be avoided by changes to plan and the consideration of alternatives (e.g. an alternative policy/ spatial location). Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and mechanisms for delivery).
	2. Prepare HRA/ AA report and consult statutory body.
	3. Finalise HRA/AA report in line with statutory advice to accompany plan for wider consultation.

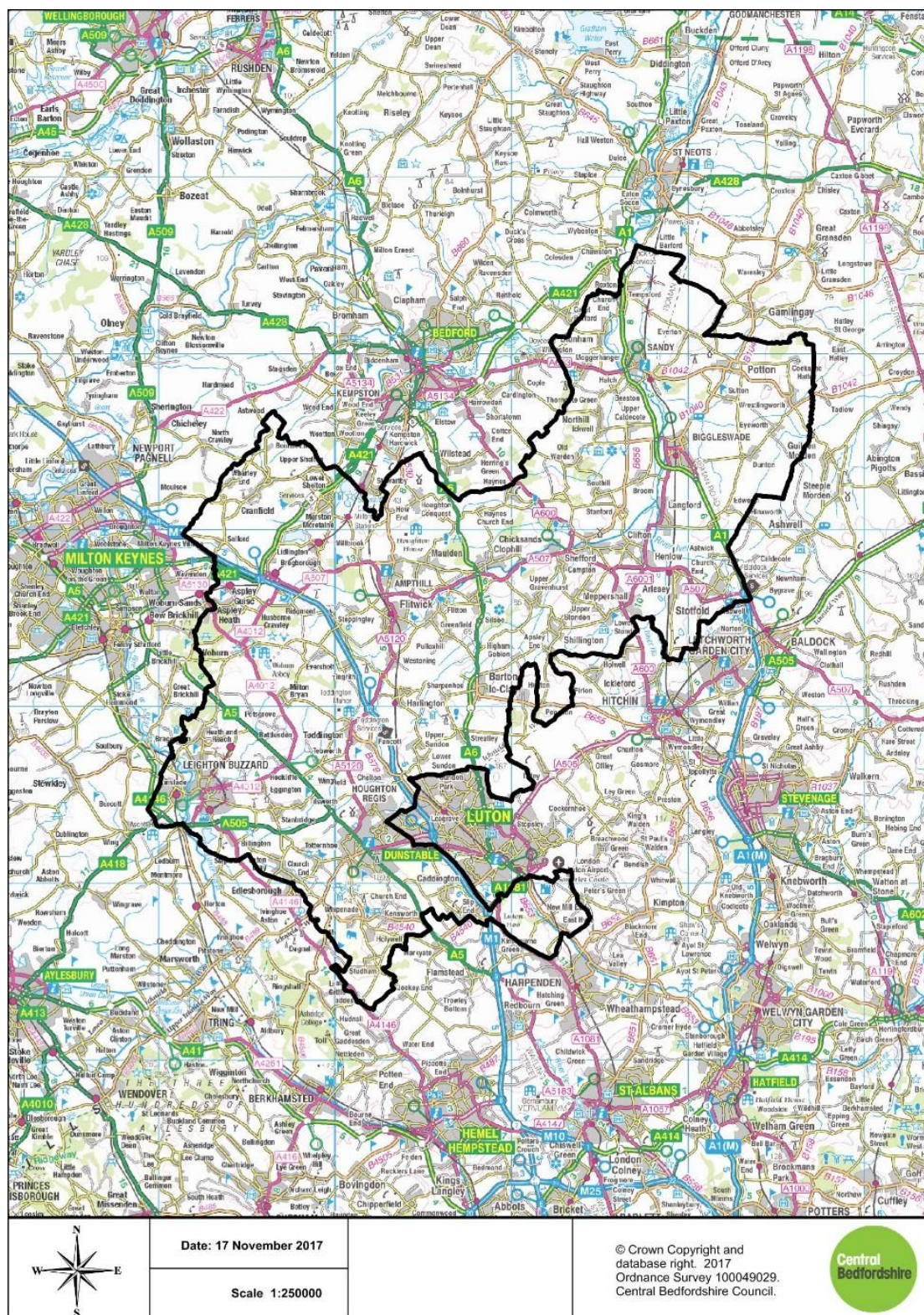
The Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (Pre-Submission)

2.8 The Draft Local Plan comprises the following elements:

- Vision & Strategic Objectives for the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan area
- The Spatial Strategy with an approach to deliver 39,350 homes and a minimum of 24,000 new jobs over the period 2015-2035; this number includes around 24,000 homes already planned for or built. The growth will be through strategic allocations with small and medium site allocations; also Identified Locations for Future Growth to be considered in an early Partial Plan Review
- Strategic Policies: SP1 Growth Strategy with Town Extensions North of Luton & East of Arlesey; new Villages at Marston Valley & East of Biggleswade; Strategic Employment Areas at M1 J11a, M1 J13, A1 Biggleswade South, & RAF Henlow Mixed Use Specialist Employment; SP2 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development; SP3 Generic Requirements for Strategic Sites; SP4 Development in the Green Belt; SP5 Preventing Coalescence & Important Countryside Gaps; Settlement Hierarchy; SP7 Development within Settlement Envelopes; SP8 Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople Pitch Requirement
- Core Policies and Development Management (DM) Policies to guide development proposals categorised as follows: Housing H1-9; Employment EMP1-5; Retail & Town Centres R1-3; Transport T1-6; Environmental Enhancement EE1-14; Climate Change & Environmental Quality CC1-8; High Quality Places HQ1-11; Historic Environment HE1-3; and Development in the Countryside DC1-5

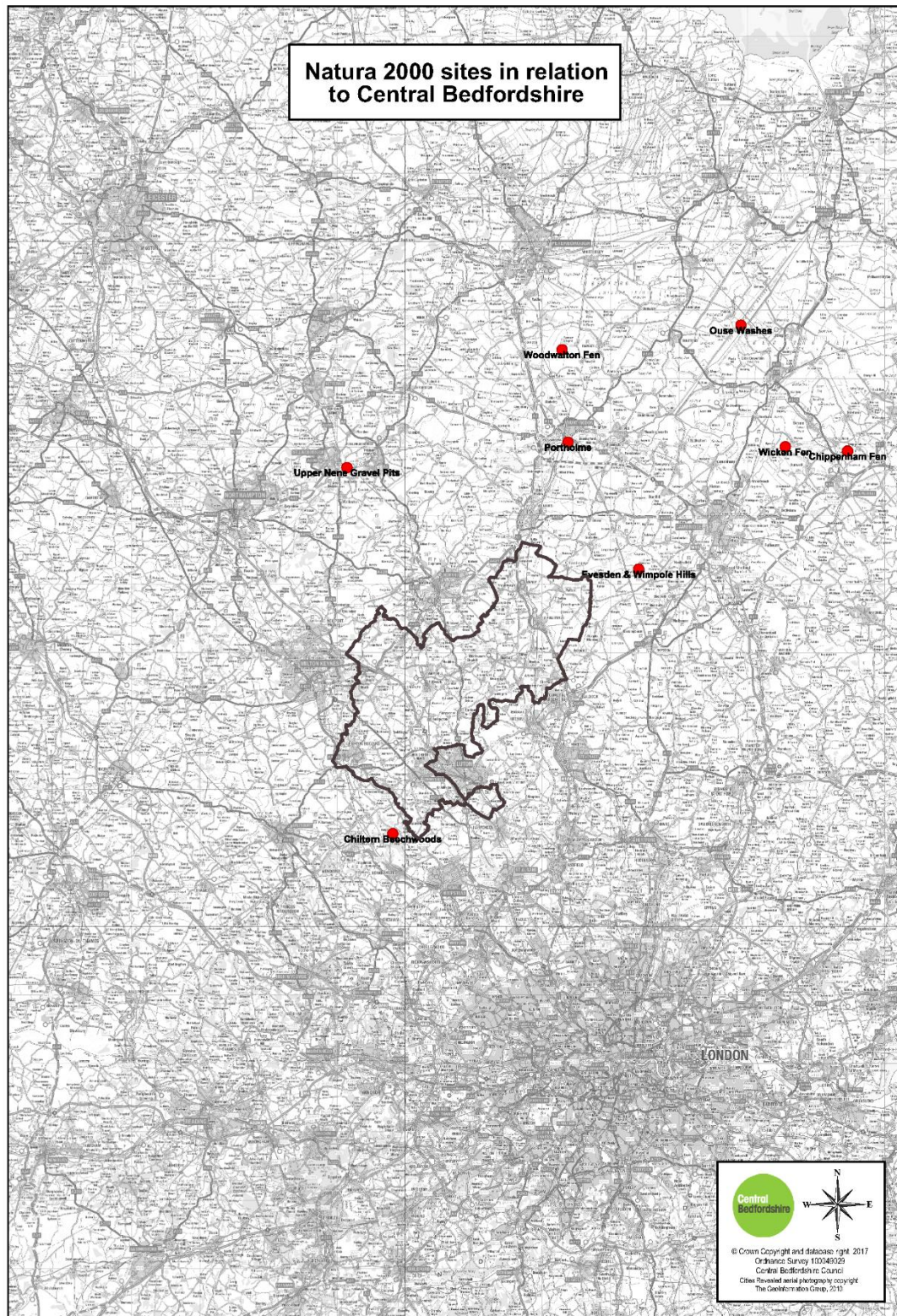
2.9 The location of the Central Bedfordshire area with European Sites located beyond its boundary is shown in the Figures 2.1 and 2.2 as follows:

Figure 2.1: Location of Central Bedfordshire⁴



⁴ Copyright Central Bedfordshire Borough Council

Figure 2.2:



3.0 HRA SCREENING

Introduction

- 3.1 As detailed previously in Section 2 Table 2.1, HRA typically involves a number of stages. This section of the report sets out the approach and findings for Stage 1, HRA Screening for the Pre-Submission Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. The aim of the screening stage is to assess in broad terms whether the policies and proposals set out in the plan are likely to have a significant effect on a European site(s), and whether in the light of available avoidance and mitigation measures, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is necessary.

Previous Screening Work

- 3.2 In 2014 Central Bedfordshire Council conducted a Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment (HRA) to identify any potential significant effects that their proposed Development Strategy and Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan may have on designated European Conservation sites. Their screening assessment identified that there are no European Conservation sites within their administrative boundary. Nine sites were identified outside of Central Bedfordshire that had the potential to be negatively affected by their Plan, all located within 50km of the Central Bedfordshire area.
- 3.3 The HRA concluded that there were several threats to the European sites that could arise as a result of the Plan. These threats were an increase in recreational pressure, an increase in air pollution, and a decrease in water quality and increased runoff leading to localised flooding. The HRA found that none of the European sites would be significantly affected by either air pollution or water quality/increased runoff due to their distance from any proposed development, and the mitigation provided through local policies. Two of the sites were considered to have the potential to be affected by an increase in recreational pressure - Chilterns Beechwoods SAC and Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. However, the HRA determined that any increase in recreational pressure would be negligible, and that no significant effects were likely.
- 3.4 The screening process considered other plans and programmes, both locally and in adjacent authorities, that had the potential to act in-combination with the proposed Development Strategy. The HRA found that there were no likely in-combination affects with other plans and programmes that would impact on the European sites. The HRA therefore concluded that the policies which were allocating land for development were not considered to result in any impacts on European designated sites in the surrounding area, either alone or in-combination with other plans and programmes. The HRA findings⁵ can be found summarised in Table 3.1, as follows:

⁵ Central Bedfordshire Council (2014) Central Bedfordshire Development Strategy HRA Screening Assessment

Table 3.1: HRA Screening Summary (2014)

European Sites	Designation	AA required alone?	AA required in combination?
		N No Y Yes ? Uncertain	X No Y Yes ? Uncertain
Chiltern Beechwoods	SAC	N	N
Eversden and Wimpole Woods	SAC	N	N
Chippenham Fen	Ramsar	N	N
Wicken Fen	Ramsar	N	N
Woodwalton Fen	Ramsar	N	N
Ouse Washes	SPA/SAC/Ramsar	N	N
Portholme	SAC	N	N
Fenland SAC	SAC	N	N
Upper Nene Gravel Pits	SPA/Ramsar	N	N

- 3.5 The Initial SA Report (June 2017) accompanying the Draft Plan on Regulation 18 Consultation (July-August 2017) included Section 8 that summarised the previous HRA, explained that the European Sites Characterisation had been updated, together with the Review of Plans, Programmes & Projects. It further explained that as the locational specificity for strategic and other small-medium sites is progressed, the HRA Screening will be updated and published for public consultation accompanying the Pre-Submission draft CBLP. The SA Report will be updated and it will incorporate the findings of the updated HRA screening.
- 3.6 The details of comments made on the Initial SA Report are detailed in the SA Report (November 2017) in Appendix IX. Comments were received from the statutory environmental regulators. The Environment Agency (EA) had various comments on the draft Policies but no specific comments on the SA. Historic England (HE) had some concerns with some of the policies and did not agree with the SA that objectives would be met and that the plan might produce some negative effects.
- 3.7 Natural England noted that the Initial SA Report provides an overview and that further SA work will be prepared to include details for each proposed strategic allocation and the smaller non-strategic sites. As such, it was difficult for NE to comment on the HRA and how its findings have been incorporated into the SA since the HRA had had only limited progression until the locational specificity of the site allocations was more developed.
- 3.8 NE was concerned that the SA cannot rely alone on the emerging development management policies to mitigate the potential adverse effects on the natural environment, including designated sites and landscapes.

Evidence will be needed and NE advised that studies are needed on transport, air quality, the water cycle, landscape, agricultural land quality and recreational pressures on designated sites and landscapes. The SA, HRA and plan-making share the same evidence base and the SA will be updated as further evidence is completed. In the meantime, the SA describes any gaps in information and records uncertainty – and as in accordance with the SEA Regulations. No further comments were received from any consultee on the HRA updating as summarised in the Initial SA Report.

- 3.9 Building on the previous screening work and informed by the consultation response received from NE, the screening tasks (Table 2.1) were revisited for the Draft Plan:

Identification of European Sites

- 3.10 The previous HRA Screening, and as updated (Initial SA Report, June 2017) consider that the sites that should be included in the HRA are as follows:

Sites wholly or partly within the Central Bedfordshire boundary

- None

Sites outside the Central Bedfordshire boundary

- Chiltern Beechwoods SAC
- Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC
- Chippenham Fen Ramsar
- Wicken Fen Ramsar
- Woodwalton Fen Ramsar
- Ouse Washes SPA/SAC/Ramsar
- Fenland SAC
- Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar

- 3.11 Appendix I of this HRA Report details the characterisations of the European Sites scoped into the HRA and including conservation objectives with any specific vulnerabilities. A general overview of each of the eight European Sites is provided in Table 3.2, as follows:

Table 3.2: European Site Characterisations

European Sites within Plan Area
None
European Sites outside Plan Area
Chiltern Beechwoods SAC: The site is located approx. 5km to the south west of Central Bedfordshire. The SAC comprises nine separate sites scattered across the Chilterns. The site has three features of interest; the beech woodland, semi-natural grasslands and scrubland on chalk, and the population of Stag beetle present. The site is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for beech woodlands.
Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC: The site is located approx. 5km to the east of Central Bedfordshire. The site is an ancient woodland of ash-maple type. The site holds colonies of Barbastelle bat, the sole European designated feature of

the site. The bats use the trees as a summer maternity roost where female bats gather to give birth to their young. The bats also use the site as a foraging area. Some of the woodland is also used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site.
Chippenham Fen Ramsar: The site is approx. 35km to the east of Central Bedfordshire. The site is of international importance for its wide range of wetland habitats and associated flora, birds and insects. The site also contains calcareous grassland, neutral grassland, woodland, mixed scrub and open water.
Wicken Fen Ramsar: The site is approx. 30km to the east of Central Bedfordshire. This site is one of the most outstanding remnants of the East Anglian peat fens and has been preserved as a flood catchment area and its water level is controlled by sluice gates. The site supports one species of British Red Data Book plant, fen violet. It also contains eight nationally scarce plants and 121 British Red Data Book invertebrates.
Woodwalton Fen Ramsar: The site is approx. 30km north of Central Bedfordshire. The fen is near natural and has developed where peat-digging took place in the 19th century. The site has several types of open fen and swamp communities. The site supports two species of British Red Data Book plants, fen violet and fen wood-rush.
Ouse Washes SPA/SAC/Ramsar: The Ouse Washes is one of the regions few remaining washland habitats. The site regularly supports internationally and nationally important numbers of over-wintering and breeding bird species. The Ouse Washes also supports populations of spined loach, a qualifying feature for the SAC.
Fenland SAC: The site is approx. 35km to the east of Central Bedfordshire. The site generally consists of standing water bodies, ditch systems, bogs, marshes and broad-leaved woodland carr. The primary qualifying Fenland SAC features are the extensive examples of the tall herb-rich East Anglian fen-meadow and the calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen-sedge. Other qualifying features present include great crested newt and spined loach.
Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA consists of a chain of exhausted sand and gravel pits extending for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene. The extensive open waters and associated habitats of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits collectively form one of the most important inland localities in England for waterbirds in the non-breeding period and regularly supports peak numbers of waterbird in excess of 20,000 individuals.

Effects of the Pre-Submission Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan

- 3.12 The key element of the Plan is the delivery across the plan area of 39,350 homes (including some 24,000 homes already planned or built) and employment land for 24,000 new jobs over the life of the plan to 2035. Housing, employment and infrastructure development has the potential to generate a range of environmental impacts that can (depending on their nature, magnitude, location and duration) have effects on European sites. A summary of the types of impacts and effects that can arise from these types of development is provided in Table 3.3, as follows:

Table 3.3: Housing, Employment and Infrastructure Development - Summary of Impacts and Effects on European Sites

Effects on European Sites	Impact Types
Habitat (& species) fragmentation and loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct land take, removal of green/ connecting corridors/ supporting habitat, changes to sediment patterns (rivers and coastal locations) Introduction of invasive species (predation)
Disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased recreational activity (population increase) Noise and light pollution (from development and increased traffic)
Changes to hydrological regime/ water levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased abstraction levels (new housing) Increased hard standing non-permeable surfaces/ accelerated run-off Laying pipes/ cables (surface & ground) Topography alteration
Changes to water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in run-off/ pollutants from non-permeable surfaces (roads, built areas) Increased air pollution (eutrophication) (traffic, housing) Increased volume of discharges (consented)
Changes in air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased traffic movements Increased emissions from buildings

Other Plans and Projects

- 3.13 A review of other plans and projects in and around the Central Bedfordshire area was conducted to consider the potential for significant in-combination effects. The review found that a number of existing plans could have a variety of in-combination effects with the Draft Central Bedfordshire Plan and as detailed in Appendix II of this HRA Report. These potential significant effects include impacts on air pollution through increased traffic and increased levels of disturbance through recreational activities, together with noise and light pollution.

Allocation/Policy Screening

- 3.14 The first stage in the screening process considered the potential impacts arising as a result of the allocations/policies in the Draft Local Plan, and whether these have the potential to lead to likely significant effects (LSEs). The screening (which can be found in Appendix 3) identified 17 Draft CBLP Policies for which the impacts could potentially lead to significant effects alone.
- 3.15 The screening assessment identified the potential for significant effects on eight European sites as a result of changes to air quality, increased disturbance and changes to water levels and/ or water quality. The findings are detailed in Appendix III; a summary of the policies and their potential impacts are provided in Table 3.4, as follows:

Table 3.4: Pre-Submission Draft CBLP Policies identified as having impacts that could lead to LSEs

Policy/ Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth
Policy SP1 Growth Strategy	<p>The Policy makes provision over the Plan period for 39,350 new homes and land to support a minimum of 24,000 new jobs. This number includes around 24,000 homes which are already planned for or built. It aims to deliver this through new villages, moderate extensions to existing towns & villages, and a new market town in line with the provision of new infrastructure & to meet identified housing need close to key transport corridors (East-West, A1/East Coast Mainline, & M1/Thameslink).</p> <p>The Policy has the potential to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ atmospheric pollution through increased traffic, which could reduce air quality; ▪ increased levels of disturbance - recreational activity, noise and light pollution; ▪ increased levels of abstraction; surface water run-off and sewage discharge, which could reduce water quality and change water levels; and ▪ land take, which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats and loss of species.
Strategic Allocation Policy SA1: North of Luton 3500-4000 homes; up to 20ha employment land	<p>Town Extension: Site is approx. 15km from the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. No likely effects on water or habitat loss considered.</p>
Strategic Allocation Policy SA3: East of Arlesey Up to 2000 homes	<p>Town Extension: Site is approx. 20km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.</p>
Strategic Allocation Policy SA2: Marston Vale New Villages Up to 5000 homes; 40ha	<p>The allocation is approx. 25km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution and potential effects on the Natura 2000 site. The allocation has the potential to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site.</p>

Policy/ Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth
employment land	The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.
Strategic Allocation Policy SA4: Biggleswade East Up to 1500 homes Identified Location for Future Growth Biggleswade East	Sites are approx. 15km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.
Strategic Allocation Policy SE1: Sundon Rail Freight Interchange (RFI) 55 ha employment land	Strategic Employment Area: Site is approx. 15km from the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, including freight traffic, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. The employment allocation will not result in an increase in recreational use and will not have an effect through increased noise/light disturbance due to the distance. No likely effects on water or habitat loss considered.
Strategic Allocation Policy SE2: Marston Gate Expansion M1 J13 35 ha employment land	Strategic Employment Area: The allocation is approx. 25km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, including freight traffic, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution and potential effects on the Natura 2000 site. The allocation is not considered likely to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, and increased noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site due to the distance. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.
Strategic Allocation Policy SE3: Holme Farm, South of Biggleswade A1 35 ha employment land	Strategic Employment Area: The allocation is approx. 15km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, including freight traffic, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. The allocation is not considered likely to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, and increased noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site due to the distance. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is

Policy/ Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth
	not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.
Strategic Allocation Policy SE4: RAF Henlow: 130 ha	Mixed Use Specialist Employment: The allocation is approx. 25km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, including freight traffic, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. The allocation is not considered likely to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, and increased noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site due to the distance. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.
Strategic Allocation Policy SA5: Houghton Regis North Site 1 approximately 5,150 homes; 32 ha employment land Site 2 approximately 1,500-1,850 homes; 8 ha employment land	<p>Sites within the Council's adopted Framework Plan⁶ for North Houghton Regis with outline planning permission for Site 1 (2014) and a hybrid planning permission for Site 2 (2015) granted. This major urban development was previously subject to SA and HRA during the preparation of the previous Joint Core Strategy with Luton Council that was withdrawn in 2011; it is included within the new Local Plan for Central Bedfordshire to allow a more integrated approach to the two sites, enabling a more sustainable development with each other and with the urban area of Houghton Regis. The HRA is refreshed here in this HRA Report and particularly to take into account any potential in-combination effects.</p> <p>This allocation is on the northern side of Houghton Regis between the A5 and the M1 Junction 11a. It is approximately 11km north east of the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the designated site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation are not considered likely to have an effect. No likely effects on water or habitat loss considered either.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>
Broad Location/ Identified Area for Future Growth:	The allocation is approx. 30km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an

⁶ http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/north-houghton-regis-framework-plan_tcm3-6807.pdf

Policy/ Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth
Aspley Guise Triangle 3500 homes	associated increase in atmospheric pollution and potential effects on the Natura 2000 site. The allocation has the potential to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.
Broad Location/ Identified Area for Future Growth: Luton West 3600 homes	Site is approx. 10km from the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. No likely effects on water or habitat loss considered.
Broad Location /Identified Area for Future Growth: Tempsford New settlement up to 10,000 homes	15km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.
Policies T1-6 Transport	<p>Policy T1- Requires plans, statements and assessments that demonstrate reduction in the need to travel and secure a modal shift towards sustainable forms of transport before consideration of provision of additional roads. However, this could still result in additional transport related development.</p> <p>Policies T3-6 set out requirements with regard to sustainable transport (public services, cycling & walking); parking; low emission vehicles; and freight. These are less likely to result in development itself.</p>
Policies CC1-8 Climate Change & Sustainability	Policies cover requirements for minimising lifetime carbon emissions; sustainable energy including wind & solar; flood risk management & sustainable drainage; water supply & sewerage infrastructure; water quality; and pollution, land instability. These policies could lead to infrastructure developments that could have significant effects.
Policies HQ1-11 High Quality Places	Policy HQ1 provides explanation & guidance on how the Council will ensure that there is no overall reduction in provision of infrastructure from new development. Social & community infrastructure is addressed through HQ2 – and these policies could lead to infrastructure

Policy/ Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth
	developments that could have significant effects.

- 3.16 The Pre-Submission Draft CBLP Policies and their potential impacts were then screened against each of the European sites scoped into the HRA. This included consideration of the environmental pathways and sensitivities of the sites, as well as mitigation provided by other Plan Policies, including Development Management Policies. Appendix IV details the results of the HRA screening process for the Pre-Submission Draft CBLP and the key findings are summarised, as follows:

Screening Assessment

- 3.17 HRA screening good practice (Appendix IV) combines both a Plan and a European Site focus. The policy screening removes from consideration those elements of the plan unlikely to have effects on European sites. The remaining plan elements (summarised above) can then be considered in more detail for their impacts on European Sites. The site focus considers the impacts and potential effects identified through the policy screening, in the light of the environmental conditions necessary to maintain site integrity for the European sites scoped into the assessment (Table 3.6).

Table 3.5: Screening Summary Key

Likely Significant Effect	Yes	Appropriate Assessment required
No Likely Significant Effect	No	No further assessment required
Significant Effect Uncertain	?	Uncertain, precautionary approach taken and Appropriate Assessment required

Table 3.6: HRA Screening Summary

European Sites	Potential Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)							
	Air Quality		Disturbance		Water Levels & Quality		Habitat Loss & Fragmentation	
	A ⁷	IC ⁸	A	IC	A	IC	A	IC
European sites within Draft CBLP area								
None								
European sites outside Draft CBLP area								
Chiltern Beechwoods SAC	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Chippenham Fen Ramsar	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Wicken Fen Ramsar	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Woodwalton Fen Ramsar	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ouse Washes SPA/SAC/Ramsar	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Fenland SAC	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Air Quality:

- 3.18 For 5 of the European sites it was assessed that there would be no significant effects as a result of the CBLP alone as the designated features are not considered sensitive to air pollution. For the remaining 3 designated sites (Chiltern Beechwoods SAC, Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC and Fenland SAC), it was considered that there was the potential for an increase in traffic as a result of development on roads in close proximity to the Natura 2000 sites, and that air pollution was considered a threat for those sites.
- 3.19 The Pre-Submission Draft CBLP policies seek to protect air quality and minimise the impacts of increased atmospheric pollution and traffic:
- **SP1 Growth Strategy** focuses development in and around existing urban areas or in new villages/towns. This will help to promote and improve sustainable transport and reduce the use of private vehicles with concomitant positive effects for air quality in the longer term.
 - **Policies T1-8:** Policies will promote sustainable transport in the region. This includes the requirement for strategic developments to contribute

⁷ AA required alone?

⁸ AA required in combination?

towards enhanced sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and bus use, and prove they have supported a modal shift from private vehicle use to public transport use. Furthermore, the promotion of low emission vehicle is included in the Transport policies, with positive effects on air quality.

- **Policy CC1:** Policy will limit carbon emissions from buildings through reducing energy demand and using low and zero carbon energy sources.
- **Policy CC8:** The Policy addresses pollution, and mitigates against a potential increase in air quality by ensuring that development minimises emissions.
- **Policy EE2, EE3 and EE4:** The policies protect the natural environment from impacts from development. This includes ensuring designated sites and habitats of importance are protected, requires that development should result in a net gain, and protects woodland which is key for the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and the Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC.

3.20 The mitigation detailed above, and the location of the site in respect to the strategic road network of Central Bedfordshire, is considered sufficient mitigation such that the Plan is not considered to have a significant effect on air pollution alone for any of the Natura 2000 sites. Additional mitigation is provided in the Site Improvement Plans for the three sites, in which Natural England details their actions to address the threat of air pollution.

3.21 Appendix II (PP review) determined that there was the potential for in-combination effects with neighbouring plans and projects for air quality. However, the screening in Appendix IV concluded that the location of development as per the Local Plans of the relevant neighbouring authorities and the location of strategic road routes in the Plan area meant there were no likely in-combination effects on air quality. The HRAs of the relevant neighbouring authorities, (Luton, South Cambridgeshire and St Albans) also concluded there would be no likely effect on air quality, alone or in-combination. However, these HRAs were completed before a relevant High Court Judgement, as follows:

3.22 Natural England (NE) has advised that Authorities should seek their own legal advice in consideration of the recent High Court Judgment [EWHC 351]^[1] (March 2017) *Wealden District Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council & South Downs National Park Authority* that found advice from Natural England on the in-combination of air quality impacts (based on nationally developed guidance) to be flawed. The case concerned the approach to assessment of in-combination effects with regard to vehicle emissions and nitrogen deposition effects on heathland habitat in the Ashdown Forest SAC. The outcome was that part of the Lewes JCS (prepared by LDC & the SDNPA) was quashed. Natural England has been required to reconsider its advice regarding in-combination assessment and Highways England has been required to re-examine its Design Manual for Roads & Bridges (DRMB).

^[1] <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2017/351.html>

- 3.23 The joint air Quality Technical Advisory Group (AQTAG – Environment Agency, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales) published guidance^[2] regarding HRA in-combination assessment, defining likely significant effect thresholds for industrial installations and emissions to air. The Design Manual for Roads & Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11^[3] provides guidance on environmental assessment including implications for European Sites (Section 4).
- 3.24 DMRB advises that where annual average daily traffic movements (AADT) resulting from development do not exceed 1000 on affected roads, environmental effects may be regarded as neutral and scoped out of any further assessment. The AQTAG21 guidance relied upon by NE and prepared by the AQTAG asserts that the 1000 AADT threshold equated to a 1% change in critical loads/levels relating to an identified pollutant which, if not exceeded, allowed the decision-maker to conclude that there would be no likely significant effect. Advice from NE further asserted that it was unlikely that a substantial number of plans or projects will occur in the same area at the same time, such that their in-combination impact would give rise to concern at the appropriate assessment stage.
- 3.25 The Judge found that on a proper interpretation of the DMRB, in-combination effects are potentially relevant at the initial scoping stage as well as at the subsequent further assessment stage. He also found that there was no explanation for not aggregating the two amounts such that the AADTs from both plans (WCS & SDNPA JCS) should have been taken into account; the 1000 AADT threshold would be exceeded and thus then require an in-combination assessment.
- 3.26 Central Bedfordshire Council is working closely with Luton Council in whose borough area is located the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC; the Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC is located in the South Cambridgeshire District Council area. CBC will continue to review the situation with NE and HE and guidance on preparing HRAs with transport assessments and air quality. However, the strong Policies in the CBC Draft Plan and the locations of the Strategic Allocations relative to these two European Sites, indicate that there will be no likely significant effects (LSEs) individually or in-combination.

Disturbance:

- 3.27 For 6 of the European sites it was assessed that there would be no significant effects as a result of the CBLP alone as the designated features are not considered sensitive to disturbance. For the remaining 2 designated sites (Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar), the screening concluded there was a risk of increased recreational activities having negative effects on the sites as disturbance was an identified threat. However, due to the distance of the sites from the Plan area disturbance through noise and light pollution was not considered likely, with recreational pressure being the main threat.

^[2] http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/78886/189_wealdenappendixb.pdf

^[3] <http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/vol11/index.htm>

3.28 The Pre-Submission Draft CBLP policies seek to enhance existing open spaces in Central Bedfordshire, provide new provision and protect designated nature sites:

- **Policy EE1:** This policy will mitigate against increased recreational pressure for the 2 sites by enhancing the current green infrastructure network of Central Bedfordshire. By enhancing green infrastructure residents of Central Bedfordshire will have green spaces and green networks they can access, which will result in residents not travelling to the Natura 2000 sites for recreational purposes.
- **Policy EE13:** The policy ensured development makes appropriate contributions to recreational space and sports facilities, with enhancements to existing provision and additional provision for the strategic allocations. By providing recreational and sports facilities in the Plan area for residents this will reduce the need for residents to access open spaces outside of the Plan area, including the 2 Natura 2000 sites sensitive to recreational pressures.
- **Policy EE2 and EE3:** The policies protect the natural environment from impacts from development. This includes ensuring designated sites and habitats of importance are protected, requires that development should result in a net gain.

3.29 The mitigation outlined above is considered comprehensive enough to prevent significant effects on recreation for the 2 Natura 2000 sites. Furthermore, both sites have Site Improvement Plans, in which Natural England have detailed their proposed actions and funding mechanisms to address recreational pressure, providing additional mitigation and preventing negative effects. Due to the distance of the site options from the Plan area, and unlikely effects alone, the screening concluded that in-combination effects through recreation were unlikely.

Water Levels & Quality:

3.30 Three of the eight European sites were not considered to be at risk from changes in water levels or quality; however, changes in hydraulic conditions, groundwater pollution and flooding were highlighted as threats for the remaining five sites. For one of the five (Woodwalton Fen Ramsar), no environmental pathways were found as the site was not in the same catchment area, and therefore there was not considered to be a risk. The remaining four sites (Chippenham Fen Ramsar, Fenland SAC, Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar and Wicken Fen Ramsar) were considered to be at risk as potential environmental pathways were identified.

3.31 The Pre-Submission Draft CBLP policies seek to protect the water environment, manage water resources and prevent flooding are as follows:

- **Policy CC1:** Policy asks for higher water efficiency standards to minimize water demand and abstraction.
- **Policy CC4:** The Policy details that development in close proximity to a watercourse will be required to maximise opportunities to

enhance the ecological value of water course and their flood storage value, with positive effects on flood risk management and water quality.

- **Policy CC6:** Policy details the requirement to protect water resources and ensure sewerage infrastructure is adequate to accommodate development. This will help ensure water abstraction is sustainable, and that pollution of groundwater through sewage is prevented through appropriate sewerage infrastructure.
- **Policy CC7:** Policy protects the water environment from pollution as a result of development, with positive effects on water quality.
- **Policy EE2 and EE3:** The policies protect the natural environment from impacts from development. This includes ensuring designated sites and habitats of importance are protected, requires that development should result in a net gain.

- 3.32 Further mitigation is provided through the site improvement plans for the Fenland SAC and Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar where funding and mitigation actions are detailed to address changes in the water environment identified as a threat for the sites. The mitigation provided through the Draft Local Plan Policies will protect the water environment from pollution, enhance flood risk management and protect water resources. Therefore, likely significant effects alone are not considered for the Local Plan on water quality or water levels.
- 3.33 In-combination effects on water levels and quality were considered in Appendix IV. However, it was determined that due to the mitigation available through both the Anglian River Basin Management Plan, and the Anglian Water Resources Management Plan is considered sufficient to ensure that significant effects on the water environment are not likely, and that the European sites will not be affected. The HRAs of both the River Basin Management Plan and the Water Resources Management Plan concluded that there would be no significant effects alone or in-combination as a result of the plans.

Habitat Loss & Fragmentation:

- 3.34 Due to the distance of the European sites from the Plan area, there was not considered to be any potential environmental pathways for habitat loss or fragmentation which would have alone or in-combination negative effects on the Natura 2000 sites.

Further Assessment Required?

- 3.35 The screening assessment in Appendix IV found that the mitigation provided through Draft Local Plan Policies was sufficient such that there were no likely significant effects alone as a result of the Plan. Furthermore, the screening investigated potential in-combination effects, and determined that there was sufficient mitigation and avoidance that in-combination effects with other

plans and projects would not result in likely significant effects. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is not required for this HRA.

4.0 HRA Summary, Conclusions & Next Steps

Summary

- 4.1 This report presents the methods used and the findings arising from the HRA Screening of the Draft Central Bedfordshire Plan. The HRA has been undertaken in accordance with extant guidance and good practice.
- 4.2 The Draft Central Bedfordshire Plan sets out a long-term vision and objectives for how the Central Bedfordshire area will develop in the period up to 2035. The plan addresses future needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities, and infrastructure as well as setting out the principles that will guide and support future development. It sets out the overall level and strategic direction for new development in the area during the life of the plan as well as identifying site allocations for housing, employment, and for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.
- 4.3 The HRA of the Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan identified no European sites in the Central Bedfordshire area, but nine sites outside the authority area that were considered relevant for the HRA. The screening of the Draft CBC Local Plan highlighted 17 policies/allocations that had the potential to have likely significant effects alone on the Natura 2000 designations. The policies/allocations were then screened against the nine European sites, with other Draft CBC Local Plan policies taken into account to provide mitigation.

Conclusion

- 4.4 The screening found that some sites were at risk from increased air pollution, disturbance and changes to water levels & water quality, with potential environmental pathways for these impacts to occur. However, the Draft CBC Local Plan Policies are comprehensive and therefore provide sufficient mitigation, such that no significant alone effects are likely. The screening also concluded that in-combination effects are not likely due to mitigation provided through mitigation, and the location of development in neighbouring authorities.

Consultation and Next Steps

- 4.5 These findings will be subject to further consultation comments and advice from the relevant regulator, Natural England. HRA is an iterative process and further work will be undertaken alongside the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan to inform its development.
- 4.6 The findings of this plan level HRA do not obviate the need to undertake HRA for lower level, project scale/ implementation plans where there is potential for significant effect on one or more European sites. The findings of this HRA should be used to inform any future assessment work.

Appendix I: European Sites Characterisation

- Chiltern Beechwoods SAC
- Chippenham Fen Ramsar
- Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC
- Fenland SAC
- Ouse Washes SAC
- Ouse Washes SPA
- Ouse Washes Ramsar
- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA
- Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Ramsar
- Wicken Fen Ramsar
- Woodwalton Fen Ramsar

Site Name: Chiltern Beechwoods Grid Reference: SP975134 JNCC Site Code: UK0012724 Size: 1285.86ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The Chilterns Beechwoods represent a very extensive tract of ancient semi-natural beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> forests in the centre of the habitat's UK range. The woodland is an important part of a mosaic with species-rich chalk grassland and scrub. A distinctive feature in the woodland flora is the occurrence of the rare coralroot <i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>. Standing and fallen dead timber provide habitat for dead-wood (saproxylic) invertebrates, including stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>.</p>
Qualifying Features	<p>Annex 1 habitats that are a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asperulo- Fagetum beech forests <p>Annex 1 habitats present as qualifying feature but not primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrublands facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) <p>Annex II species present as qualifying feature but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stag beetle (<i>Lucanus cervus</i>)
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest and Plantation management & use- Inside Problematic native species- Inside/Outside Invasive non-native species- Inside/Outside

Site Name: Chiltern Beechwoods Grid Reference: SP975134 JNCC Site Code: UK0012724 Size: 1285.86ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Interspecific floral relations- Inside■ Nitrogen deposition

Site Name: Chippenham Fens Site Code: UK11014 Size: 112.13ha Designation: Ramsar	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The site is in east Cambridgeshire, 6 km north of Newmarket. The site is of international importance for its wide range of wetland habitats and associated flora, birds and insects. Areas of tall and often rich fen, fen grassland and basic flush have developed over shallow peat soils. The site also contains calcareous grassland, neutral grassland, woodland, mixed scrub and open water.</p>
Qualifying Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ramsar criterion 1: A spring-fed calcareous basin mire with a long history of management, which is partly reflected in the diversity of present-day vegetation. ■ Ramsar criterion 2: The invertebrate fauna is very rich, partly due to its transitional position between Fenland and Breckland. The species list is very long, including many rare and scarce invertebrates characteristic of ancient fenland sites in Britain. ■ Ramsar criterion 3: The site supports diverse vegetation types, rare and scarce plants. The site is the stronghold of Cambridge milk parsley <i>Selinum carvifolia</i>.
Conservation Objectives	None listed
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	Water diversion for irrigation/domestic/industrial use

Site Name: Eversden and Wimpole Woods Grid Reference: TL340526 JNCC Site Code: UK0030331 Size: 66.22ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>Eversden Wood is an ancient woodland of ash-maple type which is now very localised in extent, both locally and in lowland England as a whole. The site is one of the largest remaining areas of such woods on the chalky boulder clay in Cambridge and contains a rich assemblage of woodland plants including some uncommon species. The site holds colonies of Barbastelle bat <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>, the sole European designated feature of the site. The bats are associated with the trees in Wimpole woods, these trees are used as a summer maternity roost where female bats gather to give birth to their young. The bats also use the site as a foraging area. Some of the woodland is also used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site.</p>
Qualifying Features	<p>No Annex I habitats present at the site.</p> <p>Annex II species that are primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Barbastelle (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>)
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species ■ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely ■ The populations of qualifying species, and, ■ The distribution of qualifying species within the site
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Forest and Plantation management & use- Inside ■ Unknown threat or pressure- Outside ■ Air pollution, air-borne pollutants- Inside/Outside ■ Changes in biotic conditions- Inside/Outside

Site Name: Fenland Grid Reference: TL554701 JNCC Site Code: UK0014782 Size: 619.25ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The individual sites within Fenland SAC each hold areas of calcareous fens, with a long and well-documented history of regular management. There is a full range from species-poor great fen-sedge <i>Cladium mariscus</i>-dominated fen to species-rich fen with a lower proportion of great fen-sedge and containing such species as black bog-rush <i>Schoenus nigricans</i>, tormentil <i>Potentilla erecta</i> and meadow thistle <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>. There are good transitions to the tall herb-rich East Anglian type of purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – meadow thistle fen meadow and rush pastures, all set within a mosaic of reedbeds and wet pastures.</p>
Qualifying Features	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ■ Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> <p>Annex II species present as qualifying feature but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Spined loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>) ■ Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species ■ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats ■ The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species ■ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely ■ The populations of qualifying species, and, ■ The distribution of qualifying species within the site
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) – Inside/Outside ■ Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions - Inside/Outside ■ Air pollution, air-borne pollutants- Inside/Outside

Site Name: Ouse Washes Grid Reference: TL498895 JNCC Site Code: UK0013011 Size: 311.35ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The Ouse Washes is one of the country's few remaining areas of extensive washland habitat. The associated dykes and rivers hold a great variety of aquatic plants; the pondweeds <i>Potamogeton</i> spp. are particularly well represented. The associated aquatic fauna is similarly diverse and includes spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i>. The Counter Drain, with its clear water and abundant aquatic plants, is particularly important, and a healthy population of spined loach is known to occur.</p>
Qualifying Features	<p>No Annex 1 species present.</p> <p>Annex II species present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spined loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>)
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) – Inside/Outside Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions - Inside/Outside

Site Name: Ouse Washes JNCC Site Code: UK9008041 Size: 2447.26ha Designation: SPA	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The Ouse Washes are located in eastern England on one of the major tributary rivers of The Wash. It is an extensive area of seasonally flooding wet grassland ('washland') lying between the Old and New Bedford Rivers, and acts as a floodwater storage system during winter months. The cycle of winter storage of floodwaters from the river and traditional summer grazing by cattle, as well as hay production, have given rise to a mosaic of rough grassland and wet pasture, with a diverse and rich ditch fauna and flora. The washlands support both breeding and wintering waterbirds. In summer, there are important breeding numbers of several wader species, as well as Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>. In winter, the site holds very large numbers of swans, ducks and waders. During severe winter weather elsewhere, the Ouse Washes can attract waterbirds from other areas due to its relatively mild climate (compared with continental Europe) and abundant food resources. In winter, some wildfowl, especially swans, feed on agricultural land surrounding the SPA.</p>
Qualifying Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding) ■ <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>; Whooper swan (Non-breeding) ■ <i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding) ■ <i>Anas strepera</i>; Gadwall (Breeding) ■ <i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) ■ <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>; Mallard (Breeding) ■ <i>Anas acuta</i>; Northern pintail (Non-breeding) ■ <i>Anas querquedula</i>; Garganey (Breeding) ■ <i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding) ■ <i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler (Breeding) ■ <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding) ■ <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Breeding) ■ <i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Breeding)
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, ■ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Site Name: Ouse Washes JNCC Site Code: UK9008041 Size: 2447.26ha Designation: SPA	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	None listed

Site Name: Ouse Washes Site Code: UK11051 Size: 2469.08ha Designation: Ramsar	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The site lies in the counties of Cambridgeshire and west Norfolk. It extends for 36 km south-west of Downham Market to Erith. This site is an area of seasonally-flooded washland habitat managed in a traditional agricultural manner. The washlands support nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl and nationally important numbers of breeding waterfowl. The site is also of note for the large area of unimproved neutral grassland communities which it holds, and for the richness of the aquatic flora within the associated watercourses.</p>
Qualifying Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ramsar criterion 1: The site is one of the most extensive areas of seasonally-flooding washland of its type in Britain. ■ Ramsar criterion 2: The site supports several nationally scarce plants. Invertebrate records indicate that the site holds relict fenland fauna, including the British Red Data Book species large darter dragonfly <i>Libellula fulva</i> and the rifle beetle <i>Oulimnius major</i>. The site also supports a diverse assemblage of nationally rare breeding waterfowl associated with seasonally-flooding wet grassland. ■ Ramsar criterion 5: 59133 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) ■ Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tundra swan, <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> - Whooper swan, <i>Cygnus Cygnus</i> - Eurasian wigeon, <i>Anas Penelope</i> - Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera Strepera</i> - Eurasian teal, <i>Anas crecca</i> - Northern pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i> - Northern shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i>
Conservation Objectives	<p>None listed</p>
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Vegetation succession- Adverse change in vegetation community type in relation to changing hydrological regime (increased levels of annual inundation) and decades of high nutrient-status of receiving water.

Site Name: Ouse Washes Site Code: UK11051 Size: 2469.08ha Designation: Ramsar	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Eutrophication- High nutrient levels caused by sewage treatment works and agricultural runoff.▪ Reservoir/barrage/dam with an impact on flooding- Recent decades have seen an increase in occurrence of spring flooding and winter flood depths. These two factors have had an adverse impact on vegetation and bird features of the site.

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Screening Summary Key

Likely Significant Effect	Yes	Further Appropriate Assessment required
No Likely Significant Effect	No	No further Appropriate Assessment required as no pathways identified
Significant Effect Uncertain	?	Precautionary approach taken and further Appropriate Assessment required

Chiltern Beechwoods SAC								
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and projects	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced air quality through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p>Policy SP1, SA5, HA1</p>	<p>Proposed development has the potential to increase traffic along the A4146, which is within 1km of the protected site and is a key road link to neighbouring authorities, including Aylesbury Vale and Dacorum.</p> <p>Specifically, development in Leighton Linlade/Leighton Buzzard, the allocation North of Houghton Regis, and potential development at the broad location Luton West could result in an increase in traffic on this road.</p> <p>Potential pathway for short range atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.</p>	<p>Yes, the beech woods and semi-natural dry grasslands are sensitive to atmospheric pollution.</p> <p>Critical loads for nitrogen are being exceeded at the site¹.</p>	Yes	<p>Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is likely to protect/ improve air quality includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy CC1- Policy will limit carbon emissions from buildings through reducing energy demand and using low and zero carbon energy sources. Policy CC8 – Development proposals that cause pollution will be required to prove that measures can be implemented to reduce impacts to a satisfactory level. Policy T1 – Details that development will need to show capacity on road network in Central Bedfordshire and neighbouring authorities where relevant. Also Policy T2 – Provides strategic transport improvement details which includes 	No	<p>It is not considered likely that there will be in-combination effects with neighbouring plans and projects due to the location of proposed development in the neighbouring authorities in relation to the SAC.</p>	N/A	No

¹ Air Pollution Information System (2017) Site Relevant Critical Loads. Online at <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> [Accessed November 2017]

				<p>improvements to sustainable transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy T3 – Development will be required to demonstrate how they have reduced the need to travel and how they have promoted a modal shift towards sustainable transport. • Policy T6 – development will provide enhanced access to sustainable transport network and provide contributions to the network. • Policy T7 – residential, employment, university and supermarket/retail development will be required to provide charging points for electric vehicles. • Policy EE2 – this requires that development sites will provide a net gain for biodiversity. • Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected from negative impacts. • Policy EE4- Focuses on the protection of woodland and ensures development will not have a significant effect on woodland habitats. 				
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				<p>It is not considered that the proposed strategic development sites to the north and west of Luton will have a significant increase in traffic in close proximity to the SAC, due to the location of the SAC in regard to the development sites. Any increase in development in Leighton Linlade/Buzzard is likely to be comparatively small and result in only a limited increase in traffic on the A4146.</p> <p>Therefore, no likely significant effects are considered alone.</p>				
<p>Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA5, HA1</i></p>	<p>The main source of recreational disturbance which is damaging the site is the loss of dead wood, which is important for the stag beetle, a key feature for the site.</p>	<p>Yes, the site is sensitive to disturbance from recreational activities.</p>	Yes	<p>Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is likely to protect the site from increased recreational activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EE1 – This policy relates to enhancement and new provision of green infrastructure, which will include recreational spaces for residents to use. • Policy EE13 – development will be required to replace any lost open space or sport provision, and in some cases, will require the 	No	<p>There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with a number of the plans and projects identified in Appendix 2.</p>	<p>Mitigation is provided through the SAC Site Improvement Plan, which has allocated funding for education to address the loss of dead wood. No likely in-combination significant effects.</p>	No

				<p>delivery of new leisure areas in line with the leisure strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected from negative impacts. <p>It is not expected that the nearest strategic allocations at Luton (approx. 10km away) will result in a significant number of people using the Beechwoods for recreational purposes, due to the new areas of leisure spaces likely to provide with development. Furthermore, mitigation is provided through the SAC Site Improvement Plan, which has allocated funding for education. No likely significant effects.</p>				
Changes to Water Quality and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.	There are no pathways for impacts on water quality given the location of the protected site.	Site is not considered sensitive to the impacts increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.	No	Site is not considered sensitive to the impacts increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to changes to water quality and levels, it is considered that	N/A	No

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						there will not be significant effects		
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	The development proposed will be focused in the existing urban areas and in urban extensions and strategic allocations set out in the Local Plan. None of these locations are likely to lead to direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat for the SAC.	The designated feature is not sensitive to the loss of supporting habitat.	No	The designated feature is not sensitive to the loss of supporting habitat.	No	N/A	N/A	No

Chippenham Fen Ramsar								
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and projects	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE in-comb?
Reduced air quality through increased traffic and emissions from buildings. <i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i>	The A142 is approx. 500m from the protected site. However, development as a result of the Local Plan is not considered likely to result in a significant increase in traffic on this road, due to its location. No likely effect from short-range pollution. However, there is the potential for increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.	The site is not considered to be sensitive to atmospheric pollutants.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.	N/A	No
Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution. <i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i>	The protected site is approx. 50km from the Central Bedfordshire border. It is therefore not considered that there will be a significant increase in recreational use of the site as a result of development within Central Bedfordshire.	Increased recreational activity has not been highlighted as a threat for the site.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of disturbance, it is considered that there will not be significant effects	N/A	No
Changes to Water Quality and Levels through	Increased water abstraction in the Plan area has the potential for negative effects on the protected site, as the site is	Yes, the site is sensitive to the diversion of water for irrigation/domestic/ind	Yes	Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is likely to protect the site from changes to the water	No	There is the potential for the Plan to act in combination with a	Mitigation is provided through the River Basin Management	No

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<p>increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i></p>	<p>within the same resource area (Anglian Water) as a large proportion of the Plan area.</p>	<p>ustrial use.</p>		<p>environment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CC1: Policy asks for higher water efficiency standards to minimize water demand and abstraction. • Policy CC4: Development in close proximity to a watercourse will be required to maximise opportunities to enhance the ecological value of water course and their flood storage value. • Policy CC6: Policy details the requirement to protect water resources and ensure sewerage infrastructure is adequate to accommodate development. • Policy CC7: Policy protects the water environment from pollution as a result of development. • Policy EE2 – this requires that development sites will provide a net gain for biodiversity. • Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected from negative impacts. 		<p>number of the plans and projects identified in Appendix 2, specifically the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans.</p>	<p>Plan (RBMP) for the area, and the Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (RMP). Both will ensure sustainable use of water, and the HRA of the RBMP concluded that the measures outlined in the RBMP would not have an effect on European sites, and the HRA of the RMP came to the same conclusion . Therefore, it is considered that there will not be in-combination effects on water.</p>	
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				Mitigation provided through policy will protect the water environment and the designated site from negative effects, such that significant effects alone are not considered likely.				
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	No development is proposed that would result in the direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat.	The designated feature is sensitive to the loss of supporting habitat; however, there are no pathways for impacts.	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No

Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC								
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/ vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	Potential avoidance/ mitigation	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and projects	Potential avoidance/ mitigation	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced air quality through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i></p>	<p>The protected site is a short distance to the east of the Central Bedfordshire authority. The A1198 is approx. 700m from the site. Although the road is not within central Bedfordshire, development at Tempsford, Biggleswade and Sandy could result in an increase in traffic on this road. Potential likely effect from short-range pollution.</p> <p>There is also the potential for increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.</p>	<p>The site is designated for the population of barbastelle bats. There supporting habitat at the site, broadleaved woodland, is sensitive to atmospheric pollutants. Currently, nitrogen levels are being exceeded at the site². However, the effect of this on the bats is unknown due to insufficient knowledge.</p>	Yes	<p>Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is likely to protect/ improve air quality includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy CC1- Policy will limit carbon emissions from buildings through reducing energy demand and using low and zero carbon energy sources. Policy CC8 – Development proposals that cause pollution will be required to prove that measures can be implemented to reduce impacts to a satisfactory level. Policy T1 – Details that development will need to show capacity on road network in Central Bedfordshire and neighbouring authorities where relevant. Also Policy T2 – Provides strategic transport improvement details which includes 	No	<p>The Plan is not considered likely to result in a significant increase in traffic on the road network by the site due to the promotion of sustainable transport and support of a modal shift as required by CBC Policy, and therefore in-combination effects are not considered relevant.</p>	N/A	No

² Air Pollution Information System (2017) Site Relevant Critical Loads. Online at <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> [Accessed November 2017]

				<p>improvements to sustainable transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy T3 – Development will be required to demonstrate how they have reduced the need to travel and how they have promoted a modal shift towards sustainable transport. • Policy T6 – development will provide enhanced access to sustainable transport network and provide contributions to the network. • Policy T7 – residential, employment, university and supermarket/retail development will be required to provide charging points for electric vehicles. • Policy EE2 – this requires that development sites will provide a net gain for biodiversity. • Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected from negative impacts. • Policy EE4- Focuses on the protection of woodland and ensures development will not have a significant effect on woodland habitats. 				
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				<p>The policy mitigation above is likely to reduce the use of private cars and protect the designated site from atmospheric pollution. Due to the road network layout, it is not considered that there would be a significant increase in traffic on the A1198, as the presence of the A1 in closer proximity to the development areas will be used.</p> <p>Furthermore, Biggleswade and Sandy have good existing sustainable transport links, and may benefit from the proposed East-West rail service. Development in these areas will provide enhancements to existing sustainable transport, and support a modal shift away from private vehicle use.</p> <p>Overall, it is not expected that the Local Plan will have likely significant effects alone on air quality.</p>				
Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution.	The protected site is approx. 5km from Central Bedfordshire and there is the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site.	Recreational disturbance and noise and light pollution has not been highlighted as an issue in the Natura 2000 form or the Site Improvement	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that	N/A	No

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Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location		Plan, and is therefore not considered a threat for the site.				the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of disturbance, it is considered that there will not be significant effects		
Changes to Water Quality and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction. Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location	The protected site is in the same catchment, although it is approximately 5 km away from the Plan area and therefore a potential pathway for LSE on water quality is unlikely.	Changes to water quality or levels have not been highlighted as an issue in the Natura 2000 form or the Site Improvement Plan, and is therefore not considered a threat for the site.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Plan to act in combination with a number of the plans and projects identified in Appendix 2, specifically the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans.	N/A	No
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	The protected site is situated approx. 5km outside of the Plan area, and therefore development as part of the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan is not considered likely to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the site.	The site is vulnerable to the loss or fragmentation of habitats. No pathway for LSE.	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No

Fenland SAC								
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and projects	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced air quality through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i></p>	<p>The A1123 is approx. 300m from the SAC site. However, development in the Plan area is not considered likely to result in a significant increase in traffic on this road due to its location in relation to the strategic road network and the Plan area. No likely effects from short-range atmospheric pollution.</p> <p>However, there is the potential for impacts as a result of increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.</p>	<p>Yes, site is considered to be sensitive to atmospheric pollutants, which is listed as a threat in the Natura 2000 form and the Site Improvement Plan.</p>	Yes	<p>Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is likely to protect/ improve air quality includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CC1- Policy will limit carbon emissions from buildings through reducing energy demand and using low and zero carbon energy sources. • Policy CC8 – Development proposals that cause pollution will be required to prove that measures can be implemented to reduce impacts to a satisfactory level. • Policy T1 – Details that development will need to show capacity on road network in Central Bedfordshire and neighbouring authorities where relevant. Also • Policy T2 – Provides strategic transport improvement details which includes improvements to sustainable transport. 	No	<p>The site is not considered likely to have an in-combination effect with other plans and projects due to the location of development in the neighbouring plans and projects.</p>	N/A	No

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy T3 – Development will be required to demonstrate how they have reduced the need to travel and how they have promoted a modal shift towards sustainable transport. • Policy T6 – development will provide enhanced access to sustainable transport network and provide contributions to the network. • Policy T7 – residential, employment, university and supermarket/retail development will be required to provide charging points for electric vehicles. • Policy EE2 – this requires that development sites will provide a net gain for biodiversity. • Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected from negative impacts. <p>The policy mitigation above is likely to reduce the use of private cars and protect the designated site from atmospheric pollution. Due to the road network layout and the distance of the site from the Plan area, it is not</p>				
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				considered that there would be a significant increase in traffic on the A1123, Overall, it is not expected that the Local Plan will have likely significant effects alone on air quality.				
Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution. <i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i>	The protected site is approximately 40km from the Plan area, and therefore development is not considered likely to result in increased recreational use of the site, or significant light and noise disturbance. Therefore, there are no pathways for impacts.	Recreational disturbance and noise and light pollution has not been highlighted as an issue in the Natura 2000 form or the Site Improvement Plan, and is therefore not considered a threat for the site.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of disturbance, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.	N/A	No
Changes to Water Quality and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction. <i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i>	Increased water abstraction in the Plan area has the potential for negative effects on the site, as the site is within the same resource area (Anglian Water) as a large proportion of the Plan area.	Yes, the site is sensitive to the pollution of groundwater and changes in hydraulic conditions. There are environmental pathways for changes in hydraulic conditions to affect the site, however the Plan is not considered likely to have an effect on water pollution for the site due to the	Yes	Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is likely to protect the site from changes to the water environment include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy CC1: Policy asks for higher water efficiency standards to minimize water demand and abstraction. Policy CC4: Development in close proximity to a watercourse will be required to maximise 	No	There is the potential for the Plan to act in combination with a number of the plans and projects identified in Appendix 2, specifically the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans.	Mitigation is provided through the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the area, and the Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (RMP). Both will ensure sustainable use of water, and the HRA of the RBMP concluded that the measures	No

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		distance (approx. 40km) and lack of connecting streams or rivers.		<p>opportunities to enhance the ecological value of water course and their flood storage value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CC6: Policy details the requirement to protect water resources and ensure sewerage infrastructure is adequate to accommodate development. • Policy CC7: Policy protects the water environment from pollution as a result of development. • Policy EE2 – this requires that development sites will provide a net gain for biodiversity. • Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected from negative impacts. <p>Mitigation provided through policy will protect the water environment and the designated site from negative effects, such that significant effects alone are not considered likely.</p>			outlined in the RBMP would not have an effect on European sites, and the HRA of the RMP came to the same conclusion . Therefore, it is considered that there will not be in-combination effects on water.	
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	No development is proposed that would result in the direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat for the site.	There are no pathways for LSE.	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No

Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar								
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and projects	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced air quality through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i></p>	<p>The protected site is approx. 30km from the Plan Area. There are several A roads in close proximity to the site, including roads which cross the designated sites. There is the potential for development in the east of the Plan area, specifically Sandy, Tempsford and Biggleswade to result in an increase in traffic on the road network.</p> <p>Potential short-range atmospheric pollution. Also, there is the potential increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.</p>	The site is not considered to be sensitive to atmospheric pollutants.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.	N/A	No
<p>Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i></p>	<p>The protected site is approx. 30km from the Plan Area. As such, it is not considered that there will be a significant increase in recreational use of the site. Nor is there likely to be a significant effect from increased noise or light pollution within the Plan area.</p>	The site is not considered to be sensitive to increased disturbance.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of disturbance, it is considered that there will not be	N/A	No

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						significant effects.		
<p>Changes to Water Quality and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i></p>	<p>Increased water abstraction in the Plan area has the potential for negative effects on the site, as the site is within the same resource area (Anglian Water) as a large proportion of the Plan area.</p> <p>The River Great Ouse is connected to the protected site, and flows out of the Plan area, such that any pollution within the Plan area would have an environmental pathway to result in an impact on the site.</p>	<p>Yes, the site is sensitive to pollution to groundwater, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, flooding and eutrophication caused by sewage treatment and agricultural runoff.</p>	Yes	<p>Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is likely to protect the site from changes to the water environment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy CC1: Policy asks for higher water efficiency standards to minimize water demand and abstraction. Policy CC4: Development in close proximity to a watercourse will be required to maximise opportunities to enhance the ecological value of water course and their flood storage value. Policy CC5- This Policy promotes the use of SuDS which will have positive effects on flood management and prevent the surface water pollutants. Policy CC6: Policy details the requirement to protect water resources and ensure sewerage infrastructure is adequate to accommodate development. Policy CC7: Policy 	No	<p>There is the potential for the Plan to act in combination with a number of the plans and projects identified in Appendix 2, specifically the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans.</p>	<p>Mitigation is provided through the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the area, and the Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (RMP). Both will ensure sustainable use of water, and the HRA of the RBMP concluded that the measures outlined in the RBMP would not have an effect on European sites, and the HRA of the RMP came to the same conclusion. Therefore, it is considered that there will not be in-combination effects on water.</p>	No

				<p>protects the water environment from pollution as a result of development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EE2 – this requires that development sites will provide a net gain for biodiversity. • Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected from negative impacts. <p>The mitigation provided through Local Plan Policy will protect the water environment from pollutants as a result of development. Furthermore, Policy will require that there is appropriate sewerage capacity and that sewage is treated accordingly, which will prevent pollutant of water courses.</p> <p>Policy will also manage flooding and water resources, such that negative effects alone as a result of the Local Plan on the Natura 2000 site is not expected.</p> <p>Further mitigation is provided through the site improvement plan, which includes funding and actions to address identified</p>				
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				threats.				
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	No development is proposed that would result in the direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat.	There are no pathways for LSE.	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No

Upper Nene Valley Grave Pits SPA/Ramsar								
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and projects	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced air quality through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA2, SE2, Marston Vale, Marston Gate Expansion and Aspley Guise</i></p>	<p>The protected site is approx. 25km from the Plan area. There are several strategic roads in close proximity to the site. This includes the A509 (approx. 300m) and the A45 (adjacent).</p> <p>Development in the north west of the plan area, specifically the proposed strategic allocation at Marston Moretaine, development at Cranfield and the broad location at Aspley Guise, could result in increased traffic on roads in close proximity to the sites.</p> <p>Potential likely effects from short-range atmospheric pollution. Also, there is the potential for impacts as a result of increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution</p>	No, available information on the European site indicates it is not sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.	N/A	No
<p>Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution.</p> <p><i>Policy SP1, SA2, SE2, Marston</i></p>	<p>The protected site is approx. 25km from the Plan area. It is therefore unlikely that there will be a significant increase in recreational activity as a result of proposed development. The protected site lies outside the Plan area - there is therefore no pathway for</p>	Yes, the site is sensitive to recreation and tourism disturbance. Specifically, recreational activities cause disturbances to the bird populations at the site.	Yes	<p>Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is likely to protect the site from increased recreational activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy EE1 – This policy relates to enhancement and new provision of green infrastructure, 	No	Given the distance of the site from the Plan area and mitigation provided by other plan policies it is considered unlikely that there will be significant in	N/A	No

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Vale, Marston Gate Expansion and Aspley Guise	increased levels of noise and light pollution.			<p>which will include recreational spaces for residents to use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy EE13 – development will be required to replace any lost open space or sport provision, and in some cases, will require the delivery of new leisure areas in line with the leisure strategy. • Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected from negative impacts. <p>It is not expected that the nearest strategic allocations or broad locations (approx. 25km away) will result in a significant number of people using the site for recreational purposes, due to the new areas of leisure spaces likely to provide with development. Furthermore, mitigation is provided through the Site Improvement Plan, which has allocated funding and outlined actions to address the impact of recreational use. No likely significant effects.</p>		combination effects through increased recreational use.		
Changes to Water Quality	The protected site is not in the same catchment and it is	No, available information on the	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the	N/A	No

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and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction. <i>Policy SP1, SA2, SE2, Marston Vale, Marston Gate Expansion and Aspley Guise</i>	approximately 25 km away from the Plan area and therefore a potential pathway for LSE on water quality is unlikely.	European site indicates it is not sensitive to the impacts of water quality and levels.				policies to act in combination with a number of the plans and projects identified in Appendix 2 with regard to water abstraction.		
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	No development is proposed that would result in the direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat.	The designated feature is sensitive to the loss of supporting habitat; however, there are no pathways for LSE.	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No

Wicken Fen Ramsar								
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and projects	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE in-comb?
Reduced air quality through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.	The A1123 is approx. 300m from the SAC site. However, development in the Plan area is not considered likely to result in a significant increase in traffic on this road due to its location in relation to the strategic road network and the Plan area. No likely effects from short-range atmospheric pollution. However, there is the potential for impacts as a result of increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.	The site is not considered to be sensitive to atmospheric pollutants.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.	N/A	No
Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution.	The site is approximately 40km from the Plan area, and therefore development is not considered likely to result in increased recreational use of the site, or significant light and noise disturbance. Therefore, there are no pathways for impacts.	Recreational disturbance and noise and light pollution has not been highlighted as an issue in the Natura 2000 form or the Site Improvement Plan, and is therefore not considered a threat for the site.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of disturbance, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.	N/A	No
Changes to Water Quality	Increased water abstraction in the Plan area has the potential	An identified threat for the site is the impact of	Yes	Mitigation provided by the Draft Plan Policies which is	No	There is the potential for the	Mitigation is provided through	No

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and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.	for negative effects on the site, as the site is within the same resource area (Anglian Water) as a large proportion of the Plan area.	flooding from reservoirs/barrages/dams.		likely to protect the site from changes to the water environment include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CC1: Policy asks for higher water efficiency standards to minimize water demand and abstraction. • Policy CC4: Development in close proximity to a watercourse will be required to maximise opportunities to enhance the ecological value of water course and their flood storage value. • Policy CC6: Policy details the requirement to protect water resources and ensure sewerage infrastructure is adequate to accommodate development. • Policy CC7: Policy protects the water environment from pollution as a result of development. • Policy EE2 – this requires that development sites will provide a net gain for biodiversity. • Policy EE3 – details that important habitats and sites will be protected 		Plan to act in combination with a number of the plans and projects identified in Appendix 2, specifically the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans.	the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the area, and the Anglian Water Resources Management Plan (RMP). Both will ensure sustainable use of water, and the HRA of the RBMP concluded that the measures outlined in the RBMP would not have an effect on European sites, and the HRA of the RMP came to the same conclusion. Therefore, it is considered that there will not be in-combination effects on water.	
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				from negative impacts. Mitigation provided through policy will protect the water environment and the designated site from negative effects, such that significant effects alone are not considered likely.				
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	No development is proposed that would result in the direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat for the site.	There are no pathways for LSE.	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No

Woodwalton Fen Ramsar								
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and projects	Potential avoidance/mitigation	LSE in-comb?
Reduced air quality through increased traffic and emissions from buildings. <i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i>	The nearest main road to the site is approx. 5km to the west, and therefore any increase in traffic is not considered to have a significant effect on the protected site. However, there is the potential for impacts as a result of increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.	No, available information on the European site indicates it is not sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution.	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the Local Plan to act in-combination with a number of plans and projects; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.	N/A	No
Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution. <i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i>	The Ramsar site is approx. 30km from the Plan area, and therefore it is not considered that the Plan will result in a significant increase in recreational use of the site. The site lies outside the Plan area - there is therefore no pathway for increased levels of noise and light pollution.	No, available information on the European site indicates it is not sensitive to the impacts of disturbance.	No	N/A	No	Given the distance of the site from the Plan area and mitigation provided by other plan policies it is considered unlikely that there will be significant in combination effects through increased recreation.	N/A	No
Changes to Water Quality and Levels through increased	The protected site is not in the same catchment and it is approximately 30km away from the Plan area and therefore a potential pathway	Yes, the designated site is vulnerable to changes in the water environment, however no LSEs have been	No	N/A	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with a number of the plans	N/A	No

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surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction. <i>Policy SP1, SA4, SE3, HA1, Tempsford broad location</i>	for LSE on water quality is unlikely.	identified, so no likely effects.				and projects identified in Appendix 2 with regard to water abstraction.		
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	No development is proposed that would result in the direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat for the site.	There are no pathways for LSE.	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	No

HRA Report Appendix III: Pre-Submission Draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan Screening

Proposed Policy/Allocation Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential for LSEs ¹ ?
Strategic Policies		
Policy SP1: Growth Strategy	<p>The Policy makes provision over the Plan period for 39,350 new homes and land to support a minimum of 24,000 new jobs. This number includes around 24,000 homes which are already planned for or built. It aims to deliver this through new villages, moderate extensions to existing towns & villages, and a new market town in line with the provision of new infrastructure & to meet identified housing need close to key transport corridors (East-West, A1/East Coast Mainline, & M1/Thameslink).</p> <p>The allocations have been considered & reported separately below.</p> <p>The Policy has the potential to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> atmospheric pollution through increased traffic, which could reduce air quality; increased levels of disturbance - recreational activity, noise and light pollution; increased levels of abstraction; surface water run-off and sewage discharge, which could reduce water quality and change water levels; and land take, which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats and loss of species. 	Yes
Strategic Allocation Policy SA1: North of Luton 3500-4000 homes; up to 20ha employment land	<p>Town Extension: Site is approx. 15km from the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. No likely effects on water or habitat loss considered.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	Yes

¹ Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)

Proposed Policy/Allocation Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential for LSEs ¹ ?
Strategic Allocation Policy SA3: East of Arlesey Up to 2000 homes	<p>Town Extension: Site is approx. 20km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	Yes
Strategic Allocation Policy SA2: Marston Vale New Villages Up to 5000 homes; 40ha employment land	<p>New Villages: The allocation is approx. 25km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution and potential effects on the Natura 2000 site. The allocation has the potential to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	Yes
Strategic Allocation Policy SA4: Biggleswade East Up to 1500 homes Broad Location/Identified Area for Future Growth: Biggleswade East	<p>New Village: Site is approx. 15km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	Yes
Strategic Allocation Policy SE1: Sundon Rail Freight	<p>Strategic Employment Area: Site is approx. 15km from the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, including freight traffic, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. The employment allocation will not result in an</p>	Yes

Proposed Policy/Allocation Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential for LSEs ¹ ?
Interchange (RFI) 55 ha employment land	<p>increase in recreational use and will not have an effect through increased noise/light disturbance due to the distance. No likely effects on water or habitat loss considered.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	
Strategic Allocation Policy SE2: Marston Gate Expansion M1 J13 35 ha employment land	<p>Strategic Employment Area: The allocation is approx. 25km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, including freight traffic, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution and potential effects on the Natura 2000 site. The allocation is not considered likely to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, and increased noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site due to the distance. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	Yes
Strategic Allocation Policy SE3: Holme Farm, South of Biggleswade A1 35 ha employment land	<p>Strategic Employment Area: The allocation is approx. 15km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, including freight traffic, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. The allocation is not considered likely to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, and increased noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site due to the distance. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	Yes
Strategic Allocation Policy SE4: RAF Henlow 130 ha	<p>Mixed Use Employment: The allocation is approx. 25km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, including freight traffic, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. The allocation is not considered likely to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, and increased noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site due to the distance. The allocation has the</p>	Yes

Proposed Policy/Allocation Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential for LSEs ¹ ?
	<p>potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	
<p>Strategic Allocation Policy SA5: Houghton Regis North Site 1 approximately 5,150 homes; 32 ha employment land</p> <p>Site 2 approximately 1,500-1,850 homes; 8 ha employment land</p>	<p>Sites within the Council's adopted Framework Plan² for North Houghton Regis with outline planning permission for Site 1 (2014) and a hybrid planning permission for Site 2 (2015) granted. This major urban development was previously subject to SA and HRA during the preparation of the previous Joint Core Strategy with Luton Council that was withdrawn in 2011; it is included within the new Local Plan for Central Bedfordshire to allow a more integrated approach to the two sites, enabling a more sustainable development with each other and with the urban area of Houghton Regis. The HRA is refreshed here in this HRA Report and particularly to take into account any potential in-combination effects.</p> <p>This allocation is on the northern side of Houghton Regis between the A5 and the M1 Junction 11a. It is approximately 11km north east of the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the designated site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation are not considered likely to have an effect. No likely effects on water or habitat loss considered either.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	Yes
<p>Broad Location/Identified Area for Future Growth: Aspley Guise Triangle 3500 homes</p>	<p>The identified area for future growth is approx. 30km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution and potential effects on the Natura 2000 site. The allocation has the potential to result in an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is</p>	Yes

² http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/north-houghton-regis-framework-plan_tcm3-6807.pdf

Proposed Policy/Allocation Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential for LSEs ¹ ?
	<p>not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	
<p>Broad Location/Identified Area for Future Growth: Luton West 3600 homes</p>	<p>The identified area is approx. 10km from the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. No likely effects on water or habitat loss considered.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report.</p>	Yes
<p>Broad Location/Identified Area for Future Growth: Tempsford New settlement up to 10,000 homes</p>	<p>The identified area for future growth is approx. 15km from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. There is the potential for an increase in traffic on the local road network, with an associated increase in atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for an increase in recreational use of the site, however noise and light disturbance from the allocation will not have an effect on the site. The allocation has the potential for increased abstraction and associated effects on the water environment. The site is not considered to result in the loss of supporting habitat for the SAC. Potential in-combination effects are considered in Appendix IV and Section 4 of the HRA Report</p>	Yes
<p>Policy HA1: Small-Medium Allocations</p>	<p>Small and medium growth in and around villages across Central Bedfordshire where services can support growth and where villages have good accessibility. All the growth is likely to be over 10km distance from a Natura 2000 site, and will be dispersed throughout the Plan area with no clustering of sites in close proximity to a European site.</p>	No
<p>Policy SP2: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development</p>	<p>This is a standard policy which supports the intention for sustainable development as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012. It puts a safeguard in place if policies in the Plan are not relevant to a development or if relevant policies are out of date.</p>	No
<p>Policy SP3: Generic Requirements for Strategic Sites</p>	<p>This Policy sets out the generic requirements for strategic sites, including sustainable design, a comprehensive masterplan, housing needs for all sectors, community centre, sustainable transport strategy, sustainable drainage where appropriate – and a green infrastructure strategy.</p>	No
<p>Policy SP4:</p>	<p>This policy sets out how the Council will work proactively to enhance the beneficial uses of the</p>	No

Proposed Policy/Allocation Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential for LSEs¹?
Development in the Green Belt	Green Belt. It will not result in development itself.	
Policy SP5: Coalescence & Countryside Gaps	Policy sets out how the Council will have regard to maintaining the individual identity of towns and villages and resist developments that might lead to coalescence. It will not result in development itself.	No
Policy SP7: Settlement Envelopes & Hierarchy	Policy sets out categories for Major & Minor Service Centres, Large & Small Villages. It will not result in development itself.	No
Policy SP8: Gypsy, Traveller, & Travelling Showpeople Pitch Requirement	The Policy will facilitate the development of up to 71 pitches to meet the needs of gypsy and travellers, and 31 plots to meet the needs of travelling showpeople. Sites will be provided by allocations and a criterion based Policy. Due to the small level of growth proposed and the lack of Natura 2000 sites within the Plan area, no impacts are considered likely as a result of the Policy.	No
Core/Development Management Policies		
Policies H1-H9: Housing	The Policies seek to achieve the right standard and mix of housing and also stipulates certain requirements which must be provided; they set out the criteria for the provision of affordable housing; supporting older people; requirements for other categories of housing, and including how applications for Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople Sites will be assessed. They will not result in development itself.	No
Policies EMP 1-5 Economy & Employment	Policies cover requirements for various types of employment uses, changes of use, proposals within or adjacent to settlement envelopes, rural & visitor economy, and the countryside & Green Belt. They will not result in development itself.	No
Policies R1-3 Retail	Policies seek to ensure the vitality & character of town centres, address retail for the rural economy. They will not result in development itself.	No
Policies T1-6 Transport	Policy T1- Requires plans, statements and assessments that demonstrate reduction in the need to travel and secure a modal shift towards sustainable forms of transport before consideration of provision of additional roads. However, this could still result in additional transport related development.	Yes

Proposed Policy/Allocation Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential Impacts of the Policy/Allocation or Identified Location for Future Growth	Potential for LSEs ¹ ?
	Policies T3-6 set out requirements with regard to sustainable transport (public services, cycling & walking); parking; low emission vehicles; and freight. These are less likely to result in development itself.	
Policies EE1-14 Environmental Enhancement	Policies on Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity, Nature Conservation & Trees/Hedgerows all promote enhancement of biodiversity for net gain, including consideration of ecosystems and natural capital, ecological networks & industry guidelines/standards. Policies protect landscape character & value, including the role of historic and cultural heritage, recreation. One policy addresses tranquility. There are specific policies on particular assets – Chilterns AONB, Greensand Ridge, Forest of Marston Vale, Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Park, and the river & waterway network. Further policies cover public rights of way, outdoor recreation, and minerals & waste. These policies will avoid/mitigate the negative effects of new development and ensure that there is enhancement with positive effects. They will not result in development itself.	No
Policies CC1-8 Climate Change & Sustainability	Policies cover requirements for minimising lifetime carbon emissions; sustainable energy including wind & solar; flood risk management & sustainable drainage; water supply & sewerage infrastructure; water quality; and pollution, land instability. These policies could lead to infrastructure developments that could have significant effects.	Yes?
Policies HQ1-11 High Quality Places	Policy HQ1 provides explanation & guidance on how the Council will ensure that there is no overall reduction in provision of infrastructure from new development. Social & community infrastructure is addressed through HQ2 – and these policies could lead to infrastructure developments that could have significant effects. Other policies cover requirements for, fast broadband, quality, public art, back-lands, small open spaces, and modern methods of construction. They will not result in development itself.	Yes?
Policies HE1-3 Historic Environment	Policies seek to protect historic assets and reduce those at risk. They will not result in development itself.	No
Policies DC1-5 Development in the Countryside	Policies cover replacement, reuse, rural workers, equestrians, and agricultural land. They will not result in development itself.	No

Site Name: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits JNCC Site Code: UK9020296 Size: 1357.68ha Designation: SPA	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma	
Site Description	<p>The disused sand and gravel pits extend for approximately 35 kilometres along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville, north of Thrapston. They form an extensive series of shallow and deep open waters which occur in association with a wide range of marginal features, such as sparsely-vegetated islands, gravel bars and shorelines, and habitats including reedswamp, marsh, wet ditches, rush pasture, rough grassland and scattered scrub. This range of habitat and the varied topography of the lagoons provide valuable resting and feeding conditions for major concentrations of wintering waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. Species such as golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> also spend time feeding and roosting on surrounding agricultural land outside the SPA.</p>	
Qualifying Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>) ■ Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) ■ Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) <p>The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds in any season.</p>	
Conservation Objectives	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features ■ The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely ■ The population of each of the qualifying features, and, ■ The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. 	
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<p>Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources- Inside Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities- Inside/Outside Modification of cultivation practices- Inside Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities- Inside</p>	

Site Name: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Site Code: UK11083 Size: 1357.68ha Designation: Ramsar	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>This chain of both active and disused sand and gravel pits form an extensive series of shallow and deep open waters which occur in association with a wide range of marginal features, such as sparsely-vegetated islands, gravel bars and shorelines and habitats including reedswamp, marsh, wet ditches, rush pasture, rough grassland and scattered scrub. This range of habitats and the varied topography of the lagoons provide valuable resting and feeding conditions for concentrations of wintering waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. Species such as golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> also spend time feeding and roosting on surrounding agricultural land outside the Ramsar site.</p>
Qualifying Features	<p>Designated due to the site regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds.</p> <p>The site regularly supports 1% or more of the following species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mute swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>) (1.7% of British population) ■ Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) (2% of NW Europe population)
Conservation Objectives	<p>None listed</p>
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Unspecified development: urban (Off site) ■ Vegetation succession (On site) ■ Introduction / invasion of non-native plant species (On site) ■ Recreation / tourism disturbance (Off and On site)

Site Name: Wicken Fen Site Code: UK11077 Size: 254.39ha Designation: Ramsar	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The site lies 10 km north-east of Cambridge, east of the River Cam. This site is a marginal remnant of the original peat fenland of the East Anglian basin. It has been preserved as a flood catchment area and its water level is controlled by sluice gates. The vegetation has a strongly mosaic character due to extensive peat-cutting and different systems of crop exploitation. Areas of the site subjected to frequent cutting have a greater species diversity including many sedges, rushes, spike rushes and marsh orchids with corresponding insect associations. Vegetation invasion by bushes resulting in closed <i>Frangula carr</i>, has occurred in the absence of mowing. The dykes, abandoned clay pits and the main lode support many aquatic angiosperms. Wildfowl interests include, mallard, teal, wigeon, shoveler, pochards and tufted duck.</p>
Qualifying Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ramsar criterion 1: One of the most outstanding remnants of the East Anglian peat fens. The area is one of the few which has not been drained. Traditional management has created a mosaic of habitats from open water to sedge and litter fields. ▪ Ramsar criterion 2: The site supports one species of British Red Data Book plant, fen violet <i>Viola persicifolia</i>, which survives at only two other sites in Britain. It also contains eight nationally scarce plants and 121 British Red Data Book invertebrates.
Conservation Objectives	<p>None listed</p>
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reservoir/barrage/dam with an impact on flooding.

Site Name: Woodwalton Fen Site Code: UK11078 Size: 208.13ha Designation: Ramsar	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The site lies 12 km due south of Peterborough. The site consists of a range of wetland communities, once characteristic of large areas of the East Anglian fens but now restricted to a number of isolated sites. Due to past management, the site now has several types of open fen and swamp communities. There is also a relict area of acid peat, some mixed fen and an important network of ditches. The site supports an appreciable assemblage of wetland plants and invertebrates.</p>
Qualifying Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ramsar criterion 1: The site is within an area that is one of the remaining parts of East Anglia which has not been drained. The fen is near natural and has developed where peat-digging took place in the 19th century. The site has several types of open fen and swamp communities. ■ Ramsar criterion 2: The site supports two species of British Red Data Book plants, fen violet, <i>Viola persicifolia</i> and fen wood-rush <i>Luzula pallidula</i>. Woodwalton also supports a large number of wetland invertebrates including 20 British Red Data Book species. Aquatic beetles, flies and moths are particularly well represented.
Conservation Objectives	<p>None listed</p>
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Vegetation succession- (on-site) ■ Drainage/land-claim for agriculture- (off-site) ■ Eutrophication- (on and off-site)

Appendix II: Plans & Projects Review

Plan/Project	Proposal	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
National		
Air Quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (2017)	Details the plan by the government to tackle roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations and its associated negative health impacts. The government plans to establish a Clean Air Fund, support local authorities in preparing their plans to improve air quality, and the investment in low emission buses.	The plan will improve air quality with positive effects for Natura 2000 sites, and no likely in-combination effects identified.
Regional		
Anglian Water, Water Resources Management Plan 2015	The Plan identifies the water supply area and forecasts water demand and supply over a 25-year period. The Plan further identifies preferred options to manage demand and provide supply.	The management of water resources to ensure new development is supplied has the potential for effects on the Natura 2000 sites sensitive to changes in the water environment. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.
Affinity Water, Final Water Resources Management Plan 2015 - 2020	The Plan identifies the water supply area and forecasts water demand and supply over a 25-year period and seeks to address immediate shortages with a 5 year programme.	The management of water resources to ensure new development is supplied has the potential for effects on the Natura 2000 sites sensitive to changes in the water environment. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.
Thames Water, Water Resource Management Plan 2015 – 2040	The Plan identifies the water supply area and forecasts water demand and supply over a 25-year period.	The management of water resources to ensure new development is supplied has the potential for effects on the Natura 2000 sites sensitive to changes in the water environment.

Plan/Project	Proposal	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
		Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.
Defra and Environment Agency, Anglian River Basin District River Basin Management Plan, December 2015	The Plan provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. Key information like baseline classification of water bodies, statutory objectives for protected areas, statutory objectives for water bodies and a summary programme of measures to achieve statutory objectives is used to inform land-use planning.	The plan will protect the ecological and chemical status of the waterbodies, and improve them where necessary, with positive effects on Natura 2000 sites. No likely in-combination effects identified.
East-West Rail	Originally adopted within the Chancellor's 2011 Autumn Statement, the East-West Rail (EWR) project supports the creation of a new rail link between Oxford, Bicester, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes and Bedford. A preferred route for the central section has recently been announced which will connect Bedford to Cambridge via Sandy in Central Bedfordshire. Ridgmont Station (located in Central Bedfordshire) is a confirmed station along the western section.	The improvements to rails services will reduce car use and have positive impacts on air quality. It is expected that the routing of the rail infrastructure will be sensitively placed with regards to Natura 2000 sites in the area. No likely in-combination effects.
Local		
Huntingdonshire Local Plan (Not yet adopted)	The Huntingdonshire Draft Local Plan will replace the Core Strategy adopted in 2009. The draft Plan has identified a requirement for 21000 homes and 14,900 jobs during the plan period (up to 2036).	Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (Submitted for examination in 2014, not yet adopted)	The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was submitted for examination in 2014, however additional work has been required to address issues raised by the inspector. The Local Plan will aim to provide 19,500 new homes during the plan period, and 22,000 additional jobs.	Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.

Plan/Project	Proposal	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
North Hertfordshire Local Plan (Submitted for examination in 2017, not yet adopted)	The North Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment identifies a need for 13,800 homes in the area during the Plan period.	Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.
St Albans Local Plan (Not yet submitted for examination)	The St Albans Local Plan outlines a target for 8,720 new homes during the plan period (up until 2031).	Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.
Dacorum Borough Council Local Plan (adopted 2013)	The Local Plan for Dacorum Borough Council has a housing target of 10,750 new homes during the Plan period, with the majority of the housing being located in Hemel Hempstead. The Local Plan will also allocate land to accommodate economic growth with approximately 10,000 new jobs.	Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.
Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (Not yet submitted for examination)	The Local Plan will allow for the development of 27,000 new homes during the plan period (up until 2033).	Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.
Milton Keynes Local Plan (Not yet submitted for examination)	The new Local Plan for Milton Keynes will guide development in the area during the period until 2031. An identified need for 26,500 new dwellings during the plan period have been identified, however almost 2000 have been covered through existing commitments, with only 6775 remaining to be met through Local Plan allocations. 124 hectares of employment land will also be required through the plan period.	Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.

Plan/Project	Proposal	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
Bedford Local Plan (Not yet submitted for examination)	The new Local Plan period for Bedford will last until 2035.	<p>Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.</p>
Luton Local Plan (adopted in November 2017)	The Luton Borough Local Plan has an identified housing need of 6,700 new dwellings, and 69 hectares of new employment land. Growth within the Luton borough is constrained, and therefore neighbouring local authorities will be required, via the duty to co-operate, to help Luton meet its unmet development.	<p>Development in the areas surrounding Central Bedfordshire has the potential for in-combination effect with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.</p>
Central Bedfordshire Council, Local Transport Plan 3, 2011-2026	The Plan sets out a long-term framework for investment in transport across Central Bedfordshire. It establishes a strategic approach through which to deal with key transport issues, a series of objectives, and broad areas of intervention through which schemes will be identified and improvements made to the transport network.	<p>Proposed transport infrastructure could increase disturbance; increase atmospheric pollution; increase transfer of pollutants through surface water run-off; result in the loss of supporting habitat and modify drainage.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.</p>
Central Bedfordshire Council, Local Area Transport Plans	A total of 11 individual localised plans cover the plan area, which establish localised issues and sets priority actions and a programme to achieve them.	<p>Proposed transport infrastructure could increase disturbance; increase atmospheric pollution; increase transfer of pollutants through surface water run-off; result in the loss of supporting habitat and modify drainage.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.</p>
Central Bedfordshire Council, Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Policies, 2014	The Plan sets out the strategic allocations for mineral extraction and for waste management development in the Plan area together with strategic policies to guide the ongoing supply of minerals and development of waste management facilities.	<p>Potential impacts include increased vehicles on road, disturbance through mineral and waste activities and increased levels of abstraction.</p> <p>Potential in-combination effects are assessed in Appendix IV of the HRA.</p>

Plan/Project	Proposal	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2007)	The Plan sets a spatial vision for establishing a strategic green infrastructure framework for Bedfordshire and Luton which can be used to guide the development of more detailed GI plans.	The plan is not considered likely to have in-combination effects.
Chilterns AONB Management Plan, 2014-2019	The Plan identifies the key issues facing the AONB and the management policies and actions that seek to conserve the special qualities of the area.	The plan is not considered likely to have in-combination effects.