

# Report for Habitats Regulations Assessment

Melton Local Plan

Melton Borough Council

Project number: 60716221

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## Quality information

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# 1. Introduction

## Background

1. AECOM was appointed by Melton Borough Council to produce a report to inform the Council's Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the potential effects of the Melton Local Plan on the National Site Network of Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites. For simplicity these sites are referred to as European sites throughout this report. The objectives of the assessment are to:
  - Identify any aspects of the Local Plan that would cause an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects; and
  - To advise on appropriate policy mechanisms for delivering mitigation where such effects were identified.
2. The HRA of the Melton Local Plan is required to determine if there are any realistic linking pathways present between a European site and the Local Plan and where Likely Significant Effects cannot be screened out, an analysis to inform Appropriate Assessment is undertaken to determine if adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites will occur as a result of the Local Plan alone or in combination.

## Legislative Context

3. The United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020 under the terms set out in the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ("the Withdrawal Act"). The Withdrawal Act retains the body of existing EU-derived law within our domestic law. The most recent amendments to the Habitats Regulations – the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 – make it clear that the need for HRA continues post-Brexit.
4. The HRA process applies the 'Precautionary Principle' to European sites. Plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site(s) in question. Plans and projects with predicted adverse impacts on European sites may still be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest (IROPI) as to why they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.
5. The need for Appropriate Assessment (AA) is set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

*"A competent authority, before deciding to ... give any consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project which... is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) ... must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives ... The authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site ..."*

### Plate 1. The Legislative basis for Appropriate Assessment

6. As Competent Authority, the legal responsibility for ensuring that a decision of LSEs is made, an AA (where required) is undertaken, and Natural England are consulted, falls on the Local Planning Authority. However, they are entitled to request from a consultant the necessary information on which to base their judgment and that is the key purpose of this report.

7. Over the years, the term HRA has come into wide currency to describe the overall process set out in the Habitats Regulations, from LSEs screening through to identification of IROPI. This has been established to distinguish the overall process from the individual stage of AA. Throughout this report the term HRA is used for the overall process and the use of AA is restricted to the specific stage of that name.
8. In spring 2018 the 'Sweetman' European Court of Justice ruling clarified that 'mitigation' (i.e., measures that are specifically introduced to avoid or reduce a harmful effect on a European site that would otherwise arise) should not be taken into account when forming a view on LSEs. Mitigation should instead only be considered at the AA stage. This HRA has been cognisant of that ruling.

## Report Layout

9. Chapter 2 of this report explains the methodology by which this HRA has been carried out, including the three essential tasks that form part of HRA. Chapter 3 provides details of the relevant European sites, including Conservation Objectives and current pressures and threats. Chapter 4 provides detailed background on the main impact pathways identified in relation to the Local Plan and the relevant European sites. Chapter 5 undertakes the screening assessment of LSEs of the Plan policies and sites potentially proposed for allocation. The conclusions and recommendations arising from the HRA process are provided in Chapter 6.

## 2. Methodology

### Introduction

10. This section sets out the approach and methodology for undertaking the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

### A Proportionate Assessment

11. Project-related HRA often requires bespoke survey work and novel data generation in order to accurately determine the significance of effects. In other words, to look beyond the risk of an effect to a justified prediction of the actual likely effect and to the development of avoidance or mitigation measures.
12. However, the draft MHCLG guidance<sup>1</sup> (described in greater detail later in this chapter) makes it clear that when implementing HRA of land-use plans, the Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be undertaken at a level of detail that is appropriate and proportional to the level of detail provided within the plan itself:
13. “The comprehensiveness of the [Appropriate] assessment work undertaken should be proportionate to the geographical scope of the option and the nature and extent of any effects identified. An AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose. It would be inappropriate and impracticable to assess the effects [of a strategic land use plan] in the degree of detail that would normally be required for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project.”
14. More recently, the Court of Appeal<sup>2</sup> ruled that providing the Council (competent authority) was duly satisfied that proposed mitigation could be “*achieved in practice*” then this would suffice to meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulations. This ruling has since been applied to a planning permission (rather than a Plan document)<sup>3</sup>. In this case the High Court ruled that for “*a multistage process, so long as there is sufficient information at any particular stage to enable the authority to be satisfied that the proposed mitigation can be achieved in practice it is not necessary for all matters concerning mitigation to be fully resolved before a decision maker is able to conclude that a development will satisfy the requirements of reg 61 of the Habitats Regulations*”.
15. In other words, there is a tacit acceptance that AA can be tiered and that all impacts are not necessarily appropriate for consideration to the same degree of detail at all tiers as illustrated in Plate 2.

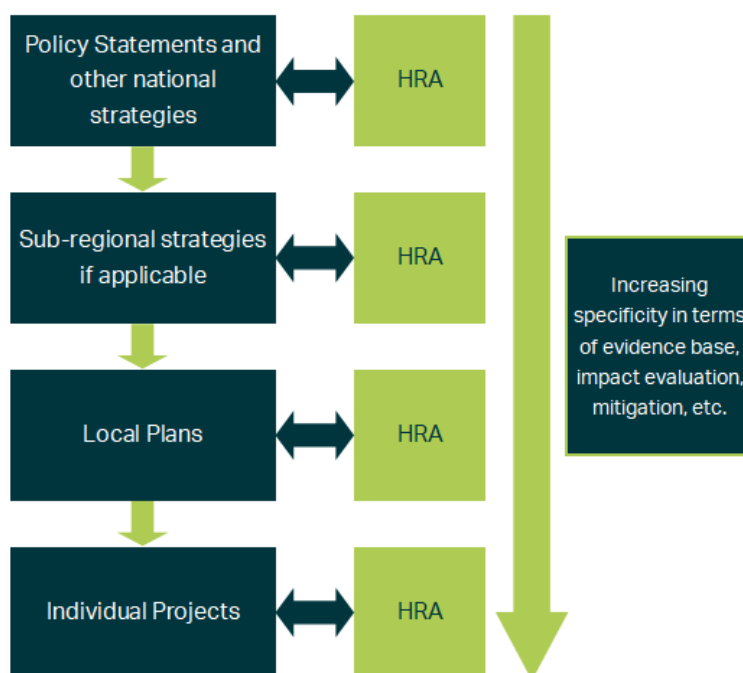
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<sup>1</sup> MHCLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites, Consultation Paper

<sup>2</sup> No Adastral New Town Ltd (NANT) v Suffolk Coastal District Council Court of Appeal, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015

<sup>3</sup> High Court case of R (Devon Wildlife Trust) v Teignbridge District Council, 28 July 2015





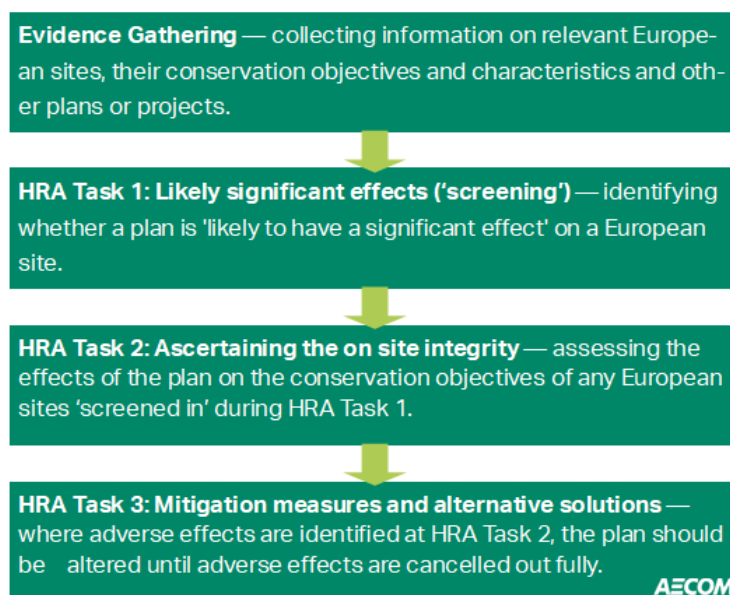
**Plate 2. Tiering in HRA of Land Use Plans**

16. At the same time, it is necessary to have confidence that sites allocated in a Local Plan have a reasonable prospect of being deliverable without fundamental Habitats Regulations Assessment issues.
17. The most robust and defensible approach to the absence of fine grain detail at this level is to make use of the precautionary principle. In other words, the plan is never given the benefit of the doubt (within the limits of reasonableness); it must be assumed that a policy/measure is likely to have an impact leading to a significant adverse effect upon an internationally designated site unless it can be clearly established otherwise.

## The Process of HRA

18. Central government have released general guidance on appropriate assessment<sup>4</sup>. Plate 3 outlines the stages of HRA according to guidance. The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations, and any relevant changes to the plan until no likely significant effects remain.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>



**Plate 3. Four-Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment**

19. The following process has been adopted for carrying out the subsequent stages of the HRA.

## Task One: Test of Likely Significant Effects

20. Following evidence gathering, the first stage of any Habitats Regulations Assessment is a LSEs screening - essentially a brief, high-level assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage known as AA is required. The essential question is:
21. "Is the plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon European sites?"
22. The objective is to 'screen out' those plans and projects that can, without any detailed appraisal, be concluded to be unlikely to result in significant adverse effects upon European sites, usually because there is no mechanism for an adverse interaction.
23. The LSEs screening is based on identification of the impact source, its pathway to receptors and an appraisal of the specific European site receptors. These are normally designated features but also include habitats and species fundamental for designated features to achieve favourable conservation status (notably functionally linked habitats outside the European site boundary).
24. In the Waddenzee case<sup>5</sup>, the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, including that:
- An effect should be considered 'likely', "if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site" (para 44);
  - An effect should be considered 'significant', "if it undermines the conservation objectives" (para 48); and
  - Where a plan or project has an effect on a site "but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned" (para 47).
25. The LSEs screening consists of two parts: Firstly, it should determine whether there are any policies that could result in negative impact pathways and secondly it establishes whether there are any European sites that might be affected. It identifies European sites that are most likely to be impacted by the Plan and the impact pathways that are most likely to require consideration.

<sup>5</sup> Case C-127/02

26. It is important to note that LSEs screening must generally follow the precautionary principle as its main purpose is to determine whether the subsequent stage of AA (i.e., a more detailed investigation) is required.
27. This report covers Task One as Tasks Two (Appropriate Assessment) and Three (Mitigation) were not deemed necessary.

## The Geographic Scope

28. There is no standard criteria that dictates the ultimate physical scope of an HRA of a Plan in all circumstances. Therefore, in considering the physical scope of the assessment AECOM was guided primarily by the identified impact pathways rather than by arbitrary “zones”, i.e. a source-pathway-receptor approach. Current guidance suggests that the following European sites be included in the scope of assessment:
  - All sites within the District; and
  - Other sites shown to be linked to development within South Kesteven through a known “pathway” (discussed below).
29. Briefly defined, impact pathways are routes by which a change in activity within the plan area can lead to an effect upon a European site. In terms of the second category of European site listed above, Department for Leveling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (formerly Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)) guidance states that the AA should be “*proportionate to the geographical scope of the [plan policy]*” and that “*an AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose*” (MHCLG, 2006, p.6).
30. Locations of European designated sites are illustrated in Appendix B, Figure 2 and full details of all European designated sites discussed in this document can be found in Chapter 3 specifying their qualifying features, conservation objectives and pressures and threats to integrity taken from the Site Improvement Plan for each site, although it is noted that the Conservation Objectives and Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives take precedence over Site Improvement Plans as they are generally more recent. Table 1 below lists all those European designated sites included in this HRA.

**Table 1. Physical Scope of the HRA - European Sites of Interest**

European Site	Distance from Melton Borough
Rutland Water Ramsar	5.6 km east of Borough
Rutland Water SPA	5.6 km east of Borough

31. The next closest European designated Sites are Grimsthorpe SAC at 13.5km east and River Mease SAC at 28km west. Both of these sites have no potential linking impact pathways that have been identified and linked to Melton Borough. Because of this they have been excluded from further mention in this report.

## Confirming Other Plans and Projects That May Act ‘In Combination’

32. It is a requirement of the Regulations that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed are not considered in isolation but in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the European designated site(s) in question.
33. In considering the potential for combined regional housing development to impact on European sites the primary consideration is the impact of visitor numbers – i.e., recreational pressure and urbanisation.
34. When undertaking this part of the assessment it is essential to bear in mind the principal intention behind the legislation i.e., to ensure that those projects or plans (which in themselves have minor impacts) are not simply dismissed on that basis but are evaluated for any cumulative contribution they may make to an overall significant effect. In practice, in combination assessment is therefore of greatest

relevance when the plan would otherwise be screened out because its individual contribution is inconsequential. The overall approach is to exclude the risk of there being unassessed likely significant effects in accordance with the precautionary principle. This was first established in the seminal Waddenzee<sup>6</sup> case.

35. For the purposes of this HRA, we have determined that the key other documents with a potential for in-combination effects are:

- North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy<sup>7</sup>
- Rutland Local Plan<sup>8</sup>
- Newark and Sherwood Local Development Framework<sup>9</sup>
- South Kesteven Local Plan<sup>10</sup>
- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan<sup>11</sup>
- South East Lincolnshire Local Plan<sup>12</sup>
- Peterborough Local Plan 2016 to 2036<sup>13</sup>
- Seven Trent – Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan Draft<sup>14</sup>
- Seven Trent – Water Resources Management Plan Draft 2024<sup>15</sup>

36. It should be noted that, while the broad potential impacts of these plans will be considered, this document does not carry out a full HRA of these Plans and projects. Instead, it draws upon existing HRAs that have been carried out on the Plans and projects.

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<sup>6</sup> Waddenzee case (Case C-127/02, [2004] ECR-I 7405)

<sup>7</sup> North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy ([http://www.nnipu.org.uk/docs/Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 High Res version for website.pdf](http://www.nnipu.org.uk/docs/Joint%20Core%20Strategy%202011-2031%20High%20Res%20version%20for%20website.pdf)) Accessed 19/11/2024

<sup>8</sup> Rutland Local Plan (<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan/adopted-local-plan>) Accessed 19/11/2024

<sup>9</sup> Newark and Sherwood Local Development Plan (<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ldf/>) Accessed 19/11/2024

<sup>10</sup> South Kesteven Local Plan ([Local Plan 2011-2036 \(Final inc covers\) \(1\).pdf](#)) Accessed 19/11/2024

<sup>11</sup> Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/adopted-local-plan-2017/>) Accessed 19/11/2024

<sup>12</sup> South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (<http://www.southeastlincslocalplan.org/adopted-plan/>) Accessed 19/11/2024

<sup>13</sup> Peterborough Local Plan

(<https://cccandpcc.sharepoint.com/sites/PCCPlanningPolicyPublicData/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPCCPlanningPolicyPublicData%2FShared%20Documents%2FPlanning%20Policy%2FAdopted%20Local%20Plan%2FPeterborough%20Local%20Plan%2F1%2EPeterborough%20Local%20Plan%2024%20July%202019%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsite%2FPCCPlanningPolicyPublicData%2FShared%20Documents%2FPlanning%20Policy%2FAdopted%20Local%20Plan%2FPeterborough%20Local%20Plan&p=true&ga=1>) Accessed 19/11/2024

<sup>14</sup> Seven Trent - Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (<https://www.severntrent.com/content/dam/stw-plc/about-us/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plan/2023/SVE-fDWMP23-L1-Non-Technical-Report.pdf>) Accessed 26/11/2024

<sup>15</sup> Seven Trent – Water Resources Management Plan ([dwrmp24 DRAFT documents | Water resources management plan | Our plans | About us | Severn Trent Plc](#)) Accessed 26/11/2024

## 3. Background to European Sites

### Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar

#### Introduction

37. Rutland Water SPA is a large public water supply reservoir constructed in 1975 and located within the unitary authority of Rutland in central England. The SPA is a wetland of international importance by regularly supporting over 20,000 non-breeding waterfowl annually. Notable components of this assemblage include internationally important numbers of non-breeding shoveler *anas clypeata* and gadwall *Mareca strepera*, as well as nationally important numbers of non-breeding coot *Fulica atra*, goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, goosander *Mergus merganser*, great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, mute swan *Cygnus olor*, teal *Anas crecca*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* and wigeon *Mareca penelope*. Within the latest Rutland HRA<sup>16</sup> notes there are only two roads within 200m of Rutland Water and that the location of those roads means they will not be significant journey to work routes for residents of Melton resulting in no airquality or atmospheric pollution impact pathways.

#### Conservation Objectives<sup>17</sup>

38. With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;
39. 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;
- 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.

#### Qualifying Features

40. With regards to the SPA, the following are reasons for designation:

- *Mareca strepera*; gadwall (Non-breeding);
- *Anas clypeata*; northern shoveler (Non-breeding); and,
- Waterbird assemblage

41. With regards to the Ramsar<sup>18</sup> the following are reasons for designation:

##### Criterion 5

Assemblage of international importance: species with peak counts in the winter:

- 19,274 individuals, waterfowl assemblage.

##### Criterion 6

Species/populations occurring at a level of international importance: Species with peak counts in the winter:

- *Mareca strepera*; gadwall – 1,014 individuals representing 1.6% of the population; and,
- *Anas clypeata*; northern shoveler – 619 individuals representing 1.5% of the population.

<sup>16</sup> [Appendix 4 - Rutland Local Plan Reg 19 Habitats Regulation Assessment HRA.pdf](#) [Accessed 13/01/2025]

<sup>17</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6533830980927488> [Accessed 19/11/2024]

<sup>18</sup> <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11046.pdf> [Accessed 19/11/2024]

Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under Criterion 6: species with peak counts in the spring/autumn:

- *Cygnus olor*, mute swan – 563 individuals representing 1.5% of the population.

## Environmental Vulnerabilities

42. With regards to the 2014 Site Improvement Plan<sup>19</sup>, the following are listed as environmental vulnerabilities;
- Water abstraction;
  - Inappropriate water levels;
  - Cumulative direct impact from unregulated 3<sup>rd</sup> party activities (private fireworks displays, hot air balloons, private aircraft flights);
  - Invasive species;
  - Water pollution;
  - Planning permission: general (e.g. windfarms and other development proposed in the wider area affecting nocturnal migration and dispersal);
  - Public access and disturbance; and,
  - Fisheries: freshwater (changes in fish populations potential to shift ecological balance).
43. The 2018 Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice<sup>20</sup>, provides more information on these vulnerabilities.

## 4. Background to Impact Pathways

44. In carrying out an HRA it is important to avoid confining oneself to effectively arbitrary boundaries (such as Local Authority or parish boundaries), but to use an understanding of the various ways in which Land Use Plans can impact European sites to evaluate whether development is connected with European sites, in some cases many kilometres distant. Briefly defined, impact pathways are routes by which a change in activity associated with a development can lead to an effect upon a European site. As highlighted earlier, it is also important to bear in mind MHCLG guidance which states that the AA should be '*proportionate to the geographical scope of the [plan policy]*' and that '*an AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose*' (CLG, 2006, p.6<sup>21</sup>).
45. Based upon Natural England's Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) and professional judgement, the following impact pathways require consideration regarding development proposals within the Local Plan area and the identified European sites:
- Recreational pressure;;
  - Water quantity, level and flow; and
  - Water quality.

## Background to Recreational Pressure

46. There is growing concern over the cumulative impacts of recreation on key nature conservation sites in the UK, as most sites must fulfil Conservation Objectives while also providing recreational opportunity.

<sup>19</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4556196973379584> [Accessed 19/11/2024]

<sup>20</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6490629538578432> [Accessed 19/11/2024]

<sup>21</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government. 2006. *Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment*. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1502244>

Various studies have provided compelling links between increases in housing development and access levels<sup>22</sup>, and resulting impacts in European sites<sup>23 24</sup>.

47. Recreational use of a site has the potential to:

- Cause disturbance to sensitive species such as ground-nesting birds and wintering wildfowl;
- Prevent appropriate management or exacerbate existing management difficulties;
- Cause damage through erosion, trampling and fragmentation; and
- Cause eutrophication due to dog fouling.

48. Different types of European sites (e.g., heathland, freshwater, chalk grassland) have a range of vulnerabilities and are sensitive to different types of recreational pressures. Studies across a range of species have shown that the effects from recreation can be complex.

## Bird Disturbance

49. Disturbance effects can have negative impacts on qualifying birds in various ways, with reduced chick provisioning and increased nest predation due to adults being flushed from the nest and deterred from returning. A literature review on the effects of human disturbance on breeding birds found that 36 out of 40 studies reported reduced breeding success due to disturbance<sup>25</sup>. The main reasons given for the reduction in breeding success were nest abandonment and increased predation of eggs or young. Studies of other species have shown that birds nest at lower densities in disturbed areas, particularly when there is weekday as well as weekend pressure<sup>26</sup>. Recreational disturbance effects on ground-nesting birds are particularly severe, with many studies concluding that urban sites support lower densities of key species, such as stone curlew and nightjar<sup>27 28</sup>.

50. Furthermore, there are numerous parameters (e.g. seasonality, type of recreational activity) that may reduce or exacerbate the magnitude of bird disturbance. For example, disturbance in winter may be more impactful because food shortages make birds more vulnerable at this time of year. In contrast, this may be counterbalanced by fewer recreational users in the winter months and lower overall sensitivity of birds outside the breeding season. Evidence in the literature suggests that the magnitude of disturbance clearly differs between different types of recreational activities. For example, dog walking leads to a significantly higher reduction in bird diversity and abundance compared to hiking<sup>29</sup>. Scientific evidence also suggests that key disturbance parameters, such as areas of influence and flush distance, are significantly greater for dog walkers than hikers<sup>30</sup>. In addition, dogs, rather than people, tend to be the cause of many management difficulties, notably by worrying grazing animals. A literature review summarised data on the use of semi-natural habitat by dogs<sup>31</sup>, indicating that the proportion of dog walkers using sensitive sites tends to be high (54%)

51. Direct evidence for bird disturbance has been collected in many field studies. For example, observations of bird disturbance were undertaken by Footprint Ecology in North Kent in 2010 / 2011. The study focused on recreational disturbance to wintering waterfowl on intertidal habitats along the North Kent shoreline, stretching between Gravesend and Whitstable, and encompassing three SPAs. From 1,400 events (records of visitors in the bird survey areas) occurring within 200m of the birds, 3,248 species-

<sup>22</sup> Weitowitz D.C., Panter C., Hoskin R. & Liley D. 2019. The effect of urban development on visitor numbers to nearby protected nature conservation sites. *Journal of Urban Ecology* 5. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jue/juz019>

<sup>23</sup> Liley D, Clarke R.T., Mallord J.W., Bullock J.M. (2006a). The effect of urban development and human disturbance on the distribution and abundance of nightjars on the Thames Basin and Dorset Heaths. Natural England / Footprint Ecology.

<sup>24</sup> Liley D., Clarke R.T., Underhill-Day J., Tyldesley D.T. (2006b). Evidence to support the appropriate Assessment of development plans and projects in south-east Dorset. Footprint Ecology / Dorset County Council.

<sup>25</sup> Hockin D.M., Oundsted M., Gorman D., Hill V. & Barker M.A. (1992). Examination of the effects of disturbance on birds with reference to its importance in ecological assessments. *Journal of Environmental Management* 36: 253-286.

<sup>26</sup> Van der Zande A.N., Berkhuisen J.C., van Letesteyn H.C., ter Keurs W.J. & Poppelaars A.J. (1984). Impact of outdoor recreation on the density of a number of breeding bird species in woods adjacent to urban residential areas. *Biological Conservation* 30: 1-39.

<sup>27</sup> Clarke R.T., Liley D., Sharp J.M. & Green R.E. (2013). Building development and roads: Implications for the distribution of stone curlews across the Brecks. *PLOS ONE*. <https://doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0072984>.

<sup>28</sup> Liley D. & Clarke R.T. (2003). The impact of urban development and human disturbance on the numbers of nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* on heathlands in Dorset, England. *Biological Conservation* 114: 219-230.

<sup>29</sup> Banks P.B. & Bryant J.Y. (2007). Four-legged friend or foe? Dog walking displaces native birds from natural areas. *Biology Letters* 3: 14pp.

<sup>30</sup> Miller S.G., Knight R.L. & Miller C.K. (2001). Wildlife responses to pedestrians and dogs. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 29: 124-132.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.



specific observations were noted, which included no response (74% of observations), major flight (13%), minor flight (5%), short evasive walks away from the stimulus (5%) and alertness (3%).

52. Dog walking accounted for 55% of all major flight observations, with a further 15% attributed to walkers without dogs. After controlling for distance, major flights were more likely to occur when activities took place on the intertidal zone (compared to water-based or onshore events), when dogs were present and a higher number of dogs were present in visitor groups. There were significant differences between species with curlew *Numenius arquata* the species with the highest probability of major flight and teal and black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* the lowest. Tide state was also significant with major flights more likely at high tide, after controlling for distance. There was a significant interaction between distance and tide, indicating that the way in which birds responded varied according to tide. Inter-species differences in responses to disturbance stimuli are also evident from other studies. For example, one study found that there was a significant negative correlation between the degree of urban development and the number of nightjar territories in Dorset heathland sites, but no such impacts were found for woodlark and Dartford warbler<sup>32</sup>.
53. However, bird disturbance studies need to be treated with care. For instance, the magnitude of disturbance is not necessarily correlated with the impact of disturbance, i.e., the most easily disturbed species are not necessarily those that will suffer the greatest impacts. For example, it has been shown in some cases, that the most easily disturbed birds simply move to alternative feeding sites, while others remain (likely due to an absence of suitable alternative foraging areas) and thus suffer greater population-level impacts<sup>33</sup>. A recent literature review undertaken for the RSPB<sup>34</sup> also urges caution when extrapolating the results of disturbance studies because responses differ between species and may be impacted by local environmental conditions. This should be considered when predicting the potential impacts of future recreational pressure on European sites.
54. It should also be emphasised that recreational use is not necessarily a problem. Many European sites are also National Nature Reserves or nature reserves managed by Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB. At these sites, access is encouraged, and resources are deployed to ensure that recreational use is managed appropriately. Bird abundances in many of these sites remain stable or, in some cases, are increasing despite high visitor numbers.

## Summary

55. Where increased recreational use is predicted to cause adverse impacts on a site, avoidance and mitigation should be considered. Avoidance of recreational impacts at European sites involves locating new residential development further away (where possible). Strategic plans, such as Local Plans provide the mechanism for this. Where avoidance of impacts is not possible, mitigation will usually involve a mix of access management, habitat management and provision of alternative recreational space.
56. Overall, the following European sites are considered sensitive to potential recreational pressure impacts arising from the Melton Local Plan:
  - Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar

## Background to Water Quantity, Level and Flow

57. The water level, its flow rates and the mixing conditions are important determinants of the condition of European sites and their qualifying features. Hydrological processes are critical in influencing habitat characteristics in rivers, wetlands and for water-dependent plant species. Habitat parameters that may be impacted include water cycling, water depth, dissolved oxygen levels, salinity, current velocity and water temperature (noting that not all parameters will be relevant to all qualifying habitats / species). In

<sup>32</sup> Liley D. & Clarke R.T. (2002). Urban development adjacent to heathland sites in Dorset: The effect on the density and settlement patterns of Annex I bird species. English Nature Research Reports, No 463. English Nature, Peterborough. 33pp.

<sup>33</sup> Gill et al. (2001). Why behavioural responses may not reflect the population consequences of human disturbance. *Biological Conservation* **97**: 265-268.

<sup>34</sup> Woodfield & Langston. (2004). Literature review on the impact on bird population of disturbance due to human access on foot. *RSPB Research Report* No. 9.



turn these parameters determine the short- and long-term condition, viability and reproductive success of plant and animal species, as well as overall ecosystem composition.

58. The unique nature of wetlands combines shallow water and conditions that are ideal for the growth of organisms at the basal level of food webs, which feed many species of birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. Migrating and breeding wetland species are particularly reliant on these food sources, as they need to build up enough nutritional reserves to sustain their long migration routes or feed their hatched chicks.
59. Maintaining a steady water supply is of critical importance for many hydrologically dependent SPAs, SACs and Ramsars. For example, in many wetlands winter flooding is essential in sustaining a mosaic of foraging habitats for SPA / Ramsar wader and waterfowl species. However, species have varying requirements with regard to specific water levels. For example, some duck species (e.g. wigeon) have optimum water depth requirements of under 0.3m for successful foraging. In contrast, Bewick's swan require deeper water to enable their natural roosting and loafing behaviours.
60. A constant supply of freshwater is fundamental in maintaining the ecological integrity of water-dependent European sites. While the natural fluctuation of water levels within narrow limits is desirable (and indeed often the reason why nature conservation interests are present in a site), excess or too little water supply might cause the water level to be outside of the required range of qualifying birds, invertebrates or plant species. There are two mechanisms through which urban development can negatively impact the water level in European sites:
- The supply of new housing with potable water may require increased abstraction of water from surface water and groundwater bodies. Depending on the level of water stress in a geographic region, this may reduce the water levels in European sites that lie in the same catchment as new abstractions.
  - The proliferation of impermeable surfaces in urban areas increases the volume and speed of surface water runoff. As traditional drainage systems often cannot cope with the volume of stormwater, Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) are designed to discharge excess water directly into watercourses to protect human assets. Such pluvial flooding may result in downstream inundation of watercourses and flooding in wetland habitats.
61. Rutland Water is a key part of the water supply reservoirs for the East Midlands and is a major source of drinking water in the region<sup>35</sup>. It is noted that Melton sits within an area of serious water stress<sup>36</sup>. This means that the water resources are being or are likely to be exploited to a degree which may result in pressure on the environment or water supplies both now and in the future. This result does not indicate how the individual water companies are performing in the management of their water resources, or a level of risk to public water supply. This may imply that additional abstractions could have negative impacts on water-dependent European sites.

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<sup>35</sup> <https://www.lrwat.org.uk/rutland-water/about-rutland-water#:~:text=The%20reservoir%2C%20when%20full%2C%20has,much%20of%20the%20East%20Midlands.> [Assessed 13/01/2025]



Figure 1. Areas of water stress in England and Wales<sup>36</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Environment Agency, 2021. Water Stressed Areas – Final Classification 2021. [Water stressed areas final classification 2021.odt \(live.com\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/95421/Water_stressed_areas_final_classification_2021.odt) [Accessed 14/02/2023]

## Background to Water Quality

62. Increased amounts of housing or business development can lead to reduced water quality of rivers and estuarine environments. Sewage and industrial effluent discharges can contribute to increased nutrients and toxic contaminants in European sites leading to unfavourable conditions.
63. The quality of the water that feeds European sites is an important determinant of the nature of their habitats and the species they support. Poor water quality can have a range of environmental impacts:
- At high levels, toxic chemicals and metals can result in immediate death of aquatic life, and can have detrimental effects even at lower levels, including increased vulnerability to disease and changes in wildlife behaviour. Eutrophication, the enrichment of plant nutrients in water, increases plant growth and consequently results in oxygen depletion. Algal blooms, which commonly result from eutrophication, increase turbidity and decrease light penetration. The decomposition of organic wastes that often accompanies eutrophication deoxygenates water further, augmenting the oxygen depleting effects of eutrophication. In the marine environment, nitrogen is the limiting plant nutrient and so eutrophication is associated with discharges containing available nitrogen.
  - Some pesticides, industrial chemicals, and components of sewage effluent are suspected to interfere with the functioning of the endocrine system, possibly having negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life.
  - For sewage treatment works close to capacity, further development may increase the risk of effluent escape into aquatic environments. In many urban areas, sewage treatment and surface water drainage systems are combined, and therefore a predicted increase in flood and storm events could increase pollution risk.

## Summary of Impact Pathways to be Taken Forward

64. Having considered the impact pathways identified in this chapter, those listed in Table 2 will be taken to the next stage in the HRA process, the LSEs screening.

**Table 2. Impact pathways and relevant European sites**

Impact pathway	European site (s) potentially affected
Recreational pressure	Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar
Water quantity, level and flow	Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar
Water quality	Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar

## 5. Test of Likely Significance

### Introduction

65. When seeking to identify relevant European sites, consideration has been given primarily to identified impact pathways and the source-pathway-receptor approach, rather than adopting purely a 'zones'-based approach. The source-pathway-receptor approach is a standard tool in environmental assessment. For an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place, whereas the absence of one or more of the elements means there is no potential for an effect. Furthermore, even where an impact may occur, it may not result in significant effects (i.e., those which undermine the Conservation Objectives of a European site).
66. The likely zone of impact (also referred to as the likely Zone of Influence, Zol) of a plan or project is the geographic extent over which significant ecological effects are likely to occur. The Zol of a plan or project will vary depending on the specifics of a particular proposal and must be determined on a case-by-case basis with reference to a variety of criteria, including:

- the nature, size / scale and location of the plan;

- the connectivity between the plan and European sites, for example through hydrological connections or because of the natural movement of qualifying species;
- the sensitivity of ecological features under consideration; and,
- the potential for in-combination effects.

## Approach to Melton Local Plan Policy Screening

67. Policies were screened out of having LSEs on a European site where any of the following reasons applied:

- they are environmentally positive;
- they will not themselves lead to any development or other change;
- they make provision for change but could have no conceivable effect on a European site. This can be because there is no pathway between the policy and the qualifying features or a European site, or because any effect would be positive;
- they make provision for change but could have no significant effect on a European site (i.e., the effect would not undermine the conservation objectives of a European site); or,
- the effects of a policy on any particular European site cannot be ascertained because the policy is too general. For example, a policy may be screened out if, based on absence of detail in the policy, it is not possible to identify where, when, or how the policy may be implemented, where effects may occur, or which sites, if any, may be affected.

68. Any 'criteria-based' policy (i.e., those that simply list criteria with which development needs to comply) or other general policy statements that have no spatial element were also screened out. Likewise, policies that simply 'safeguard' an existing resource (e.g., existing green infrastructure or mineral resources) by preventing other incompatible development, were also screened out.

69. The appraisal therefore focussed on those policies with a definable spatial component. Having established which policies required scrutiny by virtue of being spatially defined, consideration was given as to whether LSEs could be dismissed due to a lack of connectivity to any European site for one of the following reasons:

- a potentially damaging activity may occur as a result of the policy but there is no pathway connecting it to a European site (due to distance, for example);
- there are no European sites vulnerable to any of the activities that the policy will deliver; or,
- the policy will not result in any damaging activities.

## Results of Policy Screening

70. The results of the LSEs screening of policies included in the Melton Local Plan are presented in Table 3. Where a policy is shaded green, there are no linking impact pathways to European sites and LSEs can be excluded. Where the screening outcome is shaded orange, these are to be discussed further within the test of Likely Significant Effects to see if a likely significant effect can be screened out, or if the policy would need to be taken to Appropriate Assessment.

71. Of the Local Plan policies, 15 were considered on initial review to have the potential to result in LSE, in-combination with other plans and projects, as they are associated with impact pathways linking to European sites and are associated with the delivery of development. It should be noted that all Local Plan policies have been included in Table 3 for completeness but only some of those policies are included in the Local Plan update. This is specified in Table 3.

72. Those policies included in the Local Plan update that were initially considered to have potential likely significant effects are listed below:

- Policy SS3 – Unallocated Housing in the Rural Area
- Policy SS4 – Melton South Sustainable Neighbourhood
- Policy SS5 – Melton North Sustainable Neighbourhood
- Policy C7 – Community Facilities and Services
- Policy C8 – Self-build and Custom Housebuilding
- Policy EC1 – Employment Need, Allocations and Development
- Policy EC2 – Rural Economy
- Policy EC3 – Existing Employment Sites
- Policy EC5 – Main Town Centre Uses and Melton Mowbray Town Centre
- Policy EC8 – Tourism
- Policy IN2 – Transport, Accessibility and Parking

73. Whether Likely Significant Effects are actually expected to arise is covered in the remainder of this section.

## Recreational Pressure

### Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar

74. Rutland Water SPA is a large public water supply reservoir which holds an internationally important assemblage of non-breeding waterfowl, over 20,000 individuals annually. The site is a significant and well used regional visitor attraction. The Site Improvement Plan for Rutland Water highlights that the site is vulnerable to recreational pressure and states “*The reservoir and surrounding area is a very important destination for undertaking recreational activities. These include a range of water sports, fishing, cycling, birdwatching and walking. Several large events are also held on the banks of the reservoir each year.*” Recreational pressure is listed as a threat rather than a pressure and relates to the uncertainties regarding the capacity of the site for additional recreational facilities and activities. This sensitivity to disturbance is also discussed in the Supplementary Advice on the Conservation Objectives. The SIP goes on to say an audit would need to be undertaken to “*Evaluate and manage potential impacts prior to any deterioration of the SPA interest features.*” No specific visitor surveys have been undertaken for Rutland Water SPA, although the site is specifically managed for visitors by Anglian Water.
75. The closest point of the Rutland SPA and Ramsar is approximately 5.6 km east of the Melton Borough, although it is closer to 14 km from the main population centre of Melton Mowbray, which is where Local Plan growth is concentrated. The new Rutland Local Plan Reg 2024<sup>37</sup> previously stated a provision of 2,706 new dwellings, the majority of which were to be sited within 5km of the SPA and Ramsar. The HRA stated that “There is no reason to assume that established access management measures that are known to be available, achievable and effective will not be sufficient to manage the anticipated residential growth within Rutland (alone or in combination with growth regionally)” and therefore increased growth within 5km of the SPA from Rutland County could be considered to not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA. Equally the Regulation 19 HRA for the Emerging Rutland Local Plan Issues and Options document, also states that the public access is not currently having an adverse effect on the site integrity and that “the visitor numbers and patterns of behaviours are generally considered to be well-understood (due to the nature of the reservoir)”. The reservoir is closely managed and controlled which ensures that the effects of public access to not have a simple relationship with visitor numbers or the local population.
76. Given that the HRA for Rutland Local Plan could dismiss recreational pressure issues from within the core catchment (5km) for approximately 2,706 new dwellings and the HRA for the emerging Local Plan does not highlight any concerns, as well as Melton being outside of the core catchment area (5km) at 14km at the districts closest point with little residential between the main growth centre of Melton Mowbray with mainly open countryside and small villages. Due to this, recreational pressure can be screened out for Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar with regards to the Melton Local Plan, both alone and

<sup>37</sup> [The new Local Plan | Rutland County Council](#) [Accessed 14/01/2025]



in-combination with other plans and projects. Recreational pressure on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar will not be discussed further within this report.

## Water Quantity, Level and Flow

### Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar

77. Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar is a large public water supply reservoir which supports an internationally important assemblage of non-breeding waterfowl of over 20,000 individuals annually. Rutland Water is primarily fed via abstractions from the River Nene and the River Welland. At its closest point, the Rutland SPA and Ramsar lies approximately 5.6km east of the Melton Borough.
78. The residential and employment development that is allocated within the Local Plan will increase the demand for potable water. If the delivery of potable water to new development, a legal obligation for water companies, would result in a significant drawdown of water levels in the reservoir, this may have ecological knock-on effects within the SPA and Ramsar. The potable water in the Melton Borough is supplied by Anglian Water. As detailed in Seven Trent's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) 2024<sup>15</sup>, the Melton area is covered by the Seven Trent Strategic Grid Water Resource Zone (WRZs) area defined by shared water distribution / treatment infrastructure, water resources and experiencing a shared level of risk of supply issues. This WRZ is the largest supplied by Seven Trent and supplies two million households.
79. Water within this WRZ is primarily abstracted from groundwater sources, in addition to surface water abstractions from rivers, streams and reservoirs. However, the company's supply network is complex and there are a number of strategic inter-zonal transfers. Therefore, specific hydrological relationships cannot necessarily be made and it is difficult to identify a particular 'source' for water supply to a specific area. Consequently, specific hydrological impacts of WRMP supply-side options on European sites due to forecast growth are not easily identified or quantified.
80. This WRMP establishes the supply-demand balances for the above listed WRZs, taking a range of factors into account, including future growth forecasts and climate change projections. This identifies water supply issues in many water sources. However, the supply network is complex and there are a number of strategic inter-zone transfers and so direct and specific supply relationships cannot necessarily be made, and it is rarely possible or appropriate to identify a particular 'source' for water supply to a specific area. Consequently, direct effects on specific European sites as a result of development cannot necessarily be identified or quantified. The deficits are to be met through a combination of demand management and supply-side options. For example, the WRMP includes a range of interventions, such as leakage reduction, making better use of existing sustainable sources of supply and enhancing the ability to deploy the water. The implementation of these measures will lead to an aspirational water saving of roughly 100MI/d by 2039-40.
81. Several supply-side options are also included in the WRMP 2024, such as raising water levels at Draycote Reservoir (6%) to add 1,400 MI of capacity, and ASL Capacity Increase - Hallgates to Oldbury which would increase the capacity in the STWL Strategic Grid potable supply network downstream of Melbourne WTW. However, none of these sources are hydrologically connected to the Rutland Water SPA / Ramsar.
82. The WRMP HRA<sup>38</sup> also assessed likely significant effects and potential adverse effects of supply-side options on European sites. Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar lies within 10km of a proposed Third-party reservoir and new WTW's at Corby. Based on the proximity of the Reservoir to Rutland Water, it is considered to provide offsite functionally linked habitat and as such, consideration would need to be given to potential noise and visual disturbance, and possibly restricted timings of the works to avoid the overwintering period if necessary. However, given the distance of Melton to Corby proposed Third-party reservoir and new WTW's, development in the borough would not pose a likely significant effect.
83. In conclusion, considering the above, likely significant effects of the Melton Local Plan on the Rutland Water SPA / Ramsar regarding water quantity, level and flow can be excluded, both alone and in-combination. This impact pathway is screened out from Appropriate Assessment.

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<sup>38</sup> [STW draft WRMP24 HRA Issue 2 redacted](#) Assessed 26/11/2024

## Water Quality

### Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar

84. Rutland Water's water primarily is abstracted from the River Nene upstream of Peterborough and from the River Welland upstream of Stamford. The natural catchment of the reservoir is small, consisting of water from the River Gwash and the Egleton Brook. Natural England's Site Improvement Plan<sup>19</sup> highlights that 'the inflows into Rutland Water currently receive regulated discharges of treated sewage as well as unregulated treated sewage discharges from septic tanks. Further nutrient inputs come from diffuse sources (such as agriculture) which maintain the reservoir in a highly eutrophic state...'. Therefore, an increase in development due to the Melton Local Plan has the potential to exacerbate regularly occurring algal blooms with potential knock-on effects on the foraging conditions experienced by designated waterfowl.
85. A new Sewage Treatment Works (STWs) has been built within Melton Mowbray as part of the National Environmental Programme (NEP) commitments to meet the obligations of the Water Framework Directive in AMP7 with the new permit limits being in place in December 2024. The new Melton Mowbray STW is designed to cater for increased treatment flows equating to a design horizon population equivalent of 123,328 (82% growth)<sup>39</sup> keeping in line with the Melton Local plan of a 3,676-housing allocation<sup>40</sup>.
86. A review of surface waterbody connections on the Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer<sup>41</sup> indicates that the Melton Mowbray STW is not in hydrological connectivity with the Rutland Water SPA / Ramsar.
87. Surface run-off from impermeable surfaces can also have notable water quality impacts on waterbodies, such as via uncontrolled overflowing septic tanks and through sedimentation. However, surface run-off is most likely to impact European sites within close proximity to development (typically a maximum of 1km). Melton Borough and the Rutland Water SPA / Ramsar are 5.6km apart at their nearest point. Therefore, impacts from surface run-off on water quality are excluded from further assessment.
88. Overall, given that there are no Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) or STW's in hydrological continuity with the SPA / Ramsar that would exceed their headroom due to the projected growth and impacts of surface run-off can be excluded, the Melton Local Plan will not result in likely significant effects on the Rutland Water SPA / Ramsar regarding water quality.

### In Combination

89. The assessment throughout this document has inherently taken account of potential in combination effects. This has been done through considering recreational catchments around relevant European sites, by discussing the HRAs in other surrounding local authorities, and by discussing strategic water resource planning and water cycle studies. These cover areas much greater than Melton, and deal with population growth to or beyond the end of the Local Plan period. It has been determined that there will be no effects on any European sites from Melton Local Plan in combination with other plans or projects. This is primarily due to Melton lying beyond the zones of influence for recreation and water as well as the assessments being inherently in combination with growth across the supply area.

## 6. Conclusions

90. This HRA assessed the potential implications of the updated Melton Local Plan on European sites. The European sites that have been considered in this HRA are:
- Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar

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<sup>39</sup> [Melton Mowbray STW \(2024\) | Assessed 28/11/2024](#)

<sup>40</sup> [2778e0\\_35bd1d8004d24a8ca36e517409fc1456.pdf](#) Assessed 28/11/2024

<sup>41</sup> [Wreake River Operational Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer](#) Assessed 28/11/2024

91. The background sections on the European sites and impact pathways identified that the following issues required assessment:
- Recreational pressure;
  - Water quantity, level and flow; and
  - Water quality;

## Recreational Pressure

92. The Test of Likely Significant Effects assessed whether the local plan leads to likely significant effects on either Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar.
93. Rutland Water is managed by Anglian Water and is approximately 5.6 km east of Melton. HRAs completed for the Rutland Local Plan have indicated that growth within 5km is unlikely to have any adverse effect. Given that Melton is located entirely outside of the core catchment area (5km), recreational pressure was screened out for Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar both alone and in combination with other plans and projects.

## Water Quality

94. The Test of Likely Significant Effects assessed whether the local plan leads to likely significant effects on Rutland Water SAC and Ramsar.
95. Rutland Water's water primarily is abstracted from the River Nene upstream of Peterborough and from the River Welland upstream of Stamford. The natural catchment of the reservoir is small. The main inflows into Rutland Water have treated sewage added to them, via regulated discharges, and unregulated discharges from septic tanks.
96. A 2011 water cycle study found no adverse effects on Rutland Water SPA due to water quality, even under the worst case scenario. Surface run-off can have notable impacts on waterbodies, both in terms of quantity and of quality. Surface run-off only affects sites within close proximity to impermeable surfaces. Melton and Rutland Water SPA & Ramsar are 5.6km apart at their nearest point. Due to this, impacts from surface run off can safely be excluded from further analysis.
97. Given the impacts of surface run-off can be excluded, and the fact that the 2011 Water Cycle study found no adverse effects, the Melton Local Plan can be screened out of causing a likely significant effect with regards to Water Quality on the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.

## Water quantity, level and flow

98. The Test of Likely Significant Effects assessed whether the local plan leads to likely significant effects on Nene Washes SPA and Ramsar, Rutland Water SAC and Ramsar.
99. Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar's water is primarily abstracted from the River Nene upstream of Peterborough and from the River Welland upstream of Stamford. The natural catchment of the reservoir is small. The current Water Resources Management Plan identified potential water deficiencies that are to be met through leakage reductions and water transfers into the WRZs using existing infrastructure. The HRA of the Water Resource Management Plan concluded that it would have no adverse effects Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar. Therefore, the Local Plan was screened out of causing a likely significant effect with regards on the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.



# Appendix A Policy and Allocations Screening Tables

**Table 3. Policy and Allocations Screening Table**

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome								
Policy SS1 – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	This policy sets out the criteria for development proposals in relation to mitigating against the impacts of climate change and contributing towards creating a strong, stable and more diverse economy.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.								
Policy SS2 – Development Strategy	This policy is not covered under the Local Plan Update. This policy sets out the provision for the development of at least 6,125 homes and some 51 hectares of employment land between 2011 and 2036 in Melton Borough. Housing delivery is planned to increase within the plan period as follows:  <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Average annual housing requirement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011-2021</td> <td>A minimum of 170 dpa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2026</td> <td>A minimum of 245 dpa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2026-2036</td> <td>A minimum of 320 dpa</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Average annual housing requirement	2011-2021	A minimum of 170 dpa	2021-2026	A minimum of 245 dpa	2026-2036	A minimum of 320 dpa	No likely significant effects.  This policy lists the provisional development of housing and employment land. While some allocations fall within the potential Zones of Influence of relevant European sites, likely significant effects can be excluded on the basis of evidence presented in Chapter 5.  Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and Policy SS2 can be screened out from Appropriate Assessment.  <b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b>
Period	Average annual housing requirement									
2011-2021	A minimum of 170 dpa									
2021-2026	A minimum of 245 dpa									
2026-2036	A minimum of 320 dpa									
Policy SS3 – Unallocated Sites in the Rural Area	This policy sets out the criteria for the development at Service Centres, Rural Hubs and Rural Settlements to enhance their social, economic and environmental sustainability	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.								
Policy SS4 – Melton South Sustainable Neighbourhood	This policy is not covered under the Local Plan Update. This policy sets out the criteria to which the council will work in partnership with developers and delivery partners to deliver the Melton South Sustainable Neighbourhood (MSSN) identified as a strategic development location on the Policies Map.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.								
Policy SS5 – Melton North Sustainable Neighbourhood	This policy is not covered under the Local Plan Update. This policy sets out the criteria to which the council will work in partnership with developers and delivery partners to deliver the Melton North Sustainable Neighbourhood (MSSN) identified as a strategic development location on the Policies Map.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore,								

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome																																																																								
		there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.																																																																								
Policy SS6 – Local Plan Review	This policy states that the Council will commence a new Local Plan immediately upon adoption of the Local Plan partial update	No likely significant effects.  This policy sets out future Council commitments. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.																																																																								
Policy C1(A) – Housing Allocations	<p>This policy is not covered under the Local Plan Update. This policy shows the following Housing Allocations:</p> <p><b>Melton Mowbray:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Reference</th> <th>Address</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MNSN</td> <td>Melton North Sustainable Neighbourhood</td> <td>1500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SMSN</td> <td>South Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood</td> <td>1700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL1</td> <td>Land at Nottingham Road</td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL2</td> <td>Site of King Edward VII school, Burton Road</td> <td>120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL3</td> <td>Hilltop Farm, Nottingham Road</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL4</td> <td>Top End, Cattle Market</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL5</td> <td>Silverdale, Scalford Road</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL6</td> <td>Land fronting Dieppe Way, Scalford Road</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL7</td> <td>Land at Thorpe Road</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL8</td> <td>Beeby's Yard, Burton Street</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL9</td> <td>Wycliffe House, Snow Hill</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEL10</td> <td>Land adjacent to St Bartholomew's Way and Horseguards Way</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>3,676</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Service Centres:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Reference</th> <th>Address</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ASF1</td> <td>Land east of Station Lane &amp; south of Klondyke Way</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASF2</td> <td>Fields south of Bypass and north of Regency Road</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASF3</td> <td>Land off Hoby Road, Asfordby</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ASF Total</td> <td></td> <td>225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOT1</td> <td>Land rear of Daybell's Farm &amp; 18 Grantham Road</td> <td>41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOT2</td> <td>Land off Grantham Road</td> <td>65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOT3</td> <td>Rectory Farm</td> <td>163</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOT4</td> <td>Land at bottom of Beacon Hill, Normanton Lane</td> <td>88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BOT Total</td> <td></td> <td>357</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Reference	Address	Capacity	MNSN	Melton North Sustainable Neighbourhood	1500	SMSN	South Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood	1700	MEL1	Land at Nottingham Road	85	MEL2	Site of King Edward VII school, Burton Road	120	MEL3	Hilltop Farm, Nottingham Road	75	MEL4	Top End, Cattle Market	26	MEL5	Silverdale, Scalford Road	16	MEL6	Land fronting Dieppe Way, Scalford Road	37	MEL7	Land at Thorpe Road	16	MEL8	Beeby's Yard, Burton Street	11	MEL9	Wycliffe House, Snow Hill	20	MEL10	Land adjacent to St Bartholomew's Way and Horseguards Way	70	Total		3,676	Site Reference	Address	Capacity	ASF1	Land east of Station Lane & south of Klondyke Way	100	ASF2	Fields south of Bypass and north of Regency Road	55	ASF3	Land off Hoby Road, Asfordby	70	ASF Total		225	BOT1	Land rear of Daybell's Farm & 18 Grantham Road	41	BOT2	Land off Grantham Road	65	BOT3	Rectory Farm	163	BOT4	Land at bottom of Beacon Hill, Normanton Lane	88	BOT Total		357	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy lists all the allocations which are to be delivered within the Plan period. While some allocations fall within the potential Zones of Influence of relevant European sites, likely significant effects can be excluded on the basis of evidence presented in Chapter 5.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and Policy C1(A) can be screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p><b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b></p>
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Policy Name	Policy Description	Capacity	Screening Outcome
CROX1	Land west of Saltby Road east of Highfields Farm	39	
CROX2	Land east of Saltby Road & south of A607	10	
CROX3	Land south of Main Street (A607) and west of the Nook	10	
CROX Total		59	
HAR1	Allotment Gardens, Boyers Orchard	15	
HAR2	Former Cheese Producing Dairy, Langar Lane	10	
HAR3	Former Millway Foods, Colston Lane	53	
HAR4	Land at Colston Lane	50	
HAR Total		128	
HOS1	Land off Canal Lane	41	
HOS2	Land west of Harby Lane	35	
HOS Total		76	
LONG1	Land at Melton Road	10	
LONG2	Corner of Broughton Lane & Hickling Lane	35	
LONG3	Birleys Garage, Waltham Lane	45	
LONG Total		90	
OLD1	North Lodge Farm, Longcliffe Hill	28	
OLD Total		28	
SCAL1	Land south of Melton Road	23	
SCAL Total		23	
SOM1	Football field at Somerby	27	
SOM2	Land off High Street	42	
SOM Total		69	
STAT1	Point Farm, Main Street	65	
STAT2	Land adjacent Lavesley House 14 City Road Stathern	10	
STAT Total		75	
WAL1	Land rear of 48 High Street	26	
WAL2	Land east of Melton Road	105	
WAL Total		131	
WYM1	Glebe Road	12	
WYM2	Land off Butt Lane	21	
WYM3	Land known as Brickyard Lane	22	
WYM Total		55	
Total		1,316	
<b>Rural Hubs:</b>			
	<b>Site Reference Address</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome																											
AKB1	Land off A606	10																											
AKB Total		10																											
ASFH1	Land off Houghton Close & Glebe Road	40																											
ASFH2	Land of Stanton Road	47																											
ASFH Total		87																											
EAST1	Land east of Green Lane	9																											
EAST2	Land west of Green Lane	12																											
EAST Total		21																											
FRIS1	Land off Great Lane	48																											
FRIS2	Water Lane	22																											
FRIS3	Land south of village	48																											
FRIS Total		137																											
GADD1	Holme Farm	14																											
GADD2	Land off Pasture Lane	11																											
GADD3	Land north of Pasture Lane	11																											
GADD Total		36																											
GREA1	Land off Burdett Close	37																											
GREA Total		37																											
THOR1	Land to the South East of Thorpe Road, (A607)	13																											
THOR2	Land to the west of Thorpe Road	11																											
THOR Total		24																											
Total		333																											
Policy C1(B) – Reserve Sites	<p>This policy is not covered under the Local Plan Update. This policy outlines reserve housing allocation sites:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Reference</th> <th>Address</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>MEL11</td> <td>Snow Hill, Melton Mowbray</td> <td>240</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HAR5</td> <td>Land south of Colston Lane, Harby</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LONG4</td> <td>Canal Farm, Long Clawson</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OLD2</td> <td>Debdale Hill Field, Old Dalby</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOM3</td> <td>Land off Burrough Road, Somerby</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>STAT3</td> <td>Land west of Blacksmiths End, Stathern</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WAL3</td> <td>Land east of Melton Road, Waltham on the Wolds</td> <td>168</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>562</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Reference	Address	Capacity	MEL11	Snow Hill, Melton Mowbray	240	HAR5	Land south of Colston Lane, Harby	13	LONG4	Canal Farm, Long Clawson	40	OLD2	Debdale Hill Field, Old Dalby	23	SOM3	Land off Burrough Road, Somerby	33	STAT3	Land west of Blacksmiths End, Stathern	45	WAL3	Land east of Melton Road, Waltham on the Wolds	168	Total		562	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy lists all the allocations which are to be delivered within the Plan period. While some allocations fall within the potential Zones of Influence of relevant European sites, likely significant effects can be excluded on the basis of evidence presented in Chapter 5.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and Policy C1(B) can be screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p><b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b></p>
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Policy C2 – Housing Mix	<p>This policy sets out that all major developments should provide appropriate types and sizes of dwellings to meet the needs of current and future households in the District, such as those of older and most vulnerable residents.</p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must</p>																											

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome
Policy C3 – Internal Space Standards	This policy deals with internal space within new dwellings and is suitable for application across all tenures. It sets out requirements for the gross internal (floor) area of new dwellings at a defined level of occupancy, as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home, notably bedrooms, storage and floor to ceiling height.	adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.
Policy C4 – Affordable Housing Provision	This policy sets out the requirements for affordable housing provision for different areas for which the Council will seek to manage the delivery of around 1300 new affordable homes between 2011 and 2036.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy C5 – Affordable Housing through Rural Exception Sites	This policy sets out the need for proposals for 100% affordable housing on sites which would not normally be acceptable for general market housing, where there is a demonstrable need from people with a local connection.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy C6 – Gypsies and Travellers	This policy sets out the general requirements for gypsy and traveller pitches.	<b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b>  No likely significant effects.  This policy sets out the development management criteria for gypsy and traveller pitches to be delivered within the Plan period. However, likely significant effects can be excluded on the basis of evidence presented in Chapter 5.  Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and Policy C6 can be screened out from Appropriate Assessment.  <b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b>
Policy C7 – Community Facilities and Services	This policy outlines the criteria for proposals for Community Facilities and Services would require to be permitted.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome
Policy C8 – Self-build and Custom Housebuilding	This policy outlines the demand and permissions granted for individual house buildings.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy C9 – Healthy Communities	This policy outlines the need for all development proposals to make a positive contribution to health and wellbeing by ensuring high quality development is provided, alongside accessible local services and facilities to support health, in accordance with the wider policies of the plan.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy C10 – Health Impact Assessments	This policy outlines that all major development proposals will be required to demonstrate that they would have an acceptable impact on health and wellbeing.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy EC1 – Employment Need, Allocations and Development	This policy outlines the minimum industrial and warehousing land need of 26.22ha between 2023 and 2036 as well as the criteria for employment proposals.	No likely significant effects.  This policy explains allocations which are to be delivered within the Plan period. While some allocations fall within the potential Zones of Influence of relevant European sites, likely significant effects can be excluded on the basis of evidence presented in Chapter 5.  Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and Policy EC1/4 can be screened out from Appropriate Assessment.
Policy EC2 – Rural Economy	This policy lists the criteria which proposals in rural areas that include the growth and expansion of all types of businesses will be supported.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy EC3 – Existing Employment Sites	This policy lists existing employment locations as well as the criteria for proposals for the development of all or part of an existing employment site for non-employment uses.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome
Policy EC5 – Main Town Centre Uses and Melton Mowbray Town Centre	This policy lists the development criteria for the town centre uses of Melton Mowbray	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy EC6 – Primary Shopping Frontages	The policy states that unless permitted development rights (or any successor) indicate otherwise, ground floor A1 units in the Primary Shopping Frontages should be retained predominantly for retail use.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy EC8 – Tourism	This policy outlines the criteria required for cultural development proposals.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out
Policy EN1 – Landscape	This policy outlines the need for new developments to respect existing landscape character and features. Proposals will be supported where they do not have an unacceptable adverse effect upon important landscape features including: 1. Distinctive topography; 2. Important trees, hedges and other vegetation features; 3. Important ponds, watercourses & other water areas; 4. Important views, approaches and settings.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy to ensure the preservation of the landscape character across the District. The policy does not allocate a quantum of development does not allocate sites for development. Therefore, the policy does not present linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.  <b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b>
Policy EN2A – Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity	This policy sets out that developments must facilitate the conservation, enhancement and promotion of the districts biodiversity and geological interest of the natural environment	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy to ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, geological and natural assets, and designated sites.  The policy ensures the protection of European sites. This policy is a positive policy and promotes a robust protective policy framework for European sites.
Policy EN2B – Designing with Nature	This policy lists the criteria with which new development will be laid out and designed to protect and enhance biodiversity by providing wildlife networks and habitats. This includes Biodiversity Net Gain where legislation requires	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy to ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, geological and natural assets, and designated sites.

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome
Policy EN3 – The Melton Green and Blue Infrastructure Network	This policy outlines the criteria major proposals must follow to protect, enhance and extend the green and blue infrastructure (GBI) network. Green infrastructure should be integrated into scheme design. Proposals that harm the green infrastructure network will not be permitted unless the need and benefits of development outweigh the impacts.	<p>The policy ensures the protection of protected species and reduction in biodiversity loss. This policy is a positive policy and promotes a robust protective policy framework for protected species and biodiversity.</p> <p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy to ensure the protection, enhancement and creation of a well connected green infrastructure throughout the District. Therefore, the policy does not present linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.</p> <p>Although this policy can be screened out, any development coming forward through this policy must still adhere to the other policies within the Local Plan and the Habitats Regulations and be subject to an assessment on a case by case basis, in order to determine if there are likely significant effects.</p>
Policy EN4 – Areas of Separation	This policy outlines the requirement of development proposals to avoid the coalescence of settlements by maintaining the principle of separation between them, retain highly tranquil parts of the landscape between settlements and safeguard the individual character of settlements.	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p> <p><b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b></p>
Policy EN5 – Local Green Space	<p>This policy outlines the criteria for which Local Green Spaces are designated including being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) of particular local significance and demonstrably special to a local community;</li> <li>b) in reasonably close proximity to the community they serve; and</li> <li>c) local in character and not an extensive tract of land.</li> </ul>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p>
Policy EN6 – Settlement Character	<p>This policy outlines the criteria required for not harming a settlements character including the need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. contribute positively to the individual character of a settlement;</li> <li>2. contribute to the setting of historic built form and features;</li> <li>3. contribute to the key characteristics and features of conservation areas; and</li> <li>4. form a key entrance and/or gateway to a settlement.</li> </ol>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p> <p><b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b></p>



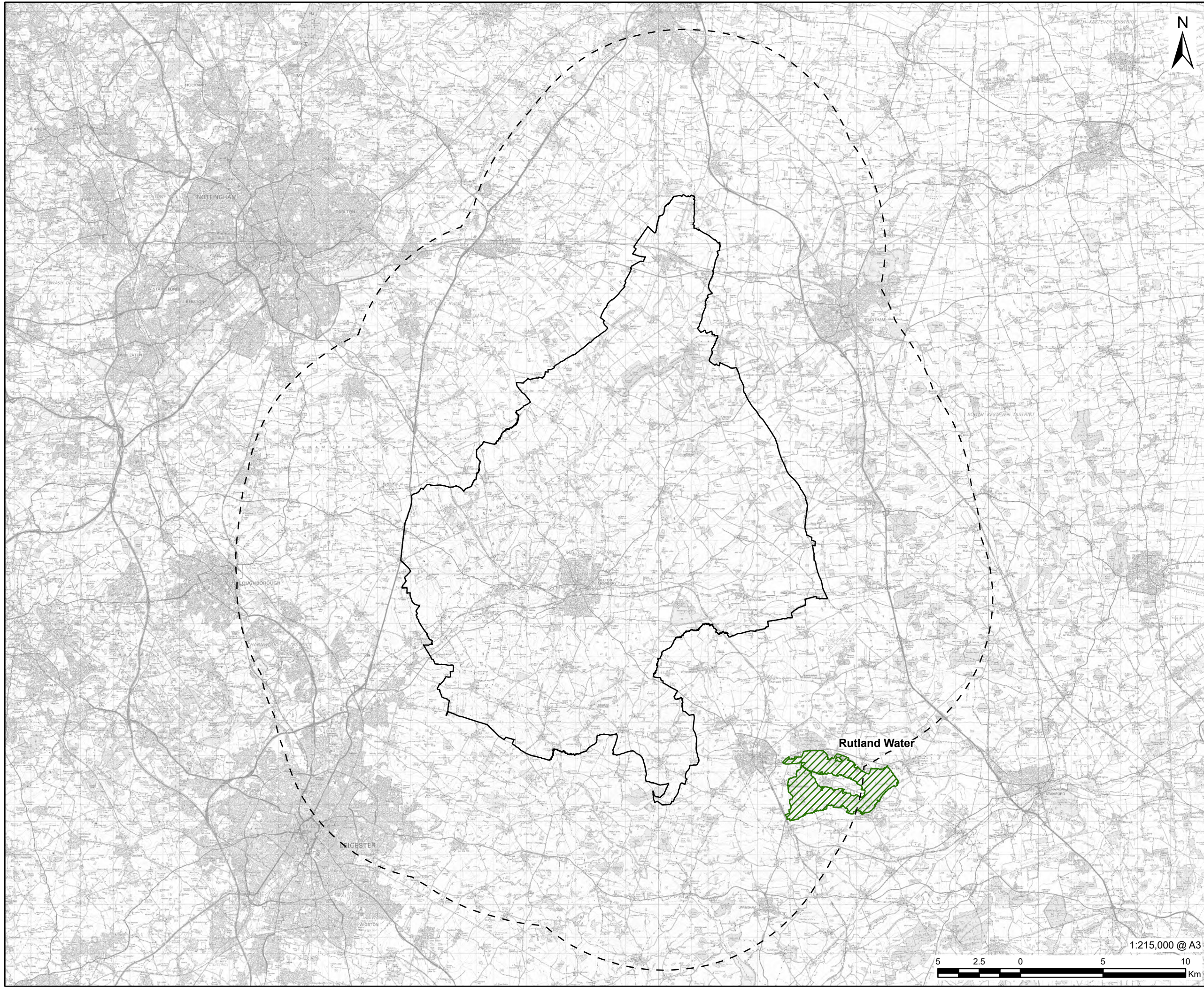
Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome
Policy EN7 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation	<p>This policy outlines the quantity standards and playing pitch requirements within the District.</p> <p><i>'Where there are identified local deficiencies in the quantity, accessibility and/or quality of open space, sports and recreational facilities, new residential development of 10 dwellings or more will be required to contribute towards their provision and/or enhancement, in accordance with the table below, subject to viability considerations'</i></p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p>
Policy EN8 – Climate Change	<p>This policy outlines that all new development proposals will be required to demonstrate how the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change has been considered, subject to considerations of viability, in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable design and construction in accordance with Policy EN9 – ensuring energy efficient and low carbon development.</li> <li>• Provision of green infrastructure in accordance with Policy EN3 – the Melton Green Infrastructure Network</li> <li>• Provision of renewable and/or low carbon energy production, including decentralised energy and/or heat networks in accordance with Policy EN10 – energy generation from renewable sources.</li> <li>• Flood risk in accordance with Policy EN11 – minimizing the risk of flooding and policy EN12 – sustainable urban drainage systems.</li> <li>• Providing opportunities for sustainable modes of transport in accordance with Policy IN1 – delivering infrastructure to support new development.</li> </ul>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p>
Policy EN9a – Ensuring Sustainable Development	<p>This policy states that development proposals will be required to demonstrate how the need to reduce operational energy use and carbon emissions has influenced the design, layout and energy source used, subject to viability.</p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p>
Policy EN9b – Water Efficient Development	<p>This policy states that all development should demonstrate that it is water efficient, incorporating appropriate water efficiency and re-use measures.</p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p>
Policy EN10 – Energy Generation from Renewable and Low Carbon Sources	<p>This policy states that renewable and low carbon energy proposals appropriate for Melton, including biomass power generation, combined heat and power (CHP), hydro, wind, solar and micro generation systems, will be supported and considered in the context of sustainable development and climate change.</p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p>
Policy EN11 – Minimising the Risk of Flooding	<p>This policy lists the criteria required so that <i>'new development should be located, laid out and designed in accordance with the following flood risk hierarchy. Priority is given to actions at the top of the hierarchy which minimise the need for measures further down:</i></p> <p><i>a) avoid development in areas of flood risk from all sources, taking account of the effects of climate change, steering development to the lowest flood risk areas using the sequential and exception tests;</i></p> <p><i>b) control the risk of flooding affecting the site;</i></p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy to ensure the reduction of flood risk to developments as well as to ensure appropriate water and sewage provision is provided. Therefore, the policy does not present linking</p>

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome
	<p><i>c) mitigate any residual risks to occupants using flood resistance and resilience measures; and</i>  <i>d) manage remaining risks including warning procedures and escape routes.'</i></p>	<p>impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.</p>
<p>Policy EN12 – Sustainable Drainage Systems</p>	<p>This policy states the need for major development proposals to incorporate a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) which lowers flood and pollution risk on the site and elsewhere by delaying, reducing and minimising surface water runoff and enhancing water quality.</p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy to ensure appropriate water drainage. Therefore, the policy does not present linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.</p>
<p>Policy EN13 – Heritage Assets</p>	<p>This policy shows that <i>'Melton Borough has a number of important historic assets. These include Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and non-designated heritage assets (ranging from nationally to locally important heritage features). The Borough of Melton contains heritage assets that are at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. These will be conserved, protected and where possible enhanced'</i></p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p> <p><b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b></p>
<p>Policy IN1 – Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy (MMTS)</p>	<p>This policy explains the components within the MMTS. 'The Borough Council will work with Leicestershire County Council, landowners, developers and others to deliver a transport strategy for Melton Mowbray. The MMTS will comprise the following key components, to be funded and delivered by private developers and the public sector:</p> <p>(a) A Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR) from the A606 Nottingham Road to the A607 Leicester Road around the east of the town, in accordance with the broad design standards and requirements outlined in paragraph 8.3.17, for which a 'corridor of investigation' is shown on the Policies Map; and</p> <p>(b) A package of complementary measures, including enhanced pedestrian, cycling and public transport facilities and access to the town centre and the other main local journey attractors from the southern and northern urban extensions.'</p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy lists all the desired components for transport allocations. Likely significant effects can be excluded on the basis of evidence presented in Chapter 5.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and Policy IN1 can be screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p>Policy IN2 – Transport, Accessibility and Parking</p>	<p>This policy outlines that the Council and its delivery partners will support and promote a more sustainable transport system that manages carbon emissions, improves public health &amp; safety and supports the delivery of sustainable growth within the Borough.</p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy sets out promotion of sustainable transport solutions. Likely significant effects can be excluded on the basis of evidence presented in Chapter 5.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and Policy IN1 can be screened out from Appropriate Assessment.</p>
<p>Policy IN3 – Infrastructure Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy</p>	<p>This policy sets out the criteria of community infrastructure Levys from major developments. This may include:</p> <p><i>'I. Essential infrastructure necessary to ensure adequate provision of essential utilities, facilities, water management and safe access, as identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan or Neighbourhood Plan.</i></p> <p><i>II. Essential infrastructure (including the Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy and its key component, the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road) as identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan or any made Neighbourhood Plan including contributions from residential development towards affordable housing to meet the requirement set out in Policy C4.</i></p>	<p>No likely significant effects.</p> <p>This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria-based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out</p>

Policy Name	Policy Description	Screening Outcome
	<i>III. Desirable infrastructure as identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan or any made Neighbourhood Plan.'</i>	<b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b>
Policy IN4 – Communications Infrastructure	This policy sets out the development management criteria related to ensuring development are providing enhancement to information communications networks such as superfast broadband.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.
Policy D1 – Raising the Standard of Design	This policy outlines support for proposals that have considered regard for the following factors: Amenity, Transport and parking, Trees and hedges, Inclusivity, Healthy neighbourhood design, Waste and storage, Constraints and utilities	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.
Policy D2 – Equestrian Development	This policy outlines the criteria required for any new development or extensions of any equestrian facilities.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.  <b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b>
Policy D3 – Agricultural Workers' Dwellings	This policy outlines the criteria required for any development or creation of rural workers dwellings.	No likely significant effects.  This policy is a development management policy, it sets out criteria based management principles which development must adhere to for approval. Therefore, there are no linking impact pathways and this policy can be screened out.  <b>Not part of the Local Plan Update; included for completeness</b>

# Appendix B Figure 2 Locations of European designated sites








**PROJECT**  
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**LEGEND**

-  Melton Borough
-  Melton Borough - 10km Study Area
-  Special Protection Areas (SPA)

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**ISSUE PURPOSE**  
DRAFT / FINAL

**PROJECT NUMBER**  
60716221

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Designations within Melton Borough

**FIGURE NUMBER**  
Figure 1

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