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# **Melton Local Plan: Submission (Publication) Consultation**

## **Habitats Regulations Assessment Report**

Prepared by LUC  
October 2016

**Project Title:** Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Melton Local Plan

**Client:** Melton Borough Council

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Planning & EIA  
Design  
Landscape Planning  
Landscape Management  
Ecology  
Mapping & Visualisation

LUC BRISTOL  
14 Great George Street  
Bristol BS1 5RH  
Tel:0117 929 1997  
Fax:0117 929 1998  
bristol@landuse.co.uk

Offices also in:  
London  
Glasgow  
Edinburgh



FS 566056  
EMS 566057

Land Use Consultants Ltd  
Registered in England  
Registered number: 2549296  
Registered Office:  
43 Chalton Street  
London NW1 1JD  
LUC uses 100% recycled paper



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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Melton Borough Council is preparing a new-style Local Plan to guide development in the Borough over the next 25 years. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the saved policies from the existing Local Plan which was adopted in 1999.
- 1.2 LUC was appointed by Melton Borough Council in June 2015 to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Local Plan on its behalf. This HRA Report relates to the Submission (Publication) consultation (October 2016) and it should be read in conjunction with that document.

## The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

- 1.3 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2010<sup>1</sup> and again in 2012<sup>2</sup>. Therefore when preparing its new Local Plan Melton Borough Council is required by law to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 1.4 The HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European Sites, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation:
  - SPAs are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive') for the protection of wild birds and their habitats (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
  - SACs are designated under the Habitats Directive and target particular habitats (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- 1.5 Currently, the Government also expects potential SPAs (pSPAs), candidate SACs (cSACs) and Ramsar sites to be included within the assessment<sup>3</sup>.
  - Ramsar sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971).
- 1.6 For ease of reference during HRA, these three designations are collectively referred to as European sites, despite Ramsar designations being at the wider international level.
- 1.7 The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or whole development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex 1 habitats, Annex 11 species, and Annex 1 bird populations for which it has been designated). Significantly, HRA is based on the precautionary principle - where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse impact should be assumed.

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<sup>1</sup> The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843. From 1 April 2010, these were consolidated and replaced by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI No. 2010/490). Note that no substantive changes to existing policies or procedures have been made in the new version.

<sup>2</sup> The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012. Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 1927.

<sup>3</sup> *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*. OPDM, 2005.

## Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.8 **Table 1.1** below summarises the stages involved in carrying out a full HRA, based on various guidance documents<sup>4,5,6</sup>

**Table 1.1 Stages in HRA**

Stage	Task	Outcome
Stage 1: Screening (the 'Significance Test')	Description of the plan. Identification of potential effects on European Sites. Assessing the effects on European Sites (taking into account potential mitigation provided by other policies in the plan).	Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect report'. Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2.
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (the 'Integrity Test')	Gather information (plan and European Sites). Impact prediction. Evaluation of impacts in view of conservation objectives. Where impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options. Assess alternative options. If no alternatives exist, define and evaluate mitigation measures where necessary.	Appropriate assessment report describing the plan, European site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the European site, how these effects will be avoided through, firstly, avoidance, and secondly, mitigation including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures. If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered proceed to Stage 3.
Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation	Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI). Identify potential compensatory measures.	This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous.

1.9 When assessing the effects of the Melton Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority: a 'Significance Test' followed if necessary by an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the 'Integrity Test'. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 102(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not –
- Step 2: Under Reg. 102(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the 'Significance Test'). *[These two steps are undertaken as part of Stage 1: Screening shown in Table 1.1 above.]* If Yes –
- Step 3: Under Reg. 102(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of its current conservation objectives (the 'Integrity Test'). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 102(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 102(3) to take the opinion of the general public. *[This step is undertaken during Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment shown in Table 1.1 above.]*

<sup>4</sup> *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European Sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.

<sup>5</sup> *Planning for the Protection of European Sites. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.* Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), August 2006.

<sup>6</sup> *The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England. A guide to why, when and how to do it.* RSPB. August 2007.



- Step 4: In accordance with Reg.102(4), but subject to Reg.103, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.
- 1.10 It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid, reduce or abate effects. The need to consider alternatives could imply more onerous changes to a plan document. It is generally understood that so called 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with both the Government and European Commission.
- 1.11 The HRA should be undertaken by the 'competent authority' - in this case Melton Borough Council, and LUC has been commissioned to do this on its behalf. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body<sup>7</sup> in order to obtain the necessary information and agree the process, outcomes and any mitigation proposals. The Environment Agency, while not a statutory consultee for the HRA, is also in a strong position to provide advice and information throughout the process as it is required to undertake HRA for its existing licences and future licensing of activities.

## Structure of the HRA Report

- 1.12 This chapter has introduced the requirement to undertake HRA of the Melton Local Plan. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:
- **Chapter 2: The Melton Local Plan: Submission Consultation** summarises the content of the Submission consultation document (October 2016), which is the subject of this report.
  - **Chapter 3: HRA Screening Methodology** sets out the approach used and the specific tasks undertaken during the screening stage of the HRA.
  - **Chapter 4: HRA Screening Assessment of the Melton Local Plan: Submission Version** summarises the findings of the screening stage of the HRA for the Submission consultation and describes whether significant effects on European sites are likely to result from the implementation of the Local Plan.
  - **Chapter 5: Appropriate Assessment** summarises the findings of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.
  - **Chapter 6: Conclusions** summarises the overall HRA conclusions for the Submission Local Plan and describes the next steps to be undertaken.

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<sup>7</sup> Regulation 5 of *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2010 No. 490.

## 2 The Melton Local Plan: Submission Consultation

- 2.1 The Melton Local Plan: Submission consultation (October 2016) sets out a proposed development strategy and policies to guide development in the Borough up to 2036. The consultation document includes a Vision for the Borough as follows:

### **A Vision for Melton Borough**

We will promote and manage development in a way which consolidates and builds upon the unique reputation, heritage, retains the character and rural nature of Melton Borough and meets the needs of the local community, benefits the economy and maintains or improves the quality of the local environment. We will facilitate a sustainable pattern of high quality development which:

- Retains the character of the countryside whilst supporting land-based industries and tourism opportunities;
- Meets the needs of businesses to provide a diverse, competitive and innovative economy with high levels of local employment and good opportunities for training;
- Meets the current and future housing needs of the whole community;
- Strengthens and enhances Melton Mowbray's role as a historic market town and as the main social and economic focus for the Borough;
- Raises the quality, interest and diversity of Melton Mowbray's town centre and reduces the impact of traffic;
- Respects the individual character and distinctiveness of Melton Borough's town and villages preserving their heritage and promoting good design;
- Ensures that people benefit from having better access to key services and facilities to create strong, healthy, safer communities;
- Addresses the causes and effects of climate change and reuses and recycles resources;
- Provides the necessary infrastructure to support economic and population growth;
- Enhances and minimizes harm to the natural environment.

- 2.2 The Vision is supported by 25 Strategic Priorities for the Borough, which are divided into the following categories:

- Housing
- Accessibility and transport
- Safety and protection
- Jobs and prosperity
- Community development
- Environment

- 2.3 A total of 42 policies are then set out in the remaining chapters of the Local Plan document, in the following sections:

- Spatial Strategy
- Communities
- Economy
- Environment

- Managing Delivery
- Managing Development

2.4 Site allocations are included within the following policies:

- Policies SS4 and SS5 relate to proposed new sustainable neighbourhoods to the south and north of Melton Mowbray respectively.
- Policy C1: Housing Allocations lists a further 58 small-scale residential site allocations at locations throughout the Borough as well as eight reserve sites. Site allocations policies relating to those sites are set out in Appendix D of the Local Plan and provide more detail about the proposals for the sites and any required mitigation.

## Potential impacts of the Local Plan on European sites

2.5 **Table 2.1** below sets out the range of potential impacts that development in general and related activities may have on European sites.

**Table 2.1 Potential Impacts and Activities Adversely Affecting European Sites**

Broad categories and examples of potential impacts on European sites	Examples of activities responsible for impacts
<b>Physical loss</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal (including offsite effects, e.g. foraging habitat)</li> <li>• Mine collapse</li> <li>• Smothering</li> <li>• Habitat degradation</li> </ul>	Development (e.g. housing, employment, infrastructure, tourism) Infilling (e.g. of mines, water bodies) Alterations or works to disused quarries Structural alterations to buildings (bat roosts) Afforestation Tipping Cessation of or inappropriate management for nature conservation
<b>Physical damage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sedimentation / silting</li> <li>• Prevention of natural processes</li> <li>• Habitat degradation</li> <li>• Erosion</li> <li>• Trampling</li> <li>• Fragmentation</li> <li>• Severance / barrier effect</li> <li>• Edge effects</li> <li>• Fire</li> </ul>	Flood defences Dredging Mineral extraction Recreation (e.g. motor cycling, cycling, walking, horse riding, water sports, caving) Development (e.g. infrastructure, tourism, adjacent housing etc.) Vandalism Arson Cessation of or inappropriate management for nature conservation
<b>Non-physical disturbance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Vibration</li> <li>• Visual presence</li> <li>• Human presence</li> <li>• Light pollution</li> </ul>	Development (e.g. housing, industrial) Recreation (e.g. dog walking, water sports) Industrial activity Mineral extraction Navigation Vehicular traffic Artificial lighting (e.g. street lighting)
<b>Water table/availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drying</li> <li>• Flooding / stormwater</li> <li>• Water level and stability</li> <li>• Water flow (e.g. reduction in velocity of surface water)</li> <li>• Barrier effect (on migratory species)</li> </ul>	Water abstraction Drainage interception (e.g. reservoir, dam, infrastructure and other development) Increased discharge (e.g. drainage, runoff)

Broad categories and examples of potential impacts on European sites	Examples of activities responsible for impacts
<p><b>Toxic contamination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water pollution</li> <li>• Soil contamination</li> <li>• Air pollution</li> </ul>	<p>Agrochemical application and runoff  Navigation  Oil / chemical spills  Tipping  Landfill  Vehicular traffic  Industrial waste / emissions</p>
<p><b>Non-toxic contamination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrient enrichment (e.g. of soils and water)</li> <li>• Algal blooms</li> <li>• Changes in salinity</li> <li>• Changes in thermal regime</li> <li>• Changes in turbidity</li> <li>• Air pollution (dust)</li> </ul>	<p>Agricultural runoff  Sewage discharge  Water abstraction  Industrial activity  Flood defences  Navigation  Construction</p>
<p><b>Biological disturbance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct mortality</li> <li>• Out-competition by non-native species</li> <li>• Selective extraction of species</li> <li>• Introduction of disease</li> <li>• Rapid population fluctuations</li> <li>• Natural succession</li> </ul>	<p>Development (e.g. housing areas with domestic and public gardens)  Predation by domestic pets  Introduction of non-native species (e.g. from gardens)  Fishing  Hunting  Agriculture  Changes in management practices (e.g. grazing regimes, access controls, cutting/clearing)</p>

## 3 HRA Screening Methodology

- 3.1 HRA screening of the Submission version of the Melton Local Plan (October 2016) has been undertaken in line with current available guidance and seeks to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. The tasks that have been undertaken during the screening stage of the HRA are described below.
- 3.2 HRA screening was previously undertaken in relation to the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan and the findings were presented in the January 2016 HRA Screening Report. The same broad approach has been taken to the screening of the Submission Local Plan (as described below); however certain tasks, such as identifying the European sites within and around Melton Borough, did not need to be undertaken again as the findings from the earlier stage remain valid.
- 3.3 The HRA Report for the Emerging Options was published for consultation alongside the Local Plan document in early 2016 and the response received from Natural England is presented in **Appendix 1**. No other consultation responses were received in relation to the HRA report.

### Identification of European sites which may be affected by the Local Plan and the factors contributing to and defining the integrity of these sites

- 3.4 Information about the European sites that could be affected by activities within Melton Borough resulting from the Local Plan was taken from two sources:
  - Publicly available Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data from Natural England.
  - The most recent HRA Report for the now-withdrawn Melton Core Strategy that was prepared by URS Scott Wilson on behalf of Melton Borough Council in 2012<sup>8</sup>.
- 3.5 Although the HRA work that was undertaken previously for the withdrawn Core Strategy is now more than four years old and related to the specific proposals in the Core Strategy, it provided a useful body of evidence in relation to potential pathways of effects between Melton Borough and the nearby European sites, particularly because it was subject to consultation with Natural England at the time. Therefore, information from that document has been referred to during the preparation of this HRA report but it has been reviewed and updated as appropriate and this report relates to the specific proposals in the Submission version of the Local Plan.
- 3.6 An initial investigation was undertaken to identify European sites within or near to the Melton Borough boundary which may be affected by the Local Plan. This involved the use of GIS data to map the locations and boundaries of European sites using publicly available data from Natural England. All European sites lying partially or wholly within 15km from the Borough boundary were included in order to address the fact that Local Plan policies may affect European sites which are located outside the administrative boundary of the plan. This distance has generally been considered reasonable in other local authority HRAs to ensure that all designated sites that could potentially be affected by development are identified and included in the assessment.
- 3.7 There are no European sites within Melton Borough. The following sites are included in the HRA because they are located at least partially within 15km of Melton Borough:
  - Rutland Water SPA (located between approximately 5 and 12km to the south east of Melton Borough)

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<sup>8</sup> URS Scott Wilson (January 2012) Statement to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment of Melton Borough Council Core Strategy (Publication Draft)

- Rutland Water Ramsar site (located between approximately 5 and 12km to the south east of Melton Borough)
- Grimsthorpe SAC (located approximately 14km to the east of Melton Borough)

- 3.8 For some local authorities there is the possibility that sites beyond the 15km distance could be affected by development within a district, for example where the water resources used to supply the district come from a source that lies further afield which is subject to European designation. With respect to Melton Borough, the HRA work undertaken previously for the now-withdrawn Core Strategy<sup>9</sup> identified potential pathways of effects to the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site which are located approximately 100km downstream of Melton Borough. This was based on the fact that the River Trent (which shares hydraulic connection with the River Wreake flowing through Melton) flows into the Humber Estuary. However, the Appropriate Assessment for the Core Strategy concluded that there would be no likely significant effects on water quality and quantity at the Humber Estuary sites as a result of development in Melton Borough. This conclusion was based on the responsibilities of water companies and the Environment Agency to control and consent effluent discharges (which still apply), and because a policy was included in the Core Strategy requiring wastewater treatment infrastructure to be in place prior to development being delivered. It was therefore recommended in an early draft version of the HRA Report for the Emerging Options that the Local Plan should also incorporate this policy protection. As a result of that recommendation, policy EN9: Ensuring Energy Efficient and Low Carbon Development in the Emerging Options document was amended to require development proposals to be phased to ensure sufficient waste water treatment capacity is available before development is complete. This policy requirement remains in the current Submission consultation version of the Local Plan. On this basis, likely significant effects on the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site have been screened out of this HRA.
- 3.9 As described in the previous chapter, it is necessary for potential SPAs (pSPAs) to be included in the HRA. This requirement is relevant to the HRA of the Melton Local Plan in relation to the potential for Sherwood Forest to be formally given pSPA status – this is being considered due to the site’s populations of breeding woodlark and nightjar. Although at the time of writing this process has not yet commenced and the site has not yet been given formal pSPA status, Natural England’s advice note to local authorities<sup>10</sup> suggests taking a precautionary approach and considering the potential for impacts on the woodlark and nightjar at the site. However, the area covered by the pSPA is likely to be at least 25km from Melton Borough at the nearest point and the HRA work undertaken previously for the Melton Core Strategy identified no realistic pathways of effects between Melton Borough and Sherwood Forest. There are no reasons to conclude that this situation has changed to any significant degree with respect to the Proposed Submission Local Plan. Therefore, impacts on the site’s qualifying populations of breeding woodlark and nightjar are screened out of this HRA.
- 3.10 The three European sites included in this HRA are mapped in **Figure 3.1** at the end of this section. The attributes of these sites which contribute to and define their integrity have been described (see **Appendix 2**). In doing so, reference was made to the Conservation Objectives for each site, Standard Data Forms for SACs and SPAs<sup>11</sup> as well as Natural England’s Site Improvement Plans<sup>12</sup>. This analysis enabled European site interest features to be identified, along with the features of each site which determine site integrity and the specific sensitivities and threats facing the site. This information was then used to inform an assessment of how the potential impacts of the Submission version of the Melton Local Plan may affect the integrity of each site.

<sup>9</sup> URS Scott Wilson (January 2012) Statement to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment of Melton Borough Council Core Strategy (Publication Draft)

<sup>10</sup> Natural England (March 2014) Advice note to Local Planning Authorities regarding the consideration of likely effects on the breeding population of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest region.

<sup>11</sup> These were obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Natural England websites ([www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk) and [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk))

<sup>12</sup> Natural England is in the process of compiling Site Improvement Plans for all Natura 2000 sites in England as part of the Improvement programme for England’s Natura 2000 sites (IPENS).

## Assessment of 'likely significant effects' of the Submission version of the Melton Local Plan

- 3.11 As required under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010<sup>13</sup> an assessment of the 'likely significant effects' of the Melton Local Plan: Submission consultation was undertaken. A screening matrix was prepared in order to assess which policies would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites. The findings of the screening assessment are summarised in **Chapter 4** and the full matrix can be found in **Appendix 4**.
- 3.12 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle was adopted in the assessment, such that a conclusion of 'no significant effect' was only reached where it was considered very unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a policy would have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site.

### Screening assumptions and information used in reaching conclusions about likely significant effects

- 3.13 During the screening stage of the HRA each policy was screened individually. For some types of impacts, screening for likely significant effects has been determined on a proximity basis, using GIS data to determine the proximity of potential development locations to the European sites that are the subject of the assessment. However, there are many uncertainties associated with using set distances as there are very few standards available as a guide to how far impacts will travel. Therefore, during the screening stage a number of assumptions have been applied in relation to assessing the likely significant effects on European sites that may result from the Local Plan, as described below.

#### Physical damage/loss of habitat

- 3.14 Any development resulting from the Melton Local Plan would take place within Melton Borough; therefore only European sites within the Borough boundaries could be affected through physical damage or loss of habitat from within the European site. As there are no European sites within Melton Borough, the potential for onsite physical damage/loss of habitat at any European sites can be screened out.
- 3.15 However, loss of habitat from outside the boundaries of a European site could still have an effect on site integrity if that habitat supports qualifying species from within the European sites, for example habitat that is used for foraging or roosting by birds. Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site both lie within approximately 5km of Melton Borough at the closest point and include bird species amongst their qualifying features; therefore consideration needs to be given to the potential for offsite habitat used by those birds to be located in Melton Borough. Information collated during the HRA of the now-withdrawn Melton Core Strategy indicates that there is a site within Melton Borough that may be linked with Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site in relation to qualifying bird movements, Priory Water (also known as Priory Wildlife and Water Park). Consideration therefore needs to be given to the potential for development to occur in this area, and in any other areas found to include offsite supporting habitat, as a result of the Local Plan.
- 3.16 Grimsthorpe SAC does not include transient species amongst its qualifying features and so development in Melton would not affect the integrity of that site as a result of offsite habitat loss or damage.
- 3.17 **Therefore, likely significant effects relating to physical loss of or damage to habitat need to be considered only in relation to Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and only in relation to offsite habitat.**

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<sup>13</sup> SI No. 2010/490

### Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light)

- 3.18 Noise and vibration effects, e.g. during the construction of new housing or employment development, are most likely to disturb bird species and are thus a key consideration with respect to European sites where birds are the qualifying features, although such effects may also impact upon some mammals and fish species. Artificial lighting at night (e.g. from street lamps, flood lighting and security lights) is most likely to affect bat populations, and therefore have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites where bats are a qualifying feature.
- 3.19 It has been assumed that the effects of noise, vibration and light are most likely to be significant within a distance of 500m. There is also evidence of 300m being used as a distance up to which certain bird species can be disturbed by the effects of noise<sup>14</sup>; however, it has been assumed (on a precautionary basis) that the effects of noise, vibration and light pollution are most likely to cause an adverse effect if development takes place within 500m of a European site with qualifying features sensitive to these disturbances, or mapped off-site breeding, foraging or roosting areas.
- 3.20 The closest European sites to Melton Borough lie much further than 500m from the Borough boundary (approximately 5km), within which all development resulting from the Local Plan would take place; therefore the effects of noise, vibration and light can be screened out in relation to onsite impacts.
- 3.21 However, as described above, there may be areas of habitat within Melton Borough which are used by the qualifying bird species of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site; therefore development and related activities within 500m of those areas of habitat could affect the integrity of those designations as a result of noise, vibration and light.
- 3.22 Offsite impacts can again be screened out in relation to Grimsthorpe SAC, due to its distance from Melton Borough and the lack of transient species amongst its qualifying features.
- 3.23 **Therefore, the effects of non-physical disturbance need to be considered only in relation to Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, and only in relation to offsite areas of habitat.**

### Air pollution

- 3.24 Air pollution is most likely to affect European sites where plant, soil and water habitats are the qualifying features, but some qualifying animal species may also be affected, either directly or indirectly, by any deterioration in habitat as a result of air pollution. Deposition of pollutants to the ground and vegetation can alter the characteristics of the soil, affecting the pH and nitrogen availability that can then affect plant health, productivity and species composition.
- 3.25 In terms of vehicle traffic, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>, i.e. NO and NO<sub>2</sub>) are considered to be the key pollutants. Deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and NO<sub>x</sub> can cause eutrophication of soils and water.
- 3.26 Based on the Highways Agency Design for Road and Bridges (DMRB) Manual Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1<sup>15</sup> (which was produced to provide advice regarding the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads (including motorways)), it is assumed that air pollution from roads is unlikely to be significant beyond 200m from the road itself. Where increases in traffic volumes are forecast, this 200m buffer needs to be applied to the relevant roads in order to make a judgement about the likely geographical extent of air pollution impacts.
- 3.27 The DMRB Guidance for the assessment of local air quality in relation to highways developments provides criteria that should be applied at the screening stage of an assessment of a plan or project, to ascertain whether there are likely to be significant impacts associated with routes or corridors. Based on the DMRB guidance, affected roads which should be assessed are those where:
- Daily traffic flows will change by 1,000 AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) or more; or
  - Heavy duty vehicle (HDV) flows will change by 200 AADT or more; or

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<sup>14</sup> *British Wildlife Magazine*. October 2007.

<sup>15</sup> *Design Manual for Road and Bridges*. Highways Agency. <http://dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/index.htm>



- Daily average speed will change by 10 km/hr or more; or
  - Peak hour speed will change by 20 km/hr or more; or
  - Road alignment will change by 5 m or more.
- 3.28 Traffic forecast data (based on the planned level of growth) would therefore help to determine whether increases in vehicle traffic in and around Melton Borough are likely to be significant.
- 3.29 It has been assumed that only those roads forming part of the primary road network (motorways and 'A' roads) are likely to experience any significant increases in vehicle traffic as a result of development (i.e. greater than 1,000 AADT). As such, where a site is within 200m of only minor roads, no significant effect from traffic-related air pollution is considered to be the likely outcome.
- 3.30 Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site are both within 200m of the A606 and A6003. Grimsthorpe SAC is not within 200m of the strategic road network.
- 3.31 **Therefore, likely significant effects relating to increased air pollution from vehicle traffic need to be considered in relation to Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site only.**

### Impacts of recreation

- 3.32 Recreation activities and human presence can have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site as a result of erosion and trampling or general disturbance. Where Local Plan policies are likely to result in an increase in the local population, or where an increase in visitor numbers to the area is considered likely, the potential for an increase in visitor numbers and the associated potential impacts at sensitive European sites was identified in the screening matrix.
- 3.33 Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC are all within 15km of Melton Borough and are known to be located in popular areas for recreation. **Therefore, the impacts of increased recreation pressure need to be considered in relation to Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC.**

### Water quantity and quality

- 3.34 An increase in demand for water abstraction and treatment resulting from the growth proposed in the Melton Local Plan could result in changes in hydrology at European sites, specifically a decrease in water quality or changes to water levels. Depending on the qualifying features and particular vulnerabilities of the European sites, there could be a likely significant effect on site integrity.
- 3.35 Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar are vulnerable to changes in hydrology; however Rutland Water is not hydrologically connected to Melton Borough. The qualifying features of Grimsthorpe SAC are not vulnerable to changes in hydrology. **Therefore, likely significant effects associated with changes in water quality and quantity did not need to be considered further in relation to any of the European sites included in this HRA.**

### Summary of screening assumptions

- 3.36 **Table 3.1** below summarises the assumptions that have been applied during the preparation of the screening matrix for the Melton Local Plan: Submission version (see **Appendix 4**).

**Table 3.1 Summary of screening assumptions for the Melton Local Plan**

European site	Physical damage/loss of habitat (onsite)	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite)	Noise, vibration and light pollution (onsite)	Noise, vibration and light pollution (offsite)	Air pollution	Impacts of recreation	Water quantity and quality
Rutland Water SPA	Screened out	Screened in	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Rutland Water Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened in	Screened out	Screened in	Screened in	Screened in	Screened out
Grimsthorpe SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened in	Screened out

## Interpretation of 'likely significant effect'

- 3.37 Relevant case law helps to interpret when effects should be considered as a likely significant effect, when carrying out HRA of a land use plan.
- 3.38 In the Waddenzee case<sup>16</sup>, the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (translated into Reg. 102 in the Habitats Regulations), 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).
  - 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).
- 3.39 An opinion delivered to the Court of Justice of the European Union<sup>17</sup> commented that:
- "The requirement that an effect in question be 'significant' exists in order to lay down a de minimus threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on the site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill."*
- 3.40 This opinion (the 'Sweetman' case) therefore allows for the authorisation of plans and projects whose possible effects, alone or in combination, can be considered 'trivial' or *de minimus*; referring to such cases as those "which have no appreciable effect on the site". In practice such effects could be screened out as having no likely significant effect; they would be 'insignificant'.

## Mitigation provided by the Local Plan

- 3.41 Some of the potential effects of the Melton Local Plan will be mitigated through the implementation of other policies in the Local Plan itself, such as those relating to the provision of improved sustainable transport links (which will help to mitigate potential increases in air pollution associated with increased vehicle traffic) and the provision of green infrastructure within

<sup>16</sup> ECJ Case C-127/02 "Waddenzee" Jan 2004.

<sup>17</sup> Advocate General's Opinion to CJEU in Case C-258/11 Sweetman and others v An Bord Pleanala 22nd Nov 2012.

new developments (which will help mitigate increased pressure from recreation activities at European sites, depending on the nature of the green infrastructure provided).

- 3.42 The extent to which mitigation may be achieved through the Local Plan was considered during the screening process and has influenced the screening conclusions (see **Appendix 4** and **Chapter 4**).

### Identification of other plans and projects which may have 'in-combination' effects

- 3.43 Regulation 102 of the Amended Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an Appropriate Assessment where 'a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. Therefore, it is necessary to consider whether there may be significant effects from the Melton Local Plan in combination with other plans or projects.
- 3.44 The first stage in identifying 'in-combination' effects involves identifying which other plans and projects in addition to the Melton Local Plan may affect the European sites that were the focus of this assessment. There are a large number of potentially relevant plans and projects which could be considered; therefore the review focused on planned spatial growth within the authorities adjacent to Melton Borough as these are the ones most likely to give rise to in-combination effects. **Appendix 3** lists the plans that were considered, outlining the components of each that could have an impact on nearby European sites and considering the findings of the accompanying HRA work (where available).
- 3.45 The purpose of the review of other plans was to identify any components that could have an impact on the European sites that could also be affected by the Melton Local Plan, e.g. proposals for development near to the European sites which could have implications in terms of increased traffic, water use and recreation pressures and infrastructure development. The potential for the effects of these plans to combine with the effects of the Melton Local Plan has been considered in **Chapter 4**.

**Figure 3.1 European sites included in this HRA (to be inserted when PDF-ing)**

## 4 HRA Screening Assessment of the Melton Local Plan: Submission Version

### Screening conclusions

- 4.1 As described in **Chapter 3**, a screening assessment was carried out in order to identify the likely significant effects of the Melton Local Plan: Submission version (October 2016) on the European sites in and around Melton Borough. The full screening matrix used for this assessment can be found in **Appendix 4** and the findings are summarised below.

#### Significant effects unlikely

- 4.2 31 of the policies in the Submission Local Plan (October 2016) as well as the Vision and Strategic Priorities for the Local Plan are not expected to have significant effects on European sites.

- 4.3 The following policies will not result directly in development, and most instead set out criteria relating to development proposed under other policies which have been subject to HRA screening separately:

- SS1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
- SS6: Alternative Development Strategies and Local Plan Review
- C2: Housing Mix
- C3: National Space Standard and Smaller Dwellings
- C4: Affordable Housing Provision
- C9: Healthy Communities
- EC3: Existing Employment Sites
- EN1: Landscape
- EN4: Areas of Separation
- EN5: Local Green Space
- EN6: Settlement Character
- EN7: Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- EN8: Climate Change
- EN9: Ensuring Energy Efficient and Low Carbon Development
- EN11: Minimising the Risk of Flooding
- EN12: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
- EN13: Heritage Assets
- IN2: Infrastructure Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy
- IN3: Broadband
- D1: Raising the Standard of Design

- 4.4 The following policies could result in some development, but the development arising would be small-scale or located away from sensitive European sites and is not expected to contribute significantly to increased traffic or recreation pressure:

- C7: Rural Services

- C8: Self Build and Custom Build Housing
- EC5: Melton Mowbray Town Centre
- EC6: Primary Shopping Frontages
- EC7: Retail Development in the Borough
- EN10: Energy Generation from Renewable Sources
- D2: Equestrian Development
- D3: Agricultural Workers' Dwellings

4.5 In addition, a number of the Local Plan policies will help to mitigate the potential effects of development proposed elsewhere in the Local Plan as follows:

- EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity – this policy will not result in development but provides support for proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.
- EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network – this policy will not result in development but seeks to enhance the network of green infrastructure throughout the Borough which will help to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European sites.
- Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure will provide some mitigation for the potential impacts of increased vehicle traffic as, although part of the policy has been highlighted as having potential likely significant effects on European sites (see below), other provisions in the policy encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.

### Significant effects likely or uncertain

4.6 None of the policies in the Melton Local Plan: Submission consultation are considered **likely** to result in significant effects on the European sites in and around Melton Borough. However, for a number of policies it was concluded that there **may** be a significant effect on one or more European sites. Therefore, in line with the precautionary approach being applied in the HRA, until significant effects can be ruled out, they are treated as likely significant effects.

4.7 The following policies were highlighted as having potential but uncertain significant effects on European sites:

- SS2: Development Strategy
- SS3: Sustainable Communities (unallocated sites)
- SS4: South Melton Mowbray Sustainable Neighbourhood (strategic allocation)
- SS5: Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood
- C1: Housing Allocations (*also taking into account the detailed site allocations policies in Appendix D of the Local Plan*)
- C5: Affordable Housing Through Rural Exception Sites
- C6: Gypsies and Travellers
- EC1: Employment Growth in Melton Mowbray
- EC2: Employment Growth in the Rural Area (outside Melton Mowbray)
- EC4: Other Employment and Mixed Use Proposals
- EC8: Sustainable Tourism
- IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure

4.8 These policies could result in the development of housing, Gypsy and Traveller sites and/or employment land which could possibly have significant effects on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site in relation to **physical disturbance/loss of habitat (offsite)** and **non-physical disturbance (offsite)** from development and **air pollution** from increased vehicle traffic. It is possible that there could also be significant effects on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC as a result of **erosion/trampling or general disturbance** from increased

recreation activities. The potential for these policies to have adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites included in this HRA is examined further in **Chapter 5** through the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

## 5 Appropriate Assessment

- 5.1 Following the screening stage, if likely significant effects on European sites are unable to be ruled out, the plan-making authority is required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to make an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the plan for European sites, in view of their conservation objectives. EC Guidance<sup>18</sup> states that the Appropriate Assessment should consider the impacts of the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of European sites with respect to their conservation objectives and to their structure and function.
- 5.2 A site's integrity depends on it being able to sustain its 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex 1 habitats, Annex II species, and Annex 1 bird populations for which it has been designated) and to ensure their continued viability. A high degree of integrity is considered to exist where the potential to meet a site's conservation objectives is realised and where the site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management support.
- 5.3 An Appropriate Assessment has therefore been undertaken for all of the European sites around Melton Borough where likely significant from the Local Plan were identified (or were not able to be ruled out) during the screening stage, i.e. Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC. Potential likely significant effects on those sites were identified for a number of the Local Plan policies, as described in the previous chapter.
- 5.4 During the Appropriate Assessment stage, a conclusion needs to be reached as to whether or not the policies or site allocations in the Local Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. As stated in the EC Guidance, assessing effects on site integrity involves considering whether the predicted impacts of the Local Plan policies (either alone or in combination) have the potential to:
- Cause delays to the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
  - Interrupt progress towards the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
  - Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site.
  - Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.
  - Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem.
  - Change the dynamics of relationships that define the structure or function of the site (e.g. relationships between soil and water, or animals and plants).
  - Interfere with anticipated natural changes to the site.
  - Reduce the extent of key habitats or the population of key species.
  - Reduce the diversity of the site.
  - Result in disturbance that could affect the population, density or balance between key species.
  - Result in fragmentation.
  - Result in the loss of key features.
- 5.5 The conservation objectives for each European site (listed in **Appendix 1**) are generally to maintain the site's qualifying features in favourable condition. The Site Improvement Plans for each European site provide a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the European site features at the site(s) and outline the priority

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<sup>18</sup> Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.



measures required to improve the condition of the features. This information has been drawn on to help to understand what is needed to maintain the integrity of the European sites.

- 5.6 Where likely significant effects were considered uncertain at the screening stage in relation to a policy in the Local Plan (i.e. those policies listed in paragraph 4.7 and shaded orange in the screening matrices in **Appendix 2**), the potential impacts have been set out below and judgements made (based on the information available) regarding whether the impact will have an adverse effect on the integrity of each European site. Consideration has been given to the potential for mitigation measures to be implemented that could reduce the likelihood or severity of the potential impacts, such that there would not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

## Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site

### Physical disturbance/loss of habitat (offsite)

- 5.7 As described in **Chapter 3**, although Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site are both located approximately 5km outside of Melton Borough at the closest point, development within the Borough could affect the integrity of these sites as a result of physical disturbance or damage/loss of offsite areas of habitat used by the qualifying bird species.
- 5.8 The HRA of the now-withdrawn Melton Core Strategy<sup>19</sup> highlighted the potential for one site in the Borough to be used by the qualifying species of the SPA/Ramsar site; Priory Water (Leicestershire Wildfowlers Association reserve at Kirkby Bellars/Asfordby). This potential was identified through consultation with the County Bird Recorder for Leicestershire and Rutland. The HRA report stated that:
- "The Priory Water (also known as Priory Wildlife and Water Park) is a small developing nature reserve established on private land that was once occupied as gravel workings. It is located on the River Wreake approximately 5km east<sup>20</sup> of Melton Mowbray. Wigeon, gadwall and shoveler use Priory Water in the winter, and this may possibly involve birds moving to and from Rutland Water; however, there is no direct evidence of this. There have been occasions when individual birds e.g. an escaped red-breasted goose have been seen at both sites soon after each other."*
- 5.9 Therefore, while the HRA work identified the potential for Priory Water to be used by the qualifying bird species of the SPA and Ramsar site, this was uncertain. The HRA also found that there is no evidence of other sites within Melton Borough supporting the qualifying bird species of Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site. The closest allocations in the Melton Local Plan to Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site are approximately 10km from the European sites.
- 5.10 There are no site allocations within the Melton Local Plan within or directly adjacent to Priory Water, with the closest ones being ASF1 to the east of Asfordby and ASF2 and ASF3 to the north of the village of Asfordby. In all three cases there is existing built development between Priory Water and the site allocations and each site allocation is at least 700m from Priory Water.
- 5.11 **On this basis it is concluded that the Melton Local Plan would not have adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site as a result of disturbance or damage to offsite habitat.**

### Non-physical disturbance (offsite)

- 5.12 As described in **Chapter 3**, the qualifying bird species of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected by noise, vibration or light pollution from development in Melton Mowbray if development occurs within 500m of offsite areas used by the bird species.
- 5.13 As described above, the closest site allocations in the Melton Local Plan to the SPA and Ramsar site are approximately 10km away. The closest site allocations to Priory Water (the only area in the Borough that the HRA work for the withdrawn Core Strategy identified could potentially be

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<sup>19</sup> URS Scott Wilson (January 2012) Statement to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment of Melton Borough Council Core Strategy (Publication Draft)

<sup>20</sup> Note that this is a direct quote from the HRA report although Priory Water in fact lies to the west of Melton Mowbray.

used by qualifying bird species of the SPA and Ramsar site) are approximately 700m away. As also noted above, there is existing built development within the village of Asfordby in between the site allocations there and the Priory Water site which would further limit the potential for impacts associated with noise, vibration or light pollution to have an effect on the birds.

- 5.14 **On this basis it is concluded that the Melton Local Plan would not have adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site as a result of non-physical disturbance (offsite).**

#### **Disturbance from recreation**

- 5.15 Rutland Water is a man-made reservoir within the county of Rutland to the south east of Melton. The Site Improvement Plan for Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site identifies public access/disturbance as a priority issue for the site, which is used for a wide range of activities including walking, fishing, cycling and watersports. The development of at least 6,125 homes in Melton Borough (as proposed through the Local Plan) could contribute additional visitor numbers to the site, potentially resulting in disturbance to the qualifying bird species of the SPA/Ramsar site.
- 5.16 The Melton Local Plan makes provision for enhancements to green infrastructure alongside new development - policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network seeks to enhance the network of green infrastructure throughout the Borough which may help to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European sites. However, while this may help to mitigate impacts relating to activities such as walking, it would not be expected to mitigate increased demand for watersports as the green infrastructure provided would need to be of a comparable nature.
- 5.17 The Melton Local Plan also includes some general policy protection relating to Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, with policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supporting proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.
- 5.18 Rutland Water is subject to long-standing management arrangements from Anglian Water in conjunction with the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and also through the adopted Rutland Local Plan Core Strategy (July 2011). Policy CS24: Rutland Water carried forward the approach from the existing Rutland Local Plan in terms of defining five Recreation Areas, outside of which new development will be restricted to small scale development for recreation, sport and tourism facilities only where essential for nature conservation or fishing or essential for operational requirements of existing facilities and subject to it being appropriate in terms of location, scale, design and impact on the landscape.
- 5.19 The HRA of the Anglian Water Resources Management Plan<sup>21</sup> states that management of the site for its SPA interests is currently compatible with recreational uses except in periods of drawdown and that a revised strategy with Anglian Water is intended to address this (this is also referred to as an action in Natural England's Site Improvement Plan for Rutland Water).
- 5.20 **Taking into account the identified mitigation, it is not expected that the Melton Local Plan would have adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site from increased recreation.**

#### **Air pollution**

- 5.21 As described in **Chapter 3**, there are strategic roads within 200m of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site - both the SPA and Ramsar site are within 200m of the A606 and A6003. APIS data for Rutland Water show that levels of Nitrogen deposition are currently exceeding critical loads in relation to broadleaved deciduous woodland (listed as the comparable habitat for the Common Goldeneye). However, for other qualifying bird species (listed in relation to their comparable habitats), Nitrogen levels are either within critical loads or there is no comparable habitat with established critical load estimate available.

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<sup>21</sup> Mott MacDonald (December 2013) Anglian Water 2015 Water Resource Management Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment.

- 5.22 Traffic forecast data for the A606 and A6003 showing likely increases in AADT as a result of the growth proposed through the Melton Local Plan are not available. Consideration has therefore been given to the potential for development in Melton Borough to contribute to traffic generation along the routes in question, taking into account the location of the roads and the likely patterns of traffic movement from within Melton Borough.
- 5.23 The stretch of the A606 that is within 200m of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site runs eastwards from Oakham towards Stamford and is approximately 5km outside of Melton Borough at the nearest point. The stretch of the A6003 that is within 200m of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site runs south from Oakham towards Corby and is also at least 5km from the Melton Borough boundary.
- 5.24 The Submission Local Plan focuses most growth at Melton Mowbray and the strategic road network within the Borough is largely focussed around the town; therefore it is reasonable to assume that most traffic generated as a result of Local Plan proposals will either originate from Melton Mowbray or will pass through there before travelling onwards.
- 5.25 The main link between Melton Borough and the stretches of the A606 and A6003 within close proximity of the SPA/Ramsar site is from the A606 which runs south from Melton Mowbray to Oakham. There are various other roads leading off this stretch of the A606 which could disperse traffic before it reaches Oakham. Routes linking Melton Mowbray to destinations such as Leicester, Nottingham and Grantham (which are the key commuter locations from within the Borough) travel in other directions, away from Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site.
- 5.26 On this basis it is not expected that the stretches of strategic road within 200m of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site would see significant increases in vehicle traffic as a result of the development proposed within the Melton Local Plan and **adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site from increased air pollution are not expected.**

## Grimsthorpe SAC

### Disturbance from recreation

- 5.27 Grimsthorpe SAC is a small site located almost 15km from Melton Borough to the east. It is a small former limestone quarry situated within the Grimsthorpe Estate which is a Registered Park and Garden and a popular tourist attraction.
- 5.28 The Site Improvement Plan for the SAC does not include public access/recreation as a priority issue for the site and the distance of the site from Melton Borough means that significant increases in visitor numbers as a result of the Melton Local Plan are not considered likely.
- 5.29 As noted above in relation to Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, the Melton Local Plan makes provision for enhancements to green infrastructure alongside new development - policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network seeks to enhance the network of green infrastructure throughout the Borough which may help to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European sites including Grimsthorpe SAC.
- 5.30 **On this basis it is not expected that the Melton Local Plan would have adverse effects on the integrity of Grimsthorpe SAC from increased recreation.**

## In-combination Effects

- 5.31 As described in **Chapter 2**, it is necessary to consider the potential for the Melton Local Plan to have significant effects in combination with other plans, as well as individually. A review was therefore undertaken of other plans that may result in significant effects in combination with the policies in the Local Plan, as a result of development being proposed in other areas which could affect the same European sites in and around Melton Borough. The findings of this review can be seen in full in **Appendix 3** and are summarised below.
- 5.32 All of the European sites considered in this assessment lie outside of the Melton Borough boundary, meaning that potential in-combination effects with development planned in other

neighbouring districts are an important consideration. The review of HRA work carried out by neighbouring districts in relation to their emerging development plans did not identify any likely significant effects which may combine with the effects of Melton Local Plan. However, likely significant effects in combination with the Rutland and Harborough Local Plans could not be ruled out due to the early stage of those plans and the lack of solid conclusions in the associated HRA work. It will therefore be necessary for the HRA work being undertaken for those Plans to consider the potential for in-combination effects with the Melton Local Plan.

## 6 Conclusions

- 6.1 HRA screening of the Melton Local Plan: Submission version has been undertaken in accordance with currently available guidance and is based on a precautionary approach, as required under the Habitats Regulations. The findings of the screening stage were summarised in **Chapter 4** of this report and the justification for these is explained in more detail in **Appendix 4**. The findings of the Appropriate Assessment stage were presented in **Chapter 5**.
- 6.2 The initial HRA screening conclusions for the Local Plan were that, although none of the policies in the Local Plan are likely to have significant effects on European sites, a number of the policies may result in likely significant effects on European sites, in relation to potential **offsite damage/disturbance to habitats** and **non-physical disturbance**, increased **air pollution** and increased **recreation pressure**. These issues were examined in more detail through Appropriate Assessment in **Chapter 5** and, provided that the mitigation identified in the Melton Local Plan is implemented, adverse effects on the integrity of any of the European sites considered are not expected.
- 6.3 The potential for the Melton Local Plan to have likely significant effects on European sites in combination with the Local Plans for Rutland and Harborough Districts could not yet be ruled out, due to the early stage of those plans and the lack of solid HRA conclusions. This issue will therefore need to be revisited during forthcoming stages of the HRAs for the Rutland and Harborough Local Plans.

### Next Steps

- 6.4 The Melton Local Plan: Submission document is being published for consultation between November and December 2016. This HRA report is being published alongside the consultation document and it is also being sent to Natural England for comment.
- 6.5 The HRA will need to be updated to reflect any advice and comments from Natural England as well as any further changes that may be made to the policies and site allocations in the Local Plan before it is submitted for Examination.

LUC  
October 2016

**Appendix 1**

Consultation Responses Received in relation to the HRA Report for the Emerging Options (January 2016)

**Table A1.1: Consultation responses received in relation to the HRA Report for the Emerging Options consultation**

Consultee	Comment	Response
Natural England	<p>We welcome the completion of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report. Although there are no European sites located within the Borough, we are pleased to note that the potential impact of development on European nature conservation sites outside the boundaries of Melton Borough, namely Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) &amp; Ramsar Site and Grimsthorpe Special Area of Conservation (SAC) have been taken into account in the Habitats Regulations Assessment. We welcome the precautionary approach to likely significant effects on these sites. We welcome the conclusion not to rule out potential significant effects at this stage and to continue to review the potential impacts of the Melton Borough Local Plan as it evolves and to use the Habitats Regulations Assessment to inform subsequent iterations of the Melton Borough Local Plan.</p>	<p>Noted, the HRA Report has been updated to reflect the Submission version of the Local Plan and the conclusions have been updated accordingly. Natural England is being consulted again on this updated HRA report.</p>

## **Appendix 2**

### Attributes of European Sites included in this HRA



European site	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
Rutland Water SPA	1,556	10-20km to the south east of Melton Borough	<p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern shoveler</li> <li>Eurasian teal</li> <li>Eurasian wigeon</li> <li>Gadwall</li> <li>Tufted duck</li> <li>Common goldeneye</li> <li>Mute swan</li> <li>Eurasian coot</li> <li>Common merganser</li> <li>Great crested grebe</li> <li>Waterfowl</li> </ul>	<p>The SPA is vulnerable to pressures from recreation, nutrient inputs, and changes in water level. The site is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the East Midlands. Fishing, walking water sports and cycling currently take place and the reservoir has been zoned to allow this to take place.</p> <p>The reservoir is filled from the River Nene and the River Welland. In the past phosphate levels have led to algal blooms. Although these have currently had little visible effects on the wildfowl, continued eutrophication could lead to an algal dominated system that may reduce the value of the area for both plant feeding and invertebrate feeding wildfowl.</p> <p>Rutland water is a major source of urban water supply. Increased abstraction in the summer up to the current licensed limit may cause further and more extensive periods of drawdown which can effect populations of invertebrates on which some species depend, whilst rapid filling can render other food sources unavailable for dabbling ducks. Drawdown may also increase disturbance through recreation uses.</p> <p>The Conservation Objectives for the site<sup>22</sup> are to ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• the structure and function of the</li> </ul>

<sup>22</sup> European Site Conservation Objectives for Rutland Water SPA (UK9008051), Natural England, 2014.

European site	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
				<p>habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>the population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul> <p>Priority issues identified in the Site Improvement Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water abstraction/inappropriate water levels</li> <li>Invasive species</li> <li>Water pollution</li> <li>Public access/disturbance</li> </ul>
Rutland Water Ramsar site	1,360	10-20km to the south east of Melton Borough	Waterfowl Gadwall Northern shoveler Mute swan	<p>Priority issues identified in the Site Improvement Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water abstraction/inappropriate water levels</li> <li>Invasive species</li> <li>Water pollution</li> <li>Public access/disturbance</li> </ul>
Grimsthorpe SAC	0.35	15km east of Melton Borough	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) Gentianella anglica	<p>This site consists of Elsea Pit, a small former limestone quarry within the grounds of Grimsthorpe Park. The site is on the northern limit for <i>Gentianella anglica</i> in the UK, but not all of the site provides suitable conditions and there is little scope for increasing the area of suitable habitat here. As with other biennials, numbers of <i>G. anglica</i> vary dramatically from year to year, the highest recorded number being 400 individuals.</p> <p>Arrangements are in hand to enable the erection of electric fencing around the site so that it will be possible for light grazing with sheep or cattle to take place.</p>

European site	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
				<p>The Conservation Objectives for the site<sup>23</sup> are to ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying</li> <li>• species;</li> <li>• the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;</li> <li>• the structure and function of habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying</li> <li>• species rely;</li> <li>• the populations of qualifying species; and</li> <li>• the distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> <p>Priority issues identified in the Site Improvement Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> </ul>

<sup>23</sup> European Site Conservation Objectives for Grimsthorpe SAC (UK0030043), Natural England, 2014.

# Appendix 3

## Plans with the Potential for In-Combination Effects with the Melton Borough Local Plan

## Local Plans and Strategies

### Rushcliffe Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted in December 2014) and Part 2: Land and Planning Policies (Issues and Options consultation, January 2016)

Rushcliffe lies to the north-west of Melton Borough.

#### Housing:

Policy 3: Spatial Strategy in the adopted Core Strategy sets out the proposed housing target for a minimum of 13,150 new homes between 2011 and 2028. The policy states that approximately 7,650 homes will be located within or adjoining the main built up area of Nottingham (within Rushcliffe) and the remainder (5,500 homes) will be situated beyond the main built up areas of Nottingham (within Rushcliffe). The delivery pattern expected is as follows (figures rounded to the nearest 50):

- 500 new homes between 2011 and 2013.
- 2,350 new homes between 2013 and 2018.
- 6,500 new homes between 2018 and 2023.
- 4,100 new homes between 2023 and 2028.

The emerging Land and Planning Policies document will allocate specific sites for residential development, within the overall spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy.

#### Employment Land Provision:

Policy 5: Employment Provision and Economic Development in the adopted Core Strategy provides for a minimum of 67,900m<sup>2</sup> of new floorspace for office development and a minimum of 20 hectares for industrial and warehouse uses. The strategic allocations are as follows:

- The Sustainable Urban Extension to the South of Clifton - 20 hectares.
- The land to the North of Bingham - 15.5 hectares.
- The Former Cotgrave Colliery - 4.5 hectares.
- Redevelopment and regeneration of the Former RAF Newton - 6.5 hectares
- The Sustainable Urban Extension to the East of Gamston/North of Tollerton - 20 hectares.

The emerging Land and Planning Policies document will allocate specific sites for employment development, within the overall spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy.

#### HRA Findings

The HRA document for the Rushcliffe Core Strategy (March 2012) presents the earlier (2010) screening record for the Greater Nottingham Aligned Authorities' plans, which include the Rushcliffe Core Strategy. It was concluded that potential effects arising as a result of changes to air quality, deposition of air-borne pollutants, water abstraction, waste water discharges and increased recreation pressure on the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA, the Peak District Dales SAC, the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site would not be likely to be significant, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. No HRA work has yet been carried out in relation to the emerging Land and Planning Policies document; however any site allocations made within that document will be within the context of the overall growth figures and spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy.

**Therefore, significant in-combination effects with the Melton Local Plan are not considered likely.**

### Newark and Sherwood Core Strategy (adopted 2011) and Allocations and Development Management DPD (adopted 2013)

Newark and Sherwood lies to the north of Melton Borough.

#### Housing:

The housing requirements for Newark and Sherwood District between 2006 and 2026 are for 14,800 dwellings, as set out in Core Strategy Spatial Policy 2. The policy also sets a broad outline for where the

overall housing allocations should be located as follows:

- 70% in the Sub-Regional Centre (Newark Urban Area).
- 20% of growth in Service Centres.
- 10% of growth in Principal Villages.

#### **Employment Land Provision:**

Through Spatial Policy 2 the Core Strategy allocates 210 and 220 hectares of employment land over the plan period between 2006 and 2028. The allocated areas for employment land delivery are as follows:

- Newark Area – 150 to 157 hectares.
- Southwell area – 7 to 8 hectares.
- Nottingham Fringe Area – 1 hectare.
- Sherwood Area - 29 hectares.
- Mansfield Fringe Area – 24 to 25 hectares.

#### **HRA Findings**

The most recent HRA report that is available publicly in relation to the LDF is the September 2012 HRA Report for the Allocations and Development Management Publication DPD. It concluded that the implementation of the DPD (which sets out allocations within the context of the overall growth proposed through the adopted Core Strategy) would not have likely significant effects on European sites either alone or in combination with other plans. **Therefore, significant in-combination effects with the Melton Local Plan are not considered likely.**

### **South Kesteven Core Strategy (adopted 2010) and Site Allocation and Policies DPD (adopted April 2014)**

South Kesteven lies to the north-east of Melton Borough.

*South Kesteven District Council is now working on a Local Plan to 2036 and published a Consultation Paper in January 2015.*

#### **Housing:**

Policy H1: Residential Development in the adopted Core Strategy states that 13,600 houses are required in the plan period between 2006 and 2026 with 680 houses being built per year in the district. The distribution of the housing and the rate of provision is as follows:

- 7,680 homes at an annual build rate of 385 in Grantham.
- 1,140 homes at an annual build rate of 58 in Stamford.
- 2,310 homes at an annual build rate of 43 in Bourne.
- 870 homes at an annual build rate of 43 in The Deepings.
- 1,000 homes at an annual build rate of 50 in Local Service Centres.
- 620 homes at an annual build rate of 30 in Rural Areas.

The Site Allocation and Policies DPD allocates specific sites for residential development, within the overall spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy.

#### **Employment Land Provision:**

Policy E1: Employment Development in the adopted Core Strategy allocates specific sites for employment land focusing development in Grantham (90 hectares) and Other Market Towns; Stamford (24 hectares), Bourne (50 hectares) and The Deepings (23 hectares). A further 10 hectares of land will be at Colsterworth A1 junction.

The Site Allocation and Policies DPD allocates specific sites for employment development, within the overall spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy.

### **HRA Findings:**

The HRA report for the Core Strategy concluded at the screening stage that the policies within the Plan are not likely to have any significant effects on any Natura 2000 site and Appropriate Assessment was not required. No HRA work appears to be publicly available in relation to the Site Allocation and Policies DPD; however the site allocations within that document are made in the context of the overall growth figures and spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy. **Therefore, significant in-combination effects with the Melton Local Plan are not considered likely.**

### **Rutland Local Plan Review: Issues and Options (November 2015)**

Rutland lies to the south-east of Charnwood.

*Work has recently commenced on a partial review of the adopted Core Strategy, in order to extend the plan period to 2036. An Issues and Options Review document was published in November 2015.*

### **Housing and Employment Land Provision:**

At this stage the Issues and Options document sets out high level options for the amount and distribution of housing and employment land in Rutland. In relation to housing, the options are to either provide 173 dwellings per year, as required in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, or to provide a higher or lower amount. Various options for the settlement hierarchy and for the distribution of growth are also presented.

### **HRA Findings:**

The HRA Screening Report for the Local Plan Review: Issues and Options concluded that the Plan's objectives will not have alone (or in combination) likely significant effects on Rutland Water Ramsar, Rutland Water SPA, Barnack Hills & Holes SAC, Grimsthorpe SAC. However, amendment of the objectives will require further assessment to ensure that no likely significant effects result.

The assessment of the broad spatial options shows some possible or likely impacts on the Rutland Water SPA and Rutland Water Ramsar, both alone and in combination. However, based on the Issues and Options consultation document, it cannot be concluded whether there would be no likely significant effects or adverse effects since these judgements can only be made in the Local Plan Review preferred options document when more information will be available on the scale and location of the development. Therefore, further HRA screening will be undertaken at the next preferred options stage in the Local Plan review to ensure that no likely significant effects would occur. **Therefore, it is not yet possible to conclude whether there could be likely significant effects from the Melton Local Plan in combination with the Rutland Local Plan Review and this issue will need to be examined further during later stages of the HRA for the Rutland Local Plan.**

### **Harborough District Local Plan: Options Consultation (September 2015 )**

Harborough lies to the south of Melton Borough.

### **Housing and Employment Land Provision:**

The amount of housing will be based on the SHMA assessment of requiring 475 new dwellings each year from 2011 to 2031 or a total of 9,500 dwellings over the plan period. Nine alternative options for the distribution of housing were presented in the September 2015 consultation document and information on the Council's website indicates that the preferred options are:

- Option 2: Core Strategy distribution
- Option 4 (amended): Scraftoft North Strategic Development Area
- Option 5: Kibworth North and East Strategic Development Area
- Option 6: Lutterworth East Strategic Development Area

These options are undergoing further tests relating to land availability, infrastructure requirements, transport impact, flood risk, viability, landscape impact, environmental sensitivity/ mitigation and sustainability. This work will lead to the identification of a single preferred option which will be a key

element of the forthcoming Pre-Submission Local Plan.

**HRA Findings:**

No HRA work has yet been published in relation to the emerging Harborough Local Plan. **Therefore, it is not yet possible to conclude whether there could be likely significant effects from the Melton Local Plan in combination with the Harborough Local Plan and this issue will need to be examined further during later stages of the HRA for the Harborough Local Plan.**

**Charnwood Core Strategy 2011-2028 (adopted November 2015)**

Charnwood lies to the west of Melton.

**Housing:**

CS 1: Development Strategy for at least 13,940 new homes between 2011 and 2028 which will be distributed as follows:

- 4,500 homes as part of a sustainable urban extension of approximately to the north east of Leicester.
- 1,500 homes as part of a sustainable urban extension to the north of Birstall.
- 3,000 new homes in Loughborough.
- 1,200 adjoining Shepshed.
- At least 3,000 new homes in service centres.
- At least 500 new homes within other settlements.

**Employment Land Provision:**

Policy CS 6: Employment and Economic Development states that over the plan period of 2006 to 2028, 75 hectares of land is required for strategic employment purposes and an additional 77 hectares of land is needed to support the Science and Enterprise Park.

**HRA Findings:**

The most recent HRA screening assessment for the Charnwood Core Strategy (March 2013) concluded that the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, including River Mease SAC and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment was not required. **Therefore, significant in-combination effects with the Melton Local Plan are not considered likely.**



**Appendix 4**

HRA Screening of the Submission version of the Melton Local Plan (October 2016)

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Vision	None – the Vision will not itself lead to development, which will instead be implemented through other more detailed policies in the Local Plan that have been subject to HRA screening separately below.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Strategic Priorities	None – the Strategic priorities will not themselves lead to development, which will instead be implemented through other more detailed policies in the Local Plan that have been subject to HRA screening separately below.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SS1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	None – the policy will not result directly in new development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SS2: Development Strategy	Housing development (at least 6,125 homes) Employment development (some 51ha)	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-	Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important	Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
	<p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in recreational pressure</p>	<p>and light (offsite).</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.</p> <p>Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.</p>	<p>sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network seeks to enhance the network of GI throughout the Borough which may help to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European sites.</p> <p>Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to</p>	<p>Local Plan, the scale of development proposed means that further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
				mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.	
SS3: Sustainable Communities (unallocated sites)	<p>Small-scale housing development</p> <p>Small-scale employment development</p> <p>Development of infrastructure/services</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in recreational pressure</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite).</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.</p> <p>Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.</p>	<p>The policy itself requires developments to respect ecological and biodiversity features and provide mitigation to prevent any potential harm.</p> <p>Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network seeks to enhance the network of GI throughout the Borough which may help to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European</p>	Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
				<p>sites.</p> <p>Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	
SS4: South Melton Mowbray Sustainable Neighbourhood (strategic allocation)	<p>Housing development (2,000 homes)</p> <p>Employment development (some 20ha of land)</p> <p>Development of infrastructure/services</p> <p>Improvements to the road</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite).</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Disturbance from</p>	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.	The policy itself makes provision for incorporating sustainable transport links into the new neighbourhood which should mitigate increases in vehicle traffic. In addition,	Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, the scale of development proposed means

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
	<p>network</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in recreational pressure</p>	<p>recreation.</p>	<p>Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.</p>	<p>policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>The policy itself requires development to protect and enhance areas of biodiversity (habitats and species). In addition, policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>The provision of green infrastructure within the development will provide space for recreation and may therefore help mitigate increases in recreation pressure at European sites.</p>	<p>that further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
				The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.	
SS5: Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood	<p>Housing development (1,700 homes)</p> <p>Small-scale employment development</p> <p>Development of infrastructure/services</p> <p>Improvements to the road network</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in recreational pressure</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite).</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.</p> <p>Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.</p>	<p>The policy makes provision for incorporating sustainable transport links into the new neighbourhood which should help mitigate increases in vehicle traffic. In addition, policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>The policy requires development to protect and enhance wildlife corridors and to provide new corridors to create</p>	Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, the scale of development proposed means that further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
				<p>a coherent network of biodiversity. In addition, policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>The provision of green infrastructure within the development will provide space for recreation and may therefore help to mitigate increases in recreation pressure at European sites.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	
SS6: Alternative Development Strategies and	None – the policy itself will not lead to	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Local Plan Review	development, rather it sets out the Council's strategy for addressing shortfalls in housing and employment land delivery. If the policy were to trigger a review of the Local Plan, any alternative development strategy or site allocations (including those referred to in the policy) would be subject to HRA as part of that process.				
C1: Housing Allocations ( <i>also covering the site allocations policies in Appendix D of the Local Plan which relate to the allocated and reserve sites listed in this policy</i> )	Housing development Development of supporting infrastructure Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreational pressure	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite). Increased air pollution. Disturbance from recreation.	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.  Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.	Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.  Policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network seeks to enhance the network of GI throughout the Borough which may help	Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, the scale of development proposed across the allocated sites means that further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
				<p>to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European sites.</p> <p>Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	
C2: Housing Mix	None – the policy relates to the type of housing to be provided rather than the amount or locations which are assessed separately under other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
	policies.				
C3: National Space Standard and Smaller Dwellings	None – the policy relates to the size of housing units to be provided rather than the amount or locations which are assessed separately under other policies.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
C4: Affordable Housing Provision	None – the policy relates to the type of housing to be provided rather than the amount or locations which are assessed separately under other policies.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
C5: Affordable Housing Through Rural Exception Sites	Housing development on rural exceptions sites Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreational pressure	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite). Increased air pollution. Disturbance from recreation.	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.  Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to	Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.  Policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network seeks to	Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
			increased recreation pressure.	<p>enhance the network of GI throughout the Borough which may help to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European sites.</p> <p>Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	
C6: Gypsies and Travellers	Development of Gypsy and Traveller sites	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite).	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to	Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that	Uncertain – although some mitigation may be

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
	<p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in recreational pressure</p>	<p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.</p> <p>Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.</p>	<p>do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network seeks to enhance the network of GI throughout the Borough which may help to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European sites.</p> <p>Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques,</p>	<p>provided through other policies in the Local Plan, further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
				such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.	
C7: Rural Services	Development of community services and facilities	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite) or non-physical disturbance (offsite).	Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.  The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.	No - any development resulting from this policy would be small in scale and the primary focus of the policy is on retaining existing provision rather than developing new services in rural areas. Taking into account the identified mitigation, likely significant effects on European sites are not expected.
C8: Self Build and Custom Build Housing	Housing development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreational	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-	Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important	No – any development resulting from the policy is likely to be small scale and the

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	pressure	and light (offsite). Increased air pollution. Disturbance from recreation.	physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.  Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.	sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.  The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.	main focus of the policy is on providing self-build plots within larger developments which are assessed separately under other policies in relation to their effects on European sites. Taking into account the identified mitigation, likely significant effects on European sites are not expected.
C9: Healthy Communities	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	The requirement for developments to incorporate recreation space could help to mitigate increases in recreation pressure at European sites as a result of other Local Plan policies.  The requirement for developments to incorporate sustainable	N/A

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				transport links and make positive contributions to air quality could help to mitigate increases in emissions from vehicle traffic as a result of other Local Plan policies.	
EC1: Employment Growth in Melton Mowbray	Employment development Increase in vehicle traffic	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite). Increased air pollution.	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.	The requirement within the policy for employment development on non-allocated sites to be accessible by sustainable transport should help mitigate increases in emissions from vehicle traffic.  Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.  Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes	Uncertain – although the locations identified for employment development are in Melton Mowbray and therefore not within close proximity of sensitive European sites, the development could still contribute to an increase in air pollution from vehicle traffic. Offsite habitat could also be affected by the development, depending on whether the sites to be developed cover



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				<p>measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	<p>areas used by the qualifying bird species of the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p>
<p>EC2: Employment Growth in the Rural Area (outside Melton Mowbray)</p>	<p>Employment development Increase in vehicle traffic</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite). Increased air pollution.</p>	<p>Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.</p>	<p>Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to</p>	<p>Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.</p>

Local Plan policy	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the proposal	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Potential mitigation measures – if implemented would avoid likely significant effect	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
				<p>encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	
EC3: Existing Employment Sites	None – the policy relates to the retention of existing employment sites, rather than new development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EC4: Other Employment and Mixed Use Proposals	<p>Employment development</p> <p>Mixed use development</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in recreational pressure</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite).</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Disturbance from</p>	<p>Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.</p> <p>Rutland Water SPA and</p>	<p>Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p>	<p>Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this</p>

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		recreation.	Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.	<p>The requirement for employment and mixed use development to be accessible by sustainable transport should help mitigate increases in emissions from vehicle traffic. In addition, policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	policy.
EC5: Melton Mowbray Town Centre	The policy relates to land uses that will be	N/A	N/A	Taking a sequential approach to town centre	N/A

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	acceptable within Melton Mowbray town centre and therefore away from sensitive European sites.			development should facilitate the use of sustainable transport by people accessing town centre services and facilities; thereby helping to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.	
EC6: Primary Shopping Frontages	The policy relates to uses that will be acceptable within Primary Shopping Frontages and therefore away from sensitive European sites.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EC7: Retail Development in the Borough	Although this policy could result in retail-related development it would be located in the identified town and local centres and therefore away from sensitive European sites. Any resulting traffic generation is likely to be minimal and focusing retail uses in town centres may in fact help to reduce	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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	car use.				
EC8: Sustainable Tourism	<p>Tourism-related development</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in recreational pressure</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite).</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.</p> <p>Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.</p>	<p>Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>The fact that developments should be located in town centres where possible will help to facilitate the use of sustainable transport and therefore mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic. In addition, policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased</p>	<p>Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, further consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.</p>

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				<p>emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	
EN1: Landscape	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	The policy should help to mitigate the impacts of other Local Plan policies as it encourages development proposals that will not harm internationally important sites, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, either individually or cumulatively in association with other plans or projects.	N/A
EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	The policy could help to mitigate the impacts of	N/A

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				other Local Plan policies as protecting and enhancing the green infrastructure network in Melton may help to reduce any increases in recreation pressure at European sites. The policy also promotes biodiversity enhancements although not specifically in relation to European sites.	
EN4: Areas of Separation	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EN5: Local Green Space	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	Protecting local green spaces through this policy could help to mitigate the impacts of other Local Plan policies in relation to increased recreation pressure at European sites.	N/A
EN6: Settlement Character	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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EN7: Open Space, Sport and Recreation	None – the policy will not itself lead to development that could affect European sites.	N/A	N/A	Improving open space, sport and recreation provision through this policy could help to mitigate the impacts of other Local Plan policies in relation to increased recreation pressure at European sites.	N/A
EN8: Climate Change	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EN9: Ensuring Energy Efficient and Low Carbon Development	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EN10: Energy Generation from Renewable Sources	Development of renewable energy infrastructure	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Damage/disturbance to bird species. Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite) or non-physical disturbance (offsite).	The factors listed in the policy to be taken into account when assessing proposals for renewable energy generation include designated nature conservation and biodiversity considerations and ecology.	No – any development resulting from this policy would be within Melton Borough and therefore some distance from the nearest European sites. The mitigation included in the Local Plan and the fact that



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					any renewable energy proposals resulting from the policy would be subject to project level HRA if required as part of the planning application process means that significant effects on the integrity of European sites are not considered likely.
EN11: Minimising the Risk of Flooding	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EN12: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EN13: Heritage Assets	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure	Improvements to the road network Increased vehicle traffic	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance	The measures in the policy seeking to facilitate and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport should help to mitigate	Uncertain – although some mitigation may be provided through other policies in the Local Plan, further

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		Increased air pollution.	(offsite) and air pollution.	the impacts of development proposed through the Local Plan in terms of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.	consideration needs to be given to the effects of this policy.
IN2: Infrastructure Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy	None – the policy will not itself lead to development, rather it relates to funding mechanisms.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
IN3: Broadband	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
D1: Raising the Standard of Design	None – the policy will not itself lead to development.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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D2: Equestrian Development	Equestrian development Increase in vehicle traffic	Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite). Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite). Increased air pollution.	Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.	<p>Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	No - any development resulting from this policy would be small scale and therefore the contribution to increased vehicle traffic would be minimal. The potential for offsite damage or disturbance to habitats and species is also very small due to the very limited scale of development that could result from the policy. In light of the mitigation included in the Local Plan, significant effects on European sites are not considered likely.

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D3: Agricultural Workers' Dwellings	<p>Development of housing for agricultural workers</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increase in recreational pressure</p>	<p>Physical damage/loss of habitat (offsite).</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise, vibration and light (offsite).</p> <p>Increased air pollution.</p> <p>Disturbance from recreation.</p>	<p>Only Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site could be affected in relation to damage or loss of habitat (offsite), non-physical disturbance (offsite) and air pollution.</p> <p>Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and Grimsthorpe SAC could be affected in relation to increased recreation pressure.</p>	<p>Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity supports proposals that do not harm internationally important sites, either alone or cumulatively, namely Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Policy EN3: The Melton Green Infrastructure Network seeks to enhance the network of GI throughout the Borough which may help to mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressure at European sites.</p> <p>Policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure includes measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which should help to mitigate the impacts of increased emissions from vehicle</p>	<p>No - any development resulting from this policy would be very small scale and therefore the contribution to increased vehicle traffic and recreation pressure would be minimal. The potential for offsite damage or disturbance to habitats and species is also very small due to the very limited scale of development that could result from the policy. In light of the mitigation included in the Local Plan, significant effects on European sites are not considered likely.</p>

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				<p>traffic.</p> <p>The use of good practice construction techniques, such as limiting hours of operation, may help to mitigate the impacts of development in terms of noise, vibration and light.</p>	