Appendix 3 – Planning policies in full

National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)

Achieving sustainable development

7. The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

8. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

a) **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

b) **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) **an environmental objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

11. Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

For **decision-taking** this means:

c) approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay; or

d) where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, granting permission unless:

i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed; or
ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

Decision-making

38. Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way. They should use the full range of planning tools available, including brownfield registers and permission in principle, and work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. Decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible.

47. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Decisions on applications should be made as quickly as possible, and within statutory timescales unless a longer period has been agreed by the applicant in writing.

Planning conditions and obligations

56. Planning conditions should be kept to a minimum and only imposed where they are necessary, relevant to planning and to the development to be permitted, enforceable, precise and reasonable in all other respects. Agreeing conditions early is beneficial to all parties involved in the process and can speed up decision-making. Conditions that are required to be discharged before development commences should be avoided, unless there is a clear justification.

57. Planning obligations must only be sought where they meet all of the following tests: a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; b) directly related to the development; and c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

Building a strong, competitive economy

81. Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future. This is particularly important where Britain can be a global leader in driving innovation42, and in areas with high levels of productivity, which should be able to capitalise on their performance and potential.

Supporting a prosperous rural economy

84. Planning policies and decisions should enable:

a) The sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings;
b) The development and diversification of agricultural land and other land-based rural businesses;

c) Sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside; and

d) The retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

85. Planning policies and decisions should recognise that sites to meet local business and community needs in rural areas may have to be found adjacent to or beyond existing settlements, and in locations that are not well served by public transport. In these circumstances it will be important to ensure that development is sensitive to its surroundings, does not have an unacceptable impact on local roads and exploits any opportunities to make a location more sustainable (for example by improving the scope for access on foot, by cycling or by public transport). The use of previously developed land, and sites that are physically well-related to existing settlements, should be encouraged where suitable opportunities exist.

Promoting sustainable transport

104. Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:

a) the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;

b) opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised – for example in relation to the scale, location or density of development that can be accommodated;

c) opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;

d) the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains; and

e) patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.

105. The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth in support of these objectives. Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.

110. In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that:

a) appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up, given the type of development and its location;

b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users;

c) the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code; and

d) any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.

111. Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe

112. Within this context, applications for development should:

a) give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;

b) address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport;

c) create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter, and respond to local character and design standards;

d) allow for the efficient delivery of goods, and access by service and emergency vehicles; and

e) be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.

113. All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed.

Achieving well-designed places

126. The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process.

130. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;

b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;

c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);

d) establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;

e) optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and

f) create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

131. Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible. Applicants and local planning authorities should work with highways officers and tree officers to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places, and solutions are found that are compatible with highways standards and the needs of different users.
134. Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to:
a) development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or

b) outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings.

Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

152. The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of

existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

Planning for climate change

154. New development should be planned for in ways that:

a) avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and

b) can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government's policy for national technical standards.

158. When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should:

a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and

b) approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.

Planning and flood risk

167. When determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment55. Development

assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that:

a) within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk, unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location;

b) the development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient such that, in the event of a flood, it could be quickly brought back into use without significant refurbishment;

c) it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate;

d) any residual risk can be safely managed; and

e) safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an

agreed emergency plan.

169. Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate. The systems used should:

a) take account of advice from the lead local flood authority;

b) have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards;

c) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development; and

d) where possible, provide multifunctional benefits.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

174. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Habitats and biodiversity

180. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

(a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

(b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

(c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

(d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

Ground conditions and pollution

185. Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:

a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life;

b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and

c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

186. Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve

air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.

188. The focus of planning policies and decisions should be on whether proposed development is an acceptable use of land, rather than the control of processes or emissions (where these are subject to separate pollution control regimes). Planning decisions should assume that these regimes will operate effectively. Equally, where a planning decision has been made on a particular development, the planning issues should not be revisited through the permitting regimes operated by pollution control authorities.

Conserving the historic environment

189. Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

Proposals affecting heritage assets

195. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

199. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

200. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;

b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly

Exceptional[68].

[68] Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets

203. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (July 2021)

POLICY 1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mineral and waste management proposals will be assessed against the overarching principle of whether the proposal would play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions. In undertaking that assessment, account will be taken of local circumstances such as the character, needs, constraints and opportunities of the plan area. Proposals which are not consistent with this principle will be refused.

Proposals should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Proposals which ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts will be supported.

Proposals, including operational practices and restoration proposals, must take account of climate change for the lifetime of the development (including the lifetime of its restoration scheme, where applicable). This will be through measures to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, and measures to ensure adaptation to future climate changes.

Proposals should, to a degree which is proportionate to the scale and nature of the scheme, set out how this will be achieved, such as:

(a) demonstrating how the location, design, site operation and transportation related to the development will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including through the adoption of emission reduction measures based on the principles of the energy hierarchy); and take into account any significant impacts on human health and wellbeing and on air quality;
(b) where relevant, setting out how the proposal will make use of renewable energy including opportunities for generating energy from waste for use beyond the boundaries of the site itself, and the use of decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy;
(c) for proposals which involve the temporary or permanent removal of peat soils, measures to make long term sustainable use of such soils (see also Policy 24); and

(d) for waste management proposals, (i) how the principles of the waste hierarchy have been considered and addressed; and (ii) broadly quantifying the reduction in carbon dioxide and other relevant greenhouse gases e.g. methane, that should be achieved as part of the proposal, and how this will be monitored and addressed in future.

Proposals should also set out how they will be resilient to a changing climate, taking account of the latest available evidence on the impact of climate change, such as:

(e) avoiding proposals which could increase vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change;
(f) incorporation of sustainable drainage schemes to minimise flood impacts, and, if viable opportunities exist, reduce current floodrisk;
(g) measures to manage water resources efficiently (and where restoration proposals are reliant on water, ensure sufficient water resource will be available);
(h) measures to assist habitats and species to adapt to the potential effects of climate change; and
(i) measures to adapt to the potential impacts of excess heat and drought.

POLICY 3: WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS

The Waste Planning Authorities will seek to achieve net self-sufficiency in relation to the management of wastes arising from within the plan area, plus additional provision until 2026 in order to accommodate needs arising from London (specifically regarding nonapportioned household and commercial & industrial waste).

The following sets out the present capacity gap (indicated by a '-' figure) or surplus (indicated by a '+' figure). Figures in brackets in the 'existing capacity' rows indicate permitted capacity that is not yet operational but is considered likely to come online and contribute towards the waste management capacity within the plan period. Figures in brackets in the 'capacity gap' rows indicate the adjusted capacity gap (or surplus) that would result if permitted but not yet operational capacity becomes operational.

			Indicative total waste management capacity needs					
			2016	2017	2021	2026	2031	2036
Non-hazardous waste management – Recovery (million tonnes per annum)								
Preparing for re-use and recycling	Materials recycling (Mixed - Municipal, C&I)	Forecast arisings	0.613	0.662	0.696	0.754	0.806	0.852
		Existing capacity	0.670	0.746	0.734	0.732	0.732	0.732
		Capacity gap	+0.056	+0.084	+0.038	-0.022	-0.074	-0.120
	Composting (Mixed - Municipal, C&I)	Forecast arisings	0.169	0.199	0.207	0.225	0.240	0.249
		Existing capacity	0.332	0.324	0.349	0.349	0.349	0.349
		Capacity gap	+0.163	+0.124	+0.142	+0.124	+0.109	+0.100
	Inert recycling (CD&E)	Forecast arisings	0.056	0.087	0.066	0.067	0.068	0.068
		Existing capacity	0.149	0.184	0.435 (0.190)	0.410 (0.190)	0.410 (0.190)	0.410 (0.190)
		Capacity gap	+0.093	+0.097	+0.370	+0.343	+0.342	+0.342

					(+0.560)	(+0.533)	(+0.532)	(+0.532)
Other recovery	Treatment and energy recovery processes* (Mixed - Municipal, C&I)	Forecast arisings	0.156	0.160	0.226	0.314	0.393	0.416
		Existing capacity	0.295	0.327	0.349 (0.035)	0.337 (0.575)	0.337 (0.575)	0.337 (0.575)
		Capacity gap	+0.139	+0.166	+0.124 (+0.159)	+0.023 (+0.598)	-0.057 (+0.518)	-0.080 (+0.495)
	Energy recovery (CD&E wood waste)	Forecast arisings	0.001	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
		Existing capacity	0	0	0	0 (0.048)	0 (0.048)	0 (0.048)
		Capacity gap	-0.001	-0.001	-0.002	-0.002 (+0.046)	-0.002 (+0.046)	-0.002 (+0.046)
	Soil treatment (CD&E)	Forecast arisings	0.084	0.112	0.095	0.097	0.099	0.099
		Existing capacity	0.147	0.278	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.315
		Capacity gap	+0.062	+0.166	+0.220	+0.217	+0.216	+0.216

**Treatment and energy recovery processes refers to Anaerobic Digestion (AD), Energy from Waste (EfW) and other physical/chemical treatment processes.*

			Indicative total waste management capacity 2016-2036		
			Total need	**Estimated void space**	**Balance**
Waste management – Deposit to land and Disposal (Mt)					
Other recovery	CD&E	Inert recovery**	16.063	13.954	-2.109
Disposal	CD&E	Inert landfill**	3.856	1.932	-1.924
	Mixed - Municipal, C&I	Non-hazardous landfill (including SNRHW)	11.187	12.466	+1.278
		Non-hazardous landfill	*10.817*	*8.525*	*-2.291*
		Non-hazardous (SNRHW) landfill	*0.371*	*3.940*	*+3.569*

**Inert recovery and landfill have a total indicative need of 19.919Mt over the plan period, with an estimated remaining void space of 15.886Mt (around 90% of which is associated with the restoration of mineral extraction sites), leaving a deficit of 4.033Mt. This deficit is able to be accommodated however through void space created from mineral extraction operations that are or will be permitted over the plan period.

The net capacity figures in the table above are not ceilings for recycling, treatment or recovery of waste. As such, proposals will, in principle (and provided they are in accordance with Policy 4: Providing for Waste Management), be supported if any of the following scenarios apply:

(a) it would assist in closing a gap identified in the table, provided such a gap has not already been demonstrably closed; or

(b) it would assist in closing a new gap identified in the future, with such identification to be set out in the annual monitoring of the Plan; or

(c) it moves waste capacity already identified in the above table up the waste hierarchy.

POLICY 4: PROVIDING FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT [irrelevant paragraphs omitted]

Across the plan area, existing and committed waste sites meet the majority of identified needs as set out in Policy 3, with the present forecast capacity gap over the plan period being less than substantial. As such, the strategy of this plan is not to make specific allocations for new waste sites. Instead this policy sets out a broad spatial strategy for the location of new waste management development; and criteria which will direct proposals to suitable sites, consistent with the spatial strategy.

In line with Objective 2 of this Plan, the Councils aim to actively encourage, and will in principle support the sustainable management of waste, which includes encouraging waste to move as far up the waste hierarchy as possible, whilst also ensuring net self-sufficiency over the Plan area. In order to ensure this aim can be met, waste management proposals must demonstrably contribute towards sustainable waste management, by moving waste up the waste hierarchy; and proposals for disposal must demonstrate that the waste has been pre-treated and cannot practicably be recycled. Proposals which do not comply with this spatial strategy for waste management development must also demonstrate the quantitative need for the development.

Unless otherwise supported by policy provision under one of the sub-headings in the second half of this Policy, the locational strategy of this Plan is that new or extended waste management facilities should be located within the settlement boundary* of the existing or planned main urban areas of: Cambourne, Cambridge, Chatteris, Ely, Huntingdon, Littleport, March, Northstowe, Peterborough, Ramsey, Soham, St. Ives, St. Neots, Waterbeach New Town, Whittlesey or Wisbech.

Where the proposed use and operations are potentially suitable within an urban setting (with suitability predominantly determined by applying policies in the Development Plan), then proposals should first consider the use of either:

> (a) employment areas (as identified in the Development Plan as being suitable for industrial and storage or distribution type uses) within the settlement boundary of the above identified urban areas; or
> (b) any ‘strategic’ employment areas over 10ha (as identified in the Development Plan as being suitable for industrial and storage or distribution type uses), which might not necessarily be located at one of the above identified urban areas.

Where such sites are demonstrated not to be available or suitable, using a proportionate amount of evidence, then support will be given, in principle, to locating facilities on other suitable sites within the urban areas identified above; or on the edge of them where it is demonstrated that the development is compatible with surrounding uses (including the physical size and throughput of the proposed development); and where there is a relationship with the settlement by virtue of landscape, design of the facility, and highway access. In applying these provisions,

proposals should prioritise, and substantial weight will be given to, the use of suitable brownfield land within the above identified urban areas.

New waste management proposals that are unable to demonstrate benefits of co-location under part 2 of this policy, that are within the planning permission boundary of existing waste management sites (i.e. where extensions to the site area is not required) that already operate outside of the main settlements identified in the locational criteria above will, in principle, be supported. Each case will be considered on its own merits and will be assessed against all the policies within the Development Plan. For the avoidance of doubt, proposals for Water Recycling Centres will be considered under the provisions of Policy 11, rather than this Policy.

Waste Management Facilities - Rural Areas:
Only waste management facilities which are located on a farm holding, and where the proposal is to facilitate agricultural waste recycling or recovery (the majority of which is generated by that farm holding) will, in principle, be supported. Outdoor composting proposals which require the importation of waste material will be determined in accordance with the wider policies of the Development Plan.

Waste Management Facilities - Co-location:
Opportunities to co-locate waste management facilities together, or with complementary activities, as explained within the supporting text for this policy will, in principle, be supported, particularly where relating to:

- employment sites;
- industrial estates;
- mineral extraction and processing sites (for temporary proposals for aggregate and/or inert recycling facilities associated with extraction and processing and, where benefits are demonstrated, to the restoration of a mineral site); or
- integrated waste management development that has specific links to the existing waste management operations already taking place on a site.

Proposals for co-location will not be supported if the benefits do not outweigh the harm when assessed against the wider policies of the Development Plan.

Waste Management Facilities - Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal:
Proposals for the disposal of hazardous waste will only be supported in exceptional circumstances, and where it is demonstrated that there is a clear need for such a facility to be located in the plan area. Proposals for hazardous waste treatment will be supported where there is a demonstrated need, and will be considered in the context of the Development Plan and opportunities to move waste up the hierarchy in line with Objective 2.

POLICY 10: WASTE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAS)

Waste Management Areas (WMAs) are defined on the Policies Map and identify existing or committed waste management facilities that make a significant contribution to managing any waste stream. Waste management proposals within WMAs will be considered under Policy 4. Within a WMA, new non-waste management development will not be permitted other than:

(a) proposals which are compatible for that specific site as identified in the non-Mineral and Waste Plans that make up the Development Plan for the area; or
(b) proposals which demonstrate clear wider regeneration benefits which outweigh the harm of discontinued operation of the site as a WMA, together with a demonstration to the Waste Planning Authority as to how the existing (or recent) waste stream managed at the site will be (or already is being) accommodated elsewhere

POLICY 17: DESIGN

All waste management development, and where relevant mineral development, should secure high quality design. The design of built development and the restoration of sites should be sympathetic to and, where opportunities arise, enhance local distinctiveness and the character and quality of the area in which it is located. Permission will be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available to achieve this.

New mineral and waste management development must:

(a) make efficient use of land and buildings, through the design, layout and orientation of buildings on site and through prioritising the use of previously developed land;
(b) be durable, flexible and adaptable over its planned lifespan, taking into account potential future social, economic, technological and environmental needs through the structure, layout and design of buildings and places;
(c) provide a high standard of amenity for users of new buildings and maintain or enhance the existing amenity of neighbours;
(d) be designed to reduce crime, minimise fire risk, create safe environments, and provide satisfactory access for emergency vehicles;
(e) create visual richness through building type, height, layout, scale, form, density, massing, materials and colour and through landscape design;
(f) be sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);
(g) retain or enhance important features and assets (including trees and hedgerows) within the landscape, treescape or townscape and conserve or create key views; and
(h) provide a landscape enhancement scheme which takes account of any relevant landscape character assessments (including any historic landscape characterisation) and which demonstrates that the development can be assimilated into its surroundings and local landscape character;

and, where appropriate for the development:

(i) provide well designed boundary treatments (including security features) that reflect the function and character of the development and are well integrated into its surroundings; and
(j) provide attractive, accessible and integrated vehicle and cycle parking which also satisfies the parking standards of the Development Plan for the

area, and incorporates facilities for electric plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles.

For waste management proposals, detailed design guidance can be found in Appendix 3: The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities. This guidance provides a framework for creating distinctive places, with a consistent and high quality standard of design. Whilst the guidance provides a degree of flexibility, it will be used to assist in determining whether a proposal is consistent with the approach set out in this policy.

POLICY 18: AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

Proposals must ensure that the development proposed can be integrated effectively with existing or planned (i.e. Development Plan allocations or consented schemes) neighbouring development. New development must not result in unacceptable adverse impacts on the amenity of existing occupiers of any land or property, including:

(a) risk of harm to human health or safety;
(b) privacy for the occupiers of any nearby property;
(c) noise and/or vibration levels resulting in disturbance;
(d) unacceptably overbearing;
(e) loss of light to and/or overshadowing of any nearby property;
(f) air quality from odour, fumes, dust, smoke or other sources;
(g) light pollution from artificial light or glare;
(h) increase in litter; and
(i) increase in flies, vermin and birds.

Where there is the potential for any of the above impacts to occur, an assessment appropriate to the nature of that potential impact should be carried out, and submitted as part of the proposal, in order to establish, where appropriate, the need for, and deliverability of, any mitigation.

POLICY 20: BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY

International Sites
The highest level of protection will be afforded to international sites designated for their nature conservation or geological importance. Proposals having an adverse impact on the integrity of such areas, that cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated to remove any adverse effect, will not be permitted other than in exceptional circumstances. These circumstances will only apply where:

(a) there are no suitable alternatives;
b) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest; and
(c) necessary compensatory provision can be secured.

Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect, either alone or in-combination, on European designated sites must satisfy the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), including

determining site specific impacts and avoiding or mitigating against impacts where identified.

National Sites
Development proposals on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), will not be permitted unless the benefits of the development clearly outweigh both the adverse impacts on the features of the site and any adverse impacts on the wider network of SSSIs.

Local Sites
Development likely to have an adverse effect on locally designated sites, their features or their function as part of the ecological network, including County Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites, will only be permitted where the need and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss and the coherence of the local ecological network is maintained.

Habitats and Species of Local and Principal Importance
Where adverse impacts are likely on the protection and recovery of priority species and habitats, development will only be permitted where the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh these impacts. Where adverse impacts are likely on other locally important habitats and species as identified by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, the benefits of development must outweigh these impacts. In both cases, appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures will be required.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity in Development
All development proposals must:

(d) conserve and enhance the network of geodiversity, habitats, species and sites (both statutory and non-statutory) of international, national and local importance commensurate with their status and give appropriate weight to their importance;
(e) avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity;
(f) deliver a measurable net gain in biodiversity, proportionate to the scale of development proposed, by creating, restoring and enhancing habitats and enhancing them for the benefit of species;
(g) where viable opportunities arise, contribute to the delivery of the Local Nature Partnership vision to ‘double land for nature’;
(h) where necessary, protect and enhance the aquatic environment within, adjoining or functionally linked to the site, including water quality and habitat. Where appropriate, proposals should identify Water Framework Directive (WFD) (or equivalent, if superseded) waterbodies in the vicinity of the proposal, and set out how WFD status will be protected and, if opportunities arise, improved, with any mitigation proposed being suitable and appropriate to the water body affected. For riverside development, proposals should consider options for riverbank naturalisation. In all cases regard should be had to the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD or Peterborough Flood and Water SPD (or their successors); and
(i) for mineral extraction proposals, enable periodic temporary access in order to record, sample and document the geodiversity.

Unless national policy or legislation provides an alternative but similar mechanism, mineral and waste management proposals must (unless a decision taker would clearly not benefit from it) be accompanied by a completed biodiversity checklist (see respective planning authority website for details) and must identify features of value on and adjoining the site and to provide an audit of losses and gains in existing and proposed habitat. Where there is the potential for the presence of protected species and/or habitats, a relevant ecological survey(s) must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist. The development proposals must be informed by the results of both the checklist and survey.

Mitigation of Potential Adverse Impacts of Development
Development should avoid adverse impact on existing biodiversity and geodiversity features as a first principle. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable they must be adequately and proportionately mitigated. If full mitigation cannot be provided, compensation will be required as a last resort where there is no alternative.

POLICY 21: THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The Councils recognise the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets (and their setting); the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and the opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

As such, all mineral and waste management proposals will be subject to the policy requirements set out in the NPPF, including striking an appropriate balance between harm and public benefit, but, as a first principle, development should avoid harm on the historic environment.

To assist decision makers, all development proposals that would directly affect any heritage asset and/or its setting (whether designated or non-designated), must be accompanied by a Heritage Statement which, as a minimum, should:

> (a) describe and assess the significance of the asset and/or its setting to determine its architectural, historic, artistic or archaeological interest;
> (b) identify the impact of the development on the special character of the asset (including any cumulative impacts); and
> (c) provide clear and convincing justification for any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting).

The level of detail in the Heritage Statement should be proportionate to the asset's significance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on its significance and/or setting.

Where appropriate, and particularly for minerals development proposals, the Heritage Statement must also consider:

> (d) the hydrological management of the site and the potential effects that variations in the water table or water flow patterns may have on known or

potential archaeological remains. This assessment may be required to address an area beyond the planning application boundary; and
(e) the potential for palaeolithic or later archaeology at depth, possibly making use of, where appropriate, a deposit model looking at the characteristics and distribution of deposits and natural landforms across the site and the likely potential for archaeology of all periods.

POLICY 22: FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Mineral and waste management development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated (potentially through a detailed hydrogeological assessment) that there would be no significant adverse impact on:

(a) the quantity and quality of surface or groundwater resources;
(b) the quantity and quality of water abstraction currently enjoyed by abstractors unless acceptable alternative provision is made; and
(c) the flow of groundwater at or in the vicinity of the site;

Development located on sites in areas known to be at risk from any form of flooding will only be permitted following:

(d) the successful completion of a sequential test (if necessary) and an exception test if required, with both tests applying climate change allowances to define flood risks;
(e) the submission, where appropriate (as defined by national policy), of a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, setting out appropriate flood risk that:
i. defines the flood zones in relation to the proposal;
ii. demonstrates the impacts of climate change on the flood zones, over the lifetime of the development;
iii. demonstrates that a sequential approach has been taken to the design of the layout of the proposal, placing those aspects of the development most sensitive to the impacts of flooding in the area of lowest flood risk;
iv. demonstrates that appropriate mitigation measures have been incorporated into the development so that there will be no negative off-site impacts to people and property and that the users will be safe for the lifetime of the development; and
v. demonstrates that all reasonable actions have been taken to contribute to the overall reduction of flood risk.
(f) the consideration of any necessary ongoing maintenance, management of mitigation measures and adoption and that any relevant agreements are in place; and
(g) where built development is proposed, the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) wherever feasible into the proposals.

All proposed development will be required to incorporate adequate water pollution control and monitoring measures.

Proposals should also have due regard to the latest policies and guidance in the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD and the Peterborough Flood and Water Management SPD (or their successors).

POLICY 23: TRAFFIC, HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

Mineral and waste management development will only be permitted if:

(a) appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be, or have been, taken up, to the degree reasonably available given the type of development and its location. If, at the point of application, commercially available electric Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) are reasonably available, then development which would increase HCV movements should provide appropriate electric vehicle charging infrastructure for HCVs;
(b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users of the subsequent development;
(c) any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree;
(d) any associated increase in traffic or highway improvements would not cause unacceptable harm to the environment, road safety or residential amenity, and would not cause severe residual cumulative impacts on the road network; and
(e) binding agreements covering lorry routing arrangements and/or HCV signage for mineral and waste traffic are agreed, if any such agreements are necessary and reasonable to make a development acceptable.

Use of HCV Route Network
Where mineral and/or waste is to be taken on or off a site using the highway network, then all proposals must demonstrate how the latest identified HCV Route Network is, where reasonable and practical to do so, to be utilised. If necessary, arrangements ensuring that the use of the HCV Route Network takes place may need to be secured through an appropriate and enforceable agreement. Any non-allocated mineral and waste management facility in Cambridgeshire which would require significant use of the highway must be well related to the HCV Route Network.

Public Rights of Way
During all phases of development, including construction, operation and restoration, proposals must make provision for suitable and appropriate diversions to affected public rights of way, and ideally the enhancement of the public rights of way network where practicable. Opportunities should be taken for the provision of new routes and links between existing routes, especially at the restoration stage. Priority should be given to meeting the objectives of any Rights of Way Improvement Plans. Where development would adversely affect the permanent use of public rights of way (including temporary diversions) planning permission will only be granted where alternative routes are provided that are of equivalent convenience, quality and interest.

POLICY 24: SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOILS

Mineral or waste development which adversely affects agricultural land categorised as ‘best and most versatile’ will only be permitted where it can be shown that:

(a) it incorporates proposals for the sustainable use of soils (whether that be off-site or as part of an agreed restoration scheme); and
(b) (for non-allocated sites) there is a need for the development and an absence of suitable alternative sites using lower grade land has been demonstrated.

Peat soils in particular should be protected and preserved. Where development is proposed on land containing peat soils, the developer must submit a proportionate evaluation of the impact of the proposal on the peat soils and an appropriate soil management plan.

Development proposals that will result in unavoidable harm to, or loss of, peat soils will only be permitted if it is demonstrated that:

(c) there is not a less harmful viable option (this criterion does not apply to allocated mineral extraction sites);
(d) the amount of harm has been reduced to the minimum possible;
(e) if appropriate, satisfactory provision is made for the evaluation, recording and interpretation of the peat soils before commencement of development; and
(f) the peat soils will be temporarily stored and then used, in a way that will limit carbon loss to the atmosphere.

Proposals to enhance peat soils and protect its qualities will be supported.

POLICY 25: AERODROME SAFEGUARDING

Mineral and waste management development within aerodrome safeguarding areas will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development would not constitute a significant hazard to air traffic.

Where it cannot be demonstrated, or where the significance of any hazard is uncertain, the proposal will be refused. Where bird strike is an identified potential hazard, then the preparation and implementation of an approved Bird Management Plan may be required.

Huntingdonshire Local Plan (May 2019)

LP2: Strategy for Development (relevant extract)

The development strategy for Huntingdonshire is to:

- Concentrate development in locations which provide, or have the potential to provide, the most comprehensive range of services and facilities;
- Direct substantial new development to two strategic expansion locations of sufficient scale to form successful, functioning new communities;
- Provide opportunities for communities to achieve local development aspirations for housing, employment, commercial or community related schemes;
- Support a thriving rural economy;
- Protect the character of existing settlements and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the surrounding countryside; #Conserve and enhance the historic environment; and
- Provide complementary green infrastructure enhancement and provision to balance recreational and biodiversity needs and to support climate change adaptation.

LP5: Flood Risk

Location of development

A proposal will only be supported where all forms of flood risk, including breaches of flood defences or other defence failures, have been addressed, as detailed in the National Planning Practice Guidance and with reference to the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), such that:

a. the sequential approach and sequential test are applied and passed, having regard to actual and residual flood risk and including consideration of the impact of climate change;
b. if necessary the exception test is applied and passed;
c. development has been sequentially located within the site to avoid flood risk;
d. all reasonable opportunities to reduce overall flood risk have been considered and where possible taken;
e. the integrity of existing flood defences is not adversely affected and any necessary flood mitigation and compensation measures have been agreed with relevant bodies and the Council; and
f. the requirements relating to flood risk set out in the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD have been applied.

Any reliance on emergency services to make a proposal safe will not be acceptable. Safety risks will be determined with reference to the Defra guidance on flood risk safety FD2320 or successor guidance, on the basis that development should be 'safe for all' for a 1:100 annual probability flood event, for the lifetime of the development, with appropriate climate change allowances.

[Previously developed land in defended areas - not relevant]

Managing flood water

Where a proposal is considered to be acceptable within the 1% annual probability flood extent (flood zone 3), including an allowance for climate change for the lifetime of the development, the development must not result in a loss of flood storage capacity, reduced flow performance, increase the rate of flooding onset or result in an unsustainable form of flood storage requiring on-going silt removal, maintenance or renewal.

Where a proposal would occupy functional flood plain (flood zone 3b), the developer must ensure that it does not impact upon the ability of the floodplain to store or convey water, and seek opportunities to provide floodplain betterment. Development will only be support where it results in no loss of floodplain performance within the undefended floodplain.

Where ground levels are proposed to be raised to bring the development out of the floodplain compensatory floodplain storage within areas that currently lie outside the floodplain must be provided to ensure that the total volume and performance of floodplain storage is not reduced or vulnerability to climate change impacts increased.

Site-specific flood risk assessments

On a site that is at risk of flooding from any form, where there are critical drainage problems or on sites of 1 hectare or more the proposal will only be supported where a site-specific flood risk assessment has been produced, appropriate to the scale and nature of the development and risks involved, including consideration of the impact of climate change, and is agreed with relevant bodies. Such assessments will need to demonstrate that they comply with the requirements set out:

i. in the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD or successor documents;
j. by any applicable responsible authority, including but not limited to the Environment Agency and Cambridgeshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority; and
k. by the Middle Level Commissioners or internal drainage boards, as may be applicable.

LP10: The Countryside

Development in the countryside will be restricted to the limited and specific opportunities as provided for in other policies of this plan.

All development in the countryside must:

a. seek to use land of lower agricultural value in preference to land of higher agricultural value:

   i. avoiding the irreversible loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1 to 3a) where possible, and

ii. avoiding Grade 1 agricultural land unless there are exceptional circumstances where the benefits of the proposal significantly outweigh the loss of land;

b. recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside; and
c. not give rise to noise, odour, obtrusive light or other impacts that would adversely affect the use and enjoyment of the countryside by others.

LP11: Design Context

A proposal will be supported where it is demonstrated that it responds positively to its context and has drawn inspiration from the key characteristics of its surroundings, including natural, historic and built environment, to help create distinctive, high quality and well designed places. In order to achieve this a proposal will need to have applied the guidance contained in the Huntingdonshire Design Guide SPD (2017), the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD (2007) or successor documents and applicable conservation area character statements. A proposal should also have had regard to relevant advice or guidance that promotes high quality design, details the quality or character of the area or describes how the area should develop in the future.

LP12: Design Implementation

New development and advertisements will be expected to be well designed based upon a thorough understanding of constraints and appraisal of the site's context, delivering attractive, usable and long lasting buildings and spaces. A proposal will be supported, therefore, where it can be demonstrated that it:

Response to context

a. contributes positively to the area’s character and identity;
b. successfully integrates with adjoining buildings, the routes and spaces between buildings, topography and landscape;

Streets and spaces shaped by buildings

c. creates attractive and appropriately scaled built frontages to positively enhance the townscape, avoiding the introduction of incongruous and/or intrusive elements into key views and vistas;
d. delivers a balanced mix of compatible buildings and uses, promoting variety, choice and economic activity;
e. enables the wider area to achieve a coherent and integrated built form including considering potential future development or redevelopment of adjoining sites;

Ease of getting around

f. promotes accessibility and permeability for all by creating safe and welcoming places that connect with each other and are easy to move through, putting people before traffic and integrating land uses and transport;

g. provides recognisable and understandable places, routes and points of reference;

Well designed public spaces

h. promotes a sense of place to include attractive streets, squares and other public spaces with a defined sense of enclosure, with multi-functional green spaces and corridors;
i. creates development that will function well and is safe and secure to use;

Sustainable design and construction methods

j. makes efficient use of energy, water and other resources, such that all new homes comply with the optional building regulation for water efficiency, as set out in Approved Document G and non-residential uses meet Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) standards (or successor or equivalent standards) 'Good' as a minimum;
k. secures a distinctive environment for the development through high quality hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatments;
l. ensures that public and private amenity spaces are clearly defined and are designed to be inclusive, usable, safe and enjoyable;
m. successfully integrates the functional needs of the development including refuse and recycling, cycle storage and car parking so that their dominance is minimised;
n. implements a cohesive design through the use of a limited palette of quality, durable materials with an attention to detail particularly where different elements and materials meet; and
o. does not impede pedestrian and vehicular movements or impact on public safety.

LP14: Amenity

A proposal will be supported where a high standard of amenity is provided for all users and occupiers of the proposed development and maintained for users and occupiers of neighbouring land and buildings. A proposal will therefore be required to ensure:

a. adequate availability of daylight and sunlight for the proposed use, minimising the effects of overshadowing and the need for artificial light;
b. the physical relationships arising from the design and separation of buildings are not oppressive or overbearing, and in particular will not result in overlooking causing loss of privacy;
c. that predicted adverse noise impacts, including internal and external levels, timing, duration and character, will be acceptable;
d. that predicted adverse impacts from the following sources will be made acceptable:

i. obtrusive light;
ii. contamination;
iii. air pollution;
iv. water pollution;

v. odour;
vi. dust; and
vii. overheating

e. adequate and accessible waste storage is provided, avoiding adverse impacts;
f. the risk and perceived risk of crime is minimised, including through applying relevant guidance from Secured by Design;
g. that all homes, businesses and main town centre uses are capable of being served by super-fast broadband through the integration of appropriate measures such as open access ducting to industry standards; and
h. that there would be no adverse effect on safety near a notifiable installation and no increase in the number of people that would be put at risk in the vicinity of a notifiable installation.

LP15: Surface Water

A proposal will only be supported where surface water has been considered from the outset as an integral part of the design process and:

a. the proposal incorporates sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) or successor documents and advice from Cambridgeshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, unless demonstrated to be inappropriate;
b. provisions are put in place to ensure that SuDS will be maintained;
c. if the drainage system would directly or indirectly involve discharge to a watercourse that the Environment Agency are responsible for the details of the discharge have been agreed with them;
d. if a road would be affected by the drainage system the details have been agreed with the relevant highway authority;
e. if the drainage system would discharge water to systems controlled by the Middle Level Commissioners or an internal drainage board their standing advice or guidance has been taken into account and the details of the discharge have been agreed with them;
f. if the drainage system would directly or indirectly involve discharge to the River Great Ouse the incorporation of water retaining features as part of the drainage system has been prioritised; and
g. there is no adverse impact on, or unacceptable risk to, the quantity or quality of water resources or on meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.

SuDS for hard-standing areas for parking of 50 or more cars, or equivalent areas will be expected to include appropriate additional treatment stages/ interceptors to ensure that any pollution risks are suitably addressed.

In order to safeguard against the pollution of ground water the use of deep infiltration SuDS, such as deep borehole soakaways, will not be accepted in most circumstances. Exemptions will only be made in exceptional circumstances if the proposal is for land uses that pose a very low pollution risk and are supported by an adequate risk assessment, conceptual site model and detailed design.

LP16: Sustainable Travel

New development will be expected to contribute to an enhanced transport network that supports an increasing proportion of journeys being undertaken by sustainable travel modes, defined in the 'Glossary'. A proposal will therefore be supported where it is demonstrated that:

a. opportunities are maximised for the use of sustainable travel modes;
b. its likely transport impacts have been assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures will be delivered, in accordance with National Planning Practice Guidance;
c. safe physical access from the public highway can be achieved, including the rights of way network where appropriate
d. any potential impacts on the strategic road network have been addressed in line with Department for Transport Circular 02/2013 and advice from early engagement with Highways England; and
e. there are no severe residual cumulative impacts.

Where a proposal would affect an existing public right of way or other formal non-motorised users' route, this route should be protected or enhanced within the proposed development. Where this is not possible it should be diverted to a safe, clear and convenient alternative route. The stopping up of paths/ routes will only be acceptable where all opportunities to provide a safe, clear and convenient alternative have been investigated and proved to be unsuitable.

All routes will be provided to an adoptable standard and all pedestrian and cycle routes will be formalised as rights of way unless otherwise agreed with the Council and the Highways Authority.

LP17: Parking Provision and Vehicle Movement

A proposal will be supported where it incorporates appropriate space for vehicle movements, facilitates accessibility for service and emergency vehicles and incorporates adequate parking for vehicles and cycles. These should all comply with design and security guidance set out in the Huntingdonshire Design Guide SPD (2017) or successor documents.

A clear justification for the space for vehicle movements and level of vehicle and cycle parking proposed will need to be provided taking account of:

a. highway safety and access to and from the site;
b. servicing requirements;
c. the accessibility of the development to a wide range of services and facilities by public transport, cycling and walking;
d. the needs of potential occupiers, users and visitors, now and in the future;
e. the amenity of existing and future occupiers and users of the development and nearby property; and
f. opportunities for shared provision, where locations and patterns of use allow this.

Minimum levels of car parking for disabled people as set out in national guidance(15) will be required.

A proposal that includes residential development will be expected to provide at least one clearly identified secure cycle space per bedroom for all dwellings (C3 Use Class), unless it can be demonstrated that this is unachievable.

LP19: Rural Economy

In the countryside there are limited and specific opportunities for sustainable development related to maintaining a healthy rural economy. A proposal for business development in the countryside will only be supported where it fulfils the requirements of one of the following categories.

New business development

A proposal for business uses (class 'B') will be supported where it:

a. is within a defined Established Employment Area;
b. immediately adjoins and is capable of being integrated with an Established Employment Area;
c. involves the reuse of land in use or last used for business uses (class 'B'); or
d. involves the reuse or replacement of existing buildings as set out in policy LP 33 'Rural Buildings'.

In all cases office uses (class 'B1a') will be limited to a total of 600m2 floorspace.

Expansion of an existing business

A proposal for the expansion of an established business within its existing operational site will be supported.

A proposal for the expansion of an established industrial or rural business on land outside of its existing operational site in the open countryside will be supported where it is demonstrated that:

e. opportunities to reuse existing buildings have been fully explored; and replacement or new build are only proposed where it can be demonstrated that no suitable reuse opportunities are available;
f. any opportunities to make more efficient use of land within the existing site boundary are not suitable for the proposed use;
g. it avoids the irreversible loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1 to 3a) particularly Grade 1 where possible and should use land of lower agricultural value in preference to land of higher agricultural value; and
h. the scale, character and siting of the proposal will not have a detrimental impact on its immediate surroundings and the wider landscape.

A rural business is one which has a legitimate reason to be located in the countryside, including but not limited to agriculture, horses, horticulture or forestry.

[Farm diversification – not relevant]

LP29: Health Impact Assessment

A proposal for large scale development, defined in the 'Glossary', will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the design of the scheme has been informed by the conclusions of a rapid Health Impact Assessment.

A proposal for large scale major development, defined in the 'Glossary', will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the design of the scheme has been informed by the conclusions of a full Health Impact Assessment.

LP30: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

A proposal will be required to demonstrate that all potential adverse impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity have been investigated.

A proposal that is likely to have an impact, either direct or indirect, on biodiversity or geodiversity will need to be accompanied by an appropriate appraisal, such as a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, identifying all individual and cumulative potential impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity. Any further research that is identified as necessary by this appraisal will need to have been carried out and submitted with the proposal. Where a proposal has potential to affect an internationally important site an 'appropriate assessment' in accordance with the Habitats Directive will be required and sufficient information to enable such an assessment to be completed must be submitted with the proposal.

All possible efforts must be taken to avoid adverse impacts. If it is demonstrated that adverse impacts are unavoidable they must be minimised as far as possible and then mitigated. Only where this process of avoidance, minimisation and then mitigation is insufficient to fully address adverse impacts will consideration be given to compensation measures. Following this process a proposal will only be supported subject to a hierarchy where:

a. a site of international importance, being a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Ramsar site would be affected there has to be exceptional overriding reasons of human health, public safety or environmental benefit;
b. a site of national importance, such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve (NNR) would be affected there has to be exceptional circumstances where the need for, and the benefits of, the proposal significantly outweigh both the potential impacts on the features of the site that make it of national importance and any broader impacts on the national network of such sites;
c. a protected species, a priority habitat or species, a site of local or regional importance, the achievement of water body good ecological potential, or the biodiversity value of the proposed development site as part of the wider network would be affected, the need for and the benefits of the proposal must clearly outweigh the assessed impacts.

A proposal will not be supported if potential impacts would lead to the deterioration of water body ecological status/ potential.

A proposal will ensure no net loss in biodiversity and provide a net gain where possible, through the planned retention, enhancement and creation of habitats and wildlife features, appropriate to the scale, type and location of development. Large scale development proposals should provide an audit of losses and gains in biodiversity produced according to a recognised methodology. In seeking to provide net gains for biodiversity reference should be had to the Natural Cambridgeshire publication 'Developing with Nature Toolkit' and the proposal should prioritise measures that:

d. complement or enhance existing features of biodiversity value within the design and layout of development;
e. provide new biodiversity features within the development;
f. help reverse the decline of species;
g. assist in achieving local targets for priority habitats and species including those set out in Habitat Action Plans;
h. improve public access to nature;
i. ensure the effective management of biodiversity or geological features;
j. contribute to the provision of multi-functional green infrastructure to enhance ecological networks and the Green Infrastructure Priority Areas
k. contribute towards the achievement of good ecological status in water bodies (or not compromise achievement of good ecological potential) in accordance with the Anglian River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and accompanying catchment action plans; or
l. will help species adapt to climate change."

Policy 31: Trees, Woodland, Hedges and Hedgerows

A proposal will be required to demonstrate that the potential for adverse impacts on trees, woodland, hedges and hedgerows has been investigated. Where investigations show that such adverse impacts are possible a statement will be required that:

a. assesses all trees, woodland, hedges and hedgerows that would be affected by the proposal, describing and assessing their value;
b. sets out how the details of the proposal have been decided upon in terms of their impact on the value of trees, woodland, hedges and hedgerows and how adverse impacts will be avoided as far as possible, or if unavoidable how they will be minimised as far as possible.

A proposal will only be supported where it seeks to conserve and enhance any existing tree, woodland, hedge or hedgerow of value that would be affected by the proposed development. In such cases the proposal will be expected to make reference to and follow the guidance contained in the Council's A Tree Strategy for Huntingdonshire (2015) or successor documents.

Loss, threat or damage to any tree, woodland, hedge or hedgerow of visual, heritage or nature conservation value will only be acceptable where:

c. it is addressed firstly by seeking to avoid the impact, then to minimise the impact and finally where appropriate to include mitigation measures; or
d. there are sound arboricultural reasons to support the proposal.

Where impacts remain the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location must clearly outweigh the loss, threat or damage.

Where loss, threat or damage cannot be fully addressed through minimisation and/ or mitigation measures the proposal may be supported if alternative measures such as reinstatement of features, additional landscaping, habitat creation or tree planting will compensate for the harm and can be implemented and established before development starts.

A proposal for major scale development will be required to include additional new trees to form part of landscaping for the proposal, the form of which will be determined by negotiation.

LP34: Heritage Assets and their Settings

Great weight and importance is given to the conservation of heritage assets (see 'Glossary') and their settings. The statutory presumption of the avoidance of harm can only be outweighed if there are public benefits that are powerful enough to do so.

A proposal will be required to demonstrate the potential for adverse impacts on the historic environment. Where investigations show that impacts on heritage assets or their settings, whether designated or not, are possible a heritage statement will be required, in a manner proportionate to the asset's significance, that:

a. assesses all heritage assets and their settings that would be affected by the proposal, describing and assessing the significance of each asset and its setting to determine its architectural, historical or archaeological interest;
b. sets out how the details of the proposal have been decided upon such that all adverse impacts are avoided as far as possible, or if unavoidable how they will be minimised as far as possible;
c. details how, following avoidance and minimisation, the proposal would impact on the significance and special character of each asset;
d. provides clear justification for the proposal, especially if it would harm the significance of an asset or its setting, so that the harm can be weighed against public benefits; and
e. identifies ways in which the proposal could make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, affected heritage assets and their settings.

[Conversion, Alteration or Other Works to a Heritage Asset – not relevant]

Conservation Areas

A proposal within, affecting the setting of, or affecting views into or out of, a conservation area should preserve, and wherever possible enhance, features that contribute positively to the area's character, appearance and setting as set out in character statements or other applicable documents. A proposal should:

k. minimise negative impact on the townscape, roofscape, skyline and landscape through retention of buildings/ groups of buildings, existing street patterns, historic building lines and land form;
l. retain and reinforce local distinctiveness with reference to height, scale, massing, form, materials and plot widths of the existing built environment; as well as retaining architectural details that contribute to the character and appearance of the conservation area; and
m. where relevant and practical, remove features that are incompatible with or detract significantly from the conservation area.

Archaeology

If initial site assessment does not provide sufficient information to enable consideration of the impact of the proposal on the significance of archaeological remains, developers will be required to undertake fieldwork evaluation of a site in advance of determination of the application.

Where possible and appropriate the preservation of archaeological remains in-situ should be ensured. Where this is either not possible or not desirable, as agreed with the Council, provision must be made for comprehensive recording, analysis of the results and publication. There will also be a requirement for preservation and where practical enhancement.

LP35: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

A proposal for a renewable or low carbon energy generating scheme, other than wind energy, will be supported where it is demonstrated that all potential adverse impacts including cumulative impacts are or can be made acceptable.

[section on wind energy not relevant]

A proposal for an extension of time to the permitted period for time limited planning permissions for a renewable or low carbon energy generation installation will be required to demonstrate that the measures to address adverse planning impacts remain effective and adhere to prevailing standards.

Provision will be made for the removal of apparatus and reinstatement of the site to an acceptable condition, should the scheme become redundant or at the end of the permitted period for time limited planning permissions.

LP35: Air Quality

A proposal will need to be accompanied by an Air Quality Assessment where:

a. it is for large scale major development, defined in the 'Glossary';
b. it would potentially conflict with an Air Quality Action Plan;
c. any part of the site is located within 50m of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) or a Clean Air Zone (CAZ);

d. a significant proportion of the traffic generated would go through an AQMA or a CAZ; or
e. any part of the site is located within 100m of a monitoring site where the annual mean level of nitrogen dioxide exceeds 35µg/m3 .

An Air Quality Assessment should be proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposal and the level of concern about air quality, but should assess:

f. the existing state of air quality surrounding the site;
g. how the proposal could affect air quality during construction and operational phases;
h. the extent to which people could be exposed to poor air quality; and
i. how biodiversity could be affected by changes in air quality as a result of the proposal.

A proposal will need to be accompanied by a low emissions strategy where the air quality assessment shows that the proposal would:

j. have a significant adverse effect on air quality;
k. have an adverse effect on the air quality factors that led to the affected AQMA being designated;
l. cause a significant increase in the number of people that would be exposed to poor air quality; or
m. lead to a designated nature conservation site or protected species that is sensitive to poor air quality being adversely affected by changes in air quality.

The low emissions strategy will include measures that mitigate the impacts of the proposed development by contributing to the improvement of air quality and/ or the reduction of emissions relating to the designation of the affected AQMA/ CAZ, prioritising actions identified in relevant Air Quality Action Plans/ CAZ action plans or equivalent documents.

In other circumstances, where identified as necessary based on a transport assessment/ statement, measures to reduce air pollution arising from traffic and traffic congestion may also be required.

LP37: Ground Contamination and Groundwater Pollution

Where ground contamination of a site and/ or adjacent land is possible, due to factors including but not limited to existing or previous uses, the risks of ground contamination, including ground water and ground gases, will need to be investigated.

Where investigation shows that development could result in an unacceptable risk or a controlled waters receptor (principal or secondary aquifer) exists a risk assessment will be required. If the risk assessment shows that the risk is acceptable the proposal will be supported, subject to appropriate arrangements being put in place to ensure that work stops if unexpected contamination comes to light.

If the risk assessment shows that risks will not be acceptable, then a more detailed investigation or remediation scheme will be required. Only where the more detailed

investigation or remediation scheme shows that the risks can be made acceptable will the proposal be supported, subject to appropriate arrangements being put in place to ensure that work stops if unexpected contamination comes to light.

Where remediation is necessary a strategy or scheme for its implementation and, where appropriate, maintenance will need to be agreed, which demonstrates that:

a. the site is safe for development;
b. there would be no adverse health impacts to future/ surrounding occupiers; and
c. there will be no deterioration of, or minimal impact on, the environment as a result of contamination.

Upon completion of the agreed remediation strategy/scheme a Verification Report will need to be submitted to demonstrate compliance with the scheme.

Protection of Groundwater

A proposal within a Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 1 or within 50m of a private potable groundwater source that includes any of the following development types will only be supported where adequate safeguards against possible contamination can be agreed, implemented and maintained:

- septic tanks, waste water treatment works, chemicals storage tanks or underground storage tanks;
- sustainable drainage systems with ground infiltration;
- oil pipelines;
- storm water overflows and below ground attenuation tanks;
- activities that involve the disposal of liquid waste to land;
- cemeteries and graveyards; or
- other types of development identified in the Environment Agency's Groundwater Protection guides, or successor documents.

A proposal within a SPZ 2 or 3 or on a principal or secondary aquifer will be considered on a risk based approach with the exception of development involving sewerage, trade and storm effluent to ground or deep soakaways, which will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that these are necessary, are the only option available and adequate safeguards against possible contamination of groundwater can be agreed, implemented and maintained.

A proposal in any SPZ will be expected to provide full details of the proposed construction of new buildings and construction techniques, including foundation design.