

1. Please confirm the start date of the plan period.

We believe that for statutory purposes the start date should be 2011, the plan period for the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (even though it was not adopted until December 2014). However, we felt that this would cause confusion if stated on a document being circulated for consultation within the neighbourhood area during 2015.

**Commented [AM1]:** In the Pre-Submission Draft we stated that the Plan Period is 2011 to 2019. For clarity of understanding this was amended to the current wording of Paragraph 1.6 in the Submission Version.

2. Please confirm the dates of the Regulation 16 consultation period.

The regulation 16 consultation commenced on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and closed at 4.30 pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

3. The Consultation Statement refers to Appendix 2 on page 6 indicating that a copy of the questionnaire and analysis is to be found in that Appendix. However, Appendix 2 appears only to include a copy of the questionnaire not the analysis. Please could the analysis be provided?

The analysis was kept in separate documents. Those that were made publicly available have been attached.

4. What is the significance of the “p” in “pSPA/RAMSAR” in the SEA Screening Report?

The “p” was to indicate that the site was a potential SPA/RAMSAR site. However is an old label on the map and shouldn’t have been shown. The Upper Nene Gravel Pits is now a designated SPA/RAMSAR site; it was formally classified by the Government in 2011.

5. The Plan refers to the Daventry Masterplan 2040. Please could DDC confirm the status of this document and whether there are any implications of it that I should be aware of.

The Daventry Masterplan 2040 was adopted by the Council in July 2012 and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The ambition for Daventry Town to grow is taken forward in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and will also be taken forward in the emerging Settlements and Countryside Local Plan.

6. The Plan refers to a Special Landscape Area (see for instance page 9 and Map 4 of the Plan) and saved Policy EN1 of the Local Plan 1997. Is this designation current?

The Special Landscape Area (SLA) is a designation that dates from the 1980 Northamptonshire County Structure Plan. SLAs are areas that have been identified as being distinctive in terms of their special character and quality.

Saved policy EN1 of the Daventry District Local Plan (saved in 2007) aims to conserve the character of these areas. The policy and designation are still used in decision making to consider development in the rural areas where there is a SLA designation.

The SLA has not been taken forward in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, however, the policy and designation are considered to be consistent with national policy and therefore relevant and as stated above, they continue to be used in development management. As part of the preparation of the part 2 Settlements and Countryside Local Plan the Council have gone out to tender for an ‘Assessment of landscape character and quality, visual sensitivity and areas of high quality landscape’. This includes reviewing the SLA designation.

7. Am I correct in thinking that the village confines are not currently mapped in any development plan as Braunston is identified as a “restricted infill village” in the Local Plan 1997, but that this Plan seeks to designate the boundary as per Map 6?

That is correct. The village confines, whilst defined under paragraph 4.90 are not currently mapped in any development plan as Braunston is identified as a “restricted infill village” in the 1997 Local Plan. This plan seeks to designate the boundary as per Map 6.

Braunston appears in the Local Plan 1997 as an Inset Map, though this does not define the boundary of the village confines.

8. Map 7 of the Plan shows existing community facilities. Was it the intention that Policy E should only apply to those facilities shown on that map or more generally?

The intention is that Policy E should apply more generally, including currently existing and any provided in the future.

9. Policy F of the Plan refers to Local Green Spaces (LGS), but also to public open space. Was it the intention of the policy to only deal with LGSs or was it also to protect public open spaces?

The intention is also to protect public open space. Yes, we made a mistake here. The policy title should perhaps be ‘Local Green Space and Other Areas of Public Open Space’. First sentence of policy covers both categories. The remainder of the policy covers just Local Green Space. In this part wording should be amended accordingly.

10. Could you point me to any additional evidence or other information used to formulate Policy G please?

- i. Saved Policy HS11 of the Daventry Local Plan refers to **open land** of particular significance to **form** and **character**. The open land in areas (a), (b) and (c) is significant in this way; Braunston is renowned as a ‘canal village’ yet unlike similar settlements the canals do not pass through the village which sits on a ridge. The result is that Braunston gets its individual character from the sloping open land that separates the built up area from the canal and from the numerous rights of way that cross it. The Topography paragraphs in Table 1 give more details of this.
- ii. The views expressed by many in the Neighbourhood Area during consultations that Braunston should remain a village separate from Daventry, hence area (d) on Map 9.
- iii. The physical unsuitability for development of significant areas of land within area (d) on Map 9 as referred to in the Daventry Masterplan 2040 and mentioned in paragraphs 3.5 and 7.49.
- iv. The significance of the land in area (d) as it forms the boundary between the ‘West Northamptonshire Uplands’ and the ‘Vale of Rugby’ as defined by rnrp <http://www.rnrpenvironmentalcharacter.org.uk/>. The steepness of this land is indicated in Photo 1, p8. Paragraph 3.5 refers to the land dropping from the watershed of England. The second ‘Key Issue’ on page 46 of the rnrp document refers to the significance of this watershed. Recent warehouse development has encroached on to this watershed from the east, abutting the Neighbourhood Area in one 300 metre section visible from the village. One aim of Policy G is to prevent the expansion of this on to the western slope of the watershed.
- v. The policy does not conflict with the adopted Joint Core Strategy (2014) and the

proposed expansion of Daventry, and allocations have been made to accommodate this growth.

- vi. The District Council granted outline planning application in July 2015 for 450 dwellings at Mickle Well Park, which is located on the northern edge of Daventry but this is partly within the adjoining Welton Parish. This site was not an allocation in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. The Parish Council believe any such development should be plan led as per the paragraph 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- vii. The Manual for Design Codes produced by the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (December 2009) assessed the urban-rural edge on the north west of Daventry town. It states on page 91:
  - The existing edge in this area is sharply defined, with industrial buildings separated from agricultural grazing land by a belt of screening planting. This area is characterised by a plateau of small irregular fields bounded by dense hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
  - The landform rises gently from the existing urban edge to a ridgeline that runs in a north-east/south-west direction along the spine of the site. The land use is predominantly agricultural grazing with some arable. The existing urban edge is linear and sharply defined, with screening planting along most of the edge separating the urban area from the rural one.
  - Beyond the ridgeline the topography falls towards the Grand Union Canal corridor and Braunston to the north-west.

The Manual states that the source of this assessment is the West Northamptonshire Development Framework for the Assessment of Public Open Space and Landscape within development proposals, Daventry Urban-Rural Edge Appraisal undertaken by ENTEC UK Ltd in June 2008.

In response to point (v) above submitted by the parish council, DDC would like to clarify the following;

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy identified the objectively assessed need for Daventry in policy S3 however it did not allocate sites to fully meet this need. Further allocations will be made in the emerging Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2a) as stated in the [Issues and Options consultation document](#) published in January 2016. As confirmed in the [quarterly monitoring report](#) which sets out progress against the requirements of policy S3 in the WNJCS, at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 there remains a residual requirement for 811 dwellings for Daventry town. The Issues and Options consultation document sought to establish the appropriate spatial approach to help inform the distribution of housing and a decision on this has not yet been taken (Issue 13). The Issues and Options document also recognized (Issue 34) the importance of a policy designation at the fringes of Daventry and Northampton to assist with protecting the character of settlements, such as Braunston, situated near to these towns. However DDC firmly believe that such a policy designation should be looked at holistically, shaped in the context of where further allocations may be situated and also informed by evidence, this is considered to be a task that can only be appropriately tackled through a plan that operates at the spatial level of the Part 2a Local Plan, a point recognized in the examination of the Moulton Neighbourhood Plan where a similar designation was proposed. As part of the evidence gathering for the Part 2a Local Plan, DDC have gone out to tender for an 'Assessment of landscape character and quality, visual sensitivity and

areas of high quality landscape' and this will be used to inform decision making on such allocations and the formulation of policies for the fringe of Daventry and Northampton. The commissioning of this evidence further demonstrates recognition of the importance of this issue.

11. Policy H refers to "Important Views". Map 9 indicates some "example views" viewpoints and there are some photographs of what are termed "sample views" which seem to correlate to the viewpoints shown on Map 9. Is this correct? Was it the intention that Policy H refers to the eight viewpoints shown on Map 9?
  - i. Yes, the 'sample views' shown on page 43 are taken from the points labelled on Map 9.
  - ii. It is the intention that Policy H applies to all important views into, out of, or within the village.
12. Paragraph 7.62 of the Plan refers to "Policy J" in the Joint Core Strategy, but I cannot find any such policy?

This is an error. The last sentence of paragraph 7.62 should be omitted.
13. Was it the intention that Policy K should only apply to Braunston village (and not the surrounding rural area)?

Policy K refers to business development proposals in the Character Areas shown on Map 10. Business development proposals in the surrounding rural areas are covered by JCS policies S1 and R2 referred to in Paragraph 7.76. The opening sentence should have referred to this.
14. Policy BN1 of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) refers to green infrastructure connections shown on Figure 6 of the JCS. Please confirm which, if any, of the corridors fall within the Parish.

Sub-regional corridor 5 – The Oxford Canal/Cherwell Valley (Oxford-Rugby) falls within the neighbourhood area following the line of the canal (approx. 2km).  
In addition Sub-regional corridor 6, the Daventry Spur (approx. 3km)
15. Please could a copy of the Housing Needs Survey be provided? Electronically or a link is fine.

The Braunston Housing Needs Survey can be found here  
<https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/living/housing/housing-needs-surveys/>