

Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

February 2016

Braunston Parish Council

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In February 2016 Braunston Parish Council submitted their Neighbourhood Plan to Daventry District Council. When submitting a neighbourhood development plan to the relevant local planning authority the legislation requires that the qualifying body submit a number of other documents to accompany it. One of these is commonly known as a Basic Conditions Statement.
- 1.2 This Basic Conditions Statement has therefore been prepared in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. It explains how the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the basic conditions in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 1.3 There are five basic conditions that are relevant to a neighbourhood plan. These are:
- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan
 - the 'making' of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
 - the 'making' of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area)
 - the 'making' of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations
 - prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.
- 1.4 The prescribed condition is that the 'making' of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).
- 1.5 This Basic Conditions Statement sets out how the neighbourhood plan meets the requirements of each basic condition and other legal tests. It explains why the Parish Council believe the plan meets these statutory requirements and should thereby proceed to referendum.

2. The Legal Requirements

- 2.1 This statement is required to set out how the Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the requirements of each legal test. This is set out below.

The Qualifying Body

- 2.2 The Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan has been submitted by Braunston Parish Council, which is the qualifying body for the Neighbourhood Area.

Policies that relate to development and use of land

- 2.3 The Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan sets out policies that relate to the development and use of land in the whole or part of the Braunston Neighbourhood Area. It includes land use planning policies that can be used in the determination of planning applications.
- 2.4 Planning Practice Guidance states that wider community aspirations than those relating to development and use of land can be included in a neighbourhood plan, but actions dealing with non land use matters should be clearly identifiable. These aspirations have thereby been set out separately in Section 9 of the plan, which is entitled 'Supplementary Proposals'. Here it is made clear that the listed proposals do not form part of the statutory neighbourhood development plan.

The Neighbourhood Area

- 2.5 The Neighbourhood Development Plan relates to a designated Neighbourhood Area, which is identical to the parish boundary. The application to designate the Neighbourhood Area was approved by Daventry District Council on 5 December 2013. A map of the Braunston Neighbourhood Area is attached as Appendix 1.

The Plan Period

- 2.6 The Neighbourhood Development Plan covers the plan period up to 2029. The plan period thereby corresponds to the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, which was adopted on 15 December 2014.

Excluded Development

- 2.7 The Neighbourhood Development Plan does not contain policies that relate to 'excluded development'. For example it does not contain matters dealt with by Northamptonshire County Council (mineral extraction and waste development) or Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

Other Neighbourhood Areas

- 2.8 The Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan does not relate to any other neighbourhood area.
- 2.9 There is no other made neighbourhood development plan that covers any part of the Braunston Neighbourhood Area.

3. The Basic Conditions

3.1 This statement is required to set out how the Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the prescribed basic conditions. For reference the policies in the plan are listed in full in Appendix 2.

Regard to national policies and advice

3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF) sets out the Government's main planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. Further advice can also be found in the Government's on-line national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) first published by the Government in April 2014.

3.3 The Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan has thereby been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the NPPF and is mindful of the PPG.

3.4 The overall Neighbourhood Plan has had regard to paragraphs 183 to 185 of the NPPF. The local community were instrumental in developing a shared vision for the area and the associated objectives. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out their policies to determine decisions on planning applications to help deliver this vision. It has ensured that local people get the right type of development for their community. It has also been prepared to align with the strategic needs of the wider rural areas of Daventry District and conforms to the adopted development plan for the area. The Neighbourhood Plan does not promote less development than that set out in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy or undermine its strategic policies. Outside of these strategic elements the Neighbourhood Plan has brought forward policies that shape and achieve sustainable development.

3.5 Set out in Table 1 below is a brief summary of how each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan conforms to the NPPF. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all relevant paragraphs.

Table 1 : Conformity to the National Planning Policy Framework

NP Policy Number	NP Policy Title	NPPF References	Comment on Conformity
A	Residential Development within Braunston	Core Planning Principles - Para 17 Section 6 - Para 47	The NP policy also seeks to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity. The Steering Group has worked closely with Daventry District Council to establish the housing need in the rural areas based on the

		<p>Section 7 - Para 56</p> <p>Section 7 - Para 58</p> <p>Section 7 - Para 60</p> <p>Section 11 - Para 109</p> <p>Section 11 - Para 113</p> <p>Section 12 - Para 126</p> <p>Section 12 - Para 131</p>	<p>adopted Joint Core Strategy. The five year land supply forms part of the NP evidence base.</p> <p>The NP policy highlights the need for good design.</p> <p>The NP sets out the quality of the development that will be expected, identifying the required characteristics. This includes incorporating local character and history in the design using the Character Area Assessment.</p> <p>The NP policy seeks to encourage local distinctiveness.</p> <p>The NP policy seeks to protect the surrounding valued landscape.</p> <p>By insisting that development is within the existing village confine, the NP seeks to recognise the surrounding attractive landscape.</p> <p>The NP policy recognises the importance of heritage assets.</p> <p>The NP policy requires development to reflect local character and distinctiveness using the Character Area Assessment.</p>
B	Affordable Housing	Section 6 - Para 50 and Para 159 on Local Plans	The NP has utilised the District wide housing figures as part of the evidence base, especially the requirements in the rural area. The NP has also incorporated the results for a housing needs survey undertaken by the District Council, which addressed the specific need for affordable homes in the parish. This need has been met by the exception site at Maple close, which has recently received planning permission.
C	Traffic Management	Section 4 - Paras 30 to 32	The NP policy seeks to encourage traffic management measures that improve access and safety within the area, providing they are in-keeping with the character of the area.
D	Link to Daventry	Section 4 - Paras 35	The NP policy seeks to exploit an opportunity for a sustainable transport mode between Braunston and Daventry that should facilitate increased walking and cycling movements.
E	Local Services and Community Facilities	Section 3 - Para 28	The NP policy also promotes the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting spaces, sports venues,

		Section 8 - Para 69	cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship. The NP would like to encourage social interaction and create healthy, inclusive communities. It also says that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.
		Section 8 - Para 70	The policy seeks to guard against the loss of valued services and facilities. It also supports development that would improve certain key services such as the village centre, library, schools, public transport, shops, etc.
		Section 8 - Para 74	The plan seeks to protect existing open space, sport and recreational facilities.
F	Local Green Space	Section 8 - Para 75	The policy seeks to protect and enhance existing open spaces.
		Section 8 - Para 76 to 78.	The policy designates Local Green Spaces where new development is ruled other than in very special circumstances. It acknowledges that the designation will not be appropriate for most open spaces. All the designations are in or close to the village community they serve. They hold a special local significance but are not extensive tracts of land.
G	Preventing Coalescence	Core Planning Principles - Para 17	The NP policy also recognises the intrinsic value and beauty of the surrounding countryside. It also conserves local heritage assets.
		Section 11 - Paras 109	The NP policy highlights the need to protect the surrounding valued landscape and natural environment.
		Section 12 - Para 131	The NP policy requires development to reflect local character and distinctiveness
H	Important Views	Section 11 - Para 109	The NP policy seeks to protect the surrounding valued landscape.
		Section 11 - Para 113	The listed important views define those of particular merit that are sensitive to development.
I	Open Countryside	Core Planning Principles - Para 17	The NP policy recognises the intrinsic value and beauty of the surrounding countryside. It also conserves local heritage assets.
		Section 11 - Para 109	The NP policy seeks to protect the surrounding valued landscape.

		Section 11 - Para 123	The NPPF also endorses the need to protect areas of tranquillity.
J	The Canals and their Setting	Achieving sustainable development - Para 7 Core Planning Principles - Para 17 Section 12 - Para 126 Section 12 - Para 131 Section 12 - Para 128 and Para 132	The NP policy seeks to achieve sustainable development by protecting and enhancing the historic environment, most notably the canal and its associated buildings. In accordance with the Framework the NP policy seeks to conserve heritage assets in the neighbourhood area. The policy adopts a positive approach to conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in the village. Interpretation of the historic environment is welcomed in the NP policy. The NP policy requires development to reflect local character and distinctiveness. The NP policy attaches weight to conserving the village's most important heritage assets.
K	Business Development	Core Planning Principles - Para 17 Section 3 - Para 28	The NP policy supports sustainable economic development. The NP supports economic growth in this rural area to create jobs and prosperity. It encourages sustainable growth and expansion in well designed new buildings that are in-keeping with the locality.
L	Communications Infrastructure	Section 5 - Paras 42 and 43	In accordance with the NPPF the NP policy highlights the importance of superfast broadband in rural areas. It supports the premise that the development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services as well as home working.
M	Sustainable Development	Section entitled Achieving Sustainable Development	The NP highlights the importance of achieving sustainable development. It recognises that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (see next section). In accordance with the NPPF the NP policy notes that local circumstances need to be taken into account. So whilst supporting sustainable development within Braunston, regard should still be had to the characteristics and vernacular of the area to maintain its local distinctiveness.

- 3.6 It is thereby concluded that the Neighbourhood Development Plan has had appropriate regard to the National Planning Policy Framework. The Parish Council is not aware of any other relevant national policies and advice that the plan should have had particular regard to.

The achievement of sustainable development

- 3.7 The main purpose of the planning system is to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development whether it is the policies in a local or neighbourhood plan, or the decisions being taken on planning applications. The NPPF states that the three dimensions of sustainability are economic, social and environmental for which gains should be sought jointly.
- 3.8 The basic conditions require that the Neighbourhood Plan contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Steering Group were mindful of this requirement during the course of plan preparation and the principles of sustainable development are embedded in the vision and objectives.
- 3.9 The vision for Braunston developed in the plan is:

To maintain and develop a thriving, working village by encouraging development that meets the needs of local people, whilst protecting and enhancing the distinctive character and features of the settlement, and its surrounding open countryside and canals.

- 3.10 To deliver this vision the plan has the following objectives:

- a) *To provide for the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the parish*
- b) *To maintain and develop housing opportunities for people from a range of ages, abilities and economic circumstances*
- c) *To safeguard and enhance the built environment including the promotion of high quality design of buildings and streetscape*
- d) *To promote transport choices*
- e) *To protect the local landscape character and historic features*
- f) *To promote healthy activity including the protection and expansion of open spaces and rights of way*
- g) *To promote and enhance local business opportunities*
- h) *To promote safe roads*

- 3.11 Policy M in the Neighbourhood Plan specifically addresses the need to achieve sustainable development. It states:

Proposals for development that incorporate features that address the challenges of climate change will be supported providing they are in-keeping

with the Character Area with regards to scale, layout and materials. These features will include sustainable drainage and porous/permeable surfacing for drives.

- 3.12 The table below assesses each of the plan's policies in terms of how they will deliver sustainable development against the three dimensions of sustainability i.e. economic, social and environmental aspects. Symbols are used to categorise the impact and to demonstrate whether the potential impacts of the policy are very positive (**), positive (*), neutral (0), negative (x), or very negative (--).

Table 2 : Assessment of sustainability of Neighbourhood Plan policies

Policy Number	Policy Title	Social Factors	Economic Factors	Environment Factors	Comment on achieving sustainable development
A	Residential Development within Braunston	*	0	**	Policy seeks to restrict development to being within the village confines to protect surrounding countryside and ensure in-keeping with existing historic character.
B	Affordable Housing	**	0	0	The policy seeks to ensure there is a local connection to affordable properties.
C	Traffic Management	*	*	*	The policy seeks to improve traffic flow whilst introducing measures to improve pedestrian safety and design that is in-keeping with village character.
D	Link to Daventry	*	*	**	The policy seeks to introduce measures to improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity between Daventry and Braunston, thereby improving access to local services and employment opportunities.
E	Local Services and Community Facilities	**	0	*	Policy seeks to protect existing services and facilities used by the community to ensure the long term sustainability of the village and reduce the need to travel elsewhere.
F	Local Green Space	*	0	**	The policy seeks to protect the community's most important open spaces.
G	Preventing Coalescence	*	*	**	The policy seeks to protect the distinctive character and separate nature of the village, the canal and its associated buildings, and nearby hamlets. The policy protects the open spaces in between these areas to retain their individual setting.
H	Important Views	*	0	**	The policy seeks to protect the important views to and from the

					village that arise from the unusual topography and setting of the settlement on a prominent hill top.
I	Open Countryside	0	*	**	The policy seeks to protect the surrounding open countryside and the quality of its landscape.
J	The Canals and their Setting	**	*	**	The policy seeks to protect the Canal Conservation Area by ensuring that any development is sensitive to the historic character of the area.
K	Business Development	0	**	*	The policy seeks to support the growth of existing and new rural businesses providing any associated development is in-keeping with the existing character of the area.
L	Communication Infrastructure	**	**	0	This policy seeks faster broadband for local businesses, including those residents who work from home. It also allows residents to better access some services and facilities on-line, and is thereby more inclusive.
M	Sustainable Development	**	*	**	This policy seeks to support development that incorporates features to address climate change in its design.

3.13 The overall impact of these policies can be summarised as follows:

Social sustainability

- 3.14 Community engagement carried out in preparation for the Neighbourhood Plan demonstrated high levels of satisfaction with the quality of life in Braunston. This plan seeks to protect this, for example through maintaining and enhancing open spaces, village amenities and services and facilities.
- 3.15 Parishioners expressed concerns about the availability of housing for groups within the community, specifically older residents as well as those, mainly younger people, who have not previously owned a property but wish to stay in the parish. This plan seeks to ensure that any future housing development includes suitable provision for these groups and addresses the need for affordable homes.
- 3.16 Maintaining public and community transport helps achieve social sustainability by allowing all groups to reach social and economic amenities.

Economic sustainability

- 3.17 The Parish Council recognises the large number of businesses operating in Braunston and that this is reflected in the above average proportion of the employed population who work at home. The Council's vision is to maintain and enhance a working village. This plan seeks to achieve this by, amongst other things, protecting existing areas of employment and allowing new business developments which are appropriate to the specific locations.
- 3.18 Transport and electronic communication are important to support business. The plan seeks to support existing services and to support improvements.

Environmental sustainability

- 3.19 Consultation with the community indicated that most respondents are pleased to live in a rural area. The policies in this plan seek to maintain and improve housing and business opportunities in ways which do not damage or adversely affect the built environments and the landscape in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.20 In order to prevent uncontrollable climate change it is important that the UK Government's aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 is achieved. In addition to the other conditions set in this plan, the Parish Council will look more favourably on developments that are carbon neutral or have the lowest possible emissions.
- 3.21 The Parish Council recognises that reducing the need to use energy in homes reduces air pollution, reduces heating costs and fuel poverty for people in the Neighbourhood Area and makes homes more comfortable especially for vulnerable people.
- 3.22 By aiming to maintain facilities in the Neighbourhood Area the plan seeks to minimise the need to use transport. The plan aims to promote more environmentally sustainable methods of transport.
- 3.23 In conclusion, this information demonstrates that overall the plan's policies positively contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Conformity with the development plan

- 3.24 The Neighbourhood Plan is tested against the strategic policies in the adopted development plan and must be in general conformity.
- 3.25 The Development Plan for Daventry District primarily consists of the:
- Saved Policies from the Daventry Local Plan; and
 - West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

3.26 The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared to ensure its general conformity with the Development Plan for Daventry District. The following tables thereby set out how each policy is in general conformity with the appropriate strategic policies in the Development Plan.

- 3.27 Perhaps the two most significant policies in the Development Plan are:
- Saved Policy HS22 entitled 'Restricted Infill Villages' in the Daventry Local Plan; and
 - Policy R1 entitled 'Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas' in the Joint Core Strategy.

These are listed in full in Appendices 3 and 4 respectively.

3.28 The Daventry Local Plan was adopted by the District Council in June 1997. Some of the policies were saved by a Direction from the Secretary of State in 2007. In December 2014 the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was adopted and this replaced some of the saved policies.

Table 3: Conformity with saved policies in the Daventry Local Plan (1997)

Policy Number	Neighbourhood Plan Policy Title	Reference in Daventry Local Plan	Comment on conformity
A	Residential Development within Braunston	POLICY GN1	The policy in the NP limits development in the village and protects and enhances the environment.
		POLICY GN2	The NP policy seeks to protect local amenities and the environment.
		POLICY HS22	The Local Plan categorises Braunston as a restricted infill village. The policy states that planning permission will normally be granted for residential development provided that: it is on a small scale; is within the existing confines of the village; and does not affect open land which is of particular significance to the form and character of the village (see Appendix 4). The NP policy echoes this approach and is thereby in general conformity with the saved policy.
		P	
		OLICY HS 36	The Local Plan provides criteria to assess proposals for back land development. The NP applies similar criteria.
		POLICY EN42	The Local Plan requests that development reinforces local distinctiveness, enhances the surroundings and takes account of local building traditions and materials.

		POLICY EN18	The Local Plan supports the redevelopment, renovation and conversion of existing buildings within villages subject to meeting certain listed criteria.
B	Affordable Housing	Not appropriate.	When the Joint Core Strategy was adopted the previous saved policies in the Daventry Local Plan that related to affordable housing were replaced by Policies H2 and H3.
C	Traffic Management	POLICY GN2	This General Policy in the Local Plan stipulates that development must be: of a type, scale and design in keeping with the locality and does not detract from its amenities; has satisfactory means of access and has sufficient parking facilities; and will not have an adverse impact on the road network. The NP conforms to this policy stance.
D	Link to Daventry	POLICY RC17	The Local Plan states that planning permission will be granted for the creation of an informal footpath link between the former Daventry-Braunston railway line and the Grand Union canal as an extension of the existing footpath network. It adds that much of this route already exists in the form of town footpaths and the canal towpath. The NP policy re-iterates the need for this link.
E	Local Services and Community Facilities	POLICY RT8	The Local Plan states that planning permission will not normally be granted for the change of use from village shops and post offices except where it can be clearly demonstrated that the business is no longer commercially viable and that all possible means of retaining the facility have been explored.
F	Local Green Space	POLICY HS11 POLICY RC2 (Not saved)	The Local Plan stipulates that development should not affect open land which is of particular significance to the form and character of the village. The Local Plan sought to retain existing open space. However this has been superseded by POLICY RC2 in the Joint Core Strategy.
G	Preventing Coalescence	POLICY HS11	The Local Plan stipulates that development should not affect open land which is of particular significance to the form and character of the village. This is in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan approach.
H	Important Views	POLICY EN1	Some of the surrounding open countryside to the south west of the village is designated as a Special Landscape Area in the Local Plan in recognition of the special

			environmental qualities of the area. It stipulates that development will be resisted if it adversely affects the character of the local landscape.
I	Open Countryside	<p>POLICY GN1</p> <p>POLICY GN2 and POLICY EN1</p> <p>POLICY EN19</p> <p>POLICY HS24</p>	<p>The policy in the plan severely restrains development in the open countryside.</p> <p>The policy stance that development should not adversely affect the special landscape area is endorsed in the NP.</p> <p>The NP supports the principle that permission will be granted for the conversion of rural buildings provided that their form, bulk and general design are in keeping with their surroundings</p> <p>The Local Plan states that planning permission will not be granted for residential development in the open countryside other than the re-use or conversion of existing buildings, essential for the purposes of agriculture or forestry, or the replacement of an existing dwelling. The NP echoes this policy stance.</p>
J	The Canals and their Setting	<p>POLICY GN2</p> <p>POLICY EN2</p>	<p>The NP seeks to support development that will not adversely affect the Conservation Area and its setting. The NP also seeks to support development that will not adversely affect a building listed as being of architectural or historic interest and their setting.</p> <p>The NP further endorses the need to protect Braunston's Conservation Area.</p>
K	Business Development	<p>POLICY EM11</p> <p>POLICY EM12</p> <p>POLICY EM16</p>	<p>The Local Plan states that in a restricted infill village planning permission for new business and industrial development will normally be granted provided the scale and character of the proposal reflects the residential nature of the surroundings. The NP policy is in general conformity with this approach.</p> <p>The Local Plan states that in the restricted infill villages planning permission for new business and industrial development will normally be granted provided it is within the existing confines of the village. The NP is in conformity with this policy stance."</p> <p>The Local Plan says that planning permission will not normally be granted for business and general industrial development in the hamlets and open countryside.</p>

L	Communications Infrastructure	Not covered in the Local Plan.	
M	Sustainable Development	Not covered in the Local Plan.	

3.29 The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy covers Northampton Borough, South Northamptonshire District and Daventry District. It sets out the long term vision and objectives for this area up to 2029, and includes strategic policies for steering and shaping development needs.

Table 4: Conformity with the policies in the Joint Core Strategy

Policy Number	Neighbourhood Plan Policy Title	Reference in Joint Core Strategy	Comment on conformity
A	Residential Development within Braunston	POLICY S1	The Strategy stipulates that new development in the rural areas will be limited with the emphasis being on enhancing and maintaining the distinctive character and vitality of rural communities. The Neighbourhood Plan echoes this approach.
		POLICY S10	The Neighbourhood Plan advocates that development should incorporate environmental features such as energy efficiency. The Strategy also states that development should be designed to improve environmental performance, energy efficiency and adapt to a changing climate.
		POLICY R1	The Strategy says that residential development in rural areas will be required to meet certain criteria (which are listed in full in Appendix 5). These general principles are echoed in the Neighbourhood Plan.
		POLICY INF1	The Strategy stipulates that new development will be supported by, and provide good access to, infrastructure, including physical, green and social elements. it will integrate with and complement adjoining communities. The NP accords with this approach.
B	Affordable Housing	POLICY H3	The NP policy is considered to be in general conformity with the Strategy by supporting the provision of affordable housing in rural houses.
		POLICY R1	The NP policy is considered to be in general conformity with the Strategy by virtue of it requiring prioritisation to those with a local connection.
C	Traffic	POLICY R3	The policy in the Strategy deals with

	Management	POLICY C4	<p>improved accessibility and sustainable transport within rural areas and the avoidance of congestion and 'rat running'.</p> <p>The Strategy encourages more sustainable means of transport for all users including those who travel into and those who travel out of the village for education. It also prioritises 'an effective, reliable inter-urban public transport network' on the 'work corridor' along the A45 between Daventry and Rugby, which would pass Braunston.</p>
D	Link to Daventry	<p>POLICY R3</p> <p>POLICY C1</p> <p>POLICY S10 and POLICY BN1</p>	<p>The Strategy supports improvements to the cycling network between villages and their nearest service centre.</p> <p>The Strategy seeks to change behaviour and achieve modal shift. This includes transport schemes that will contribute to behavioural change by provide access by walking, cycling and public transport to key facilities and services.</p> <p>The NP also supports sustainable development principles and green infrastructure connections. The NP policy is also considered to be in general conformity with the Strategy in terms of promoting modal shift and improving the connectivity of the village.</p>
E	Local Services and Community Facilities	<p>POLICY RC2</p> <p>POLICY R2</p> <p>POLICY S10</p>	<p>The Strategy states that the loss of existing community facilities including built sport facilities and areas of open space will be resisted unless certain criteria can be met. This NP policy is thereby considered to be in general conformity with the Strategy.</p> <p>This NP policy seeks to sustain and enhance the rural economy.</p> <p>The NP policy promotes a sustainable village and inclusive community.</p>
F	Local Green Space	POLICY BN1 and POLICY RC2	<p>This policy in the Joint Core Strategy deals with green infrastructure connections. It adds that green infrastructure corridors of sub-regional and local importance will be recognised for their important contribution to sense of place and conserved, managed and enhanced accordingly. This policy is thereby considered to be in general conformity with the Strategy.</p>
G	Preventing Coalescence	POLICY S10	<p>The Strategy's sustainable development principles require good design that creates a strong sense of place.</p>

		POLICY BN5	The Strategy also seeks to protect, conserve and enhance the built environment and heritage assets and their settings. The NP policy is in general conformity with the Strategy as it protects the separate character of Braunston village, the canal and its associated buildings, and the nearby hamlets. It also conserves the historic environment and landscape
H	Important Views	POLICY BN5 and POLICY S10 POLICY BN5	<p>The Strategy says that development in areas of landscape sensitivity will be required to be sympathetic to locally distinctive landscape features. This NP policy is considered to be in general conformity with the Strategy as it promotes sustainable development principles and protects the historic setting of Braunston and the surrounding village.</p> <p>The policy in the Strategy says that development in areas of landscape sensitivity will be required to be sympathetic to locally distinctive landscape features. The NP policy conforms to this.</p>
I	Open Countryside	POLICY S1 POLICY R1 POLICY BN1 POLICY S1, POLICY S10 and POLICY BN5	<p>The Strategy emphasises that new development in the rural areas will be limited with the emphasis being on respecting the quality of tranquillity. The NP similarly protects the tranquillity of the area.</p> <p>The Strategy says that development outside the existing confines will be permitted where it involves the re-use of buildings or, in exceptional circumstances, where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities or would contribute towards and improve the local economy. The Neighbourhood Plan re-iterates these principles.</p> <p>This NP policy seeks to protect Green Infrastructure Corridors.</p> <p>This NP policy is considered to be in general conformity with the Strategy regarding limiting development at villages and protecting open countryside.</p>
J	The Canals and their Setting	POLICY S10 And POLICY BN5	The Strategy highlights how the canal network provides a historic, cultural, recreational and wildlife asset. It adds that the local economy of villages within the rural areas can be benefited by rural tourism associated with countryside recreation

			including the network of canals and historic visitor sites. They also contribute to the green infrastructure network. The NP policy is thereby considered to be in conformity with the Strategy regarding protecting the character of the Canal Conservation Area.
K	Business Development	POLICY S1 POLICY R1 POLICY R2	<p>The Strategy states that new development in the rural areas will be limited with the emphasis being on strengthening rural enterprise and linkages between settlements and their hinterlands.</p> <p>The Strategy adds that development outside the existing confines will be permitted in exceptional circumstances if it enhances or maintains the vitality of rural communities or would contribute towards and improve the local economy.</p> <p>The Strategy says that proposals which sustain and enhance the rural economy by creating or safeguarding jobs and businesses will be supported where they are of an appropriate scale for their location, respect the environmental quality and character of the rural area and protect the best and most versatile agricultural land. This NP policy is thereby considered to be in conformity with the Strategy.</p>
L	Communications Infrastructure	POLICY C1 POLICY INF2	<p>The Strategy states that new development should enable access to superfast broadband and speeds of at least 30 megabits per second. It adds that information communication networks, such as superfast broadband, will be supported across the whole of West Northamptonshire to reduce the need to travel. The NP policy is in conformity with this.</p> <p>This policy in the Strategy deals with contributions to infrastructure requirements. The NP policy is considered to be in general conformity with the Strategy.</p>
M	Sustainable Development	POLICY S10 POLICY S11	<p>This policy in the Strategy sets out sustainable development principles, which the NP policy conforms to.</p> <p>This policy in the Strategy supports a move towards a low carbon economy and renewable energy, to which the NP in is in conformity.</p>

- 3.30 The above tables demonstrate that the overall plan and its individual policies are in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan.
- 3.31 The basic condition requires the Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the development plan. It does not test the Neighbourhood Plan against the policies in an emerging Local Plan. Nevertheless it is considered good practice to have regard to any emerging plan, and any associated up-to-date evidence base.
- 3.32 Daventry District Council is currently preparing the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan, which will supplement the policies and proposals in the Joint Core Strategy and eventually replace the saved policies in the Daventry Local Plan 1997. However work on the emerging Local Plan is still at an early stage. At time of submission the District Council was about to publish an 'Issues and Options' paper for consultation purposes. It is not envisaged that the emerging Local Plan will be adopted until late 2018. There were therefore no emerging policies that the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan needed to have regard. Nevertheless the Steering Group were in contact with planning officers at the District Council to ensure there were no conformity issues. The Neighbourhood Plan has also incorporated the latest monitoring information produced by the District Council on issues such as land availability and the five year land supply.

Compatibility with EU obligations

- 3.33 If the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects it may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment in order to meet EU obligations. The Strategy Group thereby asked Daventry District Council to undertake a screening opinion to ascertain whether the scope of the Neighbourhood Development Plan necessitated a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 3.34 After consulting the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage a screening opinion was issued by Daventry District Council in October 2015. This is attached as Appendix 5.
- 3.35 The District Council concluded that:

A screening assessment to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and can be found in section 4 of this report. The assessment finds that no significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment also finds many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which have been subject to a full SA/SEA where no significant effects were identified. Consequently from the findings of the screening assessment it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan.

Consequently from the findings of the screening assessment it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan. Through consultation with the statutory bodies responses were received from The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England (set out in Appendix E). Both the Environment Agency and Natural England did not raise concerns regarding SEA. Historic England, in assessing the impact on cultural heritage did not consider that there would be significant effects on cultural heritage. They did however raise an issue that further assessment is required in relation to the impact of the proposed allocation on listed buildings at Bragborough Hall. At present there is an application for the proposed housing allocation (DA/2015/0700) and it is understood that consideration is being given to the impact on Bragborough Hall through that process. However subject to the progress of the planning application, as the Neighbourhood Plan develops due consideration to the impact on Bragborough Hall should be given through consultation with Historic England to enable them to provide further input into the content of the plan. Notwithstanding this, it is not considered that a full SEA is required as a consequence of the plan not giving rise to significant environmental effects.

- 3.36 The draft plan included a proposed allocation for affordable homes at Maple Close. However this was subsequently granted planning permission and was removed as an allocation in the submitted plan. The potential impact on Bragborough Hall raised by Historic England was thereby addressed through this process.
- 3.37 It was therefore concluded that the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan did not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 3.38 The prescribed condition adds that the 'making' of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).
- 3.39 The District Council's screening thereby assessed whether a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was required. The report concluded that:

A screening assessment to determine the need for HRA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and is set out in appendix A of this report and summarised in response to question 4 in table 1. It has found that many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the

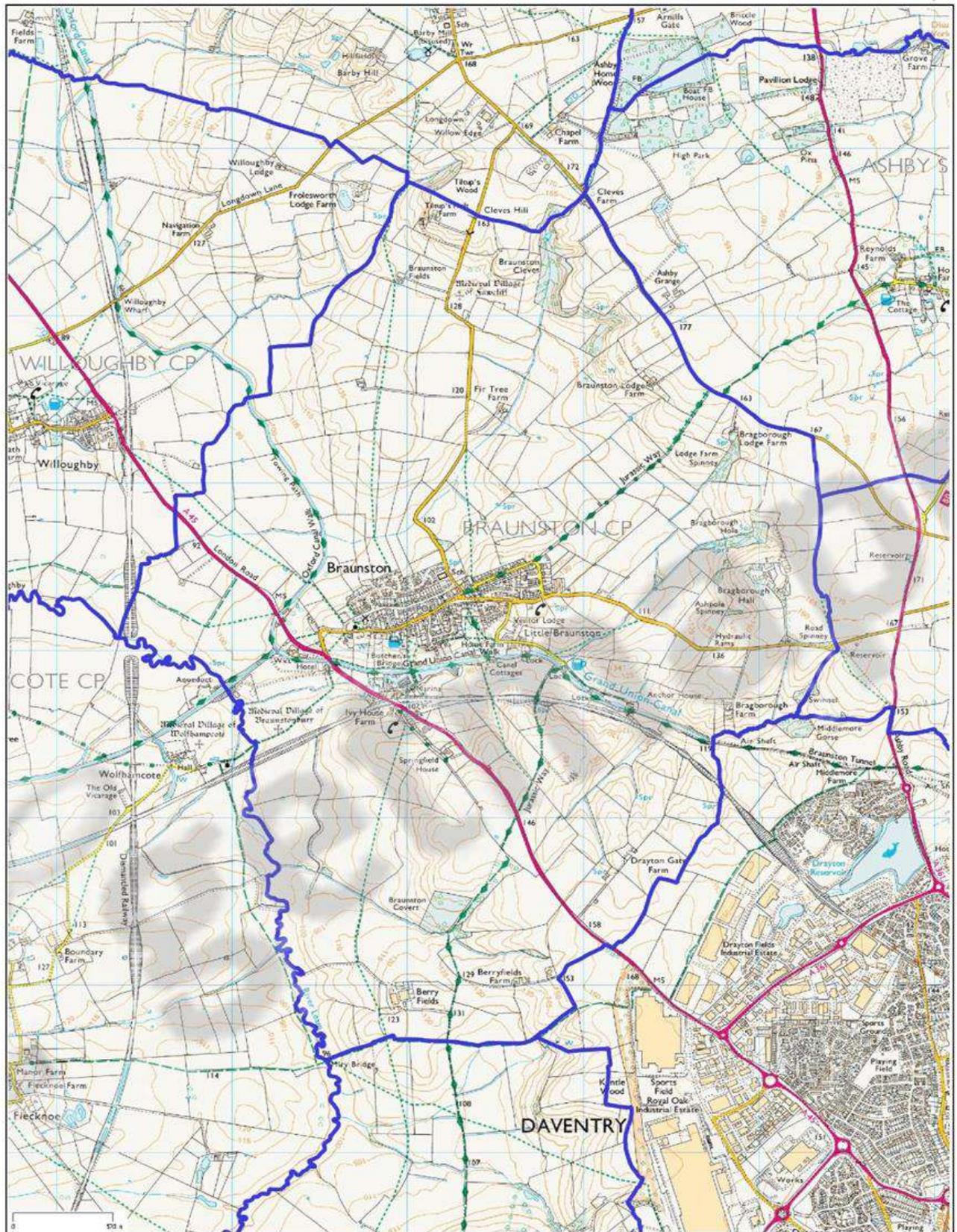
West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which was subject to full HRA which found no significant or in combination effects. It is considered that due to the plan demonstrating conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy that it will not result in any significant effects, alone or in combination, upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRAMSAR or the Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR sites. This has been confirmed through the responses from Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency set out in Appendix E.

- 3.40 The Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan does not thereby require an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Regulations.
- 3.41 The 'making' of the Neighbourhood Plan would thereby not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 In accordance with paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 this Statement demonstrates that the proposed Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan prepared by Braunston Parish Council meets the requirements of each basic condition and the other legal tests.

Map of Braunston Neighbourhood Area



Date Created: 30-12-2014 | Map Centre (Easting/Northing): 454406 / 266176 | Scale: 1:28358 | © Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (100051091) 2014 © Contains Ordnance Survey Data : Crown copyright and database right 2014

Policies in the Submitted Braunston Neighbourhood Plan

Policy A - Residential Development within Braunston

Proposals for residential development will be supported providing that:

- a) it is within the village confines;
- b) it is on a small scale;
- c) it is in accordance with Policy R1 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy;
- d) it includes homes that potentially address the needs of the elderly and/or first time buyers;
- e) it is in keeping with its Character Area with regards to scale, layout and materials to retain local distinctiveness and create a sense of place. Where new development would be visible from an adjacent Character Area it should be sensitive to the principal characteristics of that area. Innovative or outstanding design will be supported if it raises the overall quality of the Character Area; and
- f) there is adequate off road parking provision.

The boundary of the village confine is shown on Map 6.

The boundaries of the Character Areas are shown on Map 10 and the areas are described in Appendix 3.

Policy B - Affordable Housing

Proposals for affordable housing will be supported providing it is:

- a) in accordance with Policy H3 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy;
- b) justified by evidence of need through a local housing needs survey for Braunston; and
- c) prioritised for those with a local connection as prescribed by the Daventry District Nominations Cascade.

Policy C - Traffic Management

Where appropriate, traffic management measures will be supported that will improve highway safety provided that the measures be of a design that is in keeping with the Character Area with regards to scale, layout and materials.

Policy D - Link to Daventry

A combined cycleway and walkway between Braunston and Daventry will be supported. The route should be attractive, safe, clearly segregated from vehicular traffic and designed to have the least possible impact on areas of ecological importance.

Policy E - Local Services and Community Facilities

The retention and development of a local service or community facility will be supported providing it does not have significant harmful impacts on the amenities of residents or on other neighbouring uses.

The loss of a local service or community facility will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown it to be surplus to requirements or no longer viable;
- b) the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, and in a suitable location to meet the need; or
- c) the development will bring about a community benefit, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Community facilities are shown on Map 7.

Policy F - Local Green Space

Existing areas of public open space and Local Green Spaces will be preserved in order to promote social interaction, community activity and active play.

The following areas are designated as Local Green Space:

- a) The Green
- b) Jetty Field
- c) Braunston Playing Field
- d) Manor Field

Proposals for development that is incompatible with the importance of a Local Green Space as an attractive publicly accessible area will not be allowed unless there are very special circumstances where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh any harm.

The boundaries of the Local Green Spaces are shown on Map 8.

Policy G - Preventing Coalescence

An Area of Separation will be maintained to protect the open gaps between:

- a) Braunston village confine and the Braunston Canal Wharf
- b) Braunston village confine and Wayside Business Park
- c) Braunston village confine and Little Braunston
- d) Braunston Canal Wharf and Daventry

Proposals for development will not be permitted in the Area of Separation providing they it would not:

- 1) narrow these important open gaps;
- 2) reduce the separate identity of these built up areas; or
- 3) have an adverse impact on their landscape setting.

The Area of Separation is located between Braunston village, Old Road, Welton Road and the Neighbourhood Area boundary.

The boundary of the Area of Separation is shown on Map 9.

Policy H - Important Views

Proposals for development will be supported providing that they do not harm important views into, out of, or within the village. A new development will not be allowed if it has a significantly adverse impact on one or more of these views.

Policy I - Open Countryside

Proposals for development in the open countryside will only be permitted:

- a) where it contributes to the local economy;
- b) for the reuse or extension of an existing building;
- c) for sport or recreation; or
- d) for a new isolated dwelling where there are special circumstances such as the need for a rural worker to be close to their place of work.

In all cases development will only be supported where it does not cause demonstrable harm to:

- a) landscape quality;
- b) sites of ecological value;
- c) Scheduled Monuments and other sites of archaeological interest including ridge and furrow; or
- d) the intrinsic character, beauty and tranquillity of the countryside.

Proposals for development should have regard to the descriptions and guidelines contained in the Northamptonshire Environment Character Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy as developed by RNRP.

Policy J - The Canals and their Setting

The canals and their setting need to be protected from inappropriate development owing to their economic, social and environmental contribution to the area.

Proposals for development in appropriate parts of Character Area 1 will be supported providing that they:

- a) respect the unique character of the canal through innovative and sensitive design;
- b) use matching designs and materials for works and repairs to historical canal structures;
- c) provide external spaces which allow visual and physical access that encourage links to Braunston village;
- d) protect and manage the function of the canal as a wildlife corridor by resisting proposals which destroy or adversely affect areas of ecological interest;
- e) protect existing hedgerows and trees and introduce soft landscape works to retain the canal as a green waterway;
- f) use canal side furniture which is in-keeping with the setting but robust;
- g) encourage a positive relationship between the canal and surrounding land to provide high quality and appropriate boundary treatment;
- h) provide, and if necessary upgrade, pedestrian access to maintain the role of the canal as a green pedestrian link; and
- i) promote understanding of the canal heritage including the provision of signage, interpretation and public art.

The boundary of Character Area 1 is shown on Map 10.

Policy K - Business Development

Proposals to meet the development needs of business will be supported providing that:

- a) they are of a small scale;
- b) they comprise infill development;
- c) they are in keeping with the appropriate Character Area with regards to scale, layout and materials to retain local distinctiveness and create a sense of place; and
- d) their impact in terms of traffic, noise, air pollution, light pollution and loss of green space as well as their impact on areas of ecological interest can be adequately mitigated.

The boundaries of the Character Areas are shown on Map 10 and the areas are described in Appendix 3.

Policy L - Communications Infrastructure

Proposals for development that improve electronic communications such as faster broadband and the mobile phone network will be supported providing the impact can be adequately mitigated.

Policy M - Sustainable Development

Proposals for development that incorporate features that address the challenges of climate change will be supported providing they are in-keeping with the Character Area with regards to scale, layout and materials. These features will include sustainable drainage and porous/permeable surfacing for drives.

Daventry Local Plan (1997)

Saved Policy HS22 - Restricted Infill Villages

Planning permission will normally be granted for residential development provided that:

- a) it is on a small scale, and**
- b) is within the existing confines of the village, and**
- c) does not affect open land which is of particular significance to the form and character of the village, or**
- d) it comprises the renovation or conversion of existing buildings for residential purposes provided that the proposal is in keeping with the character and quality of the village environment.**

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

Policy R1 – Spatial strategy for the rural areas

Within the rural areas of West Northamptonshire there is an identified need for 2,360 dwellings within Daventry District and 2,360 dwellings within South Northamptonshire to be provided between 2011 and 2029 beyond the towns of Daventry, Towcester and Brackley. Within the rural areas the distribution of the rural housing requirement will be the subject of the part 2 local plans that are being prepared by Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils according to the local need of each village and their role within the hierarchy.

Development within the rural areas will be guided by a rural settlement hierarchy that will comprise the following categories:

- primary service villages;
- secondary service villages;
- other villages; and
- small settlements/ hamlets.

The rural hierarchy in the part 2 local plans will have regard to but not exclusively, the following:

- 1) the presence of services and facilities to meet the day to day needs of residents, including those from surrounding settlements;
- 2) opportunities to retain and improve the provision and enhancement of services critical to the sustainability of settlements;
- 3) accessibility, particularly by public transport, to the main towns and sustainable employment opportunities;
- 4) evidence of local needs for housing (including market and affordable housing), employment and services;
- 5) the role, scale and character of the settlement;
- 6) the capacity of settlements to accommodate development in terms of physical, environmental, infrastructure and other constraints;
- 7) the availability of deliverable sites including previously developed land in sustainable locations;
- 8) sustaining the rural economy by retaining existing employment sites where possible, by enabling small scale economic development, including tourism,

through rural diversification and by supporting appropriate agricultural and forestry development;

- 9) protect and enhance the character and quality of the rural areas' historic buildings and areas of historic or environmental importance; and
- 10) enabling local communities to identify and meet their own local needs.

Residential development in rural areas will be required to:

- A. provide for an appropriate mix of dwelling types and sizes, including affordable housing to meet the needs of all sectors of the community, including the elderly and vulnerable; and
- B. not affect open land which is of particular significance to the form and character of the village; and
- C. preserve and enhance historic buildings and areas of historic or environmental importance including those identified in conservation area appraisals and village design statements; and
- D. protect the amenity of existing residents; and
- E. be of an appropriate scale to the existing settlement; and
- F. promote sustainable development that equally addresses economic, social and environmental issues; and
- G. be within the existing confines of the village.

Development outside the existing confines will be permitted where it involves the re-use of buildings or, in exceptional circumstances, where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities or would contribute towards and improve the local economy.

Once the housing requirement for the rural areas has been met through planning permissions or future allocations, further housing development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it:

1. would result in environmental improvements on a site including for example the re-use of previously developed land and best practice in design; or
2. is required to support the retention of or improvement to essential local services that may be under threat (in particular the local primary school or primary health services); and
3. has been informed by an effective community involvement exercise prior to the submission of a planning application; or
4. is a rural exceptions site that meets the criteria set out in Policy H3; or
5. has been agreed through an adopted neighbourhood plan.

**Screening Report for Strategic Environmental Assessment and
Habitats Regulation Assessment undertaken by Daventry District
Council**

Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan

Screening Report for:

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment

October 2015

**Prepared on behalf of Braunston Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group by
Daventry District Council- Local Strategy team**



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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To meet the ‘basic conditions’ which are specified by law a Neighbourhood Development Plan must be compatible with EU obligations. Furthermore as at 9th February 2015 Regulation 15 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations was amended¹ to require that when a plan is submitted to the Local Planning Authority it should include either an environmental report prepared in accordance with the applicable regulations or where it has been determined as unlikely to have significant environmental effects, a statement of reasons for the determination.
- 1.2 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the draft Braunston Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix B) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). The draft screening report which formed the basis of this document, was subsequently sent to the relevant statutory bodies; Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency to clarify whether they agreed with the findings as to whether the plan requires full SEA and/or HRA assessment. The findings from the consultation are discussed in section 5.0 and the responses are set out in Appendix E.
- 1.3 Regarding Regulation 15 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (as amended) referred to above, the final outcome of this assessment will subsequently inform what is submitted under Regulation 15 (1)(e). If it is concluded that no further assessment is required is it considered that this report will fulfil the requirement at 15 (1)(e)(ii).
- 1.4 The report is broken down into the following four sections;
- Section 2 outlines the legislative background to SEA and HRA
 - Section 3 provides some background to the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan and the wider Development Plan context
 - Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan for SEA and HRA and also considers ‘In combination effects’ for HRA
 - Section 5 considers the findings from section 4 and provides a conclusion on the need, or not for a full SEA and/or HRA.

¹ Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/20/pdfs/ukxi_20150020_en.pdf

2.0 Requirement for SEA/ Legislative Background

- 2.1 A Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the basic conditions². This includes demonstrating that the plan does not breach and is compatible with EU obligations.
- 2.2 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 2.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA. This is also discussed in paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework in paragraph 165.
- 2.4 However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal so that they are only required for Development Plan Documents (DPD's). However the Act did not remove the requirement to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment. A Neighbourhood Plan is not a development plan document (also known as a Local Plan) and therefore it does not legally require a Sustainability Appraisal. Where appropriate, however, an SEA assessment may need to be undertaken, specifically where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects.
- 2.5 Whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:
- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
 - the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
 - the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.
- 2.6 Consequently to establish whether the plan might give rise to significant environmental affects it is necessary to screen the plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the

² Basic Conditions as set out in Para 065 of the National Planning Practice Guidance available at <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/the-basic-conditions-that-a-draft-neighbourhood-plan-or-order-must-meet-if-it-is-to-proceed-to-referendum/>

Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This process is carried out in Section 4 of this report.

2.7 Requirement for HRA / legislative Background

2.8 Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires that an appropriate assessment of plans and programmes is carried out with regard to the conservation objectives of European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) and that other plans and projects identify any significant effect that is likely for any European Site. In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in significant negative effects occurring on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the plan's implementation.

2.9 As illustrated on the map in appendix C, Braunston Neighbourhood Area is 23km from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/RAMSAR and 50km from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR. Consequently the impact on these sites will need to be considered. Further commentary on this is set out in section 4.

3.0 Braunston Neighbourhood Plan

3.1 Braunston Neighbourhood Area was designated on 5th December 2013. The village is situated towards the West of Daventry District, on the border with Rugby Borough. A map showing the designated area is set out in appendix D. Following designation the Steering group carried out various forms of consultation with the community, including a village questionnaire to all households, discussions with schools and young people's groups and gathering views at the annual parish meeting.

3.2 This has led to the formulation of a draft plan which is set out in full in appendix B. However to assist with this screening report a summary of the plan is provided below.

3.3 The Vision for Braunston is set out on page 24, it is as follows;
"To maintain and develop a thriving, working village by encouraging development that meets the needs of local people, and protects and enhances the distinctive quality or the rural, canal-side landscape"

3.4 To deliver the vision the plan has the following objectives;

- a) To provide for the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the parish
- b) To maintain and develop housing opportunities for people from a range of ages, abilities and economic circumstances
- c) To safeguard and enhance the built environment including the promotion of high quality design of buildings and streetscape
- d) To promote transport choices
- e) To protect the local landscape character
- f) To promote healthy activity in the parish including through the protection and expansion of open spaces and rights of way
- g) To promote and enhance local business opportunities

3.5 The delivery of the vision and objectives is governed by a number of policies which are summarised as follows;

Housing

Policy A- Residential development within Braunston

Supports residential development within the confines of the village and seeks to ensure that it responds to local character

Policy B- Affordable Housing within Braunston

Allocates a site for 12 affordable homes at Maple Close.

Policy C- Local Connection for Affordable Housing

Supports proposals for affordable housing providing that they prioritise those with a local connection

Transport and Traffic

Policy D- Link to Daventry

Policy supports the provision of an improved combined cycleway and footpath to Daventry- designed to have the least possible impact on areas of ecological importance

Policy E- Traffic Management

Supports appropriate traffic management measures that will improve highway safety providing that they are in keeping with local character

Character and amenities

Policy F- Local Green Space

Designates 4 areas as Local Green Space

Policy G- Play Areas

Seeks to protect existing play areas and sets criteria for not building on them, which includes compensatory provision for any loss

Policy H- Preventing Coalescence

Proposes to designate 4 areas of separation. 3 of which are between the village confine and other parts of the Neighbourhood area and 1 is between the canal wharf and Daventry town.

Policy I- Important views

Supports development providing that it doesn't harm important views as set out in the Character Area Assessment in Appendix 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy J- Open Countryside

Seeks to protect the open countryside and only permits development subject to certain criteria, these include where it contributes to the local economy, for the reuse or extensions to existing building, for sport and recreation or it's a new isolated dwellings and special circumstances are demonstrated. In all cases developments will only be permitted where it does not cause demonstrable harm to landscape quality, sites of ecological value, scheduled monuments or sites of archaeological value and the intrinsic character, beauty and tranquillity of the countryside

Policy K- the Canal and its setting

Sets a number of criteria for assessing planning applications adjacent to the canal, which include respecting its character, protecting its function as a wildlife corridor and promoting understanding of canal heritage.

Policy L – Services and Facilities

Supports the improvement of existing services and facilities and the provision of new services and facilities. It also seeks to protect them from loss.

Business

Policy M- Business Development

Supports proposals to meet the development needs of business subject to a number of criteria which include that they are small scale and comprise infill development.

Policy N- Sustainable Development

Supports proposals that incorporate features that address the challenges of climate change providing that they are in-keeping with their respective character area.

Policy O- Communications Infrastructure

Supports proposals for improved electronic communications providing that the impact can be adequately mitigated.

- 3.6 To fulfil one of the basic conditions these policies are required to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area. This comprises the saved policies of the Daventry District Local Plan and The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which was adopted on 15th December 2014.
- 3.7 Whilst this condition will be examined more thoroughly when the plan reaches the submission stage it has implications for the screening assessment because the WNJCS was subject to full SEA/SA and Appropriate Assessment where, subject to some modifications (which have been implemented) it was concluded that there would be no significant impact on the environment or on a protected site. Therefore it is considered that the conformity of the policies set out above with the policies in the WNJCS is a useful starting point for this screening assessment. This has been carried out in detail in the table in appendix A which has informed the assessment in table 1 on page 10. For the purposes of informing this screening assessment it is not considered necessary to assess conformity with the Daventry District Local Plan as this has not been subject to full SEA/SA however this will need to be carried out when the basic conditions are assessed in more detail when the plan is submitted.

4.0 SEA & HRA Screening: Assessment

4.1 The criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3 (5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out in figure 1 below;

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national Community

Figure 1: Criteria for Assessing the Effects of BNDP (Source Annex II of SEA directive)

4.2 Figure 2 (below) illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required:

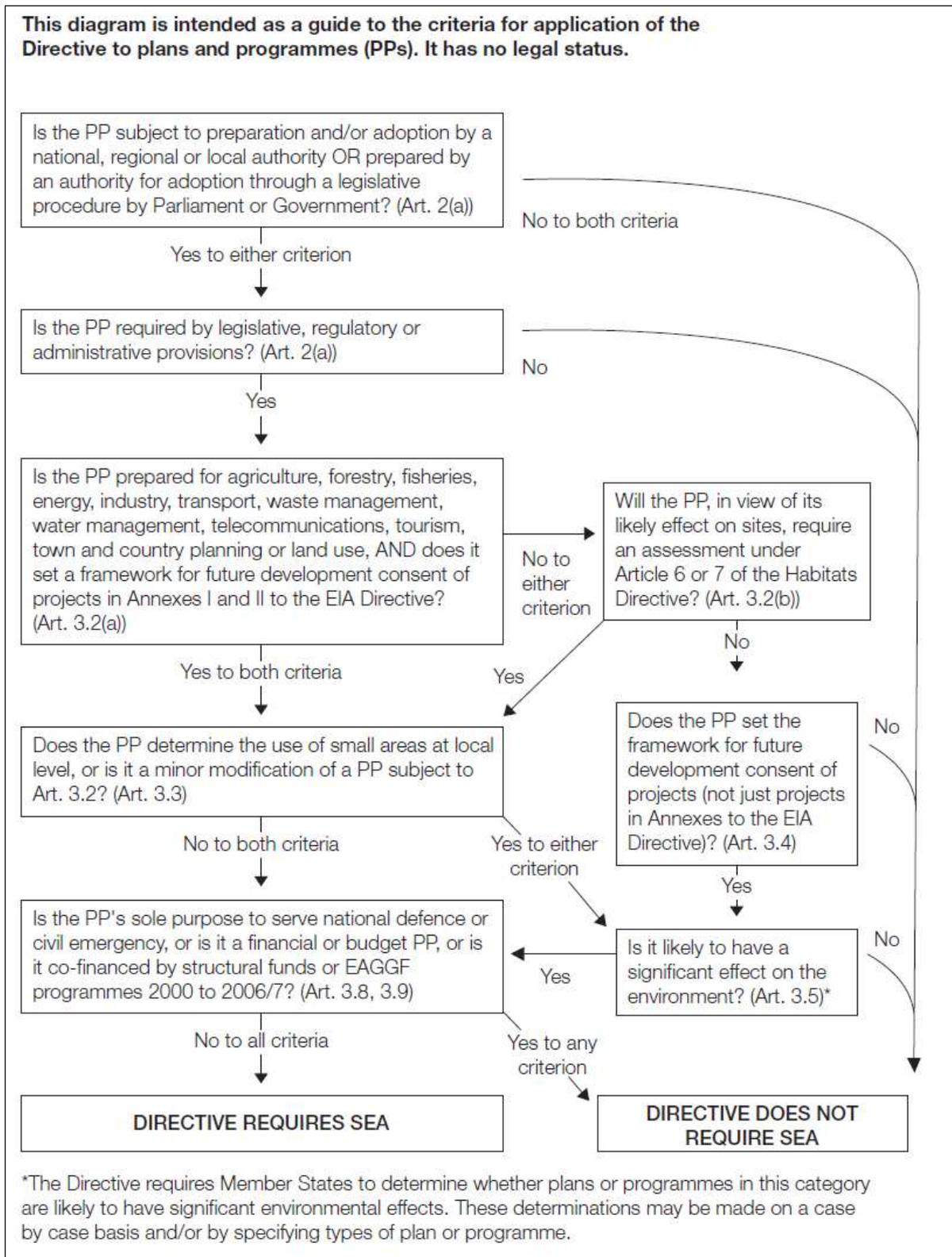


Figure 2. Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

4.3 In the context of the above guidance and considering the findings of the assessment in the table in appendix A, table 1 below shows the assessment of whether or not the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. Furthermore stage 4 of the assessment also considers the impact on European sites in the context of HRA:

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Braunston Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by a steering group with the involvement of Braunston Parish Council and not by a national, regional or local authority. However if the plan receives support from the majority of the votes cast through a referendum it will be 'made' by Daventry District Council.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	As a qualifying body, Braunston Parish Council (BPC) has the right to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the local community but this is not required by the relevant legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions (The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011) However, if 'made', the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan for Daventry District. It is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	The Braunston Neighbourhood Plan is prepared for town and country planning and land use however as illustrated by the summary of policies set out above, whilst it seeks to allocate a site for 12 affordable homes it does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II of the EIA directive .
4. Will the NP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	The appropriate assessment for the Joint Core Strategy identified that the nearest designated sites (Natura 2000 sites) which could be affected were Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site and the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRAMSAR site. As illustrated on the map at appendix C, Braunston Neighbourhood Area is 23 km from the Upper Nene Valley and 50 km from Rutland Water. Through the appropriate assessment for the West Northants Joint Core Strategy ³ it was concluded that

³ Appropriate Assessment for the West Northants Joint Core Strategy available from <http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website/view?objectId=6373413>

		<p>there would be no adverse effect on site integrity for both of these sites as any affect was mitigated through modifications to the plan. Consequently the conformity of the policies in the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan has implications for the impact on these protected sites alongside any site specific impacts that may arise.</p> <p>A detailed assessment of the policies was carried out as part of this assessment (appendix A) and has demonstrated that there will be not be a significant effect on either the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site or the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA and pRAMSAR sites.</p>
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)		Not Applicable because of answer to 4.
6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	The Braunston Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, will be used as part of the Development Plan for determining planning applications.
7. Is the NP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8,3.9)		Not Applicable because of answer to 6.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5 set out in figure 1 above)	N	<p>The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was subject to full Sustainability Appraisal which included SEA assessment. This ensured that no significant effects are expected to arise from the implementation of the JCS.</p> <p>As set out in para 3.7 above, the conformity of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy has important implications for its likely significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>Consequently as, demonstrated in the table in Appendix A, as the policies of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan are considered to be in general conformity at this stage with the strategic policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy it is not considered that the plan will have a significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>However as a consequence of the plan seeking to allocate a rural exception site it will be necessary to ensure that a comparative assessment has been made of other sites.</p>

Table 1: Establishing the need for SEA and HRA

4.4 Screening Outcome

4.5 As a result of the assessment in table 1 which has been informed by the assessment in appendix A, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur from the implementation of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. As such the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

4.6 With regards Habitat Regulations Assessment, as set out in the table above, in particular the response to question 4, it is not considered that the implementation of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan, by virtue of its scale and distance, will result in any likely significant effects upon the Upper Nene Gravel Pits site or the Rutland Water site. This is demonstrated in the table in appendix A.

4.7 Habitats Regulations Assessment: In combination effects

4.8 Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create 'in combination' effects.

4.9 For reference the relevant plans or programmes which should be considered when reviewing in combination effects are listed below:

- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy DPD;
- Daventry District Local Plan (saved policies)
- South Northamptonshire Local Plan (saved policies)
- Northampton Local Plan (saved policies);
- Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan;
- Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy;
- Locations for Waste and Minerals Development DPD;
- North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy DPD;
- North Northamptonshire Submission Joint Core Strategy (JCS)
- Rugby Core Strategy DPD.
- Harborough District Council Core Strategy
- Harborough Local Plan Saved Policies
- Stratford on Avon District Local Plan
- Stratford on Avon Proposed Submission Core Strategy
- National Planning Policy Framework

4.10 As the plan is required to be in general conformity and will contribute to delivering the growth identified in the WNJCS rather than exceeding it, it is not considered that it will lead to any significant 'in combination effects'.

5.0 Conclusions and recommendations of the Screening Assessments

5.1 SEA

5.2 A screening assessment to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and can be found in section 4 of this report. The assessment finds that no significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment also finds many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which have been subject to a full SA/SEA where no significant effects were identified.

5.3 Consequently from the findings of the screening assessment it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the Braunston Neighbourhood Plan. Through consultation with the statutory bodies responses were received from The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England (set out in Appendix E). Both the Environment Agency and Natural England did not raise concerns regarding SEA. Historic England, in assessing the impact on cultural heritage did not consider that there would be significant effects on cultural heritage. They did however raise an issue that further assessment is required in relation to the impact of the proposed allocation on listed buildings at Bragborough Hall. At present there is an application for the proposed housing allocation (DA/2015/0700) and it is understood that consideration is being given to the impact on Bragborough Hall through that process. However subject to the progress of the planning application, as the Neighbourhood Plan develops due consideration to the impact on Bragborough Hall should be given through consultation with Historic England to enable them to provide further input into the content of the plan. Notwithstanding this, it is not considered that a full SEA is required as a consequence of the plan not giving rise to significant environmental effects.

5.4 HRA

5.5 A screening assessment to determine the need for HRA in line with regulations and guidance was undertaken and is set out in appendix A of this report and summarised in response to question 4 in table 1. It has found that many of the policies are in conformity with the policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which was subject to full HRA which found no significant or in combination effects. It is considered that due to the plan demonstrating conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy that it will not result in any significant effects, alone or in combination, upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRAMSAR or the Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR sites. This has been confirmed through the responses from Historic England, Natural England and The Environment Agency set out in Appendix E.

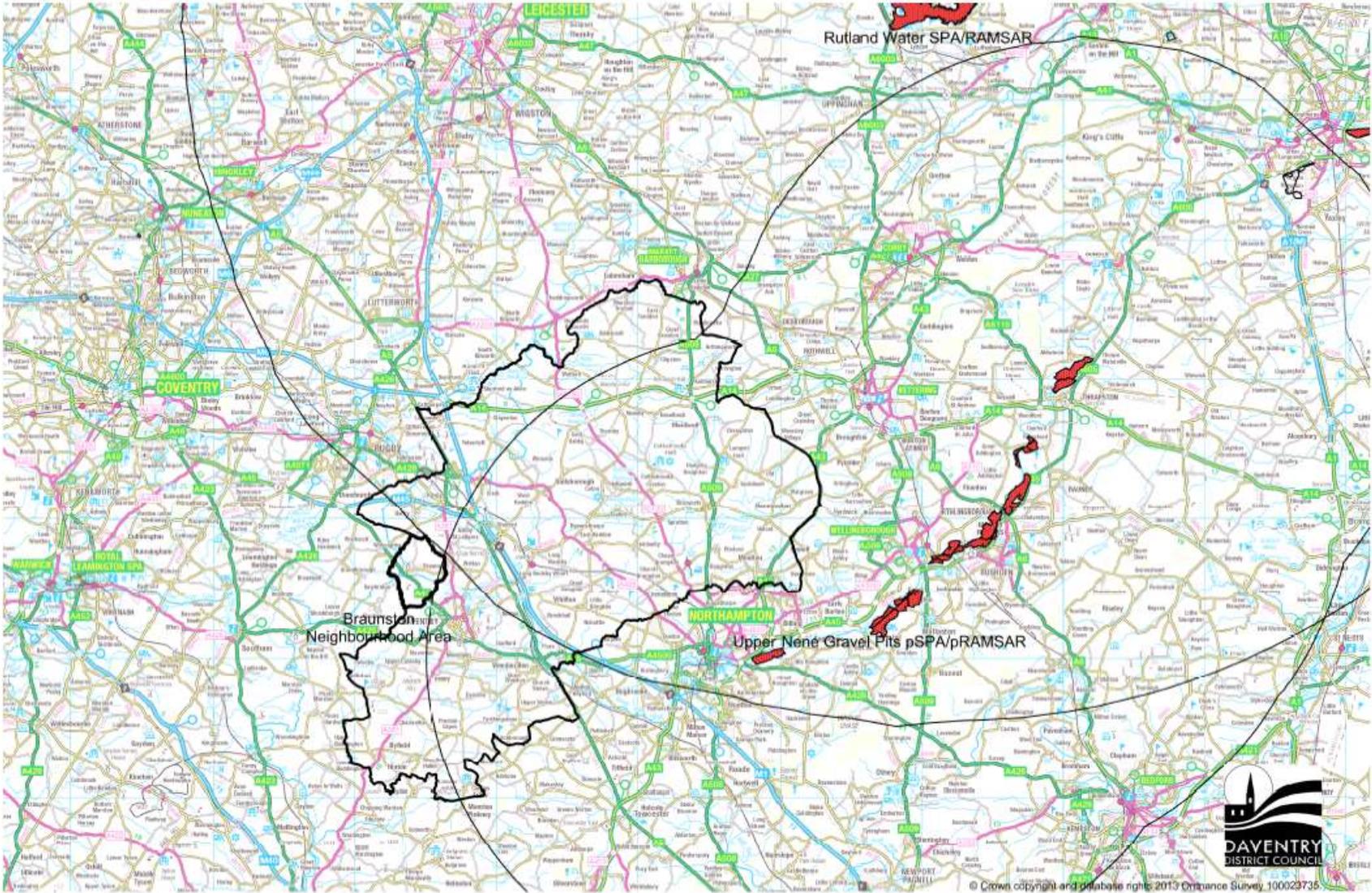
Appendix A: Assessment table of general conformity of policies against the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, the potential for significant effects on the environment and the likely significant effects upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits pSPA/pRAMSAR and Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR sites.

Braunston Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Relevant Policy in WNJCS	Conformity/conflict between Braunston NP policies & WNJCS policies	Conclusions re SEA	Potential for likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Upper Nene Valley Gravel pits pSPA and pRAMSAR and Rutland Water Spa and Ramsar)	Conclusions re HRA
Policy A- Residential development within Braunston	S1: Distribution of Development S10: Sustainable Development Principles R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS in particular restricting development to being within the settlement boundary.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to restrict development to being within the village confines.
Policy B- Affordable Housing within Braunston	H3: Rural Exception Sites R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS by virtue of its location adjacent to the village.	No significant effects are identified	Whilst the site is on greenfield land by virtue of its small scale and distance it is unlikely to have a significant effect on natura 2000 sites.	No significant negative effect is considered to result as a consequence of the proposed rural exception site
Policy C- Local Connection for Affordable Housing	H3: Rural Exception Sites R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS by virtue of it requiring prioritisation to those with a local connection	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to ensure local connection to affordable properties.
Policy D- Link to Daventry	S10: Sustainable Development Principles C1: Changing Behaviour and Achieving Modal Shift BN1: Green Infrastructure Connections BN2: Bioversity	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS particularly promoting modal shift and improving the connectivity of the village	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, seeks to introduce measures to improve connectivity.

	R3: A Transport Strategy for the Rural Areas				
Policy E- Traffic Management	S10: Sustainable Development Principles R3: A Transport Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS particularly improving pedestrian safety.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, seeks to introduce measures to improve pedestrian safety.
Policy F- Local Green Spaces	S10: Sustainable Development Principles RC2: Community Needs	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect existing open spaces.
Policy G- Play Areas	S10: Sustainable Development Principles RC2: Community Needs	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect and enhance existing open spaces.
Policy H- Preventing Coalescence	S10: Sustainable Development Principles BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS regarding protecting the character of Braunston village.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect the character of the village and areas around it.
Policy I- Important Views	S10: Sustainable Development Principles BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS regarding protecting the setting of Braunston village.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect the setting of the village
Policy J- Open Countryside	S1: Distribution of Development S10: Sustainable Development Principles BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape R1: Spatial Strategy for the Rural Areas	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS regarding limiting development at villages and protecting open countryside.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect open countryside.
Policy K- the Canal and its setting	S10: Sustainable Development Principles BN5: The Historic Environment and Landscape	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the JCS regarding protecting the character of	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect, policy seeks to protect the canal conservation area.

		the canal conservation area.			
Policy L- Services and Facilities	S10: Sustainable Development Principles R2: Rural Economy	This policy is considered to be in conformity with the JCS, particularly policy R2 which seeks to sustain and enhance the rural economy.	No significant effects are identified	None	Policy seeks to protect existing community assets from loss and therefore is not considered to lead to a negative effect on protected sites.
Policy M- Business Development	S10: Sustainable Development Principles R2: Rural Economy	This policy is considered to be in conformity with the JCS, particularly policy R2 which seeks to sustain and enhance the rural economy.	No significant effects are identified	None	Policy seeks to support existing businesses and is not considered to lead to a negative effect on protected sites.
Policy N- Sustainable Development	S10: Sustainable Development Principles S11: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy	This policy is considered to be in accordance with the JCS through supporting the move to a low carbon economy.	No significant effects are identified	None	Policy seeks to support the use of sustainable building design which is not considered to have a negative effect on protected sites.
Policy O- Communications Infrastructure	INF2: Contributions to Infrastructure Requirements	This policy is considered to be in general conformity with JCS policy INF2.	No significant effects are identified	None	No negative effect

Appendix C: Map showing distances from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR and Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR sites



Braunston Neighbourhood Area and 23km Buffer from Upper Nene Gravel Pits pSPA/pRAMSAR site and 50km buffer from Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR site

