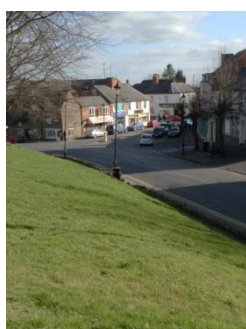


EARLS BARTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FINAL SUSTAINABILITY APPRIASAL

JUNE 2014



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the final Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report of the draft Earls Barton Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal ensures that the proposals set out in the Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. It requires an assessment of the Plan's environmental, social and economic effects, incorporating the legal requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (The SEA Directive). It supports the plan making process and the testing of proposals for future development in Earls Barton.

Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan – Sustainability Appraisal work undertaken

- 1.3 Earls Barton Parish Council took the opportunity set out in the Localism Act 2011 to proactively plan for the future of Earls Barton by shaping how future development will be delivered by undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan led by the local community.
- 1.4 Work on the Sustainability Appraisal of Earls Barton's emerging Neighbourhood Plan began shortly before the consultation on the draft vision and objectives to set out a baseline of data regarding the Parish. In November 2012 a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was produced. During the latter part of 2013, once the preferred option for the plan began to emerge, liaison with the Borough Council of Wellingborough took place regarding the screening of possible impacts in respect of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Habitats Regulation Assessment. Screening reports were issued to the Borough Council and in January 2014 confirmation was provided that there was no further requirement to carry out an SEA and in February 2014 the Borough Council informed the Project Group that the Neighbourhood Plan did not require an Appropriate Assessment under Habitats Regulations.
- 1.5 The final Earls Barton Sustainability Scoping Report sets out the baseline information by topic and highlights sustainability issues and trends for the Earls Barton Parish area. An important element of the Scoping Report is the sustainability appraisal framework, which is adapted from the Core Spatial Strategy SA, against which the proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan have been assessed.

2. Policy Context

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This section provides a summary of relevant international, national, regional and local planning policy and programmes which provide a framework for the Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan to operate within and will influence its content. Key aims, objectives and indicators have been identified from these plans and these have been incorporated into the SEA/SA framework and used to inform baseline data and the identification of key issues. A review of each major plan and how this potentially impacts on Earls Barton is summarised in a table in Appendix 1.

2.2 International Policy Context

The UK government translates European legislation into national statutes and regulations which enable compliance with EU laws. The main protection relevant for Neighbourhood Plans relate to environmental legislation and EU Directives on Habitats and Conservation of Wild Birds and Strategic Environmental Assessment place considerable emphasis on plans and programmes to demonstrate that they do not cause significant impacts on the environment and protected habitats.

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework was introduced in March 2012 and replaces nearly all of the previous national planning guidance which was in place in the form of Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG). National Planning Policy will be material to the development of the Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan and should be given due consideration.

2.4 East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) have now been revoked by the government. Therefore they do not form a part of the Development Plan and are not relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.5 Local Policy

The North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008 is the key document which forms the Local Development Plan and is of relevance to the Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan. This policy document is in review although its submission to the Secretary of State is possible before the end of 2014 with adoption of the plan potentially in 2015. Wellingborough's Local Plan was adopted in 1999 with revision in 2004 and various policies were saved in 2007. This plan is also under review but is at any early stage.

Other local policy documents include the Wellingborough Sustainable Communities Strategy 2011 -14, Economic Development Strategy for Wellingborough 2011, Housing Plan 2013 – 18. At a County level the Northamptonshire Transport Plan 2012,

Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework, Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2010 -14 and Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 all have a potential bearing on the Neighbourhood Plan and are summarised in Appendix 1.

3. Sustainability Context

Baseline Information

- 3.1 This section of the report outlines a summary the environmental baseline information for Earls Barton. It also considers social and economic issues. The URS/Scott Wilson & Levett Therivel – DIY SA: Sustainability Appraisal sets out the areas that sustainability appraisals should cover. These are set out below. This provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects and helps to identify sustainability problems. At the next stage in the SA process the information can also be used to identify different options that can help to improve the baseline situation.

3.2 Nature Conservation

- 3.2.1 International Designations - Special Protection Area (SPA)/ Ramsar Site
The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits, an area of 1,386 ha stretching across Northamptonshire's wetland and surrounding areas, was designated a Special Protection Area in 2011. This gives international protection through EU law to this area and habitat for a wide variety of wintering birds. The area of land designated which falls within the Parish of Earls Barton is an area of approximately 85ha to the South East of the village and separated by the village by the A45.

An area co-terminus with the SPA is designated as a RAMSAR site. The UK is a signatory to the 1971 Convention on Wetlands and these designated areas are protected to maintain the ecological character of wetlands of International Importance.

- 3.2.2 National Designation – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
An area which is slightly larger than the SPA/Ramsar designation but encompasses these areas is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). SSSI are nationally designated sites which help to preserve the remaining natural heritage for future generations. SSSIs are important as they support plants and animals that find it more difficult to survive in the wider countryside. (See Fig 3.1)

The Nene Valley and tributaries (an area of 41,000 ha) was designated as a Nature Improvement Area in 2012 by DEFRA. While this is not a statutory designation and therefore does not provide legislative protection, this is done through the international and national designations mentioned above, it does provide funding and its aim is to promote a step-change in the mechanisms for delivering nature conservation to create a resilient ecological network in the Nene Valley. (See Fig 3.2)

3.2.3 Local Designations

There are no local level nature designations within the Parish of Earls Barton. A Pocket Park has been established at the end of Station Road to the South of the village and on the south side of the A45. This is on previous Highway land and it is maintained by the Parish Council. It is approximately 1.5ha in size.

Fig 3.1 Special Protection Area/Ramsar Site/Special Site of Scientific Interest

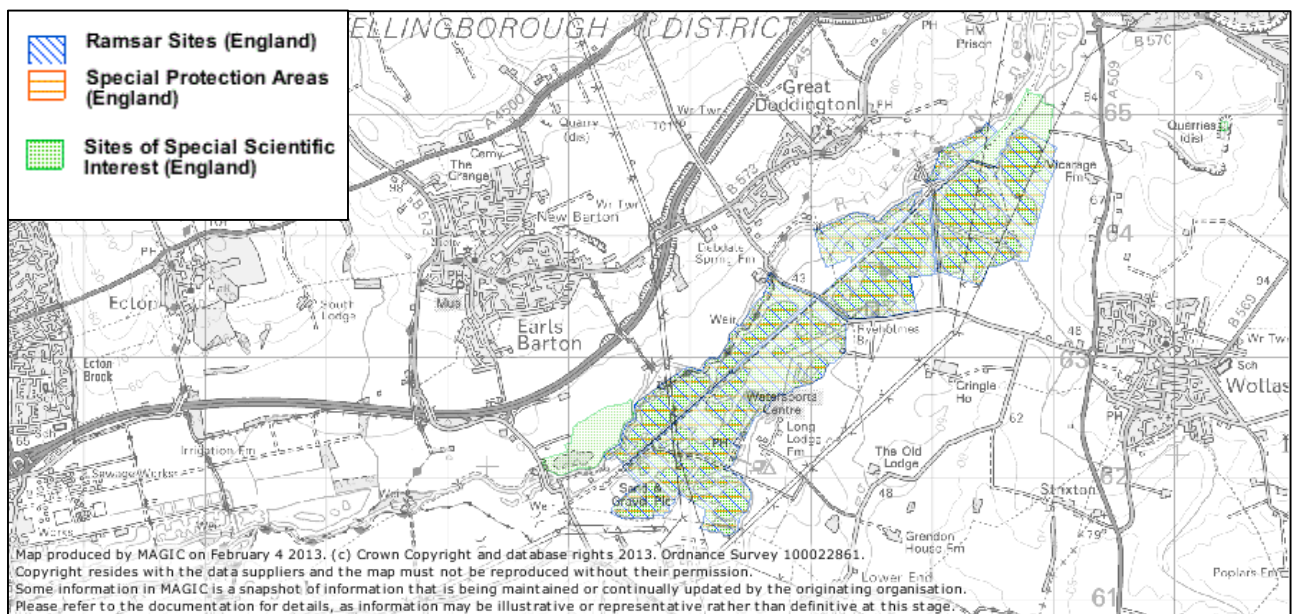
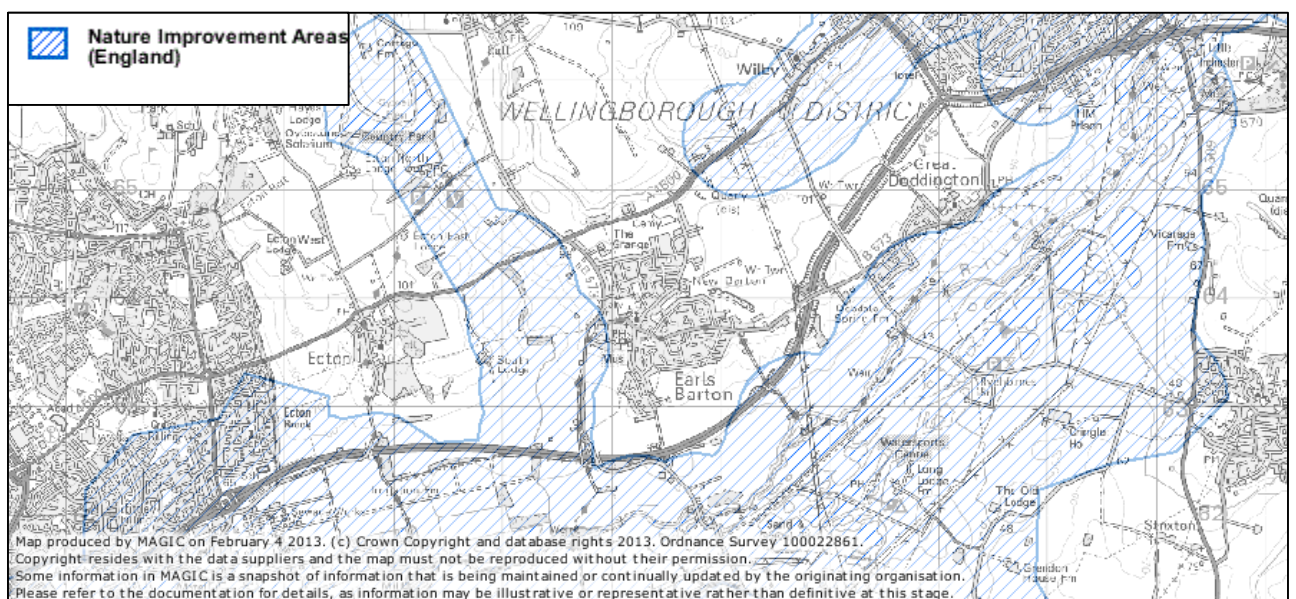


Fig 3.2 Nature Improvement Area



3.2.4 Biodiversity

The Northamptonshire Landscape and Green Infrastructure Suite which includes the Biodiversity Action Plan characterises the Earls Barton area as Liassic Slopes. The Liassic Slopes Biodiversity Character Type retains small, fragmented areas of broadleaved and mixed plantations. Few are of ancient origin. Lowland neutral grasslands are widespread, but scarce, and the survival of lowland acid grasslands, the majority of which are affected by woodland planting and scrub encroachment, is even more limited. Species-rich springs and flushes are a rare, but important feature. Disused railways and sections of canal provide important wildlife corridors. Overall the survival of semi-natural habitats is low.

As the overall retention of semi-natural habitats is low and their distribution is fragmented, land management should seek to reinforce biodiversity character by increasing the extent of characteristic habitats and reduce fragmentation by restoration, creation, buffering and linkage to create large sustainable mosaics of characteristic habitats. Habitat linkages should be enhanced by the conservation, restoration and buffering of sections of canal, streams and hedgerows to create functioning wildlife corridors.

3.3 Landscape

3.3.1 The Northamptonshire Current Landscape and Character Strategy and Guidelines characterises the Parish of Earls Barton as Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes to the North and East and Broad River Valley Flood Plain to the South and West.

The Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes extend across the heart of Northamptonshire. This is a very settled landscape. In addition to the numerous villages and hamlets that are located within it, many of the county's urban areas also extend up to or lie within this landscape type. There are also a number of fine historic parks and associated houses, notably Boughton Park and the wooded parkland at Ecton all of which have a significant influence on the local landscape.

3.3.2 The landscape strategy for this landscape character would be for new development, change and land management to be controlled or encouraged to conserve and enhance the diversity and richness of the landscape, and provide opportunities to emphasise the variations that contribute to local distinctiveness.

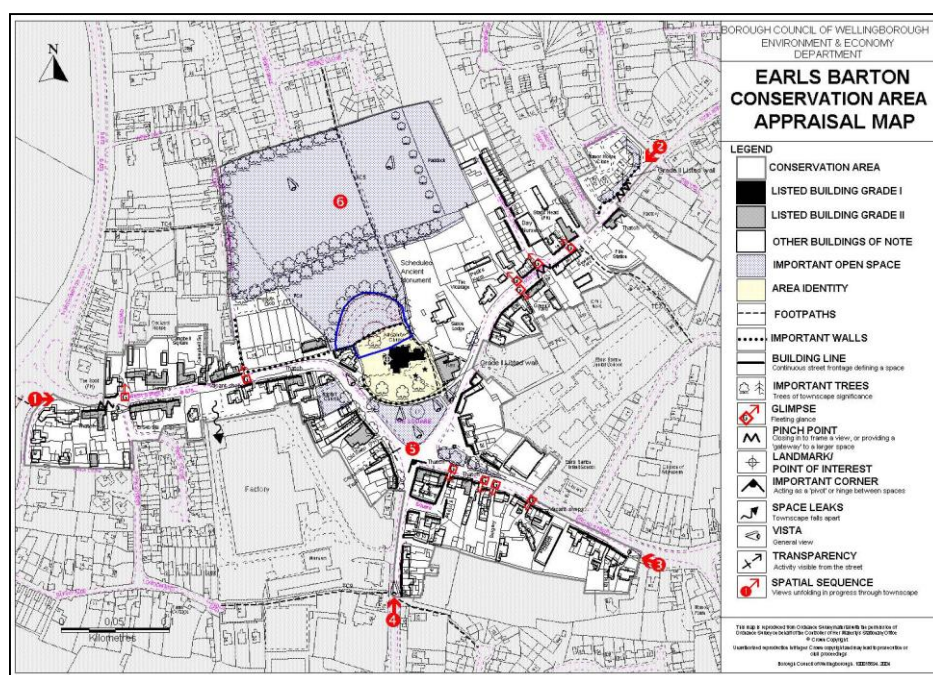
3.3.3 In view of the proximity of the many urban areas within and surrounding this landscape, it is likely to be particularly vulnerable to development pressures and change. It is important, therefore, that where development is considered, its integration with the local landform is carefully considered, as well as its wider setting and relationship with existing built areas. Reference should also be made to the locality to integrate with particular details of local vernacular building styles, materials, and layout.

- 3.3.4 Broad River Valley Flood Plain is clearly distinguishable by the flat, low lying riparian landscape. The drift deposits within the floodplain, including sand and gravel have influenced the land use pattern that has evolved across the floodplain including, within the last century, extraction of the substantial reserves of sand and gravel from sections of the Nene Valley, particularly between Northampton and Thrapston. Restoration of worked areas has resulted in the creation of a mosaic of lakes and wetland areas, which now support important bird communities and are designated for their biodiversity value. This extensive man made landscape and emergent and newly restored land has changed the character of this central section of the Nene Floodplain to a wetland dominated landscape.
- 3.3.5 In this areas new development, change and land management practices should be controlled or encouraged to conserve and enhance the simplicity of the quiet and open pastoral landscapes that characterise many sections of the Broad River Valley Floodplain particularly within the Welland, and downstream from Thrapston in the Nene Valley. In view of flooding constraints and regulations, there would be a presumption against development within the floodplain.

3.4 Heritage

- 3.4.1 The central area of Earls Barton is covered by a conservation area. Stretching in the west from Aggate Way along West Street, incorporating the Grade I listed Saxon tower and church and village square, then extending along High Street and Broad Street to encompass the historic heart of the village.
- 3.4.2 Along with the Grade 1 listed All Saints Church and its curtilage there are a number of Grade II listed buildings located throughout the conservation area a few dating back to the 16th Century but the majority being 18th Century with a few from the 17th and 19th Centuries. The conservation area was adopted in 2003 as Supplementary Planning Guidance and forms part of the saved Local Plan and therefore carries significant weight for the determination of planning applications in this area. Fig. 3.3 shows the area covered by the Conservation Area.

Fig. 3.3 Earls Barton Conservation Area



3.5 Air and Climate

- 3.5.1 Any new development has the potential to impact on the road network due to an increase in the number of trips made by car. An increase in car journeys can also have a negative impact upon air quality within the parish. As such the public transport accessibility has an important role to play in helping to maintain the air quality for Earls Barton. Air quality is monitored by the Borough Council of Wellingborough. In 2005 the Council noted concentrations of PM10 particles which might be high in 3 places within the Borough. A site in Earls Barton was identified and monitoring equipment was set up to establish whether air quality was below the national standard. Upon analysis of these results it was found that this site was well within the annual mean air quality objective and therefore there was not an air quality issue. There are currently no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the Borough of Wellingborough.
- 3.5.2 Northamptonshire County Council is the Highways Authority and it has responsibility for air pollution derived from roads and has a role in reducing carbon emissions and pollutants through its Local Transport Plan. The Interim Third Local Transport Plan outlines 12 areas in the County where there are air quality issues and AQMAs in place. None of these relate to the Borough of Wellingborough and Earls Barton.
- 3.5.3 Access to public transport access is relatively good from Earls Barton with 2 hourly services between Northampton and Thrapston, the X46 and X47 run by United Counties and the X45 between Irthlingborough and Northampton and the 38 service between Wellingborough and Northampton both run by Stagecoach. The X4 sub

regional service between Peterborough and Northampton/Milton Keynes also stops at Earls Barton providing a half hourly peak service which is also run by Stagecoach. Local air quality is likely to be affected by increases in traffic and this will need to be monitored even if there is a desired modal shift away from new residents using their vehicles.

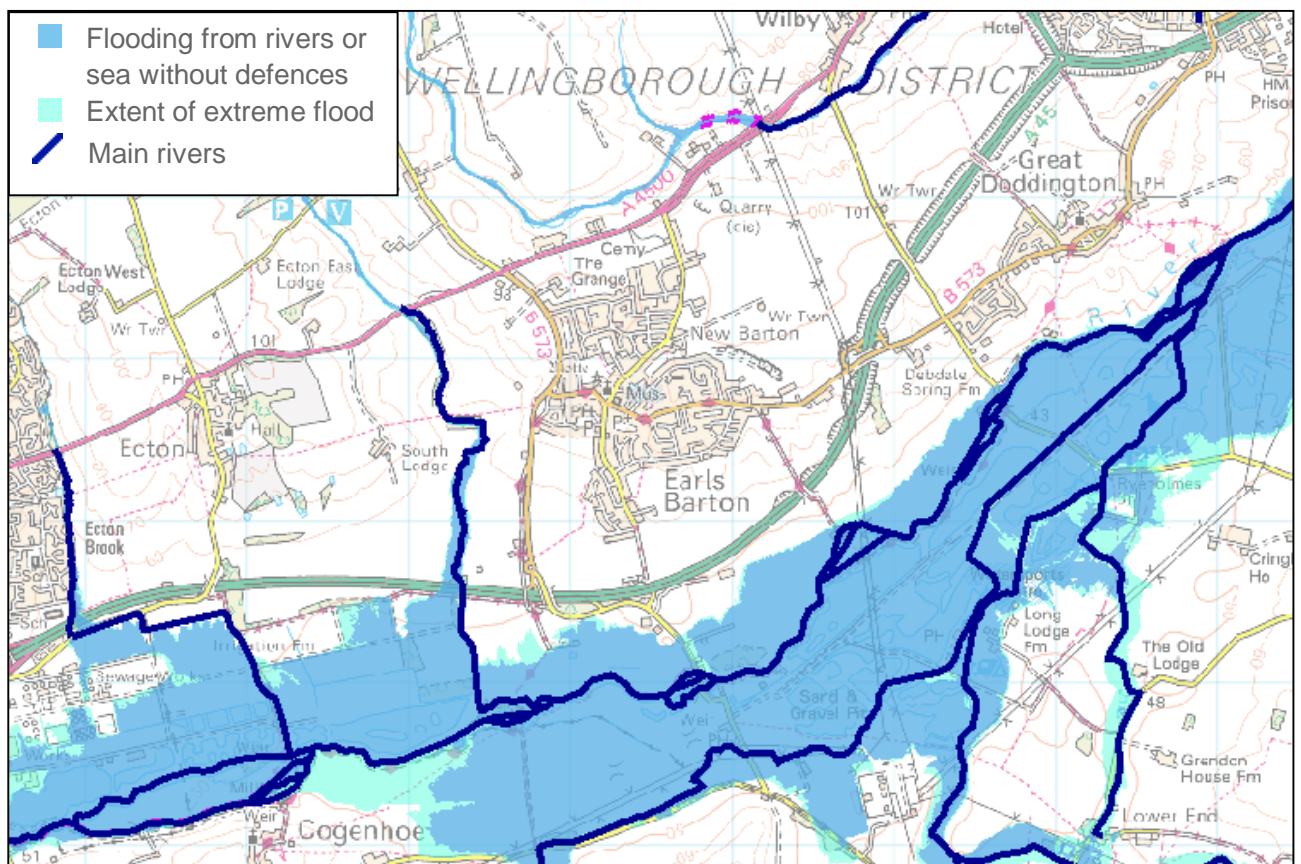
- 3.5.4 Travel to School patterns can have a large impact on traffic patterns within a village or town and Earls Barton has an Infant School and Junior School within the centre of the village which will potentially attract more pupils. Traffic congestion already exists at school drop-off and pick-up times and further traffic may lead to higher pollution levels.

3.6 **Water**

- 3.6.1 Earls Barton lies to the north of the Nene Valley Floodplain and the village is situated on higher ground on the valley slopes. The River Nene flood plain and area to the south of the A45 is prone to alluvial flooding however the village is not under threat and there are very few buildings in the Parish which are under flood risk from the River Nene.
- 3.6.2 Surface water flooding is becoming a greater risk to settlements due to climate change and the lead responsibility for Surface Water flooding has now passed to the County Council. It is designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority in order to deliver the requirements of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) and to help inform the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
- 3.6.3 Earls Barton rated as medium priority risk medium for areas susceptible to Groundwater Flooding and of Surface water flooding and high priority in relation to grading for surface water flooding 1 in 200 year¹. However, all major new development should take account of increased surface water drainage and promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) where appropriate.

¹ Draft Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – NCC, Dec 2012

Fig. 3.4

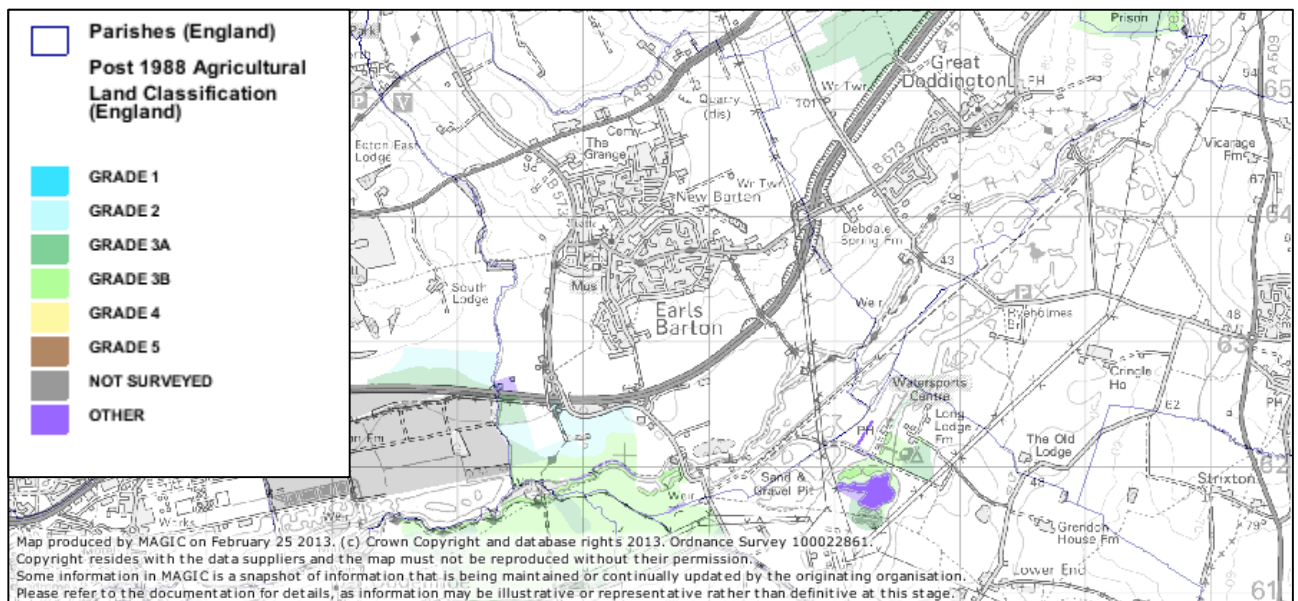


3.7 Soil

3.7.1 Agricultural Land Quality

The village is ringed by fields that are used for a variety of agricultural purposes. Agricultural Land Quality is classified on a scale from 1 to 5 with grades 1, 2 and 3a being classed as the 'best and most versatile' land for the purposes of agricultural. The level of significance of this land has reduced in recent years, however, even accounting for this the land around Earls Barton does not fall into this category as there is only a small amount of grade 3b land identified in the south west of the Parish. Figure 3.5 shows where this is located.

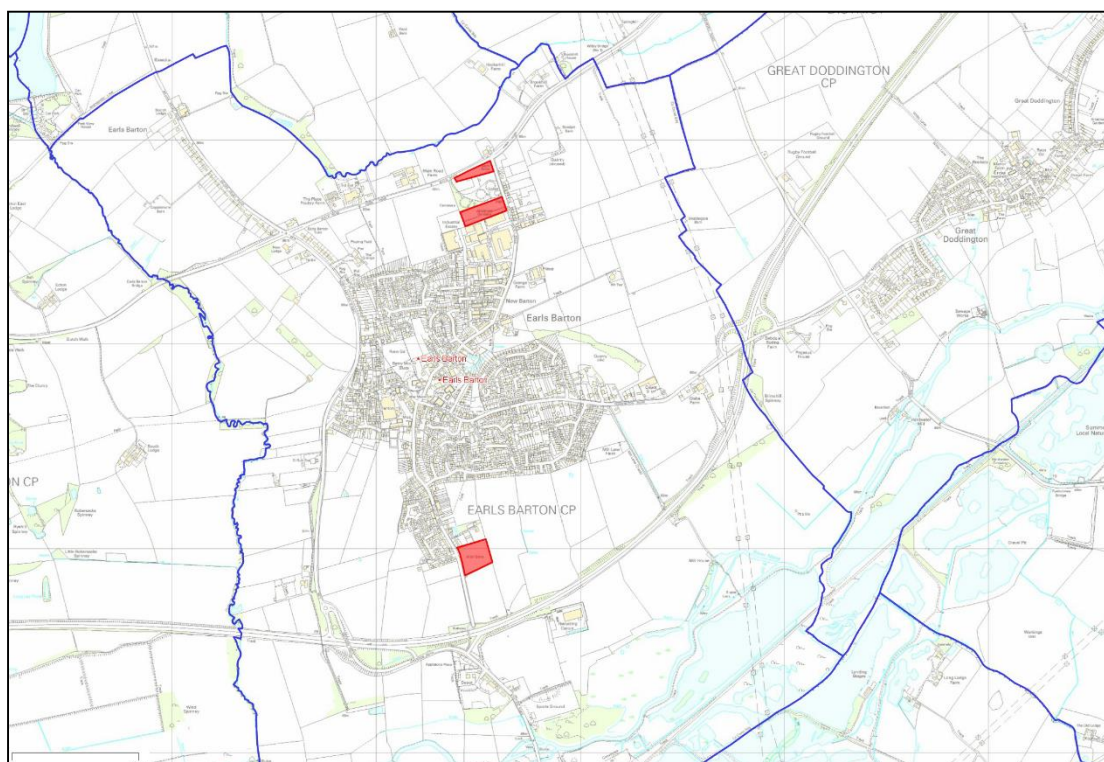
Fig. 3.5 Earls Barton Soil Quality



3.7.2 Allotments

There are two main allotments areas located within Earls Barton and these provide both recreational activities and also provide locally grown food. One is located to the north of the village around the cemetery off Wellingborough Road. This is approximately 2.3 ha in size. The other to the South at the bottom of Station Road which is approximately 1.9ha. Figure 3.6 shows their location.

Fig. 3.6 Allotments location



3.8 Human Population

3.8.1 Indices of Multiple Deprivation

The index of multiple deprivation is a composite indicator used to compare deprivation. It is made up of a number of factors that affect deprivation including employment, income and access to services. The indices of multiple deprivation can be expressed as a comparison to the rest of the UK and also as a comparison to the rest of Wellingborough. From a national perspective, as well as in comparison to Wellingborough as a whole, Earls Barton performs well and is within the least or second least deprived quintile of England. As a comparison parts of Wellingborough town are within the most deprived and second most deprived quintiles of England. Overall Earls Barton performs well in terms of the indices of multiple deprivation both locally and nationally.

3.9 Human Health

3.9.1 The health of people within Earls Barton is generally better than the England average. Life expectancy for women is higher than the English average, however, for men it is about the same as the national rate. This is similar for Wellingborough as a whole. Over the period 2000-2009 all-cause mortality rates have fallen for the Borough of Wellingborough and they are below the national averages for both men and women. Early death rates from heart disease and stroke have fallen below the national average after being slightly higher between 2002-2004. Early death rates from cancer have also improved and dropped below the national rate in 2008.

3.9.2 The health picture for Wellingborough as a whole compared with the national average is mixed. Deprivation is higher than the English average across the borough, although this is concentrated in certain Wellingborough Town wards. Approximately 3,100 children live in poverty and about 18.9% of year 6 children are classified as obese which is higher than the national average. Estimated levels of physical activity and obesity are worse than the rate for England. The rate of sexually transmitted infections is worse than the national average while the rates of hip fracture and hospital stays for alcohol related harm are better.

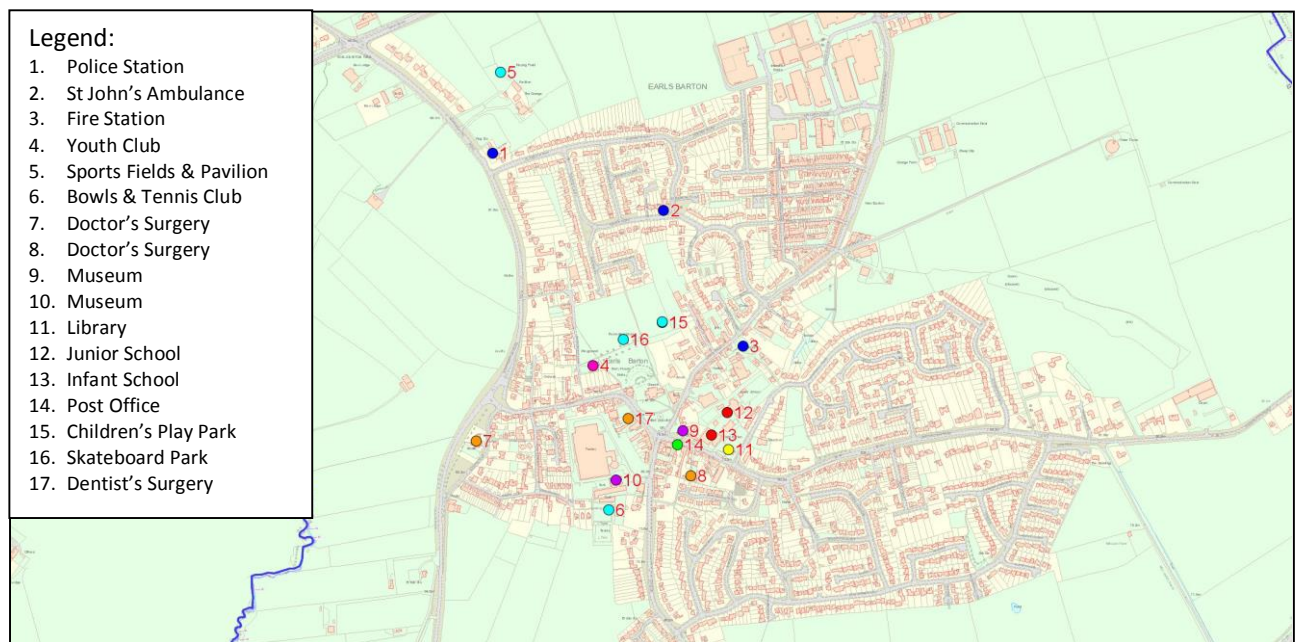
Source: www.healthprofiles.info and ONS Neighbourhood Statistics

3.10 Material Assets

3.10.1 The following local facilities and services are shown in Fig. 3.7

- Health Facilities
- Education Facilities
- Community Facilities

Fig. 3.7 Material Assets



3.10.2 An Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facility Assessment (*Planning for Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation*) was undertaken by Wellingborough Council to meet the objectives of PPG17 (now revoked under the NPPF) in 2005. It also identifies the needs of the community to inform the Core Strategy and Borough Site Specific Development Plan Document. The Assessment includes existing standards for open space, sports facilities and playing pitches, and sets out proposed standards. Applying the standards at the time of the study, Earls Barton was currently short of:

- 3.77ha of parks and gardens; (although Sywell Country Park is located on the boundary of the Parish and a Pocket Park exists at the southern side of the underpass on the A45 with Station Road)
- 2.8 ha of allotments;
- 8.1ha of outdoor sports facilities;
- One community hall.
- In respect of school capacity Northamptonshire County Council state that additional capacity may be achievable on the existing sites of the Earls Barton Infant and Junior Schools which are separate schools sharing a joint site. A feasibility study has been carried out in December 2012 to identify options for the expansion of both schools. This has yet to be made public. The potential growth of housing predicted for the village over the next plan period to 2031 (between 50 – 400 dwellings) would not generate the need for a new primary school. Consultation responses would also suggest that the present central location is preferred for a variety of reasons.
- There are currently no capacity issues at the secondary school level. The County Council considers that there is sufficient capacity within Wellingborough for the foreseeable future with present growth rates being factored in.

- The provision of GP/Doctor capacity within Earls Barton appears to be adequate at the present time and further growth does not seem to be an issue should either the Abbey or Earls Barton Medical Centre practices need to take on further personnel. The Abbey practice is part of a larger service unit located at the Isebrook hospital in Wellingborough and some residents chose to use this facility. The provision of doctors and an appointment booking service would not be reduced in the future. The Earls Barton Medical Practice is located in a relatively new building and it is considered that expansion could take place if necessary.
- As set out above there is a need for a community hall as Earls Barton does not currently have a facility which is run as a publically bookable hall. The potential increase in housing for the village over the plan period would increase the need for a community hall.

3.11 Employment and Jobs

3.11.1 Employment within Earls Barton

The main employment areas within Earls Barton are as follows;

- Earls Barton Industrial Estate (Mallard Close)
- Titley Bawlk Avenue
- Main Road Industrial Estate (A4500)
- Earls Barton Village Centre
- Barkers Shoe Factory

3.11.2 There are 2,972 employees in employment within Earls Barton with the highest percentage (20.4%) being employed in manufacturing. The second largest sector of employment is for wholesale, retail trade and repairs and this accounts for 18.6% of workers.

3.11.3 The highest employment group by occupation is Managers and Senior officials which represents 16.4% and is above the Borough and National average. The next two highest groups are Administrative & secretarial (14.1%) and Skilled Trades (14%) which are also above the local and national averages.

3.11.4 Unemployment

The unemployment rate (Job Seekers Claimant Count Jan 2013) for Earls Barton for all people is 1.9% compared to Wellingborough (4.5%) and Great Britain (3.8%). Of this Youth unemployment (18-24 year olds) represents 21.55 of this figure which is below the national and local averages.

3.12 Education and Skills

3.12.1 Across the different age groups educational attainment levels in Wellingborough are lower than the county and England average. Of particular concern are levels of GCSE attainment and working age adults with no qualifications which are both in the worst 25% of districts in England. For higher level qualifications Earls Barton performs

considerably better than Wellingborough 18.1% as opposed to 13.3% although it still falls short of the national average 20.4%.

3.12.2 Present educational attainment – key stage 2 is below the national average for Wellingborough, however, Earls Barton performs slightly better and is roughly the same as the national position.

Fig. 3.8 Key Stage 2 - Key Stage 2 Results: Percentage of Pupils achieving Level 4 or above (2011)

Subject	Earls Barton	Wellingborough	England
English	83	77	82
Maths	81	73	81

Fig. 3.9 Key Stage 4 (GCSE) - Key Stage 4 Results: (2011)

Variable	Earls Barton	Wellingborough	England
percentage of pupils gaining - achieving 5+ A*-C or above	-	77.6	79.5
percentage of pupils gaining - any passes	-	99.4	99.2

Source: DfE website

3.13 Diverse Communities -

3.12.1 Population

Earls Barton has a relatively similar distribution of age profiles to that of the national average. Elderly people are very slightly more represented (70years + 11.95% nationally 11.6%), however the most marked difference is the preponderance of young adults in Earls Barton. People aged 20-24 only represent 3.84% of the population whereas nationally it is 6.78%, nearly twice as much. And the age band above this, 25-29 year olds, has a similar differential 4.55% as opposed to 6.89 nationally. This is probably explained by the trend of young people studying away from home and possibly starting careers in new locations. In the age groups 35-39, 40-44, 45-49 these are all higher than the national average which perhaps signifies that Earls Barton is perceived as a desirable place to raise a young family.

3.12.2 Ethnicity

Information from 2011 census on ethnicity has recently been released. For Wellingborough as a whole the white population (English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British) is 81.4% with the main other groups being Indian 4.1%,

African/Caribbean 3.2% and Polish 2.6%. This picture is very similar to the national position apart from the size of the Polish community. This is larger proportionally than the national position. For Earls Barton the picture is very different with 95.5% being classified as white, the largest other groups are White and Black Caribbean, Irish, other western European however none of these make up more than 0.5%. The population of the village is very homogeneous.

3.12.3 Access to cars

The 2011 census indicates that the number of households that do not have access to a car or van is 292 which is 12.7% of the total number of households (2297). This compares to the Wellingborough rate of 21.1% and the East Midlands (22.1%) and England (25.8%) rates which are also significantly higher.

3.12.4 Gypsies and Travellers

From the 2011 census it states that there are 24 people in the Parish of Earls Barton that consider themselves gypsies or travellers for the purposes of ethnic identity. There are 2 sites adjacent to the A45 one which provides pitches for Gypsies & Travellers and the other for accommodation for travellers in the Showman's Guild.

3.13 Summary of Key Issues

3.13.1 Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

The proximity of the internationally designated Special Protection Area (SPA), RAMSAR site and nationally designated SSSI Upper Nene Gravel Pits dictates the context of nature conservation and biodiversity within Earls Barton Parish. The preservation and protection of natural habitats for wintering birds is an important consideration.

3.13.2 Landscape and Heritage

Earls Barton is located within the rolling ironstone valley slopes and broad river valley slopes of the Nene which is a historic and settled landscape. The settlement has numerous listed buildings and Saxon church tower and any development needs to be sensitive to this setting and context.

3.13.3 Climate, Water and Soils

Air quality within the Parish is not a major concern as there are no Air Quality Management Areas designated. The risk from flooding is not considered to be acute and the quality of surrounding soils does not pose a constraint to development.

3.13.4 Population, Health and Deprivation

Earls Barton's population has been increasing over the last 20 years and is set to continue to grow. The population profile is similar to the national average although there is significantly less young adults. The ethnicity of the Parish is predominantly White in relatively good health with lower than average levels of deprivation.

3.13.5 Material Assets

The Parish is relatively well provided for in terms of services and community facilities

including 2 doctor's surgeries a Dentists, Post Office and numerous shops. The lack of a village community hall, adequate sporting facilities and provision of sufficient open space for recreational use are considered issues for better community development.

3.13.6 Employment and Education

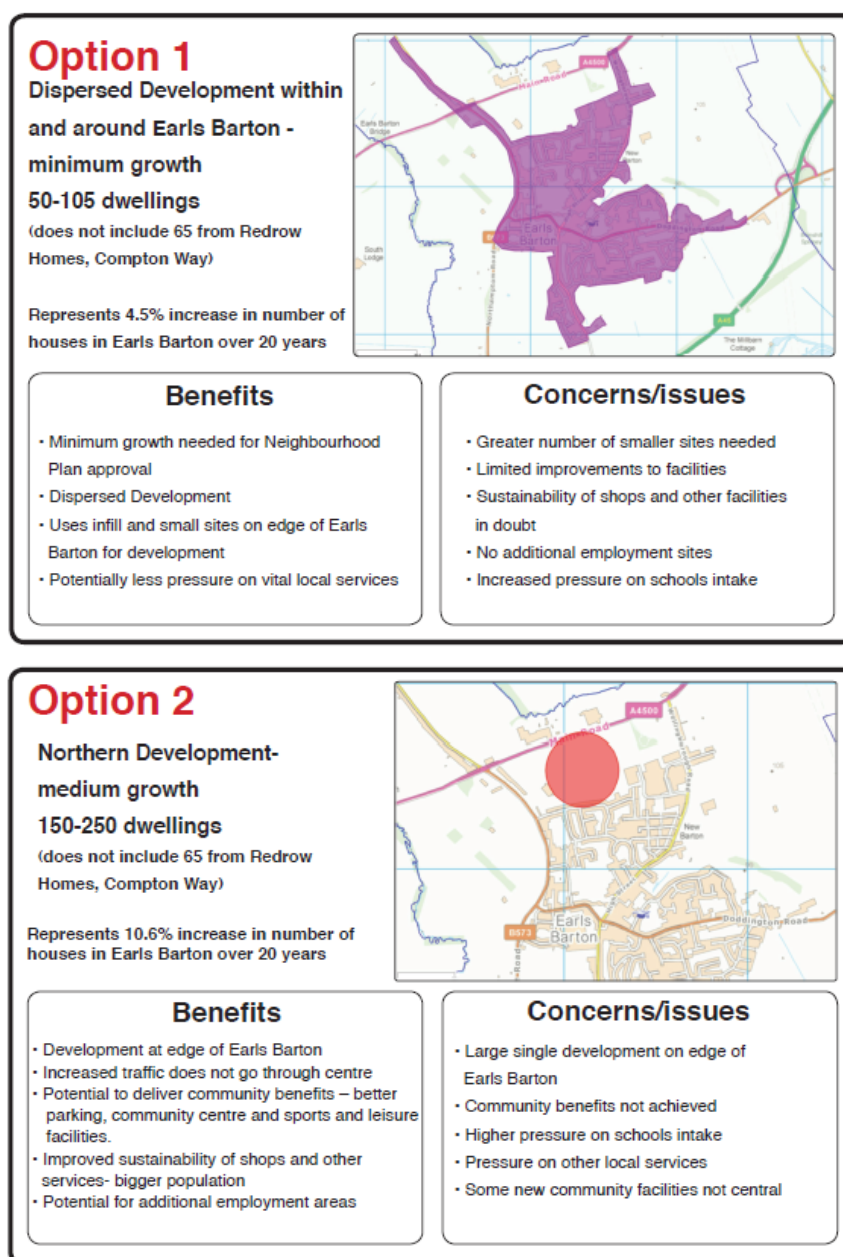
The Parish has low unemployment in comparison to neighbouring towns and employment sectors of manufacturing and distribution are the most prevalent within the village's employment areas. Managers and senior official is the most numerous occupation group and educational attainment levels are similar to the national average although higher level qualification fall below this.

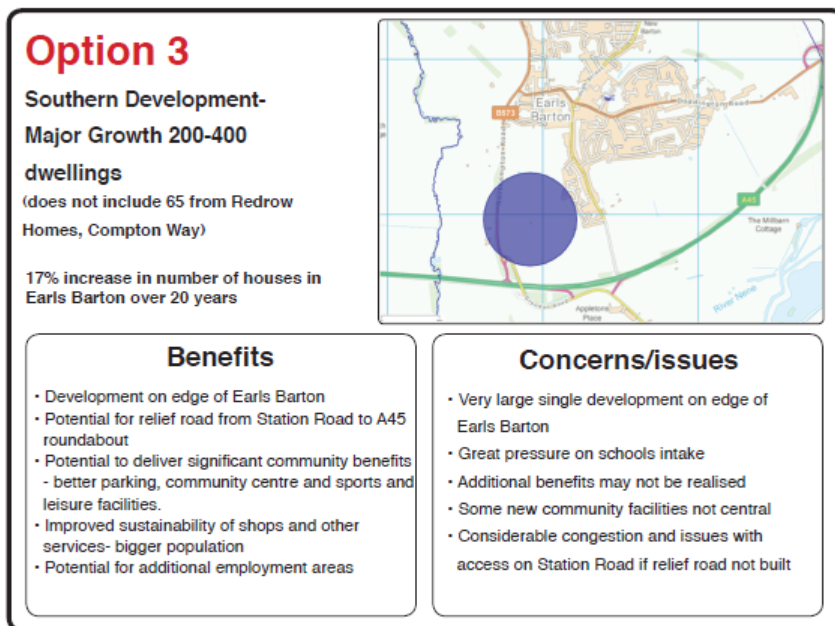
3.14 SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive historic village in rural location • Significant level of community facilities and services • Quick access to national road network • Strong community cohesion and activity • Significant local natural assets relating to SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located close to larger town – out migration of employment and expenditure • Lack of community owned hall/venue • Inadequate sports and leisure facilities
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to create a sustainable extension to the village • Creation of employment areas and service and facilities • Ability to deliver recreational and leisure facilities • Developer contributions through s106/CIL to support local community priorities • Provide for affordable housing and housing types presently under represented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts on SPA • Congestion and parking impacts • Increased pressure on schools • Pressure on other community facilities • Concerns with surface and ground water flooding

4. Strategic Development Proposals

- 4.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has explored a number of Strategic Options for growth of the village which were subjected to community consultation (See options below). The development of options was informed by existing known and evaluated sites from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2xxx) and the more local call for sites (2012) conducted by the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group.
- 4.2 The development proposals have also been conceived in relation to community feedback, the ability to bring forward comprehensive development (once the community's wishes were assessed) and the delivery of significant additional community benefits.





- 4.3 A preferred option was developed with reference to the above and a series of sub-objectives for the plan were consulted on before the plan was developed and policies were created for the topic set out in Fig. 4.1.
- 4.4 The SEA directive requires the consideration and appraisal of reasonable alternative plan options when assessing Neighbourhood Development Plans. The preparation of the draft Neighbourhood Plan has been an iterative process. Its direction of travel has been informed by extensive public consultation and a clear vision about how the Parish should develop. An exhaustive process of identifying, exploring and testing options has therefore not been appropriate or necessary in this instance.
- 4.5 The plan has been screened for potential significant environmental impacts and whether a Strategy Environmental Assessment was required. Also under the EU Habitats Regulations the plan was screened to see if there were likely significant effects that would have an impact on the protected characteristics of the EU designated Special Protection Area. In both cases the screening assessments indicated that there would not be significant impacts. The screening opinions in both cases are set out in Appendix 3 and 4.

Fig 4.1 Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Plan Policy Ref	Plan Policy Topic
EB.G1	Site Specific Development Allocation Policy – The Grange Site
EB.GD1	General Development Policy
EB.GD2	Windfall Sites Policy
EB.D1	Environmental & Design Policy
EB.OS1	Open Space Policy
EB.LB1	Local Business Policy
EB.E1	Employment Policy – Industrial Estate Expansion Site
EB.E2	Employment Policy – Small Business Centre Proposal
EB.T1	Transport and Parking Policy
EB.DC1	Developer Contributions Policy

5. Summary of Sustainability Assessment and Recommendations

- 5.1 The sustainability appraisal framework is the set of objectives, developed in the SA Scoping Report, against which the sustainability of the draft Neighbourhood Plan policies have been assessed. The complete SA framework is set out in the table below.

Fig. 5.1 Earls Barton Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Ref	SA Obj Area	Sustainability Objectives	SA Topic
Social Progress Which Recognises the Needs of Everyone			
1	Accessibility	To improve accessibility and transport links from residential areas to key services, facilities and employment areas, enhance access to natural environment and recreational opportunities	Social
2	Housing	Ensure that new housing provided meets the housing needs of the area, provide affordable and decent housing for all	Social
3	Health	Improve overall levels of physical, mental and social well-being, and reduce disparities between different groups and different areas	Social
4	Crime	To improve community safety, reduce the incidences of crime and the fear of crime, a safe place to live	Social
5	Community	Value and nurture a sense of belonging in a cohesive community whilst respecting diversity	Social
6	Skills	To improve overall levels of education and skills	Social

7	Liveability	To create healthy, clean and pleasant environments for people to enjoy living, working and recreating in and to protect and enhance residential amenity	Social
Effective Protection of the Environment			
8	Biodiversity	To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity wildlife habitats and green infrastructure to achieve a net gain and to avoid habitat fragmentation	Enviro
9	Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment	Enviro
10	Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historic, archaeological, architectural and artistic interest and their settings	Enviro
11	Climate Change	Change Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, impact of climate change (adaptation).	Enviro
Prudent Use of Natural Resources			
12	Air	To maintain or improve local air quality	Nat. Res
13	Water	Maintain or improve the quality of ground and surface water resources and minimise the demand for water	Nat. Res
14	Natural Hazard	Reduce the impact of flooding and avoid additional risk	Nat. Res
15	Soil & Land	Ensure the efficient use of land and maintain the resource of productive soil	Nat. Res
16	Minerals	Ensure the efficient use of minerals and primary resources	Nat. Res
17	Energy Use	To mitigate climate change by minimising carbon based energy usage by increasing energy efficiency and to develop Earls Barton's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources.	Nat. Res
18	Waste	To reduce waste arisings and increase reuse, recycling and composting	Nat. Res
Maintenance of Economic Growth and Employment			
19	Employment	Maintain and enhance employment opportunities and to reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs	Econ
20	Wealth Creation	Retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including infrastructure and the local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors	Econ
21	Village Centre	Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the village centre	Econ

5.2 The Sustainability Appraisal

An appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan's policies has been undertaken against the Earls Barton Sustainability Framework. This has been done in Appendix 2 and the results of this appraisal help to identify and describe the likely sustainability impacts of the Plan. A summary of the outcomes is provided below.

- 5.3 In order to help quantify the likely effects of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and the impact of the policies within it a 'Do nothing' option has also been assessed. This identifies the likely sustainability impacts that would occur if the Neighbourhood Plan was not adopted and existing policies at the national, regional and Borough level were in place.
- 5.4 The 'Do nothing' appraisal has been undertaken on the basis that in the short term the adopted North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy, Existing Saved Policies from the Wellingborough Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework will be in effect and in the medium to long term the National Planning Policy Framework and the emerging North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and revised Wellingborough Local Plan.

Assessing the Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.5 The appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan has been undertaken as a 'whole plan' assessment, whereby the planning policies of the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole are assessed against each of the SA objectives.
- 5.6 The draft planning policies of the Neighbourhood Plan have been appraised against the Earls Barton SA Framework using a set of indicators to show the probable impact detailed in Fig.5.2 below. The existing policies or 'Do nothing' scenario have been assessed using the same criteria.
- 5.7 The appraisal of the Plan's policies against each SA objective is accompanied by a commentary identifying how the plan performs against the objectives and describes the result of the assessment. The assessment of the plan and its likely effects has been informed by the baseline data and evidence gathered as part of the Earls Barton SA Scoping Report.

Fig. 5.2 Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Assessment Matrix

SA Objective		Objective Key									
		✓✓	✓	?	✗	✗✗	-				
		Positive Effect	Possible Positive Effect	Uncertain Overall Effect	Possible Negative Effect	Negative Effect	No direct r/ship or impact				
		Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan Objectives									
		G1	GD1	GD2	D1	OS1	LB1	E1	E2	T1	DC1
1	Accessibility	✓✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	?	✓✓	✓
2	Housing	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Health	✓✓	-	-	-	✓✓	?	?	?	-	?
4	Crime	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	-	?	?	-	-
5	Community	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	-	✓
6	Skills	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	-	-
7	Liveability	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Biodiversity	✓	?	?	✓	✓✓	-	-	-	-	✓
9	Landscape	?	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	?	?	?	-	✓
10	Cultural Heritage	?	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	?	-	-	-	?
11	Climate Change	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✗	✗	?	?
12	Air	?	?	?	?	✓	✗	✗	✗	?	-
13	Water	✓	?	?	✓	?	-	?	?	-	?
14	Natural Hazard	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	?	-	?	?	-	-
15	Soil & Land	?	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	-	-
16	Minerals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Energy Use	?	✓	✓	✓✓	-	?	?	?	?	-
18	Waste	?	?	?	?	-	?	?	?	-	-
19	Employment	✓✓	-	-	?	-	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	?
20	Wealth Creation	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
21	Village Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓✓	?	?	✓	✓

Summary of Findings

- 5.8 Overall the Neighbourhood Plan displays a strong performance on sustainability issues. There are no significant areas where sustainability has not been addressed. There are a number of areas where it is thought the NP will not have significant impact (either positive or negative) or where the impact is uncertain and these are areas could be considered further as the Plan is monitored and reviewed in the future. However, overall the plan is likely to have a positive sustainability effect. The full appraisal matrix is set out in Appendix 2. In summary the assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan has revealed that:
- The housing needs of the Parish should be positively addressed through the plan although there could still remain a possible tensions between the Neighbourhood Plan and the Borough's current 5- year housing land supply. This may allow greater housing delivery than the plan proposed and could have a negative impact in respect of other sustainability criteria such liveability and community.

- The plan performs well against accessibility, health and community criteria although there is some uncertainty and a lack of direct relationship between the plan and its effect on skills. One concern the community has is that an increasing population will lead to increased pressure on the two schools within the village. The Neighbourhood Plan Project Group have been given assurances by the Education Authority that additional capacity can be provided for on the existing sites to deal with the level of growth anticipated. However additional growth over this level may threaten that capacity to provide education and skills locally.
- The Neighbourhood Plan could lead to positive effects in respect of enhancing biodiversity and habitats, the historic environment and landscape character. The Plan seeks to promote, protect, create and restore wildlife sites and habitats within the Parish, particularly recognising the sensitivity of the Special Protection Area, protecting local green spaces and extending it through the allocation of Sports and Leisure land. Although the Plan promotes new development within the District it sets out specific policies to ensure that new development protects and enhances the area's character and built heritage.
- Further positive effects are also likely in respect of addressing climate change and securing the use of renewable energy although the outcomes in respect of these objectives is more uncertain. The Plan seeks to secure homes that use sustainable forms of energy and require sustainable design solutions based on the North Northamptonshire Sustainable Design Guide. However, these positive effects may be of a similar magnitude to those experienced with existing policies.
- There is some uncertainty over the Plan's effects on local air quality, natural resources, flooding and waste. Overall the effects appear to be positive although uncertainty around air quality and the type of employment and effects of greater car emissions could lead to a minor negative effect. The effect of the plan on surface and ground water flood risk is predicted to be positive with further use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and water quality is also considered would be protected.
- The plan promotes the economic and employment opportunities for the future of the Parish and the assessment identifies overwhelmingly that the plan would have a positive impact on wealth creation and the continued vitality and viability of the village centre by focusing activities within the central area and helping address the parking and congestion issues which cause an negative externality that could limit the future viability of the village centre.

Next Steps

- 5.9 The Neighbourhood Plan has been refined by the Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan Project Group as a result of this Sustainability Assessment and to reflect feedback received from consultation on the draft plan.

The next step is to finalise the plan and related documents and submit it for examination. It is anticipated that the Plan will be subject to an examination during the autumn of 2014 and a Referendum and Adoption is likely late 2014 or early 2015.

5.10 The Neighbourhood Plan has committed to a monitoring and review programme. This would include;

- An annual review of performance against a set of monitoring indicators that are set out in the plan.
- A thorough review of the plan's policies every 5 years to consider the need for amending or altering the plan. The Parish Council will led this review and closely liaise with the Borough Council of Wellingborough and North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit to ensure that the plan remains aligned to emerging strategies at the higher level.

Appendix 1: Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan – Policy Analysis (Sustainability Appraisal)

International Policy

EU Habitats and Conservation of Wild Birds Directives	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>To conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance by the establishment of a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. This was designed to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats. Identifies endangered habitats and species requiring protection and need for re-establishment of denuded biotopes.</p> <p>Protected areas should be created, maintained and managed.</p>	<p>Plans should take account of relevant SPA and SAC sites.</p> <p>A screening process should be undertaken, if negative impacts are anticipated appropriate assessments should be undertaken.</p> <p>Above protecting the integrity and interest of European sites, the NP should consider objectives to protect and if possible, enhance biodiversity.</p>
EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>Article 1 of the Directive states that its objective is “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”</p> <p>SEA is required for all plans or programmes which are prepared for town and country planning. A screening process exists which requires SEA for plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant environmental impact.</p>	<p>Environmental impacts from the plan should be considered. A screening process should be undertaken to determine if there are likely significant effects and consultation should be carried out with relevant bodies. If negative impacts are identified a full SEA is required. Over and above this the NP should be considering environmental impacts and considering any relevant mitigation.</p>

EU Water Framework Directive	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>To expand the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve 'good status' for all waters by 2015. • Water management should be based on river basins and a 'combined approach' of emission limit values and quality standards. • Water management should include the closer involvement of community. <p>Prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, provide protection and improve ecological condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve at least good status for all water bodies by 2015 (or later subject to specific criteria). • meet the requirements of WFD protected areas • promote sustainable use of water • conserve habitats and species that depend directly on water • progressively reduce or phase out pollutants that pose significant threats to the aquatic environment / groundwater • help mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts. 	<p>Plan should consider any significant hydrological / hydrogeological factors and ensure integration with existing catchment management plans. Plan should consider including objectives to protect and enhance water resources, quality and ecological function.</p>

National Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Achieving Sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong, competitive economy • Ensuring the vitality of town centres 	<p>Planning should drive and support sustainable economic development. It should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secure high quality design and good standard of amenity • take account of the different roles of areas, recognising the intrinsic 	<p>Plan should contribute to the objective of achieving sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). SA Objectives should reflect the core</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting a prosperous rural economy • Promoting sustainable transport • Supporting high quality communications infrastructure • Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes • Requiring good design • Promoting healthy communities • Protecting Green Belt Land • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment • Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals 	<p>character and beauty of the countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking account of flood risk and encourage the reuse of existing resources and encouraging the use of renewable resources. • contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. • encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed. • conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. • focus significant development in locations which are, or can be made sustainable. 	<p>planning principles and policies set out in the NPPF.</p> <p>The Plan should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to minimising impacts and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible • contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity – including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures
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Local Policy

North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy Policies (2008)	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
Policy1: Strengthening the Network of Settlements	Development to be principally directed towards urban core.. remaining rural area development will take place on sites within village boundaries..	Need to consider how the local needs of the community will affect the delivery of housing,

	development adjoining village boundaries only justified where is involves re-use of buildings or in exceptional circumstances.. required to meet local needs for employment, housing or services. Development will be focussed on those villages that perform a sustainable local service centre role.	employment and community facilities. Check what role EB is to be in the settlement hierarchy under revised CS.
Policy 2: Connecting North Northants with Surrounding Areas	Development will not be permitted which prejudices the role of enhanced transport connections – main ones affecting EB would be enhanced Bus Services Peterborough to Northampton providing a direct strategic link along A605/A45 and road improvements to A45 (Wellingborough – Thrapston)	Consider how improved public transport could affect accessibility from and to the village. Consider impact on improvements to A45 especially Wilby Way Junction
Policy 4: Enhancing Local Connections	Connections between rural hinterland ..and their most accessible service centre.. will be strengthened by.. Improving the strategic and local bus network.. improved walking and cycling strategies	Consider what improved bus services/facilities might increase the usage of public transport.. consider local accessibility issues – walking cycling.
Policy 5: Green Infrastructure	..proposals affecting the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits proposed Special Protection Area need to satisfy tests of Habitats Regulations.. EB lies within a local Green Infrastructure corridor	Check if EB Parish within SPA and what impact this may have for Habitats Regulations – consider any opportunities which might arise from linkages along local corridor
Policy 9: Distribution Location of Development	Describes the general distribution of development being focussed on urban areas and through a means of Sustainable Urban Extensions. 'Development Plan Documents may identify opportunities for smaller scale Sustainable Urban Extensions at Smaller Towns and Rural Service Centres'.	EB is not defined as a Rural Service Centre but need to check if this is changing as part of CS revision. Is classified as a Limited Service Role Village in SSPDPD. Rural workshop suggests potential changing role?

Policy 10: Distribution of Housing	Housing to be focussed at the 3 growth towns ..limited development in the villages and restricted development in the open countryside	Consider issue of village boundary extension – level of housing required different if natural growth only compared to some capacity for migration. CSS Rural area target 1210 completions 866 (2011)
Policy 11: Distribution of Jobs	Existing employment areas and allocated employment sites will be safeguarded for employment use..New sites will be allocated to meet any identified shortfall in supply..Within the rural areas new employment development will be directed to the rural and local service centres	Consider whether there is an existing shortfall in the supply of jobs locally.. identify whether EB is or wishes to be more than Limited Service Role Village.
Policy 13: General Sustainable Development Principles	Development should meet principles of sustainable development – meeting needs of residents & businesses, raising standards of development and protecting assets..	Consider the impacts in relation to the Sustainable Design Guidance – requirement to undertake Sustainability Appraisal
Policy 14: Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Construction	Development should meet the highest viable standards of resource & energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions.. residential development involving 10 or more dwellings or >=0.5 ha should demonstrate that at least 10% of demand for energy will be met onsite from a renewable supply	Consider design issues for renewable on new development. Consider whether village wished to produce more renewable energy from larger scheme which are non-residential.
Policy 15: Sustainable Housing Provision	30% affordable housing provision will be sought within Wellingborough Borough	Consider housing needs of local community through housing needs survey. Existing survey for North Northants being updated by NNJPU. Opportunity to disaggregate this information for Parish/Local Areas.

North Northamptonshire Emerging Core Spatial Strategy Policies	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
Policy 1: Historic Environment.	<p>Provides more specific direction in respect of the historic environment than the existing CSS It refers to the need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to preserve/enhance heritage assets including conservation areas, listed and locally listed buildings, the character and appearance of settlements, visually important undeveloped areas and parks and gardens of local interest. ▪ For proposals to be sensitive to/enhance key views and vistas, especially of the church spires along the Nene Valley. 	We could identify local heritage assets, important views and vistas, sites where archaeology may be important in terms of the location of any proposals and elements of the historic interest and character of Earls Barton that need improvement etc.
Policy 2: Landscape Character.	<p>Provides increased emphasis on the need to retain/enhance the distinctive qualities of the landscape through appropriate design and management; the reflection/ enhancement of local distinctiveness and diversity; the retention of features and habitats of significant landscape, historic, wildlife and geological importance; the safeguarding/enhancement of important views and vistas; and protecting the landscape setting/separate identities of settlements.</p>	We could consider the need to supplement the policy in order to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area.
Policy 3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.	<p>Reflects the adopted CSS policy of achieving a net gain in biodiversity but incorporates more detail including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refusing proposals where significant harm cannot be avoided, mitigated or compensated; ▪ The need for measures, including the provision of alternative green infrastructure, to protect key wildlife sites from unacceptable levels of access; 	We could consider how the NP might support policy by identifying opportunities to achieve a net gain in biodiversity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving water quality and enhancing the quality of surface water and underlying groundwater; Reversing habitat fragmentation; Preserving, restoring and creating priority habitats within and surrounding development schemes; and Supporting the protection/recovery of priority species linked to national and local targets in the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan and Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping. <p>Developments likely to have an adverse impact (alone or in combination) on the Special Protection Area must satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p>	
Policy 4: Water Environment and Flood Risk Management.	<p>Provides specific proposals, building upon the more generic criteria of the adopted CSS. In particular development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be avoided in high and medium flood risk areas through the application of a sequential approach; meet a minimum 200 year standard of flood protection; not compromise standards in the Anglian River Basin Management Plan; not increase the risk of flooding to surrounding properties; and contribute to strategic flood risk storage measures. 	We should be satisfied that any sites to be allocated in the NP will, in principle, be capable of meeting the policy requirements.
Policy 5: Community Assets.	<p>Provides increased emphasis on supporting and enhancing community assets by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring development to provide/contribute towards new/enhanced facilities; and safeguarding existing facilities unless specified criteria are met. 	We could expand on the policy through, for example, the identification of new/enhanced facilities to be promoted as part of the NP.
Policy 6: Designing Sustainable Places.	Provides for a high standard of design through the achievement of	We could consider the need to supplement the

	development which respects local character, identity and context; achieves continuity and enclosure; creates well connected places; achieves a high quality public realm; creates a legible and distinctive place; incorporates adaptability, resilience and environmental sustainability; and delivers quality of life and healthier communities.	principles in order to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area.
Policy 7: Sustainable Buildings.	Includes measures requiring developments over 10 dwellings or 1000sqm or 0.5 hectares to minimise carbon emissions through the reuse of existing structures and materials and the inclusion of sustainable design features to reduce the consumption of natural resources.	We could consider the need to supplement the policy in order to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area.
Policy 8: Allowable Solutions (carbon offsetting).	Development that needs to contribute towards carbon neutrality or carbon offsetting should do so through a North Northamptonshire Community Energy Fund which will help finance initiatives such as retro fitting of community buildings and housing and small scale renewable community projects.	We could consider whether or not there is a more local dimension to this policy that ought to be included in the NP
Policy 9: Provision of Infrastructure (including services and facilities).	Provides for infrastructure to mitigate the impact of the development and support the development of North Northamptonshire. Proposals should minimise demand for infrastructure by the use of measures designed to encourage a reduction in car use, limit the need for water infrastructure and create safe, healthy environments.	We could expand on the policy through, for example, the identification of infrastructure required to support the proposed level of development and any opportunities to secure a modal shift.

Policy 10: Network of Urban and Rural Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gives priority to the re-use of previously developed land/buildings within settlements, then to other locations that are accessible by a choice of travel modes. ▪ The rural area will meet local needs with development focused on villages with a range of services/facilities. Earls Barton is defined as a 'Principal Village' where development should provide for community infrastructure/services to meet the day to day needs of the rural areas. ▪ A NP may test higher levels of development to address specific needs or opportunities. 	Local needs and the role of Earls Barton need to be defined and it is likely that this will be included in the revised Core Strategy. The NP could consider the need for policies to support the role of Earls Barton. This might include defining a village boundary, determining if provision should be made for a scale of growth greater than that required to meet local needs and identifying land to meet requirements.
Policy 11: Settlement Design Principles.	Includes a range of design criteria to support the creation of well-connected places; a mix of land uses and densities; and high quality streets.	We could examine the need to supplement the principles in order to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area.
Policy 13: Rural Exceptions.	<p>Enables development on the periphery of a village where it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meets an identified need arising within a village/network of villages; and ▪ Will not exceed identified needs, minimises impacts on the environment and is supported by adequate infrastructure. ▪ Where appropriate, occupation will be controlled to ensure that it remains available to meet local needs. ▪ In open countryside, away from established settlements, permission will not normally be granted for housing except for rural workers able to comply with specified tests. ▪ 	We could consider the need to supplement policy to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area.

Policy 15: Well-Connected Towns, Villages and Neighbourhoods.	<p>Emphasises the need to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase access to the countryside by foot/cycle by creating easier crossing points on major roads; ▪ ensure well connected street networks, very limited use of cul-de-sacs and 20mph design speed for residential roads; ▪ use Green Infrastructure (GI) corridors to provide routes ▪ Create new/extended GI networks in new development and link open spaces either within new GI or with “Green Streets”. ▪ 	We could examine the need to supplement policy to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area through, for example, identifying required crossing points and opportunities to link open spaces and create new GI.
Policy 19: The Delivery of Green Infrastructure.	<p>Provides for GI assets to be maintained/enhanced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding identified GI corridors; ▪ Seeking a net gain in GI; and ▪ Prioritising GI investment to areas where net gains can be made to the range of functions, particularly those that improve access between the towns and their surrounding countryside and remedy local deficiencies in open space provision and quality. <p>The strategic priorities for GI include the Nene and Ise Valley (policy 20).</p>	We could consider the need to supplement policy to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area through, for example, determining local deficiencies in open space.
Policy 20: The Nene and Ise Valleys.	<p>Identifies the two valleys as the priorities for investment in GI and proposes measures to strengthen biodiversity and landscape character, support a prosperous rural economy, provide leisure/recreational opportunities and support the revitalisation of towns and the countryside including improving strategic recreation trails and river navigation along the Nene Valley.</p>	We could consider the need to supplement policy to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area.

<p>Policy 22: Delivering Economic Prosperity.</p>	<p>Provides for a stronger and greener economy through a range of measures which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritising the enhancement of employment sites and the regeneration of previously developed land; ▪ Safeguarding employment areas unless there is no reasonable prospect of the site being used for that purpose ▪ Identifying sites with an emphasis on the priority sectors of renewable energy/green technologies, high performance technologies and sustainable logistics; ▪ Supporting the Superfast Northamptonshire broadband initiative and providing access to Next Generation broadband by ensuring that all residential/employment developments provide on-site infrastructure, including ducting. ▪ Supporting proposals that encourage skills/training provision. Agreements will be used where appropriate to facilitate increased opportunities for the local workforce; and ▪ Safeguarding/enhancing tourism/cultural assets and supporting proposals to grow the green tourism industry. 	<p>We could examine the need to supplement policy to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area through, for example, identifying land to promote employment of a size, scale and character and in a location compatible with the environment of the NP area.</p>
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Policy 25: Rural Economic Development and Diversification.	<p>Provides a more positive approach than the current CSS (Policy 9). Support is given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The retention/development of local services/community facilities in villages; ▪ Locally sourced produce/sustainable food productions; ▪ Tourist/visitor facilities to support ecotourism and healthy lifestyle trends with a focus upon locations with access to local services/facilities by foot, cycle or public transport; ▪ Commercial opportunities related to food, craft and ecotourism, and GI projects; ▪ Renewable energy production, particularly microgeneration and small scale renewable energy generation; and ▪ local supply networks that support the shift to a low carbon economy. <p>Farm diversification should support the viability of the agricultural business. Where buildings are well related to existing settlements, a mix of uses will be promoted, including business, tourism activities, tourist accommodation, live work units and, where this represents the most appropriate use, residential development. Elsewhere the change of use of redundant buildings to residential will need to demonstrate that the building(s) best lend themselves to residential use and re-use for economic uses would not be viable.</p>	<p>We could consider the need to supplement policy to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area</p>
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Policy 26: Renewable Energy and Decentralised Energy Networks.	Provides a greater focus on the delivery of renewable energy projects than the current CSS. Proposals must comply with various criteria concerned with heritage, landscape, the natural environment, noise, visual impact, the provision of community benefits, and the selection of the most appropriate technology for the site. Developments of 100 or more dwellings must incorporate local energy networks.	We could examine the need to supplement policy to provide more specific direction in relation to the NP area
Policy 30: Housing Mix and Tenure.	Indicates that the mix of house types should reflect the findings of a local assessment. Affordable housing will be sought on sites of a scale to be defined. Proposals will be supported where they provide attractive opportunities for older households to down-size. Opportunities for self-build developments should contribute to meeting local housing needs, enable innovation and raise environmental quality. New dwellings will be built in line with the 'lifetime homes' standard.	We could consider how the NP might assist in achieving the policy objectives. For example, we could try to define 'a balanced mix of housing types and tenures'; consider opportunities for self-build or bungalow developments; and determine a village target for affordable housing.

Wellingborough Local Plan Saved Policies (2007)	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
Policy G2:	Requires appropriate flood protection/mitigation measures in areas at risk of flooding or where development will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.	Whilst the Local Plan saved policies continue to form part of the Development Plan they were adopted approximately 15 years ago and need reviewing. Regard should be given to those of relevance to Earls Barton and the scope of the NP and these should be updated as part of the NP process if appropriate.
Policy G6:	Enables development in the open countryside if it cannot be accommodated elsewhere; any buildings are of a small scale; impact on the countryside is minimised; and uses principally intended to serve the town are located in immediate proximity to the town.	
Policy G18:	Provides for the protection of 'Sites of Nature Conservation Value' except	

	where there is no suitable alternative site and satisfactory mitigation measures are proposed.	
Policy G19:	Provides for the protection of areas designated as Environmentally Important Open Space.	
Policy G25:	Requires provision to be made for infrastructure made necessary by the development.	
Policy H4:	Precludes new housing in the open countryside except for agricultural/forestry workers, replacement dwellings and affordable housing on the edge of the village.	
Policy H8:	Sites of 25 or more dwellings (1ha) should provide for affordable housing to meet an identified local need in perpetuity.	
Policy H9:	Enables affordable housing intended to meet a local need to be built on the edge of a village or on a site within a village where planning permission would not normally be granted provided that the development is of a small scale and would not cause unacceptable harm to the village character.	
Policy L2:	Provides for community facilities within or on the edge of a village where designed primarily to meet the needs of that village.	
Policy L5:	Provides for the protection of Important Amenity Areas unless there is insufficient long term demand; an appropriate alternative site is proposed; or loss of a small part of the land represents the best means of retaining sports/recreational facilities.	
Policy EB1:	Development may be allowed at Titley Bawke Ave (Earls Barton) employment area so long as highway issues overcome.	

Wellingborough Sustainable Communities Strategy 2011-14	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>Includes a shared vision, priorities and the following key outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a stronger/more resilient local economy delivering prosperity, employment, and housing for the benefit of residents; ▪ people have the skills and capabilities to fulfil their potential in work, family and community life; ▪ all people have the opportunity to live long, healthy and happy lives through the information, choices and quality of services available to them. ▪ a safe place to live and work where people get on well together. ▪ a clean/environmentally sustainable place to live/work where the built and natural environments are protected and enhanced. 	<p>We should consider the need for policies/proposals in the NP to support the desired outcomes.</p> <p>Ensure that the SA objectives cover relevant Community Strategy key outcomes</p>

An Economic Development Strategy for Wellingborough (2011)	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>Priorities include improving the visitor economy, investing in conditions of growth (including developing key sectors), enhancing the skills base and ensuring availability and quality of space for commercial, residential, educational and leisure developments) and raising local education, upskilling and R&D provision. Objectives of most relevance to the NP are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure availability/quality of land/premises; ▪ Support the development of a knowledge base to enable the development of opportunities related to new products, graduate retention and jobs; 	<p>We should consider the need for policies/proposals in the NP to support relevant objectives of the Strategy.</p> <p>Ensure that the SA objectives cover relevant objectives of the Strategy</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop young people's talents, and address their education/training needs; and ▪ Build up sector development/business support infrastructure. 	
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Housing Plan 2013-18 Borough Council of Wellingborough	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>The Housing Plan includes the following policy statements which may be relevant to the NP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council's Allocations Policy places priority on helping people to remain/return to a village by creating a new Priority Band; ▪ Consideration will be given to providing financial support to develop rural sites including consideration of community land trusts and cross subsidising rents from market homes sales; ▪ New housing developments should take account of the need for 'Lifetime Homes', wheelchair accessible housing, supported accommodation and bungalow accommodation or ground floor wheelchair flat; and. ▪ The Council will request nomination rights for all affordable housing provided as part of a section 106 planning agreement. <p>Targets -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5% of new homes to be wheelchair accessible ▪ New homes to be capable of the 'Lifetime Homes' standards 	<p>We should consider the need for policies/proposals in the NP to support the policy statements and targets.</p> <p>Ensure that the SA objectives cover relevant elements of the Housing Plan</p>

Northamptonshire Transport Plan (2012) Northamptonshire County Council	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>The Transportation Plan includes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To create a transport system that supports and encourages growth and plans for the future impacts of growth whilst successfully providing benefits; ▪ Through the transport system help to maintain and create sustainable communities where people are actively involved in shaping the places where they live; ▪ Ensure that people have the information and the options available to them to be able to choose the best form of transport for each journey that they make; ▪ Create a transport system that supports economic growth, regeneration and a thriving local economy and successfully provides for population and business growth; ▪ Deliver a transport system that minimises and wherever possible reduces the effect of travel on the built, natural and historic environment; and ▪ Being clear about priorities for investment and focusing on value for money by prioritising what we spend money on and how it can be beneficial for the county as a whole and search for alternative sources of funding. 	<p>We should consider whether there is a need to include policies/proposals in the NP to support the objectives or if policies in the CSS are sufficient.</p> <p>Ensure that the SA objectives cover relevant objectives of the Transport Plan.</p>

Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy (2010-14) Northamptonshire Partnership	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>Proposed measures related to land use include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the installation of renewable energy technology to generate income for community groups to invest in local projects or reduce fuel poverty; ▪ encourage more sustainable/energy efficient construction; ▪ encourage green roofs, sustainable urban drainage (SUDs) and other innovative technologies to help alleviate climatic effects such as warming and flooding; ▪ reduce the need to travel by ensuring that employment, retail, schooling , leisure opportunities and open spaces are located close to the new housing and discourage the use of private cars, particularly for short journeys by providing public transport, safe walking and cycling routes; ▪ Support small scale projects which help develop the local economy ▪ Invest a proportion of Section 106 funds in climate change projects; ▪ Maintain, restore and protect natural habitats; ▪ Encourage green infrastructure linkages which enable species to move between protected areas and habitat niches; ▪ ensure that all vulnerable development is located away from floodplains; and ▪ Promote more green space in villages to capture rainwater. <p>Targets -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve a minimum Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 and 	<p>We should consider how policies in the NP might contribute towards the aims of the Climate Change Strategy)</p> <p>Ensure that the SA objectives cover relevant elements of the Climate Change Strategy.</p>

	<p>BREEAM very good standards for water efficiency in new development; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 when compared to 1990 outputs. 	
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Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>The Biodiversity Action Plan includes the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ key habitats/species should be protected in development plans; and ▪ Green Infrastructure should be given significant consideration in all planning applications that may affect land with existing or potential conservation value. <p>Targets -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that no Local Wildlife Sites, Nature Reserves, Pocket Parks or Protected Wildflower Verges are lost to development. ▪ All developments that require planning agreements or conditions regarding biodiversity to have SMART targets for biodiversity gain. 	<p>We should consider how policies in the NP might contribute towards the guidelines in the Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Ensure that the SA objectives cover relevant elements of the Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>

Northamptonshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework Northamptonshire County Council	What the Policy Says	How it affects our Neighbourhood Plan
	<p>Policies of possible relevance to the NP are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy CS7 - Development should utilise the efficient use of resources in both its construction and its operation ▪ Policy CS10 - Proposals of a significant nature must not sterilise 	<p>We must ensure that policies and proposals in the NP do not conflict with those in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.</p> <p>Ensure that the SA objectives cover</p>

	<p>mineral resources within a Minerals Safeguarding Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy CS12 - Proposals in close proximity to planned and operational mineral extraction/processing facilities or waste management facilities (including sewage treatment works) must not prevent/prejudice the use of the facility. ▪ Policy M1: Earls Barton West Extension (site MA5), Earls Barton Quarry Plant Site (MA12) are allocated for minerals related development. 	<p>relevant elements of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework.</p>
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Appendix 2: Earls Barton NP Sustainability Appraisal

SA Topic	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria	Assessment of Effects		Commentary
			Neighbourhood Plan (relevant policies)	Existing Policies (Do Nothing)	
SOCIAL	Accessibility - To improve accessibility and transport links from residential areas to key services, facilities and employment areas, enhance access to natural environment and recreational opportunities	<p>Does the NP;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve transport links with other areas, especially to key venues used by residents Reduce the need for commuting (e.g. through provision of small office space and work units available at affordable rents) Provide services for home workers, such as a local postal service and good access to broadband Increase the available core services in Earls Barton to reduce the need for unnecessary travel 	<p>G1 GD1 GD2 LB1 E1 T1 DC1</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Effects of the NP: The NP will site development in a location which is accessible to existing services in the village centre – providing pedestrian and cycle access and reducing the need for car use. The main development allocation at the Grange will also be close to sports and leisure facilities and have access to bus services. Provision of employment uses and a small business centre will reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): The NPPF promotes a pattern of development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and where significant movement is generated to be located where this can be minimised. The CSS advocates enhancing local connections by improving sustainable modes of transport.</p>
	Housing - Ensure that new housing provided meets the housing needs of the area, provide affordable and decent housing for all	<p>Does the NP;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to improve the resource efficiency and quality of new housing stock 	<p>G1 GD1 GD2</p>		<p>Effect of the NP: The NP will provide a significant increase in the housing stock through the Grange development and the provision of 30% affordable housing. The requirement to meet sustainable</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to provide affordable housing options • Increase provision of resource efficient housing for the elderly • Increase compliance with sustainable building standards such as BREEAM or Code for Sustainable Homes • Promote use of sustainable construction materials and techniques 	D1 ✓✓	✓	<p>design standards will ensure high levels of energy efficiency in housing design.</p> <p>Existing Policies: (Do Nothing) Existing policies are likely to have a positive effect however they are less likely to achieve the quantum of affordable housing that the NP will achieve through a comprehensive village extension.</p>
	Health - Improve overall levels of physical, mental and social well-being, and reduce disparities between different groups and different areas	Will the NP meet the health needs of Earls Barton and its residents? Will the NP encourage healthy lifestyles? e.g. network of walks for informal recreation, village sports pitch(es) and gym facilities, provision for sports clubs.	G1 OS1 ✓✓	✓	<p>Effect of the NP: The NP will help facilitate healthy lifestyles. The protection of open spaces will promote quiet recreation while the allocation of more sports and leisure pitches will increase sports participation. Greater accessibility to the village centre will allow access to medical facilities and the pharmacy.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): It is likely that there will be a potential positive effect if existing policies were to continue.</p>
	Crime - To improve community safety, reduce the incidences of crime and the fear of crime, a safe place to live	Will the Neighbourhood Plan reduce opportunities for crime and therefore, levels of crime?	G1 GD1 GD2		<p>Effect of the NP: The NP seeks to improve safety of movement by pedestrians and cyclists within the village. Housing proposals should incorporate streets</p>

		<p>Will the Neighbourhood Plan affect the fear of crime and feelings of safety?</p> <p>Will the Neighbourhood Plan improve road safety?</p>	<p>D1</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>for all, and deigning out crime in accordance with Sustainable Development SPD.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do nothing): Existing policies will potentially have a positive effect when judged against this objective</p>
	Community - Value and nurture a sense of belonging in a cohesive community whilst respecting diversity	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster a strong sense of community • Enable all groups/sectors of the community to have meaningful input into decisions in the area • Facilitate people to volunteer, contribute and play an active part in their community • Support community and voluntary groups • Promote opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities, including for children and young people 	<p>G1 GD1 GD2 D1 OS1 LB1 DC1</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Effect of the NP: The NP will support this objective by seeking to further develop community facilities and infrastructure. The NP process has allowed residents to engage in actively managing and planning were they live. The Parish Council will continue to community and voluntary groups in designing detailed schemes for sports and community through and beyond the NP process. For example, ensuring that new community facilities.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Existing policies will potentially have a positive effect when judged against this objective although perhaps not quite as much an impact as the NP policies.</p>
	Skills - To improve overall levels of education and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the retention of young people with the appropriate skills to meet local needs • Help to raise educational 	<p>E1 E2</p>		<p>Effect of the NP: It is uncertain as to whether the NP will have a positive or negative effect on education and skills. The rise in population may increase the pressure on the village schools and without</p>

		achievement levels across the parish by enabling access to a range of educational and training facilities	?	?	additional funding for expansion standards may suffer. Increased employment opportunities may provide skills development and work placements from new businesses locating in the village. Other policies are unlikely to have a direct relationship. Existing Policies (Do Nothing): The likely effect of existing policies is also uncertain.
	Liveability - To create healthy, clean and pleasant environments for people to enjoy living, working and recreating in and to protect and enhance residential amenity	Will the NP improve the overall environment for people living and working in the Parish? Will the NP protect the residential amenity of existing residents – will the village be able to accommodate additional development without it putting pressure on existing services and village infrastructure.	G1 GD1 GD2 D1 OS1 LB1 E1 E2 T1 DC1 ✓✓	✓	Effect of the NP: The NP will have an overall positive effect on liveability. Many of the policies, particularly those controlling development, require proposals to take account of residential amenity of neighbouring uses. The Plan seeks to create healthy, clean and pleasant environments through protecting its heritage, environment and open space as well as increasing access to services and reducing the impact of parking and congestion. Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Existing policies are likely to have a positive effect in relation to this objective although not with the focus of NP policies.
ENVIRON	Biodiversity - To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity wildlife habitats and green infrastructure to achieve a net gain and to avoid habitat fragmentation	Will the Neighbourhood Plan protect and promote Earls Barton's sites of ecological and nature conservation importance,	G1 D1 OS1		Effect of the NP: The NP will help to protect the local habitats by monitoring and limiting the impact on the SPA and protecting the local open space within the village.

		and ensure they are resilient to climate change? Will the Neighbourhood Plan provide opportunities for local habitat and species conservation enhancements?	✓	✓	Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Existing policies will potentially have a positive effect in relation to this objective given the national and international designations.
	Landscape - To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment	Does the Neighbourhood Plan... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the adverse impacts on landscape of new developments, maintaining important views out of and into the village • Retain the rural feel of Earls Barton and its setting/context • Make the most efficient use of previously developed land and buildings to minimise greenfield development • Increase the provision of Open Space to address deficits? 	GD1 GD2 D1 OS1 ✓✓	✓✓	Effects of the NP: Proposals for new development in Earls Barton have the potential to undermine the village's character, however the Plan should ensure that new developments are of a scale and standard that complements the character and setting of the Village. Specific attention is given to the views and setting of the Grade 1 listed Saxon tower of All Saints Church which is a focus point and landmark for the village. Locally important green spaces will be protected and further sports and leisure pitches will be allocated extending the ability of the village to accommodate further housing through appropriate landscaping and location of housing. The wider benefits of green infrastructure should be realised. The Plan recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing local community infrastructure and also the significance of the cultural heritage of the village.

					Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Existing policies are likely to provide continued protection for the natural and cultural landscape characteristics of the village. The Local Plan contains the Earls Barton Conservation Area Appraisal and NNCSS affords strong protection for landscape character and environmental assets with reference to the Environmental Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy.
	Cultural Heritage - To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment	Does the Neighbourhood Plan... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the conservation area of Earls Barton ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the built heritage, including its historic buildings, listed Church and SAM? 	GD1 GD2 D1 OS1 ✓✓	✓✓	Effect of the NP: Proposals for new development within and Earls Barton have the potential to undermine the character and built heritage, but the Neighbourhood Plan proposes policies to ensure these continue to be protected and enhanced. This is especially in relation to the setting of the listed Saxon tower and historic assets in the centre of the village. Existing Policies (Do Nothing): The existing policies are likely to afford continued protection for cultural heritage within the village.
	Climate Change - Change Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, impact of climate change (adaptation).	Will the Neighbourhood Plan reduce the potential impacts of climate change? Will the Neighbourhood Plan help to minimise and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, in particular CO2?	D1 E1 E2 ✓	✓	Effects of the NP: The NP promotes homes that use sustainable sources of energy and could therefore make a permanent contribution towards this objective. Providing better access and infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists between new development

		<p>Will the Neighbourhood Plan ensure that new development is in accessible locations in order to reduce the need for car borne travel and / or encourage sustainable forms of transport?</p> <p>Will the Neighbourhood Plan promote, enhance or create green infrastructure?</p>			<p>and the village centre could help to reduce CO₂ emissions that could arise from increased car-borne travel. Creating new wildlife corridors through the new sports and leisure allocation and protection of existing green spaces in the Parish could also help to realise the benefits of green infrastructure in relation to climate change. The positive effects associated with each of these proposals may be slightly offset by increased emissions by employment uses depending on what development is permitted. Overall however there is likely to be a possible positive effect.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): The NPPF requires local planning authorities to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Although increasingly outdated and un-specific on the issue of climate change, cumulatively policies in the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy are also likely to have a similarly possible positive effect on meeting this objective.</p>
NATURAL RESOURCES	Air - To maintain or improve local air quality	Will the NP improve or have an insignificant effect on local air quality, ensuring minimum impact on people's health?	OS1 LB1 E1 E2		<p>Effect of the NP: Certain policies in the plan may have potential negative impact such as the possible effect of new industry locating to the village or transport emissions from more residents.</p>

			x	x	<p>However, there also may be positive effects which would help improve the local air quality such as better public transport or the provision of open space.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Cumulatively policies in the NPPF and NNCSS could result in a similar assessment outcome although there is a short term risk of greater permanent negative effects arising from new housing development.</p>
	Water - Maintain or improve the quality of ground and surface water resources and minimise the demand for water	Promote water efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect ground and surface water sources, including the River Nene 	G1 D1 ✓	✓	<p>Effects of the NP: Earls Barton is not susceptible to river flooding, but there are potential risks for surface and ground water which will be addressed in the plan through the requirement of SUDs for new developments. This will also help to maintain the quality of water resources locally.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): The NPPF and NNCSS set out specific guidance on the management of flood risk and could therefore have a very positive effect on this objective.</p>
	Natural Hazard - Reduce the impact of flooding and avoid additional risk	Will the Neighbourhood Plan reduce the risk of flooding and avoid areas at risk from flooding?	G1 GD1 GD2 D1 ✓ ✓	✓	<p>Effects of the NP: While there is no direct of river flooding to properties in Earls Barton, NP policies G1 and D1 specify that development must provide for Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDs) solutions to protect against and reduce the incidence of flood risk.</p>

					Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Policy 13(q) of the NNCSS provides protection against the increased risk of groundwater and surface water and promotes, where possible, the use of SuDs. This is perhaps not as strong protection as set out in the NP.
	Soil & Land - Ensure the efficient use of land and maintain the resource of productive soil	Will the Neighbourhood Plan impact on the quality of soils? Avoid the use of higher-grade agricultural land for other purposes than farming	?	?	<p>Effects of the NP: The NP promotes the main extension of the village through policy G1 on existing agricultural land. However this is not grades 1 to 3b which is 'Best and Most Versatile' (BMV) land. Therefore while land is being taken out of agricultural production it is uncertain as to the overall effect. Land which is highly values for agricultural will not be affected and infill development will be on brownfield sites.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Existing policies are likely to equally uncertain in respect of this objective given the imperative to allow 'sustainable development' thus potentially impacting on agricultural land. However, most of the land around Earls Barton is not 'BMV' land, therefore the effect is uncertain but unlikely to be negative.</p>

	Minerals - Ensure the efficient use of minerals and primary resources	Will the Neighbourhood Plan impact in the extraction and use of minerals and primary resources?	?	?	<p>Effect of the NP:</p> <p>There are no mineral sites or areas of protection within the Parish and there is no direct relationship between the NP and the efficient use of minerals.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing):</p> <p>The use of secondary/recycled aggregates would be promoted wherever possible.</p>
	Energy Use - To mitigate climate change by minimising carbon based energy usage by increasing energy efficiency and to develop Earls Barton's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources.	<p>Will the Neighbourhood Plan reduce energy consumption?</p> <p>Will the Neighbourhood Plan promote energy efficiency?</p> <p>Will the Neighbourhood Plan result in greater energy use from renewable resources?</p>	<p>GD1</p> <p>GD2</p> <p>D1</p> <p>✓</p>	✓	<p>Effects of the Plan:</p> <p>The NP proposes to secure homes that use sustainable sources of energy and could therefore make a permanent contribution towards this objective. The positive effects of the Plan in relation to this objective are likely to increase over the medium and longer term with increased application of the Plan's policies.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing):</p> <p>The NPPF requires local planning authorities to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources to supply new development. The NNCSS requires a specific local on-site requirement for renewable energy production. There is likely to be possible positive effect especially with increasing building standards.</p>
	Waste – To reduce waste arisings and increase reuse, recycling and composting	<p>Does the NP ..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to minimise waste 			<p>Effects of the NP:</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will require housing developments to provide</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase recycling and composting 	?	?	<p>adequate storage for waste and recycling bins through adherence to the Sustainability Design Guide. Although most development proposals likely to come forward under the Plan will have waste management implications the majority of these would be addressed by policies in the Local Plan and are outside of the scope of the Plan. Therefore there is uncertainty as to the overall effect of NP policies on this objective.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): The Local Plan provides policies for managing waste and the provision of waste management facilities and these are likely to continue.</p>
ECONOMIC	Employment - Maintain and enhance employment opportunities and to reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs	<p>Does the NP continue to provide opportunities for the creation of new business and enterprise in Earls Barton?</p> <p>Will the NP minimise the loss / displacement of existing businesses?</p> <p>Will the Neighbourhood Plan contribute to meeting the employment needs of Earls Barton?</p>	<p>G1 LB1 E1 E2 T1</p> <p>✓✓</p>	✓	<p>Effect of the NP:</p> <p>The NP sets out to support a thriving local economy with specific proposals in G1 and E1 of allocating land to provide for employment opportunities. E2 also promotes the development of a small business centre which would have positive implications for small and start-up businesses in the village. The Plan will therefore have a positive effect in relation to this objective. The effects of these policies will also be dependent on the acceptability of proposals, which would be considered on their merits and impacts. Positive impacts are likely to</p>

					<p>increase over time with application of the Plan's policies.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Existing Policies are likely to have a possible positive effect although most of the focus of employment proposals is around urban development and renewal rather than rural villages and diversification.</p>
	Wealth Creation - Retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including infrastructure and the local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors	<p>Will the NP deliver rural regeneration in Earls Barton?</p> <p>Will the NP improve economic conditions?</p> <p>Does the NP promote tourism and the visitor economy?</p>	<p>G1</p> <p>D1</p> <p>LB1</p> <p>E1</p> <p>E2</p> <p>DC1</p> <p>✓✓</p>	✓	<p>Effect if the NP:</p> <p>The NP's housing growth, local economy and community facility proposals should ensure that Earls Barton continues to be a thriving, vibrant rural community. The protection of the village's heritage and environmental assets are likely to safeguard and strengthens the qualities that visitors and investors find attractive. The positive effects of the Plan are likely to increase over time with the application of its policies and have a long lasting impact.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Existing policies are likely to have a positive effect when judged against this objective although not to the extent of the NP policies.</p>
	Village Centre - Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the village centre	Will the Neighbourhood Plan safeguard and improve Earls Barton's shops, services and leisure facilities, to meet the needs of the community?	<p>G1</p> <p>GD1</p> <p>GD2</p> <p>D1</p> <p>LB1</p> <p>T1</p>		<p>Effects of the NP:</p> <p>The NP seeks to support and enhance the vitality of the village centre, provide the opportunity for new shops and services to develop and promote local community</p>

			DC1 ✓	✓	<p>infrastructure. The policies are likely over all to have a potential positive impact.</p> <p>Existing Policies (Do Nothing): Existing policies are likely to have a similar effect although possibly not with the same focus.</p>
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Appendix 3: SEA Screening Opinion

Alex Munro
Neighbourhood Planning Officer
T: 01933 231931
F: 01933 231980
E: Amunro@wellingborough.gov.uk

Borough Council of
Wellingborough
Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of

By email

Date: 6 February 2014

James Wilson
jwa1@hotmail.co.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Dear James,

**Determination of the need for further Appropriate Assessment 'AA'
Proposed Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan**

Following your request for the Borough Council of Wellingborough to determine the likelihood of any adverse impact caused by your plan on any local Natura 2000 site, we are now pleased to summarise and present our qualified response within this letter.

At this stage, and in response to our duty under the EU SEA Directive 1992/43/EC based upon the information contained within your screening report entitled 'Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening for Appropriate Assessment Version 3', we can confirm that no further Appropriate Assessment will be required in support of your plan. This is. This determination follows the detailed dialogue held between officers of the Council, Natural England and yourselves to ensure that the screening is based upon the most robust evidence available. To this end, please find enclosed the final opinion of Natural England arrived at as a response of these discussions.

As we are aware that your plan is still to be subject of a formal 6 week period of community consultation, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, we are also aware that it may be subject to change. If any substantive changes are to be made as a result of the consultation exercise we would welcome a discussion to ensure that the determination in this letter remains valid.

In the meantime, I hope the response within this letter provides sufficient clarity in relation to the need for AA.

Yours sincerely



Alex Munro
Neighbourhood Planning Officer

Encs as above



Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 1BP
Tel: 01933 229777 Fax: 01933 231684 DX 12865
www.wellingborough.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

In the meantime, I hope the response within this letter provides sufficient clarity in relation to the need for SEA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Munro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Munro
Neighbourhood Planning Officer

Encs as above

Appendix 4: HRA Screening Opinion

Alex Munro
Neighbourhood Planning Officer
T: 01933 231931
F: 01933 231980
E: Amunro@wellingborough.gov.uk

Borough Council of
Wellingborough
Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of

By email

Date: 6 February 2014

James Wilson
jwa1@hotmail.co.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

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Yours sincerely



Alex Munro
Neighbourhood Planning Officer

Encs as above



Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 1BP
Tel: 01933 229777 Fax: 01933 231684 DX 12865
www.wellingborough.gov.uk



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